



**'T.N. GOVT LETTER DOESN'T EVEN MENTION 3-LANGUAGE POLICY'**

P6



**MUSK COMES VISITING**

P9



**UKRAINE AGREES TO 30-DAY CEASEFIRE DURING TALKS WITH THE USA**

P10



**HARDIK PANDYA SETS SIGHTS ON T20 WORLD CUP**

P16

SENSEX 74,029.76 ▼72.56

NIFTY 22,470.50 ▼27.40

₹ vs \$ 87.19

GOLD ₹88,630

SILVER ₹1,00,000

BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 70.42

## WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Maximum and Minimum Temperature most likely to be around 36°C and 24°C respectively.

### RAINFALL: 0.0 mm

**RELATIVE HUMIDITY**  
Max. 89% Min. 26%

**TEMPERATURE**  
Max: 34.7°C (+1.1) Min: 22.8°C (+0.2)

**SUN RISES** 05:48 hrs  
**SUN SETS** 17:45 hrs  
**MOON RISES** 16:10 hrs  
**MOON SETS** 04:38 hrs

Full Moon on 14 March

## THUMBNAILS



Women take part in a protest march to mark the 66th Tibetan Uprising Day, in Leh on Wednesday. ANI

**Parliament passes Oilfields Amendment Bill, 2024:** A Bill seeking to amend the existing law governing oil and gas exploration and delink petroleum operations from mining to attract investments in the sector got Parliamentary approval on Wednesday with the Lok Sabha passing it. The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024, was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 3 December 2024. The Bill seeks to amend the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, which regulates the exploration and extraction of natural gas and petroleum. Replying to the debate on the Bill, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said prices in the neighbourhood are at least 15-25 per cent higher than in India.

## Jaffar Express hijacking: Security forces claim operation over, 346 hostages rescued

AGENCIES  
ISLAMABAD, 12 MARCH



Security forces have eliminated all militants and rescued 190 hostages in a clearance operation launched after an unknown number of heavily armed terrorists stormed a Peshawar-bound train in Balochistan's Bolan district, media reports said here on Wednesday.

According to security sources, the forces successfully rescued altogether 346 hostages, including women and children, who had been used as human shields by the terrorists.

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry was quoted as saying that least 33 terrorists involved in the audacious attack were also eliminated.

The Jaffar Express, with over 400 passengers on board in nine bogies, was on its way from Quetta to Peshawar when it came under attack in the Dhadar area of Bolan Pass on Tuesday, according to security sources.

Following the attack, the security forces launched an immediate clearance operation, leading to the deaths of all terrorists, security sources reported.

"Operation concluded, site has been cleared. All hostages released. Total rescued 346 - 168 last night and

178 rescued today. 50 terrorists eliminated," one source was quoted as saying.

Security sources also said that the terrorists responsible for the attack on the Jaffar Express were in contact with their mastermind in Afghanistan.

According to security sources, the armed gunmen forced the train to a halt in a remote, mountainous area of the province on Tuesday afternoon, with the assault immediately claimed by the banned Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), a terrorist group behind rising violence in the province, according to media reports.

Sources indicated that the railway tracks had been destroyed with explosives, causing the train to stop, after which firing began, resulting in the death of the driver and several passengers.

## Digital arrest: Centre blocks over 3,962 Skype IDs, 83,668 WhatsApp accounts

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 12 MARCH

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has proactively identified and blocked more than 3,962 Skype IDs and 83,668 WhatsApp accounts used for Digital Arrest scams so far, the Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

The I4C under the Ministry of Home Affairs, in collaboration with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), launched a caller tune campaign for raising awareness about cybercrime and promoting the Cyber Crime Helpline Number 1930 and 'National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal' (NCRP).

The caller tune is also being broadcast in regional languages,

delivered 7-8 times a day by telecom service providers (TSPs).

The government and telecom service providers (TSPs) have also devised a system to identify and block incoming international spoofed calls displaying Indian mobile numbers appear to be originating within India.

Till 28 February, more than 7.81 lakhs SIM cards and 2,08,469 IMEIs as reported by police authorities have been blocked by the government, the MoS in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

Directions have been issued to the TSPs for blocking of such incoming international spoofed calls.

## Retail inflation falls to 7-month-low at 3.61 per cent in February; IIP for January recorded at 5 per cent

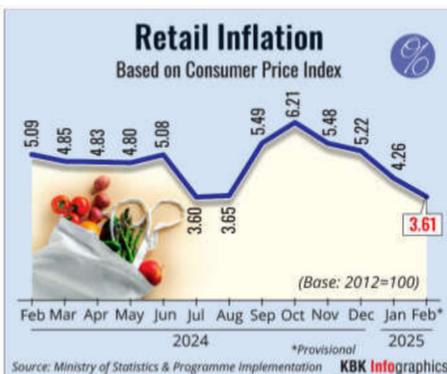
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 12 MARCH

The consumer price index (CPI)-based retail inflation for February fell to 3.61 per cent amid a decline in the rate of price rise in vegetables and protein-rich items.

The consumer price index-based retail inflation was at 4.26 per cent in January and 5.09 per cent in February 2024.

There is a decline of 65 basis points in the headline inflation in February in comparison to January, which had the lowest year-on-year inflation after July 2024.

Further, the year-on-year inflation rate based on the All India Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) for February



compared to last year is 3.75 per cent (Provisional). The corresponding inflation rates for rural and urban are 4.06

per cent and 3.20 per cent, respectively.

The National Statistical Office (NSO) said that the significant decline in headline inflation and food inflation during February is mainly attributed to the decline in inflation of vegetables, egg, meat and fish, pulses and its products, and milk and its products.

In the rural sector, a sharp decline in headline and food inflation was observed in February. The Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) based food inflation in the rural sector is observed as 4.06 per cent in February in comparison to 6.31 per cent in January.

Further, for the urban sector, a significant decline from 3.87 per cent in January to 3.32 per cent (provisional) in February is observed in the headline inflation of the urban sector. A similar decline is

observed in food inflation, which decreased from 5.53 per cent in January 2025 to 3.20 per cent in February 2025.

Notably, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which has been mandated to ensure retail inflation remains at 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent), reduced the short-term lending rate (repo) by 25 basis points last month to ease concerns on the inflation front.

The year-on-year housing inflation rate for February was recorded at 2.91 per cent as compared to 2.82 per cent last month.

The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation has also released the Quick Estimates of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).



THUMBNAILS

Train cancellations on Dolyatra: Following poor passenger count particularly during morning hours for Dol Yatra, the Eastern Railway has decided to cancel some of the local EMU trains in Howrah and Sealdah divisions on 14 March. According to the ER, 65 EMU locals are to be cancelled in Howrah Division including few local trains in Howrah-Burdwan Main Line, Howrah-Burdwan Chord Line, Howrah-Bandel Main Line, Howrah-Sheoraphuli, Howrah-Tarakeswar, Naihati-Bandel, Howrah-Shrirampur and Burdwan-Katwa.

Vasant Utsav celebrations in school: The Delhi Public School, Durgapur hosted its annual Vasant celebration - Vasantotsav 2025 with the theme - sustainability and reuse of used articles, reinforcing the importance of environmental consciousness through cultural expression.

GNLF president Ghising warns of political crisis in Darjeeling

Ghising laments the loss of a key opportunity for Gorkh rights, criticizes the GTA system and urges the central government to find a permanent political solution for Darjeeling before the 2026 elections

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SILIGURI, 12 MARCH

The President of Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF), central committee, Mann Ghising, today stated that the Gorkha community and the Darjeeling Hills are facing a severe political crisis.



In a press statement, Mr Ghising said: "The golden opportunity for the Gorkha community and the Darjeeling Hills to secure their rights and shape their destiny has been lost. The failure to implement the Sixth Schedule in our region remains a significant and grave mistake, resulting in increasingly complex issues that we face today."

Mr Ghising further elaborated: "In this context, I filed a case challenging the legitimacy of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) system in the Calcutta High Court. I had also appealed to all political parties in Darjeeling to boycott the GTA elections, warning that ignoring this appeal would lead to serious difficulties for our community in the future. Unfortunately, the crucial opportunity to boycott the GTA elections was lost, as various political parties in the Darjeeling Hills chose to participate. This has resulted in the chaotic and unstable situation we see in the hills today."

He emphasised that the community's final hope now lies in securing a long-term and permanent political solution from the central government. "For the past 15 years, we have supported the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) in both Lok Sabha and Assam elections. As our party's foundation day approaches on 5 April, we urge the Centre to immediately resume dialogue and take decisive steps toward determining a long-term political solution for the Gorkha community and the Darjeeling Hills. We sincerely hope that a comprehensive political solution will be realised before the 2026 Assembly elections. It is our heartfelt appeal that the government listens to us and takes the initiative to deliver a just and rightful solution," he added.

Mr Ghising also expressed concern over the state government's current tea land policy. "The issue of 30 per cent of tea garden land being allocated for other commercial purposes has created fear and uncertainty among the people. Additionally, the condition of the Cinchona plantations is deteriorating. Tea workers are compelled to struggle for their rightful Puja bonuses and face continuous oppression from both the government and management to secure their rights. All these problems have emerged as a consequence of neglecting the implementation of the Sixth Schedule," he claimed.

Unrest in North Bengal medical college over watching cricket match



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SILIGURI, 12 MARCH

Chaos erupted at NBMC&H after intern Sunny Manna received a show cause notice for watching a match in the Lecture Theatre. Protests followed after Manna was attacked, with students demanding justice.

The North Bengal Medical College and Hospital (NBMC&H) witnessed chaos today after authorities issued a show cause notice to intern Sunny Manna for allegedly using the college's Lecture Theatre to watch the Champions Trophy final between India and New Zealand.

The situation escalated into a full-blown confrontation, with students staging protests and demanding answers from the administration.

The controversy began when an "unidentified person" reportedly attacked Sunny Manna, leaving him injured. This incident sparked outrage among students, who claimed that Manna was innocent and had not unlocked the Lecture Theatre himself. A large group of agitated medical students confined the dean of NBMC&H for several hours, demanding an explanation for the show cause notice and questioning the motives behind it.

Tensions flared further as clashes broke out between two groups of students within the college premises this afternoon. The atmosphere turned volatile, with heated altercations adding to the chaos.

When an "unidentified person" reportedly attacked Sunny Manna, leaving him injured. This incident sparked outrage among students, who claimed that Manna was innocent and had not unlocked the Lecture Theatre himself.

As the situation remains tense, authorities are under pressure to resolve the issue swiftly and ensure the safety of all students. The incident has also raised questions about the handling of disciplinary actions and the need for clearer communication between the administration and the student body.

West Bengal Governor visits India-Nepal border

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SILIGURI, 12 MARCH

Governor CV Ananda Bose, today visited the India-Nepal border areas to assess security measures, border management, and anti-smuggling operations.

During his visit, he interacted with Sashastha Seema Bal (SSB) personnel, local communities, and officials, emphasising the importance of safeguarding national sovereignty and addressing local grievances.

Yesterday, began his tour by visiting Alipurduar, where he met tribal communities, including members of the Toto tribe. He honoured Padma Shri awardee Dhani Ram Toto and other social activists, acknowledging their contributions to society. The Governor stated that his visit aimed to understand the challenges faced by tribal communities and evaluate the implementation of central government schemes designed for their upliftment.



post under the 41st Battalion of the SSB. Upon arrival, he was briefed by inspector general Sudhir Kumar of the Siliguri Frontier about the security situation along the India-Nepal border. The Governor visited the Border Interaction Team (BIT) checkpoint and interacted with SSB personnel, praising their dedication and commitment to protecting the nation under challenging conditions.

At Gorsing Basti, Bose engaged with local villagers, public representatives, and school students, informing them about various government welfare schemes. Students from Sharda Vidya Mandir and local youth performed patriotic songs and traditional dances from Santali, Rajbanshi, and Nepali cultures, which the Governor appreciated and rewarded.

Later, Bose joined SSB officials, villagers, and students for a community meal, fostering a spirit of unity. He also chaired a high-level security meeting with senior SSB officers.

TENDER

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Bakeswar Thermal Power Project P.O. BkTTP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Registered & Corporate Office: Bidyut Unnayan Bhawan Plot No. 3/C, LA - Block, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kol-700106

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Bakeswar Thermal Power Station P.O. Mecheda, Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721137

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE Executive Engineer (P.W.D.), Jalpaiguri Division, Jalpaiguri invites online tender for the work of "Engagement of an Inspection Vehicle (Diesel driven) on a monthly hiring basis for the office use of the Superintending Engineer, North Bengal Construction Circle No. II, P.W.Dte., Jalpaiguri."

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health & Secretary, District Health & Family Welfare Samiti, North 24 Parganas, Kol-700124, invites E-Tender for "Supply of ECD kit under 'HBVC programme' (Video Memo No. NIT/CMOH-N24Pgs/Tender/HBVC/Kit/2516 dt: 07.03.2025 at this institution. Date of Publishing: 12.03.2025 at 10.00 a.m. Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 20.03.2025, 6.00 p.m. For Details, please visit: www.wbtenders.gov.in"

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Registered & Corporate Office: Bidyut Unnayan Bhawan Plot No. 3/C, LA - Block, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kol-700106

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Bakeswar Thermal Power Project P.O. Mecheda, Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721137

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Registered & Corporate Office: Bidyut Unnayan Bhawan Plot No. 3/C, LA - Block, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kol-700106

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Sagardighi Thermal Power Project P.O. Monirampur, P.S. Sagardighi, Dist. - Murshidabad, Pin - 742237

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Registered & Corporate Office: Bidyut Unnayan Bhawan Plot No. 3/C, LA - Block, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kol-700106

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Bakeswar Thermal Power Project P.O. BkTTP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE Following E-tenders have been invited by the concerned TIA under the Directorate of Fisheries, WB:

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL KMDA TENDER NOTICE e-NIT No. 12EE/HD/W&SKMDA/2024-2025 (2nd call) E-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Hooghly Division, W&S Sector, KMDA, 1, R.N. Tagore Road, Kolkata-700076, from eligible and resourceful contractors, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, Supply and dosing of high strength calcium hypochlorite granules through the mechanical stirring system for making solution of water and calcium basal granules directly charged on line injection by mechanical regulated dosing pumps during supply hours of respective LGK's to achieve 0.5 to 0.6 PPM throughout the supply period from 0.5 MG capacity MAKHSAAPUKUR LGK, Ward No.1, for a period of 1 (One) year under Madhyamgram Municipal area, Rs.12,99,646/-, Rs.25,993/-, 01 year, End date and time of online bid submission: 03.04.2025 upto 16.30 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-4288) www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA- 155392/2025

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Registered & Corporate Office: Bidyut Unnayan Bhawan Plot No. 3/C, LA - Block, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kol-700106

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Santaldih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE Assistant Engineer, PW.Dte., B.M.C Electrical Sub-Division invites online tender for the work of 1. Annual Maintenance of E.I. Works at Lokpur Admin and Academic Building, MRD, Cardiology, Eye OPD allied non-residential type building under Bankura Sammlani Medical College and Hospital under BSMC and H Electrical Section III, PW.Dte. For the period of the year 2023-2024. Necessary outdoor light installation, New Electrical items installation such as Light Fan, Exhaust and allied Electrical Installation Works at Lokpur Campus of BSMC and H, Bankura under B.M.C Electrical Sub-Division Section III, NIQ No. WBPWDE/AE/BMCESD/NIQ-66/Q of 2024-25. Bid Submission closing date-19.03.2025 Time-10.55 a.m. Bid opening date-21.03.2025. Tender I.D: 2025\_WBPWDE\_825791\_1\_2) Annual Maintenance of E.I. works at Ladies Hostel (old) Building of Bankura Sammlani Medical College and Hospital under BSMC and H Electrical Section III, PW.Dte. during the year 2023-2024. (Electrical Works) - Repair and renovation of Glow sign boards and allied other E.I. Works of S.R. B. Boys, B.C. Roy Boys, Ladies Hostel old and new and Rabin Hall under BSMC and H Bankura under B.M.C Electrical Sub-Division Section-III, PW.Dte. NIQ No: WBPWDE/AE/BMCESD/NIQ-67/Q of 2024-25. Bid Submission closing date-19.03.2025 Time-10.55 a.m. Bid opening date-21.03.2025. Tender I.D: 2025\_WBPWDE\_825791\_1\_3) Annual Maintenance of the E.I. works at B.C. Roy Boys Hostel, Ladies Hostel (New), Ladies Hostel (Old), Chummary Hostel, Rabin Hall Hostel, Lokapur Cottage Building (Total 7 Nos residential type students hostel) of Bankura Sammlani Medical College and Hospital under BSMC and H Electrical Section-III. For the period of the year of 2024-25. Supply Delivery and fixing as replacement of Outdoor street Lights all around the Campus area of Rabin Hall and Chummary Boys Hostel of BSMC and H, Bankura. NIQ No: WBPWDE/AE/BMCESD/NIQ-67/Q of 2024-25. Bid Submission closing date-19.03.2025 Time-02.55 p.m. Bid opening date-21.03.2025. Tender I.D: 2025\_WBPWDE\_825923\_1\_4) Annual Maintenance of the E.I. work at Gynae, Radiotherapy and OPD Building of Bankura Sammlani Medical College and Hospital under BSMC and H Electrical Section-III, PW.Dte. For the period of the year of 2024-2025. Supply and Delivery of Electrical works items for the day to day Electrical maintenance under BSMC and H Electrical Sub-Division Section-III, NIQ No: WBPWDE/AE/BMCESD/NIQ-68/Q of 2024-25. Bid Submission closing date-19.03.2025 Time-02.55 p.m. Bid opening date-21.03.2025. Tender I.D: 2025\_WBPWDE\_825967\_1\_5) e-mail I.D. (eebectpw@wb.gov.in/eebepdw@gmail.com/bmchesdpwde@gmail.com). Corrigendum if any will be published in B.M.C website. Details of NIT/NIQ and Tender documents may be downloaded from: http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Assistant Engineer, PW.Dte., B.M.C Electrical Sub-Division. ICA- 154992/2025

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Kolaghat Thermal Power Station P.O. Mecheda, Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721137

WBSIEDCL invites e-tenders as follows: 1) NIT No: WBSIEDCL/JNG/ELEC/Tender/24-25/1463, Date: 06.03.2025 of the Divisional Manager, Joysagar Division. Estimated Cost: Rs. 49,31,650.78 for the work of Laying of 1.98 Km 33 kV 3c400 sq mm XLPE UG cable for Uttarabhang Dhoza 33 kV CKT for Dhoza temporary sub-station under Joysagar Division.

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Bakeswar Thermal Power Project P.O. BkTTP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Bakeswar Thermal Power Project P.O. BkTTP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Kolaghat Thermal Power Station P.O. Mecheda, Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721137

WBSIEDCL invites e-tenders as follows: 2) NIT No: DM/BSTD/Tender/47, Date: 07.03.2025 of the Divisional Manager, Barasat Division. Estimated Cost: Rs. 9,44,877.12 for the work of Laying of 2 nos. 11 kV 3C0.75 sq mm cable for effecting New Service Connection to the PHE PUMP HOUSE at South ARIANAGAR under Berachampa CCC.

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Bakeswar Thermal Power Project P.O. BkTTP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SG039154 Bakeswar Thermal Power Project P.O. BkTTP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104

# Police seek space for outpost within JU campus

Calcutta High Court's Justice Tirthankar Ghosh rules students must cooperate with Kolkata Police's Jadavpur University investigation

AGENCIES  
KOLKATA, 12 MARCH

Amid the continuing crisis and tension in Jadavpur University over the ruckus within the university campus on 1 March, the Kolkata Police, on Wednesday, sent a communique to the university authorities seeking space within the campus to set up a police outpost there.

The university authorities have confirmed the receipt of the communique from the city police and also claimed that any decision following allowing the setting up of a police outpost within the campus has not been reached as yet.

However, admitted JU insiders, implementing the proposal for setting up a police outpost within the campus will not be an easy task since the responsibility of maintaining order within any campus rests with the



educational institution authority concerned.

"That is why the education institution authorities generally avoid the entry of cops within the campus to the best possible extent. In such a situation any decision to set up police outposts within the university is bound to

face resistance not just from the students but also from a section of the teaching staff here," said a faculty member of Jadavpur University, who requested anonymity.

Already the Students' Federation of India (SFI), the CPI-M student wing, has

objected to the proposal from the city police.

Meanwhile, a single-judge Bench of the Calcutta High Court, on Wednesday, lifted the earlier ban on any political rally in the locality in the vicinity of the Jadavpur University (JU) campus till 13 March without prior per-



mission of the court, which the same Bench had earlier imposed last week amid the prevailing and continuing tension in the area then over the ruckus within the university premises on 1 March.

Lifting the ban on Wednesday, the single Bench of Justice Tirthankar Ghosh

observed that the earlier order by his Bench on 8 March had been enforced partially and the court is not keen to retain the responsibility in the matter further.

Justice Ghosh also observed that henceforth the organisations or parties desiring to

conduct the rallies in the area will have to approach the administrative authorities concerned for the permission and the latter would decide on the matter.

In a related development, the Calcutta High Court, on Wednesday, directed a student of Jadavpur University to coop-

erate in the ongoing investigation by Kolkata Police in the case of ruckus within the university campus on 1 March.

On 10 March, a student of Jadavpur University approached the Calcutta High Court accusing the Kolkata Police of excesses against the students of the university, including him, in the name of investigation.

The matter came up for hearing at the single Bench of Justice Tirthankar Ghosh on Wednesday. At the end of the hearing, Justice Ghosh said the court would not interfere in the matter, and the student concerned would have to cooperate with the investigating officials.

Justice Ghosh also said that if the court gives relief to the petitioner in the matter from investigation just because the latter is a student, it would set a bad precedent. The next hearing is on 4 April. Justice Ghosh directed all parties in the case to file their respective affidavits by that date.

## Police recover bag with body stuffed inside, 2 nabbed

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 12 MARCH

Kolkata police uncovered a murder plot in which a businessman was killed, his body stuffed into a trolley bag, and an attempt made to dispose of it on Kalyani Expressway, near Khardah in North-2 Parganas.

The victim, identified as Bhagarama Debasi, a textile trader from Rajasthan who lived in the Girish Park area, was allegedly murdered over an unpaid loan of Rs 8 lakh. The police recovered the trolley bag late on Tuesday night from the trunk of an app cab on Kalyani Expressway. Inside, they found a body wrapped in a sack and sealed with cellophane tape. The victim's mouth was taped, and there were injury marks on his neck, indicating strangulation.

The investigation led to the arrest of Karan Singh, one of the two accused, while the second suspect, Krishpal Singh, initially escaped but was later caught near Muktaram Babu Street, close to Thanthania Kalibari in north Kolkata. According to police sources, Bhagarama Debasi had borrowed Rs 8 lakh from the accused but was delaying repayment. On Tuesday,



Krishpal and Karan met him at Girish Park, where they allegedly laced his coffee with poison. Once he lost consciousness, they strangled him and slit his throat to ensure he was dead.

They then stuffed his body into a blue trolley bag and first took it to Dum Dum's Nagerbazar area. Around 9 p.m., they hired an app cab to transport the bag towards Nadia, intending to dump it in a deserted spot near Kalyani Expressway. The accused's plan was foiled due to the cab driver's suspicions. Rahul Adhikari, the driver, became curious when the passengers asked him to stop suddenly in the middle of the road. When he questioned them, they became nervous and tried to bribe him to stay silent. Meanwhile, a patrolling police van arrived at the scene. Sensing trouble,

Krishpal fled, but Karan was apprehended on the spot. Upon searching the trolley, police found the body, Rs 65,000 in cash, and a blood-stained weapon. After interrogating Karan and tracking mobile tower locations, police traced and arrested Krishpal.

Investigators believe the murder was premeditated, with the accused having already planned where to dispose of the body. The two suspects are currently being interrogated for more details. The case has drawn attention due to its similarity to a recent incident in Kumartuli, where a woman's body was found stuffed inside a trolley bag. The app cab driver, aware of that case, had questioned the passengers about their suspicious luggage, ultimately leading to the discovery of the crime.

## Farm, construction workers prone to kidney diseases: Doctors

KANCHAN SIDDIQUI  
DURGAPUR, 12 MARCH

Bengal is yet to wake up to the dangers of chronic kidney disease (CKD), which has deteriorated further due to desperate compromises in lifestyle and some hazardous work environments, claimed nephrologists ahead of World Kidney Day.

"Rising temperatures in recent years and people's long-term exposure to sunlight have also contributed to the increasing cases of persistent dehydration leading to CKD," said Dr Sheikh Mohammed Yunus, chief medical officer, West Burdwan, today. He added: "Environmental pollution is another key factor, especially for labourers working close to chimneys, who are more susceptible to kidney ailments." CKD prevalence has increased from 11.2 per cent (2011-2017) to 16.38 per cent (2018-2023) in adults in the country, according to a systematic review by the National Library of Medicine revealed in 2021.

## TMC MLA hits back at Suwendu for communal comment

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 12 MARCH

A fierce political face-off erupted after the Leader of Opposition, Suwendu Adhikari, issued a direct warning to Trinamul Congress' (TMC) Muslim MLAs. Speaking outside the Assembly on Tuesday, Adhikari had declared that once the BJP comes to power, these legislators would be "thrown onto the streets." His remarks sparked outrage, with TMC leaders strongly condemning the statement.

On Wednesday, TMC MLA Humayun Kabir hit back, stating: "We will also not serve him sweets." Responding to Adhikari's threat, Kabir asserted, "If he comes to attack us, should we offer him rosogollas? If he insults Muslim MLAs and threatens to throw them on the streets, we will respond accordingly. If he talks about throwing us, I will strike back." Kabir further warned Adhikari to withdraw his remarks within 72 hours and apologise to Muslim MLAs, or else he would face consequences.

"He will have to deal with 42 minority MLAs. If he does



not apologise within the given time, we will handle him in the Assembly itself. Moreover, he will not be allowed to enter Murshidabad. If he tries to, he will see our strength," Kabir asserted. Recalling a past political episode, Kabir reminded the Media that back in 2016, despite being TMC's district observer, Adhikari was not allowed to enter Murshidabad. "He had to flee like a thief. From Krishnanagar Circuit House, he called Didi (Mamata Banerjee) and urged her not to give me a ticket. Eventually, I wasn't given one, but the election results later proved everything," Kabir remarked. Meanwhile, BJP MLAs

staged a massive protest inside the Assembly over Adhikari's suspension. They tore papers and sat in protest outside the building, further intensifying the political tension in the state. With the war of words escalating between the ruling and opposition parties, the political atmosphere in Bengal remains highly charged up as both sides brace for a fierce electoral battle ahead.

Pradesh Congress committee senior leader Soumya Aich Roy said it is the game plan of BJP and TMC to divide the vote bank of Bengal. "People must avoid these parties, who are trying to divide the state in the name of religion," he said.

## Vasant Utsav at Bidhan Shishu Udyan



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 12 MARCH

Thousands of people gathered to celebrate the Spring Festival 2025 at Bidhan Shishu Udyan. The event featured a performance by Bengal's popular folk music group Dohar. A colourful procession involving young members, parents, and artists from Dohar started from Bidhan Shishu Udyan, circled around Hudco Mor and returned to the park. Songs like Ore Grihobashi and Fagun Hawaye Hawaye rent the air.

The main event took place at the Kalikaprada Open Stage, where spring was welcomed through dance, music, and poetry. Guests included Dr B C Roy Memorial Committee president and secretary Sanjeev Dutta, and writer Chanchal Kumar Ghosh.

## Health experts sound alert on kidney malfunction

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 12 MARCH

Manipal Hospitals have incorporated "Kidney Resignation" - a bold, disruptive campaign designed to grab attention and spark conversation aiming to convince people for kidney protection.

The hospitals have imagined a situation where the kidneys stop functioning.

Just imagine about the largest ever mass resignations that India hasn't recorded ever where 292 crore active participants have posed to wash their "hands" from their "tireless" routine. And this, "Would reduce life to a grinding halt across the country, if not intervened on time," several experts in the health-

care industry apprehend.

The country, though has a current population of 146.39 crore, still the strikers are just double the figure! "They are not men or women, but they lend their 'hands' to live a healthy life. They are the kidneys - one of the chief ingredients to run the show of human life," said Dr Mohammed Fahad Khan, consultant, Nephrology, Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, Bengaluru.

Dr Fahad's allegorical narration ahead of the World Kidney Day runs like this: "Kidneys across the country have shockingly resigned leaving the entire medical community stunned." Dr. Fahad, considering the gravity of the situation hurriedly

carried the SOS call to Dr H Sudarshan Ballal, chairman, Manipal Hospitals that equally triggered off a horrifying response from the senior expert when Dr Fahad placed the resignation letter with a charter of demands from the kidney community. Dr Ballal reacted: "OMG! This is alarming. They work sincerely throughout our life. We can't let this happen. In my 50 years of career I haven't heard anything like this." He added: "They are our loyal soldiers and keep us getting rid of waste products and toxins from our body."

After going through the charter of demands placed by the kidneys and a video clip forwarded by the kidney leaders, Dr Ballal said: "The

demand list they served entirely talks about our healthy life and better protection of our kidneys, which we need to accept for our benefit only."

The demand list includes: Improve lifestyle; Reduce processed food; Avoid unnecessary popping of painkillers; Give up on tobacco; Drink enough water; Control blood sugar & blood pressure; Get an annual kidney check-up.

Dr Ballal also emphasised: "Kidney disease is largely preventable with simple lifestyle changes. Awareness is the first step towards better kidney health and people need to stay hydrated, eat right, pursue regular exercise, and get regular check-ups before it's too late."

## Leaders seek CM's support for a peaceful Ram Navami rally

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SILIGURI, 12 MARCH

The Shri Ram Navami Mahotsav Samiti (SRNMS) in Siliguri has appealed to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her cooperation in ensuring a smooth and respectful celebration of Ram Navami on 6 April. The Samiti has requested the temporary closure of all liquor shops from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the day of the grand rally (shobha yatra), which will see thousands of devotees paying homage to Lord Ram.

Addressing the media, Laxman Bansal, a representative of SRNMS, emphasised the cultural and spiritual significance of the event. "We respectfully urge chief minister Mamata Banerjee to instruct



administrative officials to shut down liquor outlets until 4 p.m. on 6 April, as a mark of respect to Hindu Sanatan culture," Mr Bansal stated. He also highlighted that the state government earns significant revenue from liquor sales throughout the year, making this a modest request

for a few hours of closure.

The Samiti has already sought permission from local police authorities, submitting official letters to ensure cooperation and security for the massive gathering expected on 6 April. Mr Bansal stressed the importance of maintaining peace during the rally, urging

the police to take strict action against any indiscipline that could disrupt the event. "We appeal to all devotees to maintain proper decorum and participate in this divine procession peacefully," he added.

This year marks the 14th anniversary of Ram Navami celebrations in Siliguri, which has grown into a major social and cultural event for devotees across North Bengal and Sikkim. Mr Bansal noted that the festival has become an example of samajik samrasta (social harmony), breaking barriers of caste, creed, and division.

The Ram Navami celebrations will kick off on 31 March, with a series of events leading up to the grand rally on 6 April.

## FESTIVE MOOD



Shopping for Doljatra or Holi at Burrabazar ■ MOUL MONDAL



Kolkata Basanta Utsav at Maidan ■ BISWAJIT GHOSHAL



### IMA teaches students ways to make organic colours

The IMA, Serampore, urged using organic colours for Holi instead of toxic chemical ones, warning of health risks. Students were taught to make safe colours from flowers and vegetables to promote safety and environmental awareness.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
HOOGHLY, 12 MARCH



and in some cases, blindness. The toxic colours can even have harmful effects on the liver, stomach, brain, and kidneys. Hence, the use of organic colours, prepared from flowers and vegetables are much safer.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA), Serampore unit in an awareness programme on safety measures during Holi, has completely prohibited the use of chemical toxic colours and encouraged the use of organic colours. The Paschim Banga Vigyan Manch district unit has come forward to teach school students the method of preparation of organic colours from flowers and vegetables.

The Serampore IMA branch president, Dr Pradeep Das, while speaking in a public awareness programme, warned against the use of chemical colours available in the market. He said most of the colours available in the open market are prepared with highly toxic chemicals such as Copper Sulphate, Lead, and Mercurous iodide, which are very harmful for the skin and eyes, causing skin allergies, loss of sight,

## City, districts to have heat wave from Sunday: Met

South Bengal to face heat wave from 16 March, with temperatures expected to hit 40°C in four districts



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 12 MARCH

Come Sunday and the state is to get its first spell of heat wave of the year. Four districts of south Bengal are set to sizzle for a few days with the weather office sounding a heat wave alert for them.

Kolkata is also headed for hot and humid weather conditions this weekend brought by soaring day temperature and increased humidity.

According to the Regional Meteorological Centre, Kolkata, districts of West Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura and West Midnapore are to witness 'heat wave conditions' from 16 March. The weather scientists have tipped around five degrees rise in the day temperatures with the mercury hitting 40 degrees Celsius mark in those districts. Even the other districts of south Bengal are to see hotter day temperatures when the mercury would remain three to four degrees Celsius above normal. Like the tempera-



tures, the relative humidity is also anticipated to be high from that day. According to the forecast by the weather office in the city, the maximum relative humidity over coastal districts is likely to be 80-90 per cent and about 70-80 per cent over interior districts. The minimum relative humidity is likely to be 30-40 per cent during the heat wave period.

The heat wave, as explained by the scientists at the weather department, is brought mainly by westerly to north westerly winds that

are likely to prevail over the region and consequently heat wave condition over the four districts of south Bengal from 16 March. The scientists have suggested to avoid prolonged heat exposure and outside work from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the heatwave. They have also recommended to drink sufficient water, even if not thirsty, to avoid dehydration and recognise the signs of heat rash or heat cramps such as weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea, sweating and seizures.

### Forest department bans Holi celebrations in Sonajhuri



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BIRBHUM, 12 MARCH

The forest department has banned playing of Holi within Sonajhuri Haat area in Santiniketan, this year. The Visva-Bharati University (VBU) has already announced that this year it will not organise Vasanta Utsav officially.

Though tourists will be allowed to enter and move around in the Sonajhuri Haat and Khawai areas, Dol Utsav will not be allowed. The forest department said that a large number of vehicles are also parked during the Holi festival, but this year, both playing of Holi and parking of vehicles have been banned in the core

area. The Bolpur forest department said that due to tourists and locals playing colours many trees and plants are damaged as both dry and water colours are littered around. To save the environment in Sonajhuri Haat no Holi festival will be allowed. Sonajhuri Haat is the most popular site in Santiniketan and hundreds of people visit throughout the year to purchase local handicrafts. Since 2020, the Visva-Bharati University has not organised Vasant. Instead, it organises the Dol Jatra festival internally. Due to the global outbreak of Covid-19 Vasanta Utsav was organised in 2021 and 2022.

**WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Material Management Department  
(e-Tender Notice for the supply of Stores, No. EPS/63/2025)  
PCMM/WCR on behalf of the president of India invites the following advertised tenders through E-procurement System. No manual/postal offers shall be entertained. Tenders can be accessed under the link website "https://ireps.gov.in" for details and for submission of Tender.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Short Description	Tendered Qty.
1	81255031A	Manufacturing and Supply of High Viscous Nylon-66 Insulating Liner	246422 Nos
2	38254182	Knuckle for upgraded high tensile centre buffer coupler	17881 Nos
3	34243160	Paint Synthetic Enamel, Exterior Finishing Brushing Colours	73249 LTR.

All Above Tenders Due date Sr No. 1 - 27.03.2025, Sr No. 2 - 03.04.2025, & Sr No. 3 - 07.04.2025. For tenders with estimated value below Rs. 50 lakh, interested firms are advised to visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Principal Chief Material Manager, WCR, Jabalpur

**NOTICE**  
Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore is inviting e-tender NIT No: 6/ACcts/ZGA/e-tender/2025, 7/ACcts/ZGA/e-tender/2025, 8/ACcts/ZGA/e-tender/2025, 9/ACcts/ZGA/e-tender/2025 for Supply of food for animal of zoo veterinary hospital & quarantine center at ZGA & Supply of Buffalo Meat for Rescue Animal at ZGA is 20.03.2025 up to 3.00 pm. For details see website [wbenders.gov.in](http://wbenders.gov.in) & [kolkatazoo.in](http://kolkatazoo.in).

CF & Director  
Zoological Garden, Alipore

**O/O THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER**  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
NORTH BENGAL, HQ.  
Due to cancellation of previous NIT No. 707, dt. 15-01-2025 a fresh quotations are hereby invited for deployment of 02 (two) maxi cabs (Non AC) vehicles for official use at the office of the undersigned with immediate effect. Terms and conditions are displayed on the office notice board. Bona fide owners are invited to submit sealed quotation at this office within 25th March, 2025 by 15:00 hrs.

Sd/-  
Special Commissioner  
GST, Siliguri  
E-mail id: splcct.sg@wbcomtax.gov.in  
For any query contact:  
94342 28931, 98326 33704

**T E N D E R**

**JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY**  
Kolkata-700 032  
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER  
NIT No. : JUUE/24/24-25 Dt : 10.03.25  
e-Tenders are invited from the eligible contractors for civil works related, Tender ID as under :  
1. 2025 JU 824709.1 Rs.1,17,033/-  
EMD Amount : INR 2,30,01/-  
2. 2025 JU 824711.1 Rs.7,78,760/-  
EMD Amount : INR 15,600/-  
Last date of e-submission is 22.03.25 upto 14.00 Hrs. Please contact office of the University Engineer, Jadavpur University for physical Verification of the work site. For detail visit <https://wbenders.gov.in>

Registrar

**ABRIDGED NOTICE**  
e-NIT No: 27/BDO/NAK/2024-2025 (2nd Call), e-NIT No: 36/EO NAKASHIPARA/2024-2025  
e-TENDERS invited by the BDO & EO Nakashipara Dev. Block & Pan. Samity Nakashipara, Bethuadahari, Nadia. Different work at different site. Tender Id: 2024\_ZPHD\_826696\_1. 2024\_ZPHD\_826614\_1 to 5.Bid submission closing date (online): 26/03/2025 at 2 PM 19/03/2025 at 2 PM respectively. Details on: <https://wbenders.gov.in>

Sd/- S. Dutta,  
BDO & EO Nakashipara Dev. Block & Pan. Samity, Bethuadahari, Nadia.

**MAHESHTALA MUNICIPALITY**  
P.O. - Maheshtala, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, PIN - 700141  
Phone : (033) 2490 1651, 2490 3389  
Email : [maheshtalamunicipality@gmail.com](mailto:maheshtalamunicipality@gmail.com)

**Abridged Tender Notice**

Sl. No.	NIT	Work description	Last date of download and submission of tender
1	MAD/MM/ NIT-52/24-25/ SI-1 to 15	Improvement and patch repairing of bituminous road different location under Ward-18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 35	28/03/2025 at 3:00 p.m.
2	MAD/MM/ NIT-55/24-25	Repairing of cement concrete road at Vivekananda Pally, Kallitla Ramkrishna Pally and Barua Para under Ward-24	21/03/2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Details may be had from the <http://wbenders.gov.in> Chairman

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA**  
**FOREST DEPARTMENT**  
**MANGROVE DIVISION-NORTH KONKAN**  
Abhimaan II, 5th Floor, Teen Haat Naka, Naupada, Thane (W)-400602  
E-mail: [dfommcu@gmail.com](mailto:dfommcu@gmail.com) Parent Portal: <http://mahatenders.gov.in>

**E-Tender**  
**Tender Notice No. DFO/MDNK/54 to 61/2024-25**

Online Tender Forms in B-1 Format, for the following work are invited by the Divisional Forest Officer, Mangrove Division-North Konkan, Abhimaan II, 5th Floor, Teen Haat Naka, Naupada, Thane (W)-400602 from the contractors registered with the Government of Maharashtra in appropriate class of Tender Notice.

The blank tender documents should be downloaded from Government website: <http://mahatenders.gov.in> from 13/03/2025 at 5.00 p.m. to 06/04/2025 at 05.00 p.m. Blank Tender documents will not be sold by this office; interested contractors have to download tender documents from the website. For any queries in this regard the interested contractors can contact on telephone No. 022-69309286 during office hours.

All requisite information required for the submission of Bid Capacity documents is available on the abovesaid website. If any assistance is required regarding e-Tendering (uploading / downloading) please contact NIC Help Desk number: 1800 3070 2232.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money Deposit	Time limit for completion	Cost of Blank Tender Form (Non-Refundable)
1	Construction of RCC Compound wall with Y type angle & 2.45 mm dia G.I. Pipe (Rezan / Concenter Deleted ire 0.75 mm dia) Near BKC Connector Bridge & Mithi River at BKC (Bandra Kurla Complex), in Survey No.04 of C.T.S. No. 08 in Central Mumbai Range of Mangrove Division North Konkan.	Rs. 59,48,520	Rs. 59,485	4 Months	Rs. 1180 (Including GST)
2	Construction of RCC Compound wall with Y type angle & 2.45 mm dia G.I. Pipe (Rezan / Concenter Deleted ire 0.75 mm dia) Opposite MMRDA & SEBI Office at B.K.C. (Bandra Kurla Complex) in Survey No.04 of C.T.S. No. 08 in Central Mumbai Range of Mangrove Division-North Konkan.	Rs. 61,88,423	Rs. 61,884	4 Months	Rs. 1180 (Including GST)
3	Construction of RCC Compound wall with Y type angle & 2.45 mm dia G.I. Pipe (Rezan / Concenter Deleted ire 0.75 mm dia) near Kamala Nagar Slum Entrance Road at Wadala in Saltpan C.T.S. No.83 in Central Mumbai Range of Mangrove Division- North Konkan.	Rs. 83,56,530	Rs. 83,565	4 Months	Rs. 1180 (Including GST)
4	Construction of RCC Compound wall with Y type angle & 2.45 mm dia G.I. Pipe (Rezan / Concenter Deleted ire. 0.75 mm dia) near to the Bhakti Park Monorail Station at Wadala in Saltpan C.T.S. No. 83 in Central Mumbai Range of Mangrove Division- North Konkan.	Rs. 83,11,995	Rs. 83,120	4 Months	Rs. 1180 (Including GST)
5	Construction of RCC Compound wall with Y type angle & 2.15 mm dia G.I. Pipe (Rezan / Concenter Deleted ire 0.75 mm dia) near to the Casting Yard at Wadala in Saltpan C.T.S. No. 83 in Central Mumbai Range of Mangrove Division-North Konkan.	Rs. 83,54,685	Rs. 83,547	4 Months	Rs. 1180 (Including GST)
6	Construction of RCC Compound wall with Y type angle & 2.45 mm dia G.I. Pipe (Rezan / Concenter Deleted ire 0.75 mm dia) Near Glorious High School at Trombay/ Turbhe in Sr.No.152P of C.T.S. No. 10 in Central Mumbai Range of Mangrove Division- North Konkan.	Rs. 83,21,750	Rs. 83,218	4 Months	Rs. 1180 (Including GST)
7	Construction of RCC Compound wall with Y type angle & 2.45 mm dia G.I. Pipe (Rezan / Concenter Deleted ire 0.75 mm dia) near Trishul Mandir & Star English School at Cheeta Camp, Trombay in S.No. 152P of C.T.S. No. 10 in Central Mumbai Range of Mangrove Division-North Konkan.	Rs. 82,77,306	Rs. 82,773	4 Months	Rs. 1180 (Including GST)
8	Construction of RCC Compound wall with Y type angle & 2.45 mm dia G.I. Pipe (Rezan / Concenter Deleted ire 0.75 mm dia) near Karbala Maidan at Trombay in S.No. 152P of C.T.S. No. 10 in Central Mumbai Range of Mangrove Division- North Konkan.	Rs. 83,21,750	Rs. 83,218	4 Months	Rs. 1180 (Including GST)

1) No changes are to be made by the contractor in the tender documents published on the website. If any changes are made the tender documents will be rejected & action accordingly will be taken against the contractor. Information published on the government website will be final.

2) Right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof is reserved.

Divisional Forest Officer  
Mangrove Division, North Konkan  
DGIPR/ROC-7056/24-25

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)  
Corporate identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813  
Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)  
(Mobile No. 96461-55525)

E-Tender Enq. No. 7671/P-3/EMP-12958 dated 12.03.2025  
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2025\_POWER\_136343\_1 for Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of semihermetic water cooled screw chiller machine of capacity 120 TR at stage III GGSSTP Roopnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 12.03.2025 at 12.00 PM onwards.  
Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> RTP/30/25

**GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited**  
Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Palgah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500003, Telangana, India CIN:U40109TG1997PLC028483  
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Gurga Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL) (A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSCCL)  
Electrical Dept. Head GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of:  
1. Tender Enquiry No. 024/GATP/ELEC/ID/20017520 dated 12/03/2025 "TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF 1D IAN induction motor" at 2X270 MW Gurga Amar Das Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications.  
For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 12/03/2025 from 17:00 Hrs onwards.  
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> GATP-11/25

**Govt. of Jharkhand**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, Road Construction Department,**  
Nirupan Bhawan, 4th floor, 56-Set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi-834002  
e-mail - [eeecdapfdan-jhr@nic.in](mailto:eeecdapfdan-jhr@nic.in)

**e-Procurement very Short Notice**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Call**  
e-Tender Reference No. -RCD/FSD/AP/ RAN/72/24-25  
Dated 11.03.2025

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money Deposit	Time limit for completion	Cost of Blank Tender Form (Non-Refundable)
1	Consultancy services for preparation of Detailed project report for construction of road- Deerpark (on Ranchi-Muri road) ramdera to Silli-Tikar-Kangarami road upto Hanta (Silli bypass road) including replacement of culverts and bridges, proposal of new culverts and bridges, complete Land Acquisition Proposal including ownership details, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Proposal and Forest Diversion Proposal including clearance of all stages etc as required all complete as per latest guidelines, at Ranchi in the state of Jharkhand from Consultants empanelled in Category-I with the Road Construction Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no -3063(S) W.E dated 22-08-2022 are allowed to bid.	Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand) (Non-Refundable) through online mode only.	EMD : Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand) through online mode only. As per the Departmental Letter no -4652(S) dated 06.10.2023, cost of tender document and Earnest Money Deposit will be received in online mode only through e-procurement portal ( <a href="https://jarkhandtenders.gov.in">https://jarkhandtenders.gov.in</a> ) by Internet banking/ NEFT/ RTGS facility as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by Information Technology & e-Governance Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no- 120 dated 03.10.2023.	45 Days	Rs. 1180 (Including GST)
2	Work completion time			45 Days	
3	Tentative Length	10.00 km			
4	Cost of Tender Document & Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand) (Non-Refundable) through online mode only. As per the Departmental Letter no -4652(S) dated 06.10.2023, cost of tender document and Earnest Money Deposit will be received in online mode only through e-procurement portal ( <a href="https://jarkhandtenders.gov.in">https://jarkhandtenders.gov.in</a> ) by Internet banking/ NEFT/ RTGS facility as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by Information Technology & e-Governance Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no- 120 dated 03.10.2023.			
5	Date and Time of Publishing of Tender on official website	17.03.2025, 05.00 PM			
6	Last date and Time of submission of Tender (With Tender Fee and EMD)	24.03.2025, 12.30 PM			
7	Date and Time of Bid opening	25.03.2025, 12.30 PM			
8	Tender Inviting Authority	Executive Engineer, Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, RCD, Ranchi, Nirupan Bhawan, 56 set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi-834002, Mobile No.-8051090751			
9	Mode of Bid Submission	e-Tendering ( <a href="http://jarkhandtenders.gov.in">http://jarkhandtenders.gov.in</a> )			
10	PR No	347002 Road (24-25)			

For further information please go through the website <http://jarkhandtenders.gov.in>  
Executive Engineer  
Field Survey Division, A.P  
Road Construction Department, Ranchi  
PR.NO.348457 Road(24-25):D

**WEST BENGAL AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A Govt. Undertaking)  
Registered Office: 23B, Netaji Subhas Road, 3rd Floor  
Kolkata-700001

**NleT-177 (2nd call), 221 (2nd call), 273 (2nd call) and NleT-343 to 348 / 2024-2025 Dated: 12-03-2025**

e-Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, on behalf of West Bengal Agro Industries Corpn. Ltd., 23B, Netaji Subhas Road, 3rd Floor, Kolkata-700001 from bona fide and resourceful Agencies for completion of Civil & Electrical works at Bankura, Murshidabad, Birbhum and Burdwan District. Tender document may be downloaded from <http://wbenders.gov.in> Bid submission start date: 13-03-2025 after 9-00 A.M. Bid submission end date: 21-03-2025 and 03-04-2025 up to 3-00 P.M.  
Date: 12-03-2025 Sd/- Executive Engineer

**HOWRAH MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
4, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD, HOWRAH-711001  
Phone: 033 2638 3211/12/13 Fax: 033 2641 0830  
Visit us: [www.mhmc.in](http://www.mhmc.in)  
Conservancy Department  
Abridged Tender Notice for Paper Publication  
OSD & Ex-Office Executive Engineer, H.M.C., invites e-tender as furnished below. Interested tenders are to submit offers along with valid PAN Card, GST, P.T., ITR, Trade License & credentials.

Sl.No.	Name of work	Tender No. & Date
1.	Construction and renovation of drain under F.M.C. Ward No.-11, 15th FC (SWM & W) (2nd Call)	No.-35/Cons./24-25 Date: 11-03-2025
2.	Topographical mapping plan data at Belgachia Bhagar area under Ward No.-7 & 8 HMC (Area 22 Acre approx.) 15th FC (SWM & W) (2nd Call)	
3.	Construction & Renovation of secondary transportation point for garbage lifting under H.M.C. Ward No.-30, 32, 36 & 37, 15th FC (SWM & W) (2nd Call)	

Bid submission closing (online) date: 02-04-2025 up to 5:00 P.M.  
Please visit: <http://wbenders.gov.in> OSD & Ex-Office Executive Engineer  
Howrah Municipal Corporation  
198/24-25, 12-03-25

**KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER**  
**ABRIDGED NIT**  
The Executive Engineer (WS/BPS), KMC invites e-tender online percentage two bid system for the following works :  
(1) NIT No. : KMC/WS/HW/2024-25/20/1st Call  
Name of the work : Installation of new centrifugal pump-motor set in place of old and damaged pump-motor set at Poddarnagar Head Works; Estimated Cost : ₹ 6,93,814.37; Earnest Money : ₹ 14,000.00.  
(2) NIT No. : KMC/WS/HW/2024-25/21/1st Call  
Name of the work : Installation of new centrifugal pump-motor set in place of old and damaged pump-motor set at Jadavpur Central Road Head Works; Estimated Cost : ₹ 6,96,536.32; Earnest Money : ₹ 14,000.00.  
(3) NIT No. : KMC/WS/HW/2024-25/22/1st Call  
Name of the work : Installation of new centrifugal pump-motor set in place of old and damaged pump-motor set at 150 P.A. Shah Road Head Works; Estimated Cost : ₹ 7,32,256.38; Earnest Money : ₹ 14,700.00.  
(4) NIT No. : KMC/WS/HW/2024-25/23/1st Call  
Name of the work : Installation of new centrifugal pump-motor set in place of old and damaged pump-motor set at 16A, P.A. Shah Road Head Works; Estimated Cost : ₹ 7,17,873.18; Earnest Money : ₹ 14,400.00.  
(5) NIT No. : KMC/WS/HW/2024-25/24/1st Call  
Name of the work : Installation of new centrifugal pump-motor set in place of old and damaged pump-motor set at Chand Ghosh Road Head Works; Estimated Cost : ₹ 6,99,012.84; Earnest Money : ₹ 14,000.00.  
(6) NIT No. : KMC/WS/HW/2024-25/25/1st Call  
Name of the work : Installation of new centrifugal pump-motor set in place of old and damaged pump-motor set at Jodhpur Park Head Works; Estimated Cost : ₹ 7,55,260.48; Earnest Money : ₹ 15,200.00; Period of completion : 75 Days (For Sl. No. 1 to 6); Last date of submission of bid : 28.03.2025 - 2 pm (For Sl. No. 1 to 6); Tender will be opened on : 02.04.2025 - 2 pm (For Sl. No. 1 to 6); The bid forms and other details are available on and from 18.03.2025 (2 pm) (For Sl. No. 1 to 6); The website <https://etender.wb.nic.in> (For Sl. No. 1 to 6). 1483/24-25

# BJP sweeps Haryana polls, wins nine of 10 municipal corporations

The Congress, which contested the state civic polls on its symbol for the first time, failed to open its account

AGENCIES  
CHANDIGARH, 12 MARCH

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday swept the Haryana civic polls, with its mayoral candidates winning Ambala, Gurugram, Hisar, Karnal, Rohtak, Faridabad, Yamunanagar, Panipat, and Sonapat municipal corporations.

The main Opposition Congress bit the dust even in Rohtak, the stronghold of Bhupinder Hooda.

The Congress, which contested the state civic polls on its symbol for the first time, failed to open its account.

In Manesar, independent candidate Inderjit Yadav defeated BJP's Sundar Lal by 2,235 votes.

In Gurugram, BJP's Raj Rani secured 270,781 votes, defeating Congress candidate



Seema Pahuja by a margin of 179,485 votes, while in Faridabad, Parveen Joshi of the BJP won the seat with 416,927 votes.

In Hisar, Parveen Popli of the BJP won by a margin of 64,456 votes, while in Rohtak, Ram Avtar Valmiki

of the BJP won by a margin of 45,198 votes.

In Karnal, Renu Bala of the BJP won with 83,630 votes, defeating Congress candidate Manoj Wadhwa, who received 25,359 votes. In Yamunanagar, Suman of the BJP won.

**In Ambala, Shailja Sachdeva of the BJP won the mayor by-election, while in Sonapat, Rajiv Jain of the BJP secured 57,858 votes to win the seat. In Panipat, Konal Saini of the BJP won with 1,62,075 votes.**

In Ambala, Shailja Sachdeva of the BJP won the mayor by-election, while in Sonapat, Rajiv Jain of the BJP secured 57,858 votes to win the seat. In Panipat, Konal Saini of the BJP won with 1,62,075 votes.

Elated over the party's major victory, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini told the media here: "The people of Haryana have put their stamp of approval on the triple engine government... I thank the people of Haryana from the bottom of my heart. Our local body government and this triple-engine government will play a crucial role in fulfilling PM Narendra Modi's

vision of 'Viksit Bharat'."

Believing the civic body election results won't have much of an impact on the Congress, party veteran Hooda said, "The Congress must have gained in some areas, but I did not go anywhere during the elections. I don't think these results will have an impact."

The BJP's sweep, especially in urban areas like Gurugram and Faridabad, proves its dominance over the state's political landscape that made history in October 2024 by becoming the first political party to win three consecutive terms in the state Assembly elections.

## Jharkhand eases excise constable recruitment rules, reduces race distance

AGENCIES  
RANCHI, 12 MARCH

The Jharkhand government has amended the physical eligibility test criteria for excise constable recruitment, reducing the required race distance. Candidates will now have to complete a 1,600-metre race in six minutes instead of the earlier 10 km run. The change comes in the wake of public outrage following the death of 19 candidates during last year's constable recruitment race. The decision to amend the rule was approved during a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Wednesday.

The Cabinet approved a total of 31 proposals which included an amendment to the Mineral Bearing Land Cess Act, 2024 increasing the cess rate on minerals. Cabinet Secretary Vandana Dadel, while informing about the decision, stated that Jharkhand's cess rate is lower compared to other mineral-rich states, prompting the revision.

The Jharkhand Cabinet approved a proposal to classify storms and heat waves as disasters.

This designation enables the government to implement disaster control measures and provide compensation to affected individuals under disaster relief provisions. The Additional Judicial Commissioner-1 court in Ranchi has been designated as a special court to handle cases related to cheating in competitive examinations.

## Madagascar a steadfast partner of India: LS Speaker

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 12 MARCH

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla today said India holds Madagascar in the highest regard as a cherished and reliable friend, as well as a steadfast partner in its journey of progress.

He further emphasised that, in alignment with the "SAGAR" (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision, Madagascar stands as a pivotal ally for India within the Indian Ocean realm. This invaluable partnership, he noted, plays an essential role in fortifying regional stability and nurturing economic prosperity across the region.

Mr Birla made these remarks during a bilateral meeting with a Parliamentary Delegation from Madagascar led by President of the National Assembly of Madagascar Justin Tokely in the Parliament House Premises.

During the meeting, he underscored that the relationship between India and Madagascar has historically been strong and that the two nations share a centuries-old history of trade, culture, and mutual interaction.

Guided by the principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', India has always been at the forefront in offering help to neighboring countries especially during disasters, he said.

Mr Birla mentioned about India's proactive role in providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) to Madagascar. India has supported various projects to

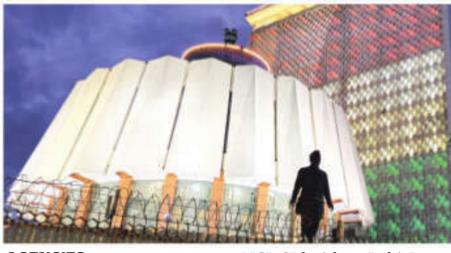


contribute to the prosperity and socio-economic development of Madagascar, which reflects India's commitment to mutually beneficial development, he noted.

He also mentioned about significant role played by members of the Indian Diaspora in Madagascar in strengthening the friendship between the two countries. Shri Birla also expressed happiness about the first 'Jaipur Foot Camp' organized in Madagascar, where hundreds of differently-abled individuals were provided with artificial limbs.

Highlighting India's democratic tradition and framework, Mr Birla stated that India is the world's oldest and largest democracy in the world and has a legacy as the 'Mother of Democracy'. In India even thousands of years ago, democratic institutions made collective decisions for the people, he added. Emphasising that democracy is not merely a system of governance in India, but a cornerstone of its cultural and spiritual ethos, he said.

## Oppn stages walkout as Maha govt 'fails' to increase aid under Ladki Bahin Yojana



AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, 12 MARCH

The Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly on Wednesday created a ruckus and staged a walkout to protest the Mahayuti government's "failure" to increase the monthly financial aid to beneficiaries of the Ladki Bahin Yojana from Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,100.

The opposition claimed that the Mahayuti did not keep its poll promise.

The issue was raised by

NCP-SP legislator Rohit Pawar who said that the government has forgotten its promise as it had not hiked the monthly aid to Rs 2,100 for women beneficiaries of Ladki Bahin Yojana. He claimed that there had been no mention in the state Budget on Monday.

Shiv Sena-UBT legislator Varun Sardesai demanded that the state government quickly pay the revised monthly financial aid to women beneficiaries. As there was no response from the government, the oppo-

sition walked out of the Assembly.

Notably, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Ajit Pawar after presenting the Budget of the Mahayuti government asserted: "We had only said during the Assembly election that we will increase the aid if voted to power. Have I ever made a statement about when the aid will be given? Show me. We will announce when there will be a rise and after that, the women beneficiaries will start getting it."

Further, Chief Minister Fadnis also said that the increased payout to beloved sisters is being worked out. During the debate on the annual Budget, the opposition leaders, including Jayant Patil, Vijay Wadetiwar, and Jitendra Awhad, among others, allegedly slammed the government for not increasing the monthly aid to Rs 2,100 for women beneficiaries.

## Madhya Pradesh gears up for Simhastha Kumbh-2028; ₹2,000cr allocated in Budget

AGENCIES  
BHOPAL, 12 MARCH

To spruce up the temple town of Ujjain, which will host the 'Simhastha Kumbh' in 2028, Madhya Pradesh Finance Minister Jagdish Devda has earmarked a handsome fund of Rs 2,000 crore while presenting the state Budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 in state Assembly on Wednesday.

The historic city of Ujjain - known for Lord Shiva's Mahakal temple, will host 'Simhastha Kumbh' and captivate thousands of devotees in 2028.

The Simhastha Kumbh is a unique and sacred gathering observed when, according to Hindu astrology, Jupiter transitions into the Leo constellation, known as Simha Rashi.

This extraordinary Kumbh Mela is held in the holy city

of Ujjain.

This allocation stands apart from the Rs 18,715 crore designated for urban development, a figure that exceeds last year's allocation by nearly Rs 2,000 crore.

The funds are intended to enhance the city's infrastructure and ensure it is ready to host thousands of devotees expected to attend this mega religious congregation.

The funds will be directed towards carefully designed development projects, all slated for completion before 2028, ensuring a city capable of accommodating pilgrims in a proper manner, the minister told the state Assembly.

During a visit to Ujjain last year in December, Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda joined Chief Minister Mohan Yadav in reviewing plans for Simhastha 2028.

## Rajasthan Assembly passes three bills amid opposition walkout

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAIPUR, 12 MARCH

Amid ruckus and walkout by the opposition Congress members, the Rajasthan assembly passed three crucial bills within an hour on Wednesday.

Altogether, five bills were on the agenda of the House on Wednesday. Of these, the GST Amendment Bill 2024—meant to replace—the GST Amendment Ordinance 2024, the Bikaner Development Authority Bill 2025, and the Bharatpur Development Authority Bill 2025 were passed by voice vote in the absence of Congress. The Appropriation Bill 2025-26 and the Rajasthan Finance Bill 2025-26 were also scheduled to be passed by the House later in the evening.

The 66-member principal opposition group walked out of the House in protest against the hasty passage of the three bills without due debate. The party demanded that they be referred to the Select Committee of the House.

From the onset, the opposition members were unhappy with the government's "hasty" approach to legislative business. Their frustration grew further due to allegedly incomplete or unsatisfactory replies from ministers during the Question Hour.

In such an instance, Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Tika Ram Julie tried to intervene, seeking a due reply from Ground Water Minister Kanhaiya Lal Choudhary to his party colleague.

However, Speaker Vasudev Devnani did not allow him, stating: "The LoP shouldn't rise every time to intervene. The ensuing verbal exchange between Devnani and the members of the Opposition benches led to an uproar.

LoP Julie said, "I am duty-bound to assist opposition members in obtaining the necessary information from ministers who fail to provide proper replies or come unprepared. The treasury benches try to prevent the opposition from expressing our views."

## Nitish Kumar should resign and retire from public life: Tejashwi Prasad Yadav



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
PATNA, 12 MARCH

It is high time Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar resigns and retires from politics, and spends the rest of his life in some ashram listening to 'pravachan' (sermons). He is not in his senses to handle the future of 14 crore people of Bihar, said RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav on Wednesday.

The Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly was furious at Kumar for reportedly making demeaning comments at former chief minister and Tejashwi's mother Rabri

Devi.

Mocking Rabri Devi during the budget session, Nitish Kumar has repeatedly said, "when her husband was sent to jail, he made her chief minister."

There was a huge uproar in the Bihar Legislative Council on Wednesday following a verbal spat between Nitish Kumar and Rabri Devi. All opposition leaders later staged a walkout and sat on a dharna. After this, Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav reached the council and came out with Rabri Devi.

Addressing the media, the RJD leaders said: "We feel

pity about him (Nitish Kumar). He has reached a stage where he needs people's prayer. Such behaviour shows that he is not normal."

Tejashwi said: "Today he was making a gesture towards bindi on my mother's forehead. He has objections to a woman's right to dress herself. Earlier he did the same to another female member of the house Sheela Mandal. He has been making insulting remarks about women from various platforms, about their dresses, their lifestyle. Even in the house he has made undignified comments. He has lost all his morality. He should retire from public life."

"He keeps comparing himself with Lalu Prasad Yadav. Is there any comparison? He has no ideology, no policy and no social standings. Lalu Yadav never compromised with his principles, while Nitish Kumar has been making flip flops throughout his life," he added.

## MP govt presents ₹4,21,032 crore budget; no new taxes levied

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHOPAL, 12 MARCH

Madhya Pradesh Finance Minister Jagdish Dewda on Wednesday presented a budget of Rs 4,21,032 crore for the financial year 2025-26 in the state assembly, adding that the BJP-led state government has levied no new taxes.

Dewda, who is also one of the two Deputy Chief Ministers of the state, presented the budget during the ongoing budget session of the Assembly at Bhopal. This is the largest budget of the state till now.

It was being expected that the finance minister might announce a reduction in the

very high prices of petrol and diesel in Madhya Pradesh, but he did not. Similarly, there was no announcement about increasing the current monthly allocation of Rs 1250 for the women beneficiaries of the 'Laadli Behna Yojana'.

In his budget speech, Dewda stated, "This budget is for development. It focuses on the welfare of women, youth, poor, and farmers. We have taken care of everyone."

"The budget is focused on GYAN (Garib, Yuva, Annadata and Nari) with an aim to doubling the size of the state budget in the next five years, increasing capital investment, extension of

road, irrigation and power facilities, attracting investment for quality health facilities and employment generation," Dewda said.

He said the budget focuses on industry: infrastructure, welfare schemes, and agriculture.

"With 2025 declared as the 'Year of Industry', the government aims to boost investment, tourism, and economic growth," the finance minister said. He noted that about three lakh new jobs would be available in the industry sector.

This year's budget has an increase of Rs 48954 crore from last year's budget of Rs 3,75 lakh crore. The budget for the financial year 2025-

26 is approximately 15 percent higher than the previous year's allocation.

The finance minister said that the fiscal deficit has been estimated at 4 percent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), with a focus on doubling both the budget size and GSDP by 2029-30.

He announced that the allowances for the state government employees would be revised as per the seventh pay commission with effect from 1 April 2025.

Finance Minister Dewda allotted Rs 47296 crore for schemes for Scheduled Tribes and Rs 32633 crore for those for the Scheduled Castes.

He allocated Rs 18669 crore for the 'Laadli Behna

Yojana', Rs 1193 crore for 'Laadli Laxmi Yojana', and Rs 17136 crore for 'Jal Jeevan Mision'.

Similarly, the finance minister gave Rs 5220 crore for the 'Chief Minister Kisan Kalyan Yojana', Rs 2001 crore for the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana', and Rs 1000 crore for the 'Chief Minister Krishak Fasal Uparjan Rahat Yojana'.

Lauding the budget, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav said that this is a budget of trust for the development of all sections of society. It is a historical budget that will provide further impetus to the state's journey towards becoming a fully developed state.

## VP Dhankhar discharged from AIIMS

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 12 MARCH

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar was discharged from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here on Wednesday. He was admitted to AIIMS early Sunday morning after complaining of chest pain and uneasiness.

"Vice-President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar was admitted to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi on March 9 following cardiac-related ailments. After receiving necessary care by the medical team at AIIMS, he made satisfactory recovery and was discharged on March 12," the AIIMS said in a statement.

The premier institute said he has been advised to take adequate rest for the next few days.

Meanwhile, the Vice-President expressed his gratitude to the medical team for their dedication and meticulous attention to him while he was admitted to AIIMS.

In a post on X, Dhankhar wrote, "Deeply appreciate the exemplary care and professionalism of the medical team at AIIMS, New Delhi, from my admission on March 9 to discharge on March 12. Their dedication and meticulous attention ensured a smooth recovery."

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**Walk - in - interview**  
Applications are invited in prescribed format from Indian citizens for contractual recruitment to the post of ONE PROJECT TECHNICAL SUPPORT-II, ICMR Scheme Titled: "Artificial Intelligence based tool for detection of Breast and Oral Cancer" for Department of Pathology, North Bengal Medical College and Hospital by 21.03.2025 at 5.00 pm and documents verification & Interview will be held on 28.03.2025 at 11.30 am. Candidates are requested to visit the one of the following website for details, [www.icmr.nic.in](http://www.icmr.nic.in) / [www.wbhealth.gov.in](http://www.wbhealth.gov.in) / [www.nbmch.ac.in](http://www.nbmch.ac.in)  
Sd/-  
Principal, NBMC

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**ENGAGEMENT OF SENIOR LEGAL CONSULTANTS**  
Applications are invited by the Superintendent of Police, Cooch Behar for engagement of 05 (five) Senior Legal Consultants on contractual basis.  
**HOW TO APPLY :** Visit our website: <https://coochbeharpolice.wb.gov.in> for application form and details of the post, including eligible criteria, responsibilities (nature of job), terms of engagement, application procedure etc.  
The application along with relevant enclosure should be sent to the address of Cooch Behar District Police through speed post or through mail vide id [oclawcellcbr@gmail.com](mailto:oclawcellcbr@gmail.com) on or before 31.03.2025.  
Sd/-  
Superintendent of Police  
Cooch Behar

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**Engagement Notice**  
Superintendent of Presidency Correctional Home, WB for & on behalf of The Governor of WB, invites applications from Indian Citizen, resident of the state continuously for the last 10 years aged between 27 to 65 years, having MBBS degree from an institution recognized by Medical Council of India, for "Walk -in-interview" for the post of One contractual (Whole Time) Medical Officer, at Presidency Correctional Home. Local candidates preferred. Basic Pay @ Rs. 21,000 p.m. The post is purely temporary in nature. The tenure is 01(One) year. The proposed date of publishing in newspaper is 10.03.2025. For detail enquiry contact-e-mail: [suptdcswb.pch-wb@gov.in](mailto:suptdcswb.pch-wb@gov.in)  
Sd/-  
Superintendent  
Presidency Correctional Home

Stalin invites K'taka CM for his meet on delimitation

The delimitation meeting will discuss and formulate strategies to oppose the central govt

LAKSHMANA VENKAT KUCHI BENGALURU, 12 MARCH

Karnataka Congress will consult its high command in Delhi before deciding on participating in the Lok Sabha delimitation meeting convened by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK supremo MK Stalin.



akumar at Vidhan Soudha on Tuesday, briefing them about the meeting and inviting them to attend it. The delimitation meeting convened by Stalin will discuss and formulate strategies to oppose

fight the central government's initiative, which is feared to reduce the political strength of South India, where all states have excelled in population control and could lose seats in Parliament, or see proportional decrease in the number of seats as compared to north Indian states like Bihar, UP, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan, which have witnessed increase in population.

Speaking to media persons after the TN delegation called on them with the invite, Shivakumar said, "Tamil Nadu CM Stalin has taken the lead in mobilising a protest against the Centre's Lok Sabha constituency delimitation exercise, which will reduce the number of seats for Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. Stalin's representatives met me and CM Siddaramaiah and extended the invitation."

He said: "The ruling party of Tamil Nadu is our alliance partner, and we

are in agreement with their stance on the delimitation exercise. As we are a national party, we need to discuss this with our party high command. We will decide on the next steps after seeking their advice and have informed our counterparts from Tamil Nadu about the same. The delegation from Tamil Nadu also discussed various aspects with us, including language. It is time we work together to uphold our self-respect," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

Stalin has taken on the central government over the three-language formula, which the state has opposed for the past many decades. He is rallying opposition-ruled states against delimitation and is now engaged in an intense battle with the Centre over the language issue, as the latter pushes the state to accept the National Education Policy.

Stop twisting facts, Tamil Nadu govt letter doesn't even mention 3-language policy: Kanimozhi's rebuttal to Pradhan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE CHENNAI, 12 MARCH

Amid the continuing war of words between Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu over the NEP and its attendant three-language policy, DMK parliamentary Party Leader Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, MP, has asked the former to 'stop twisting facts' with regard to the 2024 letter from the Tamil Nadu government to PMSHRI schools.

She was responding to Pradhan sharing the letter, which he claimed as having given consent for the PMSHRI Schools and accusing Chief Minister MK Stalin and his party MPs of "Stacking lies as high as they want, but the truth doesn't bother knocking



down when it comes crashing down."

In a stern rebuttal, Kanimozhi, also the DMK's Deputy General Secretary and the party's woman face, denied that the letter written last year had agreed to implement the NEP or the three-language policy. "This letter clearly states that Tamil Nadu will accept PM SHRI schools only based

on our State Government-led committee's recommendations and not on your Union Government's recommendation. Nowhere have we mentioned accepting the three-language policy or NEP in its entirety. Whatever is acceptable to Tamil Nadu, we will accept - nothing more, nothing less. Stop twisting facts," she wrote in a post on 'X'.

Classified PUBLIC NOTICE CHANGE OF NAME

IN THE COURT OF LD. DISTRICT DELIGATE AT HOWRAH. SUCCESSION CASE NO. 40 OF 2024. SMT. MANJU DAS ... PETITIONER.

NOTICE This is to hereby known to all that my client Smt Manju Das, w/o Lt. Ramchandra Das of 28 Bhattacharya para Lane, P.O. Santragachi P.S. Chatterjeehat, Howrah- 711104 have applied before the Ld District Delegate, Howrah for issuance of Succession certificate being Succession case No- 40 of 2024 in respect of the estate left behind by elder brother of her husband namely Late Keshab Chandra Das S/o Lt. Haripada Das of 28 Bhattacharya para Lane, P.O. Santragachi, P.S. Chatterjeehat, Howrah- 711104, as stated in the schedule here in below:-

Schedule - A ITEM NO.1 No of Shares held Forty Four only (44) distinctive No.066297900 - 066297943, having Reg. Folio No.- MLD00215, Certificate No. 00759312, ordinary shares of each of Rupees 10/-, ITEM NO.2 No of Shares held Two only (2) distinctive No. 5719468-5719464, having Reg. Folio No.- MLD2540, Certificate No. 110427, ordinance shares of each of Rupees 10/-,

ITEM NO.3 No of Shares held Six only (6) distinctive No. 11967971- 11967996, having Reg. Folio No.- MLD00215, Certificate No. 00185670, ordinary shares of each of Rupees 10/-, ITEM NO.4 No of Shares held Twenty only (20) distinctive No. 06137965 to 06137985, having Reg. Folio No.- MLD00215, Certificate No. 00121740. ITEM NO.5 all that piece and parcel of No of shares 20, Certificate No. 0052176 to 00521760 ordinary shares of Rs. 10/-, ITEM NO.6 No of shares held Two only (2) Certificate No. 110427, ordinance BONUS.

Schedule - B Out of which 528,000/- Ordinary (Bonus) share of 10/- each credited as fully paid having certificate No. 52583 stand in the name of deceased KESHAB CHANDRA DAS Son of Late Hari Pada Das, residing at 28, Bhattacharya Para Lane, Post Office- Santragachi, Police Station- Chatterjeehat, formally- Shibpur, District- Howrah- 711104 at Mahindra & Mahindra Limited, having Registered Office at Gate Way Building, Apollo Bundar, Bombay- 400309 out of "A" Schedule mentioned shares certificate as mentioned herein above.

Schedule - C All that piece and parcel of sum assured by the Mahindra & Mahindra Limited, having registered Office at Gate way Building Apollo Bundar, Bombay-400309 through authorized agent KFIN TECHNOLOGIES LTD. Selenium Tower B, Plot 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District NanaKramguda, Hydrabad-500032, in respect of the share as follows:- Folio No. D000215, UNIT- Mahindra & Mahindra Limited, Name of share holder KESHAB CHANDRA DAS share certificate No. 2005082, Distinctive Nos. 1571459- 1571898 Nos. Of share 440 Rs. 2070.95/- each and distinctive No. 1238883028 - 1238883467 total Nos. Of share 440 of 2070.95/- each.

If anyone has any objection, be appeared before the Ld. Court and intimate, otherwise it will proceeded as per provisions of law. S/d Sherestadar District Delegate Court Howrah

I, DIPALI Kar Dey, of 3/A, Khanpur Road, Naktala, Kol.-47, corrected my good name Dipali Kar Dey by an Affidavit No. 18005, sworn before Ld. J.M. 1st Class at Alipore, Kol.-27 dt. 07-03-25 from Dipali Dey.

I, KRISHNA Kumar Acharya, S/o. Late Sridhar Acharya, have affirmed before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate, 3rd Court, Bankura by an affidavit on 01-03-2025 that henceforth in all future transactions my daughter shall be known as Kankana Acharya instead of Alankrita Acharya.

I, SNEHA Rith, R/o. 5/1, Chakraborty Para Lane, P.O.: Bally, Dist.: Howrah-711201 have changed my father's name Kamakha Rith, Kamakha Rith to Kamakha Charan Rith before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate CJM Court, Kolkata vide Affidavit No. 4542 dated 30-09-2024. Kamakha Rith & Kamakha Rith and Kamakha Charan Rith both are same and one identical person.

I, SANTOSH Bharti, daughter of Ashok Kumar, am a resident of 5/19B, Sevak Baidya Street, Dover Terrace, Sarat Bose Road, P.O.: Sarat Bose Road, District: Kolkata, West Bengal-700029, on dated 10-02-2015 appeared before the Ld. Magistrate of 1st Class, at Alipore and made an affidavit, being vide Affidavit No. 1116/2025. As stated thereon my correct and actual name is Santosh Bharti and my son's actual name is Aviral Kumar.

I (NO.-15414434L) Hav Gautam Panda, R/o. Vill. & P.O.: Sibarpur, P.S.: Nandigram, Dist.: Purba Medinipur (WB), Pin-721650, have changed my wife name from Chitra Lekha Panda to Chitralekha Panda vide Affidavit No.-67 Dt.-04. Mar., 25 for all future purposes.

I, DIVIJ Choudhary, S/o. Rajiv Choudhary, 783 Anandapur East Kolkata-700107. I have changed my name & shall henceforth be known as Ishay as declared before the Notary Public Howrah Court vide an affidavit dated 7-3-2025. Divij & Ishay both are same & identical person.

PUBLIC NOTICE ARORA MATTHEY LTD (CIN:U51909WB1964PLC026033) Regd. Office: Flat No. 405, 4th Floor, 37A, Bentinck Street, Bentinck Chambers, Kolkata - 700069, West Bengal, India

BJP shares photo of Ranya Rao with K'taka CM, raises questions



AGENCIES BENGALURU, 12 MARCH

The BJP's Karnataka unit on Wednesday shared a picture claiming it to be of actor Ranya Rao's wedding day photo in which Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and state Home Minister G. Parameshwara can be seen.

The photo was shared by the BJP Karnataka on its X handle. Ranya Rao was arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on March 3 after she arrived from Dubai with gold bars worth Rs 14.56 crore.

In its caption, the BJP questioned the Congress party, demanding that it reveal the names of two Ministers who are allegedly connected to Ranya Rao.

Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka, commenting on the development, stated, "I don't have details about this right now. Every day, the media discusses the alleged nexus between Ministers and the accused. This scam is not recent; it has been happening for the past five years. It is not just about the 14 kilograms of gold seized from the actress -- after the investigation, it could turn out to be 140 kilograms."

However, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar maintained that there was no scam. "But the people of Karnataka believe it is a major scam," Ashoka said.

"On the other hand, Shivakumar is giving a clean chit. This case should be investigated by the CBI and central agencies -- they will reveal the real culprit and determine the extent of hawala transactions. Shivakumar does not represent any investigating agency," Ashoka added.

"As Deputy Chief Minister, giving a clean chit in an ongoing investigation is a mistake," Ashoka pointed out.

When asked about the controversy, Congress MLA Rizwan Arshad said, "There will be photos of Ranya Rao and many others at various social functions with BJP leaders as well. If the seriousness of a case is decided based on a single photograph from a social gathering, then this case is politically motivated."

"Secondly, I want to ask the BJP that within 40 days of alleged gold smuggler Ranya Rao applying for 12 acres of land with the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB), her application was approved, and she was allotted the land by the BJP government at the very end of their tenure," Arshad said.

"I want to ask BJP leaders -- was there a special service for smugglers under your government? A common businessman would never have been allotted land worth crores within 50 days during the BJP's tenure. Now, they are preaching us and pointing fingers at us?" Arshad added.

"The CBI should investigate all BJP leaders involved in allotting 12 acres of land within 40 days to her. The BJP should clarify whether she is an industrialist or a smuggler," he demanded.

Minister for Medical Education Sharan Prakash Patil stated, "Everyone knows how the Central government functions. They are using the CBI, ED, and IT departments as extensions of their party. No Congress Minister is involved in this. Maybe, BJP leaders are, but I am not aware."

BJP MLC C.T. Ravi said that big names were being discussed in connection with the Ranya Rao case. "The role of two Ministers is also under scrutiny. Who are these Ministers? What was their involvement, and what did they receive in return? This should be investigated," he said.

TENDER

Multiple tender notices from Government of West Bengal, including KMDA Tender Notice, PWD Tender Notice, and various departmental tenders.

# Army, Air Force hold joint exercise for swift response

The exercise aimed to strengthen coordination between ground and air forces

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 12 MARCH

In a significant demonstration of joint operational readiness, the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted a Synergized Interoperability Exercise in the Jammu region.

The exercise aimed to strengthen coordination between ground and air forces, ensuring seamless integration of aerial and land-based operations in dynamic battlefield scenarios.

By refining joint operational tactics, this exercise reinforced the ability of both forces to respond swiftly and effectively to real-time challenges, particularly in high-threat environments.

Under the aegis of Tiger Division, the exercise simulated real-world operational conditions, with IAF helicopters executing a precise airlift of Army troops from a designated mounting base. The troops were then inserted



into terrain characterised by dense vegetation and thick undergrowth. This complex insertion manoeuvre tested the forces' ability to operate cohesively in challenging environments, where mobility and coordination are crucial for mission success.

Following the insertion,

the troops executed a simulated combat assault, engaging in coordinated manoeuvres designed to neutralize threats in a high-risk environment.

The exercise also incorporated surveillance operations, precision firepower tactics, and rapid troop extraction, ensuring that personnel

were prepared for complex missions requiring agility and strategic decision-making.

The training provided an opportunity for soldiers and aircrew to rehearse real-time battlefield contingencies, improving reaction times

The exercise also incorporated surveillance operations, precision firepower tactics, and rapid troop extraction, ensuring that personnel were prepared for complex missions requiring agility and strategic decision-making.

and enhancing overall preparedness.

The Indian Army and the Indian Air Force continue to invest in joint training initiatives, enhancing their ability to conduct multi-domain operations in varied terrains.

This synergised interoperability exercise reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining a high state of operational readiness, ensuring that both forces remain well-prepared to safeguard national security and respond to emerging threats effectively.

# Extend helping hand to those left behind: President Murmu at PU convocation



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 12 MARCH

President Droupadi Murmu, in her address at the convocation ceremony of Panjab University (PU), Chandigarh, on Wednesday, called upon the youth to extend a helping hand to those who are left behind in the journey of development and bring them forward. Only then will inclusive and sustainable development be possible. I am confident that you will live up to the expectations of the country and society," she said.

"Along with realising your dreams, you can make effective contributions to the society, nation and the world through your efforts and far-sighted thinking. Your association with your university should not end. I hope that the education and experience

President said.

"While moving towards your goals, you must keep in mind that to those who are left behind in the journey of development and bring them forward. Only then will inclusive and sustainable development be possible. I am confident that you will live up to the expectations of the country and society," she said.

"Along with realising your dreams, you can make effective contributions to the society, nation and the world through your efforts and far-sighted thinking. Your association with your university should not end. I hope that the education and experience

you received at Punjab University will help you move forward towards success in life," she said.

On the achievements of the Panjab University, the President said in the last 140 years, it has developed as a major centre of higher education. This university has made its own identity in academic, sports, research, and cultural fields. She was happy to note that this university has won the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy 17 times. She called it a testimony to the dedication and determination of the athletes of this University. Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh, students of this university, have made the country extremely proud by winning medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The President appreciated Punjab University for promoting academia-industry linkage. She urged the university's policy makers to work more on university-industry linkage and future-readiness. She said that the university's subjects should be application-based education. Education should support students in their life journey.

# Punjab govt provides financial assistance of ₹ 437.15 cr to PwDs

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 12 MARCH

Punjab Social Security, Women, and Child Development Minister Dr Baljit Kaur has stated that financial assistance amounting to Rs 437.15 crore has been provided for the welfare of persons with disabilities (PwDs) in the state.

Providing further details, Dr Baljit Kaur mentioned that approximately 2.71 lakh beneficiaries have been covered under this scheme, receiving financial assistance from the department totalling Rs 437.15 crore.

She further highlighted that the Punjab government has allocated a budget of Rs 461.50 crore for the welfare of persons with disabilities in the current financial year.

Cabinet Minister Dr Kaur reiterated that the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, is committed to assisting the poor and needy.

She urged officials to ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive financial assistance on time. Additionally, she warned that any officer or employee found negligent in implementing government

schemes would not be spared.

Dr Baljit Kaur also appealed to officials to implement social security schemes with complete transparency, ensuring that maximum people benefit from them.

# J-K leaders question Centre's ban on Mirwaiz's Awami Action Committee

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 12 MARCH

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday expressed his reservations on the ban imposed by the Centre on the Awami Action Committee (AAC) of Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, even as the other Valley-based political leaders described it a step towards intimidation and disempowerment of Kashmiris.

He said the Centre has not shared any intelligence with his government that could have warranted the ban on Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's Awami Action Committee (AAC), and asserted he was not in favour of such decisions.

The Centre had on Tuesday banned the AAC, headed by Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, and Shia leader Masroor Abbas Ansari-led Itihaadul Muslimen (IM) for five years for their alleged

anti-national activities, supporting terrorism and fuelling secessionist activities.

"I do not know the basis of the ban. This is not under the purview of the elected government in J&K and the intelligence on the basis of which it has taken place has not been shared with us," Omar told reporters at Gulmarg after the culmination of the fifth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games.

However, Omar said: "On principle, we have never been in favour of such decisions".

"Since the Mirwaiz was released from house arrest, I have not seen any objectionable statements from him, but we do not have any information about the reasons behind the ban. (But), we will see what to do about it in the future," he added.

In a post on X, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq wrote: "Strongly condemn the ban on Awami Action Committee and declaring it an 'Unlawful Association'".

# Haryana CM hails civic poll results as people's stamp on good governance

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 12 MARCH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, welcoming the results of the local body elections in the Vidhan Sabha on Wednesday, said the outcome of today's elections has proven that the people of the state are with the development, transparency, and good governance.

He said with a substantial majority, the people have provided the third engine to the cities for the non-stop development of the state. Along with the rural areas, cities have a big responsibility in the path of realizing the vision of developed India. Chief Minister Saini expressed the confidence

that under the newly-elected leadership, the governments of cities would accelerate development and public service in alignment with the aspirations of the people.

He extended his gratitude to the people of the state, the State Election Commission, and all the officers and staff involved in ensuring the peaceful conduct of the local body elections in the state.

As per reports, the BJP has registered a massive win in nine out of 10 municipal corporation elections. It suffered the only defeat in the mayoral poll in Manesar MC, where its candidate Sunder Lal lost to Inderjeet Yadav.

**NOTICE**  
1. Mrs. Sagarika Saha, W/o Pradip Saha, 27, Brojodulal St. P.S.-Jorabagan, Kolkata - 6 purchased a land of total 38 decimal in L.R. dsgd nos. 1236 and 1237, L.R. kh. No. 899 of mouza- Mangalbari, JL- 17, P.S.- Metiali vide deed no 6933/2023 from Dipak Saha through Power of Attorney Holder Bablu Roy. POA no 180313375/2021 of DSR-III, S 24 Pgs. If anybody has any objection on mutation of said land please inform office of BL&RO, Metiali, Dist. Jalpaiguri in written or by mail.

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of Laila Mridha, Father's Name - Lt. Amin Ali Mridha, of Vill+PO-Belegachhi, PS- Barulpur, South 24 Pgs., who has been missing since 06.11.2003, from Residence Under Barulpur PS, Description of this missing person is: Age- 30 Years, Complexion- Sallow, Height- 4 feet 7 inch, Built- Normal, Hair- Curly Black, Eyes- Normal, Face- Long, Wearing- Red Salwar, Language- Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the Missing person contact (to) the SI of Police, Uluberia PS, Howrah Rural District, Mob: 9932943977.  
ICA- D524(3)/2025

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of Sonia Mallick @ Soniya Khatun, Father's Name- Barjahan Mallick, of Vill-Bahirtafa, PO-Jadurberia, PS-Uluberia, Dist.-Howrah, Who has been missing since 29.02.2024 at 14.30 hrs. Description of this Missing person is: Age- 15+ Years, Complexion- Sallow, Height- 4 feet 7 inch, Built- Normal, Hair- Curly Black, Eyes- Normal, Face- Long, Wearing- Red Salwar, Language- Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the Missing person contact (to) the SI of Police, Uluberia PS, Howrah Rural District, Mob: 9932943977.  
ICA- D523(3)/2025

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of Papiya Khatun, Father's Name- Mujibar Rahaman, Mother's Name- Manisha Begum, of Vill-Hirapur Kantakali, PS-Uluberia, Dist.-Howrah, Who has been missing since 19.04.2024 at about 15.00 hrs. Description of this Missing person is: Age- 16 (Approx), Years, Complexion- Fair, Height- 5 feet (Approx), Built- Medium, Hair- Black, Wearing- Ash Coloured Churidar & Red Pajama, Language- Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the Missing person contact (to) the SI of Police, Uluberia PS, Howrah Rural District, Mob: 8101301464.  
ICA- D522(3)/2025

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of Parvin Khatun, D/OSK Samser Ali, W/OSK Moidul, of Vill-Alipur, PO-Bahira, PS-Uluberia, Howrah, Who has been missing since 18.06.2023 at 16.00 hrs. Description of this Missing person is: Age- 22 Years, Complexion- Fair, Height- 5 feet 4 inch (Approx), Built- Normal, Hair- Black, Eyes- Normal Black, Face- Oval, Wearing- Red Churidar & Orna, Language- Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the Missing person contact (to) the SI of Police, Uluberia PS, Howrah Rural District, Mob: 9932943977.  
ICA- D521(3)/2025

**Form No. 3**  
See Regulation-15(1)(a) / 16(3)  
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, KOLKATA (DRT 3)**  
8th Floor, Jeevan Sucha Building  
42-C, Jawahar Lal Nehru Road  
Kolkata - 700071  
Case No.: OA/802015  
Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993  
Exh. No.: 4607  
**BANK OF BARODA**  
VS  
**ASHOKE BANERJEE AND ORS.**  
To  
(1) Ashoke Banerjee And Ors., P-55, Purbalaya Madhyamgram, North Twenty Four Parganas, West Bengal - 700129  
(2) Anup Chatterjee, 9, Thakur Ramkrishna Road, Barrackpore, Kolkata, West Bengal - 700122

**Form No. 3**  
[See Regulation - 15(1)(a)]  
**Debts Recovery Tribunal Kolkata (DRT 2)**  
7th Floor, Jeevan Sucha Building  
42-C, Jawahar Lal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700 071.  
Case No.: OA/357/2017  
Summons under sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of Rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.  
Exh. No.: 2228  
**CANARA BANK**  
- VS -  
**SREE SURYA PRAKASH SHUKLA AND ORS.**  
To,  
(1) Sree Surya Prakash Shukla and Ors., Son of Sri Radhika Prasad Shukla, Name and Style of M/s. Anupam Cement Udyog, 335, Prothrapur, Post - Garacharma, Port Blair, Andaman, Andaman and Nicobar Island - 744104.  
(2) Smt. Sushma Kerketta, Wife of Late Ramesh Kerketta, Austrabad, Behind Daya Sagar Hotel, Garacharma, Port Blair, Andaman, Andaman and Nicobar Island - 744 104.  
(3) Sri Nicker Kerketta Alias Vivik Kumar, Son of Late Ramesh Kerketta, Austrabad, Behind Daya Sagar Hotel, Garacharma, Port Blair, Andaman, Andaman and Nicobar Island - 744104.  
(4) Miss Bipilla, Daughter of Late Ramesh Kerketta, Austrabad, Behind Daya Sagar Hotel, Garacharma, Port Blair, Andaman, Andaman and Nicobar Island - 744 104.

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of Rupsnara Parvin, Husband Name- Azgar Ali Molla, Father's Name - Mofizul Haque, of Vill- Gabtala, PO-Gobindapur, PS- Bhangore, Dist- South 24 Parganas, who has been missing since 29.01.2025 at about 24.00 hrs. from Residential area, Description of this missing person is: Age- 24 Years, Complexion- Shyama, Height- 5 feet, Wearing- Red & white coloured Salwar Kamiz & Green Borika, Language- Bengali, Identification Mark- One cut mark on left side belly, Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.  
ICA- D517(3)/2025

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of Barsha Bhakta, Father's Name - Sudarshan Bhakta, of Vill- Dakshin Barhat, PO-Dolpara, PS- Panskura, Dist- South 24 Parganas, who has been missing since 08.02.2025 at about 07.00 hrs. from Residential area, Description of this missing person is: Age- 16 Years, Complexion- Sallow, Height- 4 feet 10 inch, Wearing- White colour churidar, Language- Bengali, Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.  
ICA- D518(3)/2025

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of Jai Das, Father's Name - Ajit Das, of Birati, New Barrackpore, Dist- 24 Parganas (North), WB, who has been missing since 13.01.2025 at about 14.00 hrs. from Kalkitatala, PS- Jibantala area, Description of this missing person is: Age- 16 Years, Complexion- Fair, Height- 5 feet, Wearing- Churidar, leather shoe, Language- Bengali, Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.  
ICA- D519(3)/2025

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of Unknown Male Dead Body, found on 13.01.2025, at about 10.50 hrs, Found at Pathikhaly in front of Halangaora KCB Institution under PS- Swarnapour, Description of this Dead body is: Age- 50-60 Years, Sex: Male, Complexion- Dark, Height- 5 Feet 6 Inch, Build- Medium, Hair- Black & white Short, Wearing- White colour Jacket and Blue full Pant and Brown Cap, Identification Nature- Mentally Challenged, Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.  
ICA- D520(3)/2025

**SUMMONS**  
WHEREAS, OA/802015 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on 22.07.2024.  
WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 11,79,630/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).  
In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-  
(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;  
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;  
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;  
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of this business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;  
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.  
You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 25.11.2024 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.  
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 26.07.2024.  
Next Date: 26.05.2025  
Signature of the Officer authorised to issue summons sdi- Registrar-in-Charge Kolkata Debts Recovery Tribunal-3

**SUMMONS**  
WHEREAS, OA/ 357 / 2017 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer / Registrar on 27.02.2025.  
WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 34,64,089.18 (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).  
In accordance with Sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under :-  
(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;  
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;  
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;  
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of this business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;  
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.  
You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 21.07.2025 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.  
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 03.03.2025.  
Sdi- Asst. Registrar Kolkata DRT - 2

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of Rajia Khatun, Father's Name - Lt. Monirul Molla, of Vill-Naoga Sangrampur, PO- Masat, PS- Diamond Harbour, Dist- South 24 Parganas, who has been missing since 17.02.2025 at about 18.00 hrs. from Residential area, Description of this missing person is: Age- 17 Years, Complexion- Shyama, Height- 5 Feet, Wearing- Yellow Churidar, Black Pant, and Black Orna, Language- Bengali, Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.  
ICA- D516(3)/2025

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of Amina Khatun, Father's Name - Mofi Molla, of Vill-Howramani Uttarpara, PO-Mollicati, PS-Jibantala, Dist.-South 24 Parganas, who has been missing since 18.10.2024 at about 16.00 hrs. from Residential area, Description of this missing person is: Age-14 Years, Complexion-Shyama, Height- 4 Feet 5 Inch, Wearing-Nighty & Leather Shoe, Language-Bengali, Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.  
ICA- D515(3)/2025

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of Rejina Khatun, Father's Name - Azizul Molla, of Vill+PO-Brindakhali, PS- Barulpur, Dist.-South 24 Parganas, who has been missing since 20.12.2024 at about 19.00 hrs. from Residential area, Description of this missing person is: Age-16 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height-5 Feet 2 Inch, Wearing-Red Churidar & Orna, Language-Bengali, Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.  
ICA- D514(3)/2025

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of Rina Molla, Father's Name - Malek Molla, of Vill-Moukhal, PO-Uttar Moukhal, PS-Jibantala, Dist.-South 24 Parganas, who has been missing since 30.04.2024 at about 08.00 hrs. from Residential area, Description of this missing person is: Age-13 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height-5 Feet, Wearing-Churidar & Leather Chappal, Language-Bengali, Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.  
ICA- D513(3)/2025

**SUMMONS**  
WHEREAS, OA/ 357 / 2017 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer / Registrar on 27.02.2025.  
WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 34,64,089.18 (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).  
In accordance with Sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under :-  
(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;  
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;  
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;  
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of this business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;  
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.  
You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 21.07.2025 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.  
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 03.03.2025.  
Sdi- Asst. Registrar Kolkata DRT - 2

**SUMMONS**  
WHEREAS, OA/ 357 / 2017 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer / Registrar on 27.02.2025.  
WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 34,64,089.18 (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).  
In accordance with Sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under :-  
(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;  
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;  
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;  
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of this business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;  
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.  
You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 21.07.2025 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.  
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 03.03.2025.  
Sdi- Asst. Registrar Kolkata DRT - 2

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of Nasima Khatun, Father's Name - Khalek Gazi, of Kothur, PS-Basirhat, Basirhat Police District, who has been missing since 05.12.2023 at about 12.00 hrs. from Residence, under Basirhat PS, Description of this missing person is: Age-20 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height- 5 Feet 4 Inch, Wearing-Tube Colour Gawn and White Orna, Language - Bengali, Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.  
ICA- D509(3)/2025

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of Shyam Bir, Father's Name - Bhagyaboty Prasad, of Josobhat Nagar, Etawah, Uttar Pradesh at Present Address Vill-Gopinagar, PO-Harharia, PS-Singur, Dist-Hooghly, who has been missing since 18.10.2024 at about 16.30 hrs. under Singur PS, Description of this missing person is: Age-13 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height- 4 Feet 4 Inch, Wearing-White T-Shirt & Jeans, Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.  
ICA- D510(3)/2025

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of Badal Haiburu, Father's Name - Lt. Arjun Haiburu, of Vill+PS-Borobil, Dist.-Keonjhar, State-Odisha, A/P-Vill-Goalpara, PO+PS-JB Pur, Dist.-Howrah, WB, who has been missing since 09.05.2024 at about 09.00 hrs. from Jagatballypur PS area, Description of this missing person is: Age-12 Years, Complexion-Shyama, Height-4 Feet 2 Inch, Wearing-Black Full Pant and White T-Shirt, Language-Bengali/Odisha, Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.  
ICA- D511(3)/2025

**INFORMATION WANTED**  
This is the photograph of Sima Baity, Father's Name - Dilip Baity, of Vill-Chengail Nimitala, PS-Uluberia, Dist.-Howrah, who has been missing since 01.05.2024 at about 18.00 hrs. from Residential area, Description of this missing person is: Age-13 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height- 3 Feet 8 Inch, Wearing-Pink Colour Printed Check Ganji & Pink Bermuda & Black Orna, Language-Bengali, Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.  
ICA- D512(3)/2025

**HIL (INDIA) LIMITED, UDYOGAMANDAL & BATHINDA (Formerly Hindustan Insecticides Limited) (A Govt. of India Enterprise) ATTENTION TO ALL STAKE HOLDERS**  
We would like to inform all Stake Holders that the Udyogamandal Unit in Kerala and Bathinda Unit in Punjab of M/s. HIL (INDIA) LIMITED, New Delhi (formerly known as Hindustan Insecticides Limited) is currently undergoing closure. As of 10th October, 2023, all operation at this Unit has been ceased.  
Any claim which is due and payable by HIL to claimant should be made within 15 days from the date of this advertisement, otherwise the claim will be deemed void and invalid.  
May please contact for Udyogamandal Unit: Name: Santhosh M K Designation: Unit Head Mobile: 9446045121 E-mail: ubudyogamandal@hil.gov.in  
May please contact for Bathinda Unit: Name: Abhishek Kaushik Designation: Unit Head Mobile: 9888236713 E-mail: uhbathinda@hil.gov.in  
CBC 021011/11/009/2425

# The Statesman

Incorporating and directly descended  
from THE FRIEND OF INDIA - Founded 1818

## Iran Gamble

The latest outreach to Iran marks yet another dramatic shift in the US approach toward the Islamic Republic. While it is not unprecedented for an American President to seek direct communication with Iran's leadership, the context of this attempt makes it particularly intriguing. The move comes from a leader who previously dismantled the nuclear agreement, re-imposed crippling sanctions, and applied a "maximum pressure" campaign that left Tehran increasingly isolated. Yet now, there is talk of negotiation, diplomacy, and even the possibility of a peace deal. There are two possible readings of this overture. The first is that it reflects a calculated attempt to push Iran into a position where it has no choice but to negotiate. The logic here is that the combination of economic hardship, regional setbacks, and diplomatic isolation could make Iran more willing to engage in talks. Some American policymakers may believe that Iran's allies in the region, weakened by external pressures, are unable to provide the same level of strategic depth as before. If this is indeed the calculation, then the letter to Iran's leadership is not an act of diplomacy in good faith but an effort to capitalise on perceived vulnerabilities. The second reading is that this is a political manoeuvre aimed at demonstrating a willingness to seek peace while keeping the military option on the table. By framing the situation as a choice between diplomacy and military action, the message is clear: Iran can either agree to talks or face the possibility of conflict. However, such an approach risks escalating tensions rather than resolving them. If Iran perceives the outreach as a trap rather than a genuine offer, it may respond with defiance, accelerating its nuclear programme rather than slowing it down. The Iranian leadership's initial dismissal of the letter suggests that Tehran views this as another instance of strategic posturing. Iran has historically been wary of overtures from Washington, particularly when they come with ultimatums. The ultimate decision-maker in Iran, the Supreme Leader, has often signalled reluctance to engage in talks under pressure. Any negotiation that appears to be conducted from a position of weakness could be politically damaging within Iran itself.

Meanwhile, the involvement of external actors like Russia adds another layer of complexity. By offering to mediate, Russia positions itself as a key player in the diplomatic process, potentially using the crisis as leverage in its broader geopolitical manoeuvring. The response from other regional players, particularly those with deep-seated concerns about Iran's nuclear ambitions, will also shape the outcome. In the end, whether this outreach results in meaningful diplomacy or further escalation depends on how both sides interpret each other's intentions. If the goal is genuine dialogue, it must be accompanied by trust-building measures. Otherwise, this effort may simply be another chapter in the long history of failed US-Iran engagement - one that only deepens mistrust and pushes the region closer to instability.

## Early summer

The early onset of summer across India this year is more than just a shift in seasons - it is a signal of a deeper, systemic problem that threatens livelihoods, economic stability, and the foundations of India's agrarian society. While rising temperatures have become an almost routine headline, the consequences are now unfolding in ways that should alarm both policymakers and ordinary citizens. One of the most immediate casualties of India's changing climate is its small and medium enterprises, which form the backbone of the economy. In cities like Ludhiana, traditionally known for its robust winter garment industry, decades-old business models are collapsing. Winter clothing manufacturers, who had fine-tuned their production cycles to meet seasonal demand, are witnessing a shrinking market. As winters grow shorter and milder, retailers are shying away from confirmed orders, shifting to "sale or return" models that place the entire risk on producers. Some businesses have already been forced to shut down, unable to navigate these abrupt changes. Agriculture, the livelihood of nearly half of India's population, is even more vulnerable. Heatwaves have slashed yields of staple crops like wheat, chickpeas, and rapeseed, and prized horticultural produce such as the Alphonso mango has suffered devastating losses. Reports of farmers reducing their workforce because there is no work to offer are becoming increasingly common. The ripple effects are clear: lower yields lead to higher food prices, worsening inflation, and potentially trigger further restrictions on exports in an effort to protect domestic supply.

The situation is exacerbated by declining water availability. Reservoir levels in parts of northern India have dropped alarmingly, threatening irrigation for the next crop cycles. Reduced water availability will not only hurt crop production but also impact the dairy sector, where reports of declining milk output are already surfacing. These climate-induced economic shocks have the potential to derail India's growth trajectory. Rural consumption, which had shown signs of recovery after a prolonged slowdown, is at risk once more. Urban consumption remains tepid, and private investment has yet to regain momentum. If agricultural incomes decline and food prices spike, the Reserve Bank of India's delicate balancing act of supporting growth while keeping inflation under control could become even harder. India stands at a crossroads. The climate crisis is no longer a distant threat - it is a reality staring the country in the face. Urgent adaptation measures are needed. These include better weather forecasting systems, accessible agricultural insurance, and the adoption of climate-resilient cropping patterns. Without such interventions, India risks enduring cycles of economic distress, widening inequality, and social unrest. The early arrival of summer is a warning. Ignoring it could cost India not only in terms of lost economic output but also in lost lives and livelihoods. It is time to act decisively, before seasonal changes become irreversible damage.

# India and China

**China and India should build on their historical fraternity and shared challenges. Joint initiatives — gender equity programmes to combat son preference, health collaborations to address health issues overlooked by the West and I.T. partnerships to employ youth — could yield mutual benefits. The elephant and dragon, once partners in peace along the Silk Road under legends like Kanishka, must dance again**



"Making the dragon and elephant dance is the only possible choice," says China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi as he extends a friendly hand to India to bolster the democratisation of global relations while strengthening the Global South. Wang's words echo former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's famous quote, "Friends can be changed, but not neighbours".

India and China share a border of over 3,000 kilometres, a cultural and spiritual history of over 2,000 years, and urgent common challenges - making their partnership not just strategic but essential.

One of the most profound links is Buddhism, which originated in India in the 5th century BC and spread to China by 67 BC. Indian scholars such as Kumarajiva and Bodhidharma played significant roles in shaping Chinese Buddhist traditions, while Chinese travellers like Xuanzang and Faxian visited India, documenting their experiences and facilitating deeper understanding between the two nations.

The Southern Silk Road, which connected Pataliputra (modern Patna) to Xi'an by the 2nd century BC, facilitated flows of goods, ideas and diplomacy, thus creating prosperity.

Kanishka, the Kushan emperor (127-150 AD), significantly influenced China through Silk Road exchanges. A key patron of Buddhism, his Fourth Buddhist Council promoted Mahayana teachings, which spread to China via missionaries and translated texts. Trade networks under his rule connected China to Central Asia.

Following their respective independence in the mid-20th century - India in 1947 and China in 1949 - both countries embarked on paths of nation-

building and economic reforms.

Today, China and India face similar concerns, amplified by their status as the world's most populous nations - India at 1.44 billion and China at 1.41 billion (2023 estimates).

These challenges demand collaboration over competition. Managing such vast demographics strains resources, infrastructure and governance. Creating Employment is a big challenge that needs innovative policies. Joint ventures in manufacturing, technology and green energy could generate jobs.

Both nations struggle with gender imbalances rooted in deep-seated cultural preferences for sons. India's sex ratio at birth is 933 girls per 1,000 boys (2024), while China's is 923 females per 1,000 boys (2023). In India, dowry pressures and inheritance norms drive families to favour sons, often leading to sex-selective abortions - despite the law banning such practices.

China's former one-child policy (1979-2015) inadvertently intensified son preference, as families prioritised male heirs. This resulted in millions of "missing" girls in both countries, despite campaigns like India's Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and China's Care for Girls. Both nations need to work together on this challenge to achieve gender equality.

India's urban population is 35 per cent (rising to 50 per cent by 2050), while China's is 64 per cent (World Bank, 2023), straining housing, sanitation, and transport. Joint urban planning initiatives, such as smart city tech exchanges, could ease the-

se growing pains.

Both countries face severe air pollution (e.g., Delhi's AQI often exceeds 300; Beijing's PM2.5 levels hit 137 in 2023) and water scarcity. Collaborative renewable energy projects could provide a solution.

China has experienced significant viral disease outbreaks like SARS and the recent pandemic, with its dense cities amplifying transmission risks. On the other hand, India battles a rising tide of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), specifically cardiovascular diseases and diabetes, which account for over 30 per cent of all deaths.

Genetic factors may also play a role in these health challenges - viral susceptibility in China and NCD prevalence in India - potentially linked to both nations' practices of marrying within caste or clan groups. A combined effort in genetic and medical research could offer innovative solutions.

A proposed Sino-Indian Genomic Initiative could merge China's biobanks (China Kadoorie Biobank) with India's Genome Project to map disease pathways. The combined dataset would dwarf others like UK Biobank in scale and diversity, addressing health disparities ignored by Western-centric research.

Imagine identifying a gene variant in Indian populations that increases diabetes risk. By cross-referencing China's data, researchers might find that the same variant behaves differently in East Asians due to lifestyle or environmental factors. This could lead to tailored prevention strategies for both nations.



**SRINIVAS MADHAV**  
The writer is a transparency and equality advocate and author. The opinions are personal

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## Blame humans, not capitalism

**SIR,** Anjali Mehta, in her article published today, claims that capitalism is a curse, but I respectfully disagree. Capitalism is fundamentally an economic model - neither inherently good nor bad. It serves as a framework for individuals and businesses to operate, driven primarily by the principles of private ownership and profit motive.

The real issue lies not within capitalism itself but in human greed, which can distort its potential. Greed, being part of human nature, often leads to the abuse of capitalist structures, resulting in inequality and unethical practices.

However, when harnessed correctly, capitalism can promote innovation and improve living standards by incentivising individuals to meet the needs of others through their pursuits.

Thus, it is essential to differentiate between capitalism as a system and the human behaviors

that can corrupt it. The challenge is to cultivate a version of capitalism that emphasises ethical practices and social responsibility, allowing its benefits to be more equitably distributed.

Yours, etc., Angus Neill,  
London, 10 March.

### DISILLUSIONMENT

**SIR,** Please refer to today's report "BJP MLA joins TMC, setback for Suwendu in Haldia". The Bharatiya Janata Party MLA from Haldia in West Bengal's Purba Medinipur district, Tapasi Mondal, on Monday joined the Trinamool Congress.

She had represented the same constituency as an MLA of the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M). She joined the BJP in December 2020 at a public rally addressed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

She had won the 2021 Assembly election from Haldia on a

BJP ticket. Ms. Mondal, who hails from the same district as the Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, was considered close to the

### CHANCE MISSED

**SIR,** This refers to the editorial "Defining triumph" (March 11). The Champions Trophy victory by Team India was a remarkable achievement, showcasing their immense talent and resilience under the leadership of Rohit Sharma. However, the tournament was marred by allegations of preferential treatment towards India due to its financial influence in the ICC. Also, the team's refusal to play in Pakistan, citing security concerns, further complicated the event and strained relations between the two nations.

While India's dominance was undeniable, playing in Pakistan could have been a step toward improving bilateral relations. Prime Minister Modi would do well to follow the example set by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who, despite the Kargil War, ensured cricket relations between India and Pakistan remained strong. Efforts to revive reciprocal tours could be a valuable diplomatic tool, fostering understanding and easing tensions between the two countries.

Yours, etc., Vandana, Chandigarh, 11 March.



A MEMBER OF THE ANN ASIA NEWS NETWORK

## ASIAN VOICES

## Rational view of China would benefit Canada

THE governing Liberal Party elected former central banker Mark Carney its leader on Sunday. Carney will thus succeed Justin Trudeau as prime minister after he is sworn in in the coming days, at a critical juncture as Canada addresses the challenge of US President Donald Trump's trade war. Despite having little political experience - he has never been elected as a member of parliament - Carney's long track record as governor of the Bank of Canada during the global financial crisis and governor of the Bank of England during the Brexit negotiations is believed to be the main reason for his election victory.

But the test awaiting the future Canadian leader this time is very different from that of the difficult times he once led the central banks through, as it does not originate from the imbalance of financial or economic laws, but the rise of unilateralism, protectionism and hegemony based on a surge of populism in the US. So to pass the test entails the former central banker demonstrating not only financial acumen but more importantly political wisdom, vision and courage.

Unlike his predecessor, who has appeared "weak" in front of the US assertiveness, Carney, as predicted, talked tough on the US when addressing a crowd of Liberal supporters after the result of the leadership contest was announced on Sunday evening. "We didn't ask for this fight, but Canadians are always ready when someone else

## CHINADAILY

drops the gloves," he said. But although he promised to face down Trump's threats to impose tariffs and annex Canada, saying, "America is not Canada, and Canada never, ever will be part of America in any way", how Carney will translate his strong language on the stage in Ottawa into practical solutions to those twin challenges is far less clear.

That Trudeau's 50-minute telephone call with Trump on Wednesday was reported as being "profanity-laden" clearly indicates that the US leader is determined to press ahead with the pressure he is putting on Canada. Further evidence of that is the new tariffs Trump threatened to impose on Friday on Canadian lumber and dairy products, one day after offering Canada a one-month reprieve on punishing, virtually across-the-board 25 percent tariffs. As well as Trump's trade pressure, Carney has a host of domestic political, economic and social problems to tackle.

The fast rising living costs and ballooning national debt over the past nine years under the Liberal Party have undermined public confidence in his party's leadership and he will have to deal with the challenge from the opposition parties led by the Conservative Party under the stewardship of the populist leader Pierre Poilievre in parliament. The opposition parties will be alert to how Carney will deal with the US trade blows, further squeezing the space for his maneuvers as the US leader heightens his threats. As such, the future Canadian leader has no reason not to overhaul the Trudeau government's China policy to mend the ties with the world's second-largest economy and Canada's major trading partner.

The retaliatory tariffs Beijing vowed on the weekend to impose on some Canadian imports later this month to counter the punitive duties Trudeau slapped on some Chinese imports in October under pressure from the US should be taken as a reminder to Carney of a move he can take that has the potential to save the whole situation on his gameboard.

# Musk comes visiting

**BASAB DASGUPTA**

I am very proud of my daughter Leena (her name, school and workplace information have been changed to protect her privacy). She is very smart and has all three proverbial graces of Greek Mythology. She attended an Ivy League school for undergraduate education, went to Harvard medical school, married an Indian classmate and got a job at the National Institute of Health (NIH) in Washington DC; a federal job implied life-long job security. She has two wonderful children and lives in a nice house in the upscale town of Silver Springs, Maryland. I often joke that she could not help it because she got her DNA from me.

However, I knew that my joke lacked complete validity. Unlike me, Leena has a very compassionate side from her teenage years. Instead of going into traditional STEM subjects, she wanted to do something good for mankind. It was this mindset that propelled her towards a medical profession. I wanted her to study physics like me. Frankly, I wondered if the long path of becoming a doctor and the stress associated with hard work at all hours of night and day were really worth it. She was determined.

Even as a student, she participated in activities like organizing AIDS walks and attending "alternate spring breaks" which involved working with handicapped communities in some way instead of frolicking on Florida beaches and drinking alcohol.

Happily, my concerns turned out to be unfounded. The fact that her husband is also a doctor certainly helped in easing out stress and maintaining a peaceful domestic life. Her job at NIH is both prestigious and secure.

My relationship with Leena took a turn for the worse in 2016 with the election of Donald Trump. I have no hesitation or embarrassment in declaring that I am a staunch support-

er of Trump. Leena passionately hated Trump and was devastated by Hillary Clinton's loss in the election. We had a number of vigorous and often loud debates on the merits of the two leaders. The debates never seemed to have an end as both of us stood firm.

While Leena believed that we should always help the less fortunate, be it the illegal immigrants or poor people of colour, I believe that God has given each one of us the ability to take care of ourselves and the only challenge is to get the right opportunities. I am not an advocate of relying on charity and government handouts. It is like teaching someone how to fish versus feeding him fish every day. I believed that Trump could offer just that; Hillary seemed to favour "pay for play" schemes. Eventually, Leena and I came to a truce: we agreed not to discuss politics in our conversations.

The Corona pandemic gave Leena some spotlight within NIH and she felt happy in her job. To make it even better, the government allowed the NIH employees to work from home. This gave Leena more time to spend with her kids. This included taking the kids to school every morning and picking them after school. One advantage of "working from home" is that the employee can almost be anywhere as long as he/she is close to a cell phone. Leena could carry out an important business meeting while driving her kids to school. Surprisingly, the Biden government allowed most Federal employees to continue working from home long after the pandemic was over.

That plan of apolitical family interactions worked out well. Things improved considerably when Trump lost the election in 2020 and faced numerous lawsuits, not to mention the 6 January 2021 riot at the Capitol building, and I did not offer any defense. I even resisted the temptation of mocking Joe Biden for his various failed policies, especially allowing mil-

lions of illegal immigrants into the country across the southern border.

No one, except for MAGA enthusiasts like me, expected Trump to come back from all the adversities, not to mention assassination attempts, and win the 2024 election. In addition, his popularity dragged the house and the senate to the Republican side of the aisle.

What made me especially happy was the observation that Trump seemed more mature and focused during the present term and the entire GOP was in sync with him as evidenced by votes to confirm Trump's nominees: in almost all cases, the Republican senators were united behind Trump. Moreover, each cabinet member hit the ground running with policies consistent with Trump's vision.

One new aspect of Trump's cabinet was his creation of the "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE). Surprisingly, Trump put the tech billionaire, Elon Musk, touted as the richest man on earth in charge of DOGE, even though he never held any elected position. Musk did not waste any time and embarked on a wide-scale assault on every government activity with the goal of reducing waste, abuse and corruption. He also announced an end to working from home policy and ordered everyone to go back to their offices for in-person engagement.

This hit Leena on multiple fronts. The immediate issue was how to take and pick up the kids from school. Then there is the bigger concern about what the Trump/Musk team might do with NIH. Considering Leena's credentials and achievements, I am not worried about her getting fired, but a relocation, which would severely disrupt her domestic life, is certainly a possibility.

Leena's "Trump Derangement Syndrome" reached a new high. It seems that she not only hates Trump, but even developed an intense dislike for my opinions because I voted for Trump. In her view, people like me



could have stopped him from becoming president again.

I will not be unhappy no matter what happens. Coming from the private sector, I have always been envious of government employees enjoying lifelong job security. I heard stories of employees coming to work every day but doing nothing except playing solitaire or watching porn on their computer screen; knowing fully well that they could not be fired. In my professional life, a feeling of insecurity was part of the job.

If Leena is no longer working at NIH for one reason or another, that might be a blessing in disguise. I always felt that she has been wasting her talents and experience base in a government job and can do significantly

better in terms of both job satisfaction and financial compensation. I have told her as much: "what is the point of working in a Trump-hating echo-chamber where you guys just gather every day and badmouth Trump and his policies? The negativity spills over in your other activities". She responded by saying that many qualified employees from NIH have already resigned and probably filled all the vacancies for good jobs.

I now know first-hand some of the anxieties and frustrations that Musk's DOGE activities are creating. However, I believe these are only temporary sacrifices.

(The writer, a physicist who worked in industry and academia, is a Bengali settled in America.)

## 100 YEARS AGO OCCASIONAL NOTE

How do myths start? The Corporation of Calcutta has been accused of demolishing a temple. The facts were stated in reply to a question at Wednesday's meeting. A large plot of land with huts and a few other buildings was acquired for the extension of the market. The structures were sold and demolished, leaving the ground bare. Back came one of the displaced tenants and put up a new hut. This was demolished and he was ejected. From this simple incident has presumably arisen the legend of the Corporation's sacrilegious conduct. The matter is worth attention, as in it we can study a small myth near its origin, and this may help us to understand greater ones—for instance, how it came about a few years ago that the people of England believed in the presence of a large Russian army in the land, and many of them saw with their own eyes the Russian snow from their boots on the footboards of trains.

## NEWS ITEMS BURMA BROADCASTING

### AMALGAMATION OF CLUB PROPOSED

RANGOON, MAR. 11  
SEVERAL months ago the Burma Radio Club applied to the Government of India for a license to broadcast from Rangoon, and the replay was that as the Burma Wireless Club had also applied it would prove impracticable to license two radio clubs in Rangoon.

This led the Burma Radio Club to approach the Burma Wireless dub with a view to amalgamating the two, and thus to enable the public to enjoy the benefits of broadcasting. Certain proposals have been advanced which are expected to result in the formation of a broadcast committee from the two clubs which will be responsible for broadcasting in the Province.

### MR. GANDHI & VAIKOM

### FRUITLESS INTERVIEW WITH CASTE HINDUS

COCHIN, MAR. 11.  
Mr. Gandhi met by invitation the local caste Hindu oppositionists. He was accompanied by Messrs. Rajagopalachari, Krishnaswami Iyer and others. The discussion lasted for over three hours and Mr. Gandhi made certain proposals to bring the struggle to a speedy conclusion, namely arbitration, referendum and examination by select pundits of Sankara Smritis. The oppositionists declined to accept any of these.

In the evening Mr. Gandhi addressed a large public meeting on the situation. He was presented with an address by the Ezhavas of Ambalapuzha. In replying Mr. Gandhi assured them that untouchability and unapproachability as practised were not supported by the Shastras.

Referring to his interview with the caste Hindu oppositionists, Mr. Gandhi said he had appealed to their reason, humanity and Hinduism but could not produce in them the impressions he wanted. He did not despair and hoped there would be a response.

Mr. Gandhi leaves Vaikom this afternoon for Alleppey en route to Quilon.

### BRITAIN AND TREATIES

### LABOUR PROPOSAL REJECTED

LONDON, MAR. 11.  
IN the House of Commons to-day a resolution, which Mr. Ronald McNeill, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, declared would mischievously hamper an efficient foreign policy, was moved by Mr. Charles Trevelyan (Lab. Newcastle), requiring that no international treaty or understanding be concluded without the consent of Parliament.

Mr. Trevelyan suggested that we were reverting to the old conditions of secret diplomacy, and that unless the Government followed the policy of the Labour Party they would have to transfer the Royal prerogative in connexion with treaties to Parliament.

Mr. McNeill confessed that he was not moved by the modification of the Royal prerogative in this matter, but he said that Mr. Trevelyan was setting about the matter in the wrong way. He declared that there were no secret treaties, as Mr. MacDonald knew, but the motion would delay extremely beneficial international arrangements which would have to be placed on the table in Parliament for twenty-one days. He pointed out that now-a-days we must obtain the consent of the Dominions before entering international engagements, and hence minor matters would have to be three weeks on the tables of every Parliament of the Empire.

The House subsequently adopted an amendment stating that the present procedure adequately secures Parliamentary control over foreign affairs.

# Trade could boost S Asian economies

**ZOFEEN T EBRAHIM**

Chaudhry Bashir Arain, a trader from Khairpur in Pakistan, exports over 99 per cent of his dried dates to India via Dubai. Delivery takes up to 40 days. The long-winded route for Pakistani chhuaras to India via Dubai started in February 2019 after the Pulwama attack, following which India suspended trade with Pakistan, revoking its Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status and imposing a 200 per cent duty.

That year, two events halted the small trade that had been ongoing. India stopped trade across the Line of Control (LoC) — active since 2008 — citing concerns over the alleged smuggling of drugs, arms and fake currency by groups from Pakistan, while Pakistan suspended it in response to India's revocation of Article 370 and Kashmir's special status.

Arain, president of the Khajoor-Anaj Market, said goods sent via Wagah-Attari reached India in eight days, while the long sea journey damaged the produce. His frustration highlights the volatile relationship between the two neighbouring South Asian nations.

Yet Nikita Singla, an expert in international trade, logistics, and inclusion, emphasises that it is commercial ties that are the key pathway to reconciliation. And there is a trade history too. According to her, in 1948-49, approximately 56 per cent of Pakistan's exports were directed to India, while 32 per cent of its imports originated from there.

In 2019, after trade was suspended, Singla conducted a field survey in Amritsar and in towns along the LoC

on the Indian side. "Nearly 50,000 people in Amritsar — including traders, custom house agents, gas station attendants, mechanics, dhaba owners, truck drivers and porters — were adversely affected by the suspension of trade via the Wagah-Attari crossing. Similarly, in the districts of Uri and Poonch along the LoC, nearly 25,000 people depended on this trade for their livelihoods," she said, adding that cross-LoC trade was particularly unique as it was more of a "confidence-building measure" with trade based on a barter system.

"Between 2008 and 2019, this was valued at \$1.2 billion, generating more than 170,000 job days, and an exchange of more than 110,000 trucks with a freight revenue of about \$9 million for transporters in Jammu and Kashmir," said Singla. "It would be interesting to find out how Pakistan fares," she added.

In a paper published last month for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Singla argues in favour of a more "interconnected, secure, and efficient trading environment" between the two countries. "It could actually drive the region's overall prosperity," she said.

For years, Cecile Fruman, director of Regional Integration, South Asia, at the World Bank, has been stressing on the need for regional trade. She notes that while the potential of intraregional trade between South Asian countries is valued at over \$67bn, the current value of trade remains a dismal \$23bn. Trade costs within South Asia are 20 per cent higher than in Asean. "For example, it is 15 to 20 per cent cheaper for a company in India to trade with Brazil



than with one in a South Asian country," she points out.

Citing a 2021 World Bank report, Fruman says that full transport integration between Bangladesh and India could boost national income by 17 per cent in Bangladesh and 8 per cent in India. While trade between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal grew six-fold from 2005 to 2019, significant untapped potential remains, with growth estimates of 93 per cent for Bangladesh, 50 per cent for India, and 76 per cent for Nepal, she said.

But for trade to flourish between India and Pakistan, it is imperative to "rebuild trust between the two and shield bilateral trade from political fluctuations", says Singla.

One possibility, she suggests, whereby trade could restart is if both countries recommit to the South Asian Free Trade Area, a 2004 agreement that created a free-trade area for the region. Dr Huma Baqai, rector of the Millennium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship, Karachi, finds Safta, and even MFN to have had an insignificant effect on Pakistan's bilateral trade with India. Like Singla, she points to the elephant in the room — "political will" — and

says both countries need well-defined and enforceable institutional frameworks as currently implementation and enforcement are zero. "And it's not just India, Pakistan is also a high tariff country."

Singla suggests that if trade resumes, this time round it should be made more collaborative and transparent, and supported by a joint trade portal for technical exchange and product-specific collaborations between business groups and chambers.

"For example, surgical instrument manufacturers in Sialkot could connect with their counterparts in Jalandhar, share technical expertise, explore new markets, and strengthen industry-level people-to-people ties," she suggests. At the LoC, she said, a stricter and more advanced regulatory regime could be put in place, including truck scanners, X-ray machines, CCTVs and digitisation of records.

Across South Asia, there are examples of collaborations, even when relations are not always cordial. The recent successful trilateral power transaction of 40 MW in 2024, from Nepal to Bangladesh from June 15 to November 15, through the Indian grid, was a success in energy trade. In fact,

interim Bangladeshi leader Mohamad Yunus has even suggested the creation of a South Asian grid with hydroelectricity from Nepal and Bhutan to cut reliance on fossil fuels.

"China and India, despite their disputes, are engaged in a robust trading partnership of over \$100bn worth of exchange of goods and services," points out former State Bank governor, Dr Ishrat Husain.

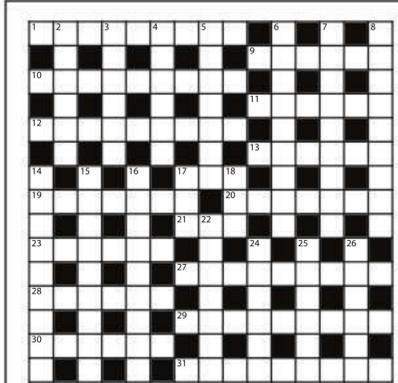
While Pakistan is the least economically integrated country in South Asia, due in large measure to its tense relationship with India, there have been small but promising steps it has taken recently. The restoration of trade with Bangladesh after 15 years, signals progress. Following the thaw between the two countries after the ouster of Sheikh Hasina, it surpassed \$1bn.

It's time for India and Pakistan to set aside their pride. The advice from Bangladesh's Yunus to foster better Bangladesh-Pakistan relations by "settling matters" and "moving forward" can similarly be applied to ease tensions and build a path towards reconciliation between India and Pakistan.

Dawn/ANN.

## CROSSWORD

NO-293075



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

THONG MOUSETRAP  
EROR TINNANE  
PROTEUS PLEADER  
TITELADAMAO  
DRUNKEN CHARMER  
NEDK EEA  
RUDDIER SUNSET  
ERRYC NSE  
FARMER ARMBAND  
UOKITLUS  
SMOKING MUISSELS  
AMMUNITION  
BUFIALOE EXCITID  
LUMBRIC SAITS  
ENLISTEES LUCKY

### ACROSS

- Unexpected things the author had found in graves? (9)
- Area 51's not part of belief system? (6)
- Having some correspondence with figure representing North America in Australia? (9)
- See 3 Down
- Primate published article about diversity mainly (5-4)
- 3 sound sheepish about arrest? (6)
- Drink and go round naked? (3)

### DOWN

- Japan's 16 miles east of old capital and close to Shanghai? (7)
- Couple is last in prize list? (7)
- Shot decapitated Buffalo Bill? (3)
- Fool complied with guards leading priest? (6)
- Pout about refusal to record one's speech? (9)
- Tearaway blowing limits of everybody's capital? (6)
- Rebuild her famous home for Tiller Girls? (9)

### ACROSS

- Firm taking on new railway guard? (6)
- Pay attention to vehicle reversing in confined space? (9)
- What is at the heart of modern cycling? (6)
- Win race by one second in 2 9? (6,6)
- Vessel whose cargo is targeted by soldiers? (6)
- Shock effect of dishevelled man

### DOWN

- Divorced father assessed following case of self-abuse? (9)
- New kind of TV is making plot-based feature? (9)
- I saw accommodating woman in order to be overwhelmed? (9)
- Sectarian party last to cast stigma off? (9)
- Student leaves stupid call smiling inelny? (9)
- Documents reporter's income for each piece? (9)
- School abandons vulgar uniform? (3)

### ACROSS

- Make fun of progressive characters in right-on liberal bubble? (3)
- What could be primarily available via on-line shop? (7)
- Previous head of state oppressed by class? (6)
- 50% of capital invested in modest settlement? (6)
- Revolutionary Polish artist's upset fund manager? (6)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)



# Ukraine agrees to 30-day ceasefire during talks with the USA in Saudi

Negotiators also agreed to appoint teams to begin talks aimed at reaching a lasting peace

AGENCIES  
JEDDAH, 12 MARCH

Ukraine signalled its readiness to accept an American proposal for an "immediate, interim 30-day ceasefire" following talks with an American delegation in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, according to a joint statement.

The statement, issued after hours of consultations between senior officials from the two countries, said the truce could be extended by mutual agreement, adding that "the United States will communicate to Russia that Russian reciprocity is the key to achieving peace."

Washington has agreed to "immediately lift the pause on intelligence sharing and resume security assistance to Ukraine," the statement said, adding that both sides



discussed the importance of humanitarian relief efforts, particularly during the ceasefire period, *Xinhua* news agency reported.

Negotiators also agreed to appoint teams to begin talks aimed at reaching a lasting peace. The USA reaffirmed its commitment to engaging with Russian representatives, while Ukraine emphasised the need for European partners to be

involved in the process, the statement said.

Additionally, both nations' leaders agreed to finalise "as soon as possible a comprehensive agreement for developing Ukraine's critical mineral resources to expand Ukraine's economy," it added.

The announcement followed a high-level meeting attended by American Secretary of State Marco Rubio and National Security Advisor

Mike Waltz.

The Ukrainian delegation included President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Chief of Staff Andriy Yermak, Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, and others. Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and National Security Advisor Musaed bin Muhammad Al-Aiban also took part in the discussions.

At a press conference following the talks, American Secretary of State Marco Rubio voiced hope that Russia would accept the proposal for a temporary ceasefire with Ukraine.

He said Ukraine's commitment will "be delivered to them directly through multiple channels," "through our diplomatic channels, through conversations, and other methods."

"The ball is in their court,"

said Rubio, noting that if Kremlin rejects the proposal, "then we'll, unfortunately, know what the impediment is to peace here."

Zelenskyy described the meeting as "good and constructive" on social media platform X. "If Russia agrees, the ceasefire will take effect immediately," Zelenskyy said.

American President Donald Trump said he expects to speak to Russian President Vladimir Putin later this week and hopes Russia also agrees to the terms.

When asked how close he thinks Ukraine and Russia are to a total ceasefire, Trump said, "I hope it'll be over the next few days."

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told Russian state news agencies, "We do not rule out contacts with US representatives within the next few days."

# Trump's 25 per cent tariffs on all steel and aluminium imports go into effect



AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON, 12 MARCH

President Donald Trump officially increased tariffs on all steel and aluminium imports to 25 per cent on Wednesday, promising that the taxes would help create American factory jobs at a time when his seesawing tariff threats are jolting the stock market and raising fears of an economic slowdown.

Trump removed all exemptions from his 2018 tariffs on the metals, in addition to increasing the tariffs on aluminium from 10 per

cent. His moves, based off a February directive, are part of a broader effort to disrupt and transform global commerce. The American president has separate tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China, with plans to also tax imports from the European Union, Brazil and South Korea by charging "reciprocal" rates starting on 2 April.

The EU announced its own countermeasures on Wednesday. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that as the United States was "applying tariffs worth 28 billion dollars, we are responding

with countermeasures worth 26 billion euros," or about \$28 billion. Those measures, which cover not just steel and aluminium products, but also textiles, home appliances and agricultural goods, are due to take effect on 1 April.

Trump told CEOs in the Business Roundtable on Tuesday that the tariffs were causing companies to invest in American factories. The 8 per cent drop in the S&P 500 stock index over the past month on fears of deteriorating growth appears unlikely to dissuade him, as Trump argued that higher tariff rates would be more effective at bringing back factories.

"The higher it goes, the more likely it is they're going to build," Trump told the group. "The biggest win is if they move into our country and produce jobs. That's a bigger win than the tariffs themselves, but the tariffs are going to be throwing off a lot of money to this country."

# Efforts continue to advance Gaza peace talks: Hamas

AGENCIES  
GAZA, 12 MARCH

Hamas said that Egyptian and Qatari mediators are continuing efforts to finalise the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and initiate the second phase of negotiations.

In a press statement, Hamas spokesman Abdul Latif Al-Qanou said on Tuesday that Egyptian and Qatari mediators have been working to complete the ceasefire agreement and move forward with the second phase of negotiations, *Xinhua* news agency reported.

"There are positive signs in this regard," said Al-Qanou, adding that Hamas is prepared to engage in upcoming nego-



tiations in a manner that meets the demands of the Palestinian people.

He also called for increased efforts to provide humanitarian relief to the Gaza Strip and lift the ongoing blockade.

According to Al-Qanou,

a Hamas leadership delegation arrived in Cairo on Monday and discussed mechanisms for initiating the second phase of negotiations.

Meanwhile, senior Hamas leader Abdul Rahman Shadid stated in a televised conference that Israel continues its "crim-

inal policies" against Palestinians in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza.

He accused Israel of killings, displacement, mass arrests, blocking food and medical aid, and closing border crossings worsening the humanitarian crisis in the Strip.

Shadid highlighted that Israel's military operation in Jenin and its refugee camp has entered its 51st day, while similar actions in Tulkarm and its camps, Nour Shams and Tulkarm, have continued for 43 days.

He described these operations as part of Israel's broader strategy to expand settlements and impose a new reality on Palestinian territories.

# Portuguese parliament rejects confidence motion, forcing government to resign

AGENCIES  
LISBON, 12 MARCH

Portuguese Prime Minister Luis Montenegro lost a confidence vote, forcing his government to resign after less than a year in office.

Of the 224 lawmakers who participated, only Montenegro's Social Democratic Party (PSD), the People's Party (CDS-PP), and the Liberal Initiative backed him. The Socialist Party (PS), the far-right Chega, the Left Bloc (BE), the Communist Party (PCP), Livre, and PAN's sole MP voted against him, *Xinhua* news agency reported.



The exact vote count wasn't immediately available, but the speaker of parliament, Jose Pedro Aguiar-Branco, said the centre-right government was defeated.

The government, a two-party alliance led by the Social

Democratic party (PSD) and in power for less than a year, had just 80 seats in the current 230-seat legislature. An overwhelming majority of opposition lawmakers had vowed to vote against it.

Under Portugal's constitution, a failed confidence vote requires the government to resign. Montenegro's administration will now operate in a caretaker capacity, handling only essential and urgent matters.

President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa is expected to dissolve parliament and call snap elections, which he previously suggested could take place

on either 11 May or 18 May.

Montenegro initiated the confidence vote himself, following two previous confidence motions during his tenure. His leadership had come under increasing pressure due to a conflict-of-interest scandal involving a family-owned business.

As leader of the centre-right Democratic Alliance, Montenegro became prime minister in April 2024 after winning the general election. However, his coalition secured only 80 seats in the 230-seat parliament, compared to the PS's 78 seats and the far-right Chega's 50 seats.

# Centre-right party wins most votes in Greenland's parliamentary election as Trump seeks control

AGENCIES  
NUUK, 12 MARCH

The centre-right Demokraatit Party won the most votes in a surprising result in Greenland's parliamentary elections, held in the shadow of American President Donald Trump's stated goal of taking control of the island one way or another.

Both Demokraatit, or the Democrats, and the second-place finisher Naleraq, or Point of Orientation, favor Greenland's independence from Denmark but differ on the pace of change.

Demokraatit won nearly 30 per cent of the vote, compared to just 9 per cent in the election four years ago, Greenlandic Broadcasting Corporation *KNR TV* reported.

Naleraq came in second with almost 25 per cent of the vote. In the 2021 election, they received just under 12 per cent, according to *KNR TV*.

Demokraatit's upset victory over parties that have governed the territory for years indicated many in Greenland care just as much about health care, education, cultural heritage and other social policies.



"I think this is a historic result in Greenland's political history," Demokraatit party leader Jens-Frederik Nielsen said.

Nielsen, 33, appeared to be surprised by his party's

gains, with photos showing him sporting a huge grin and applauding at the election party.

The Danish Broadcasting Corporation *DR* reported that Nielsen said his party would

reach out to all other parties to negotiate the future political course for Greenland.

"We had not expected that the election would have this outcome," Nielsen said, according to *KNR TV*. "We are very happy."

Nielsen also said that Greenland needs to stand together "in a time of great interest from outside," reported.

Prime Minister Mute Bourup Egede had called the early vote in February, saying the country needed to be united during a "serious time" unlike anything Greenland has ever experienced.

# Shipowner says arrested captain of cargo vessel involved in North Sea collision is Russian

AGENCIES  
LONDON, 12 MARCH

The captain of a cargo ship that collided with an American tanker is a Russian national who remains in U.K. police custody, the vessel's owner said Wednesday, as it emerged that the ship failed several safety checks last year.

The 59-year-old man, who hasn't been named by authorities, was arrested by police in northeast England Tuesday on suspicion of manslaughter by gross negligence over the collision. He hasn't been charged.

Shipping company Ernst Russ, which owns the Portu-

gal-flagged cargo vessel Solong, said that the ship's 14 crew were a mix of Russian and Filipino nationals.

U.K. authorities say they have so far found no evidence of foul play in the crash. Humber Police said that detectives were conducting inquiries alongside partner agencies.

The U.K. Marine Accident Investigation Branch is also involved in investigating what caused the Solong, bound from Grangemouth, Scotland, to Rotterdam, Netherlands, to hit the stationary tanker, which was anchored about 10 miles (16 kilometres) off the English coast.

The investigation is being

led by the USA and Portugal, the countries where the vessels are flagged.

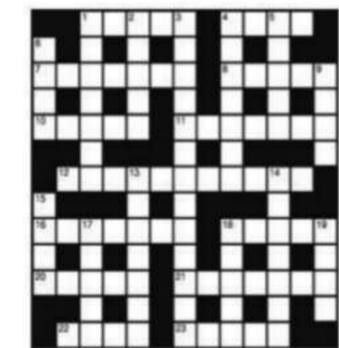
Port inspection documents show the Solong failed steering-related safety checks in Dublin, Ireland, in July, with the vessel's "emergency steering position communications/compass reading" unreadable. Inspectors found a total of ten deficiencies, including "inadequate" alarms, survival craft "not properly maintained" and fire doors "not as required."

An inspection in Scotland in October found two other deficiencies.

The ship wasn't detained after either inspection.

## LEISURE

### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Container for money (5)
  - Walk through water (4)
  - Down payment (7)
  - Derision (5)
  - Score (5)
  - Criminal (7)
  - Winter sport practice area (3,3,5)
  - Do away with (7)
  - Play (5)
  - Admit guilt (3,2)
  - Implode (7)
  - Become liquid (4)
  - Musical speed (5)
- DOWN**
- Well-liked (7)
  - Out of practice (5)
  - Institution (13)
  - Spendthrift (7)
  - Slaver (5)
  - Prepare for publication (4)
  - Standard (4)
  - Brief extract (7)
  - Dummy pill (7)
  - Ring of light (4)
  - Unit of weight (5)
  - Fact (5)
  - Gaming stake (4)

- SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD**
- ACROSS**
- Loo
  - Soap
  - Adults
  - Lapdog
  - Bloody
- DOWN**
- Trusty
  - Pliers
  - Signet ring
  - Monkey
  - Dome
  - Obstinate
  - Ladybird
  - Oil
  - Supermini
  - Anon
  - Used
  - Clam up
  - Yonder
  - Tame
  - Taco
  - Nab

By arrangement with The Independent. Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required.

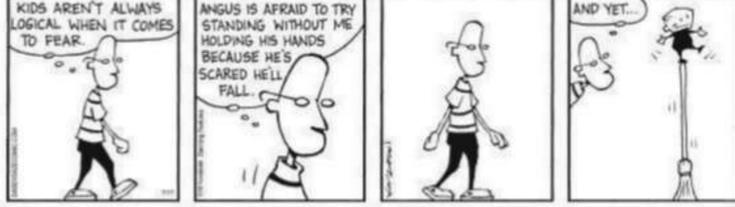
### BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



### RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



### DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



### NEED TO KNOW

- Ambulance**  
FD Block Association (Amb) 9830452536, 9830181286  
Happy Calculators 24400160  
City Point Nurses Centre 2567-4113, 9831142623  
People's Relief Committee 2280-4943/9444
- 24 hrs Medical Oxygen Delivery**  
BOC India Ltd. 9831277777
- Bank**  
Ashok Laboratory 24720333  
Central Blood Bank 23510619
- Life Care** 2284-6940  
Peoples Blood Bank 2455-5164/5557  
RK Mission Seva Pratishthan 2475-3636/39
- Police/Fire**  
Lalbazar (Police Control Room) 22143230  
S. P. (North 24-Pgns) 24523005  
S.P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479-3333/1311  
Bhawani Bhawan 24791761/9, 24791933  
Fire Service Station Salt Lake: 2357-5293
- Howrah** 2666-8111; Behala 2497-6285
- Civic Services**  
Kolkata Municipal Corporation: 2286-1000  
Water: 2543-1602
- Calcutta Telephones**  
Changed Number Announcement: 1951.1952.1953
- Taxi Refusal**  
SMS 575756: Complaint and registration
- Police Toll Free No.** 1073  
Transport Deptt. No. 6451-6718
- CEEC Fault Reporting**  
1912 and 4403-1912
- Trains**  
Howrah Station Old Complex 1331/1332 (Auto Telephone Numbers), 1310, 2638-7412/3542/2581 (manual).  
Sealdah: 2350-3535/3537  
Shalimar Station: 2668-1121, Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway: 139.

### SCRABBLE® GRAMS



**PAR SCORE 170-180**  
by JUDD

**FIVE RACK TOTAL**  
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

**Directions:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each rack. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Your score is the sum of all your words plus any points value. All unused letters are in the Official Scrabble Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and Official Scrabble Words (NASPA). Judd's solution copyright © 2012-2013 J.W. Spear & Sons Limited, a subsidiary of Mattel, Inc.

### SUDOKU



answer to previous puzzle

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that no row, no column and no 3x3 box contains the same number. The difficulty level increases through the week.

Duterte to face crimes against humanity charges at The Hague

Duterte, once one of Asia's most feared leaders, is the first ex-leader from the region arrested by the global court

AGENCIES MANILA, 12 MARCH

Philippine police arrested former President Rodrigo Duterte in Manila on Tuesday and sent him by plane to the Netherlands to face charges of crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court, President Ferdinand Marcos said.



The global court in The Hague had ordered Duterte's arrest through Interpol after accusing him of crimes against humanity over deadly anti-drug crackdowns he oversaw while in office, Marcos said in a late-night news conference. Duterte had been arrested at the Manila international airport Tuesday morning when he arrived with his family from Hong Kong.

Walking slowly with a cane, the 79-year-old former president turned briefly to a small group of aides and supporters, who wept and bid him goodbye, before an escort helped him into the plane. His daughter, Vice President Sara Duterte, said she sought entry to the airbase where her father was held but was refused. She criticised the Marcos administration for surrendering her father to a foreign court which currently has no jurisdiction over the Philippines. Marcos said Duterte's arrest

was "proper and correct" and not an act of political persecution, since the Philippines is a member of Interpol. Among the most feared leaders in Asia while in power, Duterte became the first ex-leader from the region to be arrested by the global court. Clad in a dark jacket, an irate Duterte protested his arrest after arrival in Manila and asked authorities the legal basis of his detention. His lawyers immediately asked

the Supreme Court to block any attempt to transport him out of the Philippines. "Show me now the legal basis for my being here," Duterte asked authorities in remarks captured on video by his daughter, Veronica Duterte, who posted the footage on social media. "You have to answer now for the deprivation of liberty." The surprise arrest sparked a commotion at the airport, where Duterte's lawyers and aides protested that they, along with a doctor, were prevented from coming close to him after he was taken into police custody. "This is a violation of his constitutional right," Senator Bong Go, a close Duterte ally, told reporters. The ICC has been investigating mass killings in crackdowns overseen by Duterte when he served as mayor of the southern Philippine city

of Davao and later as president. Estimates of the death toll of the crackdown during Duterte's presidential term vary, from the more than 6,000 that the national police have reported up to 30,000 claimed by human rights groups. The ICC arrest warrant, seen by agencies, said: "there are reasonable grounds to believe that" the attack on victims "was both widespread and systematic: the attack took place over a period of several years and thousands of people appear to have been killed."

Duterte's arrest was necessary "to ensure his appearance before the court," the 7 March warrant said. "Mindful of the resultant risk of interference with the investigations and the security of witnesses and victims, the chamber is satisfied that the arrest of Mr. Duterte is necessary."

The ICC has been investigating mass killings in crackdowns overseen by Duterte when he served as mayor of the southern Philippine city

of Davao and later as president. Estimates of the death toll of the crackdown during Duterte's presidential term vary, from the more than 6,000 that the national police have reported up to 30,000 claimed by human rights groups. The ICC arrest warrant, seen by agencies, said: "there are reasonable grounds to believe that" the attack on victims "was both widespread and systematic: the attack took place over a period of several years and thousands of people appear to have been killed."

Duterte's arrest was necessary "to ensure his appearance before the court," the 7 March warrant said. "Mindful of the resultant risk of interference with the investigations and the security of witnesses and victims, the chamber is satisfied that the arrest of Mr. Duterte is necessary."

The ICC has been investigating mass killings in crackdowns overseen by Duterte when he served as mayor of the southern Philippine city

Taiwan to conduct 'immediate response' military drills to counter China

AGENCIES TAIPEI, 12 MARCH

Taiwan is set to conduct a new round of "immediate response" military drills that will begin on 17 March and last five days, local media reported on Wednesday.



These drills by the Taiwanese defence forces will involve all military branches of Taiwan in response to China's grey zone warfare, the state-run Central News Agency reported, quoting military sources.

The drill will be "comprehensive," with troops dispatched to their assigned defensive positions accordingly, the source said, without elaborating.

The armed forces would be put on high alert through the five-day drills, and the comprehensive exercise was planned as a warm-up for this

year's annual Han Kuang exercises, reports the leading Taiwanese newspaper, Taipei Times.

The military drills, scheduled for next week, are also to prevent China from sabotaging the nation's submarine cables, a defence official said on Tuesday.

Last month, a Chinese cargo ship flying the flag of another nation was detained on suspicion of severing a cable

Japanese media say police have arrested several men for alleged sexual assault of their daughters

The Kyodo News agency, NHK television and other outlets say police in the Aichi prefecture, a region in central Japan, took into custody several men, who are in their 30s, 40s and 50s. They are accused of repeatedly raping their daughters or stepdaughters, aged 6-14, filming the scenes of the assaults and sharing the videos on social media. They are also accused of child prostitution and child pornography, the reports said.

They allegedly exchanged messages and footage of their attacks in a group chat. The group was uncovered after one of the men was arrested in November on accusations of raping a child. Police investigated the data on his mobile phone, which led to the arrest of the other men, reports said.

Yemen's Houthi rebels say 'any Israeli vessel' in nearby waterways again a target

The statement from the Houthis' Humanitarian Operations Coordination Center follows a four-day deadline set by the rebels for Israel to resume aid shipments. Yemen's Houthi rebels warned shippers early Wednesday that "any Israeli vessel" traveling through nearby Mideast waters is now a target as Israel continues to block aid to the Gaza Strip. The warning from the Houthis again throws into

chaos a crucial maritime waterway between Asia and Europe, threatens revenue from Egypt's Suez Canal and possibly will halt aid shipments to war zones. The rebels in the past have also had a loose definition of what constitutes an Israeli ship, meaning other vessels could be targeted as well. The statement from the Houthis' Humanitarian Operations Coordination Center follows a four-day deadline set by the rebels for Israel to resume aid shipments. "We hope it is understood that the actions taken by the (Houthi military) ... stem from a deep sense of religious, humanitarian and moral

responsibility toward the oppressed Palestinian people and aim to pressure the Israeli usurper entity to reopen the crossings to the Gaza Strip and allow the entry of aid, including food and medical supplies," the statement said. It described the warning as taking hold in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the Arabian Sea. The statement added: "Any Israeli vessel attempting to violate this ban will be subject to military targeting in the declared operational area." There was no immediate sign of an attack on ships. Israel's military did not respond to a request for comment.

Congo faces setback in mpox response after Rwanda-backed rebels advance in the east

AGENCIES MITI MURHESA, 12 MARCH

Hospitals across eastern Congo that were once at the forefront of the country's response to the mpox outbreak are facing a setback in detecting the disease and offering treatment following the advance of Rwanda-backed rebels in the region.



The mpox global health emergency is worsening as the fighting between the M23 rebel group and Congolese troops escalates in eastern Congo, which has been the epicenter of the health crisis. Many patients have fled and can't be found. Recently arrived vaccines are running short as supplies can't reach combat zones. Hospitals have been under attack.

The Associated Press visited one of the mpox hot spots,

which is now under control of M23 rebels backed by neighboring Rwanda. Health workers and remaining patients described a growing disaster. "The situation has been

very difficult. Insecurity has disrupted everything," said Dr. Serge Munyahu Cikuru, medical officer in charge of the Miti Murhesa health zone in South Kivu province's Kabare territory. The country, meanwhile, continues to battle other diseases in the east, including cholera and measles, in addition to mysterious outbreaks that recently started in the northwestern region. Congo saw a 31 per cent weekly increase in mpox cases last week, bringing the total to 16,255, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, that is only one

Violence, displacements overwhelm healthcare system in Sudan's El-Fasher: UN

AGENCIES UNITED NATIONS, 12 MARCH

Violence and waves of displacements have overwhelmed the fragile healthcare system in El-Fasher, the capital of Sudan's North Darfur state, UN humanitarian officials said. "More than 200 health facilities in El Fasher are not functioning, and there are severe shortages of medical staff, essential medicines and life-saving supplies," said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Yemen's Houthi rebels say 'any Israeli vessel' in nearby waterways again a target

The statement from the Houthis' Humanitarian Operations Coordination Center follows a four-day deadline set by the rebels for Israel to resume aid shipments. Yemen's Houthi rebels warned shippers early Wednesday that "any Israeli vessel" traveling through nearby Mideast waters is now a target as Israel continues to block aid to the Gaza Strip. The warning from the Houthis again throws into

Violence and waves of displacements overwhelm healthcare system in Sudan's El-Fasher: UN



Nearly 2 million displaced Sudanese have fled to unstable areas in Chad, Ethiopia, and South Sudan, overrunning refugee camps and prompting concerns that Sudanese refugees could soon attempt to enter Europe. The UN continues to plead for more support as more than 25 million need humanitarian assistance, and deteriorating food security risks are triggering the "world's largest hunger crisis."

Meanwhile, mediation efforts have failed to produce results as the leaders of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) refuse to halt their violence, and regional and international actors have taken sides in the war.

Violence and waves of displacements overwhelm healthcare system in Sudan's El-Fasher: UN



Nearly 2 million displaced Sudanese have fled to unstable areas in Chad, Ethiopia, and South Sudan, overrunning refugee camps and prompting concerns that Sudanese refugees could soon attempt to enter Europe. The UN continues to plead for more support as more than 25 million need humanitarian assistance, and deteriorating food security risks are triggering the "world's largest hunger crisis."

Meanwhile, mediation efforts have failed to produce results as the leaders of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) refuse to halt their violence, and regional and international actors have taken sides in the war.

CANCELLATION OF SOME EMU SUBURBAN TRAINS OVER HOWRAH DIVISION ON THE DAY OF DOLYATRA. Following EMU Local trains over Howrah Division will remain CANCELLED during Dolyatra festival on 14.03.2025 (Friday). (1) HOWRAH-BARDHAMAN (MAIN LINE) : • Up Trains - 37819 (07.05 hrs.), 37711 (08.20 hrs.) & 37843 (17.55 hrs.). • Dn Trains - 37822 (06.40 hrs.), 37612 (08.55 hrs.). (2) HOWRAH-BARDHAMAN (CHORD LINE) : • Up Trains - 36071 (05.05 hrs.), 36817 (07.08 hrs.), 36825 (11.22 hrs.), 36827 (12.05 hrs.), 36801 (05.45 hrs.), 36033 (10.30 hrs.). • Dn Trains - 36072 (07.07 hrs.), 36814 (03.58 hrs.), 36830 (08.35 hrs.), 36834 (10.05 hrs.), 36082 (08.06 hrs.), 36034 (11.55 hrs.) & 36840 (13.05 hrs.). (3) HOWRAH-BANDEL (MAIN LINE) : • Up Trains - 37213 (05.14 hrs.), 37215 (06.26 hrs.), 37219 (07.35 hrs.), 37221 (08.20 hrs.), 37227 (09.25 hrs.), 37243 (12.20 hrs.), 37201 (18.55 hrs.), 37201 (17.52 hrs.). • Dn Trains - 37224 (06.50 hrs.), 37202 (08.40 hrs.), 37232 (08.52 hrs.), 37236 (09.46 hrs.), 37240 (10.45 hrs.), 37246 (12.30 hrs.) & 37512 (16.25 hrs.). (4) HOWRAH - SEORAPHULI : • Up Trains - 37041 (07.30 hrs.), 37045 (08.45 hrs.), 37047 (09.15 hrs.), 37049 (09.40 hrs.) & 37055 (11.52 hrs.). • Dn Trains - 37042 (08.20 hrs.), 37046 (09.50 hrs.), 37048 (10.15 hrs.), 37050 (10.32 hrs.) & 37056 (12.40 hrs.). (5) HOWRAH - TARAKESWAR : • Up Trains - 37307 (07.00 hrs.), 37317 (09.05 hrs.), 37327 (13.38 hrs.) & 37411 (05.15 hrs.). • Dn Trains - 37308 (08.28 hrs.), 37328 (11.15 hrs.), 37338 (15.15 hrs.) & 37412 (04.05 hrs.). (6) NAIHATI - BANDEL : • Up Trains - 37527 (07.55 hrs.), 37531 (09.42 hrs.) & 37535 (12.10 hrs.). • Dn Trains - 37528 (07.21 hrs.), 37532 (09.12 hrs.) & 37536 (11.42 hrs.). (7) HOWRAH - SHRIRAMPUR : • Up Trains - 37011 (07.45 hrs.) & 37013 (09.20 hrs.). • Dn Trains - 37012 (08.40 hrs.) & 37014 (10.00 hrs.). (8) BARDHAMAN - KATWA : • Up Trains - 35013 (07.25 hrs.), 35019 (18.30 hrs.). • Dn Trains - 35014 (07.25 hrs.), 35020 (17.50 hrs.). N.B.: 37815 Howrah - Bardhaman Main Line EMU Local (05.27 hrs.) & 37824 Bardhaman - Howrah Main Line EMU Local (07.00 hrs.) will stop at all stations enroute on 14.03.2025. Inconvenience is regretted. Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah

PUBLIC NOTICE ICICI Bank. Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chaki Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390 007. Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex Mumbai 400051. GOLD E-AUCTION INVITATION NOTICE. The below mentioned borrowers have issued notice to pay off their outstanding amount towards the facility against gold ornaments. (Facility) availed by them from ICICI Bank Limited ("ICICI Bank"). We are constrained to conduct an E-Auction of pledged gold ornaments on Mar 24, 2025 as they have failed to repay the dues. ICICI Bank has the authority to remove account/change the E-Auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online-https://e-auction.procuretiger.com between 10:30 am to 3:30 pm for detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website. In case of deceased borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs.

## THUMBNAILS

**Pleasant retail inflation keeps RBI rate cut possibility in April solid, says experts:** The pleasant headline consumer price index (CPI) inflation implies that the fourth quarter of FY25 inflation may undershoot the RBI's forecast by more than 40 bps, and could keep the rate cut possibility in April solid, industry experts said on Wednesday. The year-on-year inflation rate eased to a 7-month low of 3.61 per cent in February this year, which is 0.65 per cent lower than the corresponding figure for January, as food prices came down further during the month. "Broad-based moderation in food inflation, led by perishables and some protein goods, largely led to better-than-expected headline February CPI print," according to Emkay Global Financial Services' Chief Economist Madhavi Arora. At the policy level, both the RBI and the government have implemented measures to revive growth, such as policy interest rate cuts and reduction in income tax to increase disposable income with households. "To further stimulate growth, the RBI is likely to implement another repo rate cut in the next MPC meeting in April. While this move may be inflationary, it is necessary to support growth, particularly in segments like housing where credit support is essential," Knight Frank India's National Director, Research, Vivek Rathi, said.

## Market falls on IT selloff; mid, small-caps underperform

Sensex and Nifty ended lower as IT losses outweighed banking and auto gains amid US recession fears and volatility

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 12 MARCH

Benchmark indices ended marginally lower on Wednesday in a highly volatile session as gains in banking and automobile shares were offset by losses in the IT sector.

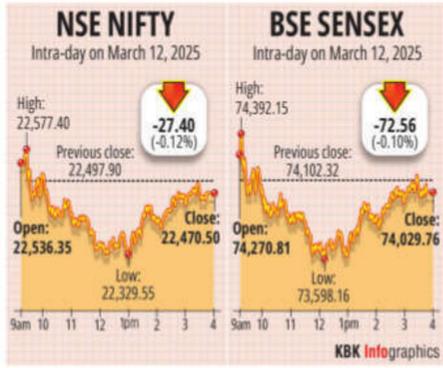
At close, the Sensex declined 0.1 per cent, or 72.56 points, to settle at 74,029.76, while the Nifty slipped 0.12 per cent, or 27.4 points, to 22,470.50.

During the trading session, the Nifty reached a high of 22,577.40 and a low of 22,329.55 while the Sensex fluctuated within a range of 74,392.15 and 73,598.16.

The mid and small-cap segments underperformed the benchmarks with the BSE Midcap slipped 0.57 per cent, while the Smallcap index ended 0.48 per cent lower.

The overall market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms dropped below 393 lakh crore from over 394 lakh crore in the previous session.

On Nifty50, the top gainers were IndusInd Bank (4.38 per cent), Tata Motors (3.12 per cent), Kotak Mahindra



Bank (2.45 per cent), Bajaj Finance (1.73 per cent), and ITC (1.53 per cent).

While on the losing side were Infosys (4.26 per cent), Wipro (3.31 per cent), Tech Mahindra (2.77 per cent), Nestle India (2.48 per cent), and Tata Consultancy Services (1.93 per cent).

The Bank Nifty concluded at 47,853.95, with an intraday high of 48,222.15 and a low of 47,844.95.

After a 27 per cent crash in the previous session, IndusInd Bank saw a 6 per cent rebound as investors assessed the fallout from the bank's derivatives portfolio

discrepancies.

Among the sectors, Nifty IT index suffered a solid loss of 2.91 per cent, with all stocks in the red. IT stocks have been under pressure amid growing concerns of a recession in the US market.

Infosys and Wipro led the sell-off amid growing fears that slowdown in US client spending could impact revenue growth for Indian IT firms.

Nifty Realty, Media and PSU Bank lost 1.65 per cent, 1.53 per cent and 1.08 per cent, respectively.

Shares of Tata Motors surged over 3 per cent on 12

**IndusInd Bank rebounded 6 per cent after a previous 27 per cent crash; Tata Motors gained 3 per cent; PB Fintech fell 5 per cent after announcing a ₹696 crore investment.**

March, emerging as one of the top Sensex gainers and providing a strong boost to the BSE Auto index.

Ola Electric shares rose 2 per cent after the company announced the successful completion of its company-wide cost-reduction initiative.

PB Fintech, the parent company of Policybazaar, saw its stock tumble over 5 per cent after announcing a ₹696 crore investment in its subsidiary PB Healthcare Services.

On the global landscape, Asian markets mostly declined, as investors remained cautious over US President Trump's trade policies and the risk of a US recession.

Global markets have been volatile with the US President putting pressure on trade partners with tariff barriers.

## Indian space economy to reach USD 44 bn by 2033: FICCI-EY report

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 12 MARCH

Indian space economy is aiming to reach USD 44 billion by 2033 from USD 8.4 billion in 2022, said a FICCI-EY report on 'Unlocking India's Space Economy - Pathways to Growth, Innovation and Global Leadership', released today at Bharat Space Conclave 2025\*, organised by FICCI.

According to the report, the global space economy is projected to exceed USD 1.8 trillion by 2035, with commercial satellite services, deep-space exploration, and space-based infrastructure driving expansion.

The report further states that India has set an ambitious target to grow its space economy from USD 8.4 billion in 2022 to USD 44 billion by 2033, aiming to capture 8 per cent of the global market.

This growth is being fuelled by policy reforms, private sector participation, and increased international collaboration, supported by the Indian Space Policy 2023 and institutions such as IN-SPACe and NSIL.

The FICCI-EY report notes that a significant shift is underway, with India's space sector evolving from a government-led model to a commercially driven, innovation-led ecosystem. Satellite communication (SATCOM), projected to reach

USD 14.8 billion by 2033, will play a critical role in expanding digital connectivity, particularly in rural and underserved regions.

By leveraging LEO and MEO satellite constellations, India can accelerate broadband penetration, enhance financial inclusion, and strengthen digital infrastructure, supporting flagship initiatives such as Digital India and BharatNet.

The increasing use of Earth Observation (EO) and remote sensing, estimated to contribute \$8 billion by 2033, is already transforming agriculture, disaster management, and climate resilience, highlights FICCI-EY Report.

Addressing the 'FICCI Bharat Space Conclave 2025', Dr Pawan Goenka, Chairman, IN-SPACe said that for the Indian space sector to grow we need capacity, capability, skilling, infrastructure, international partnership, funding and demand. "We will have to work for it and this will happen. These will not become a constraint for us to reach the \$44 billion target by 2033," he emphasised.

Earth Observation Preparatory Program (EOPP), Dr Goenka said that we have already shortlisted 6 companies and by mid-April the final name will be announced. "The EOPP project is going to be orbit changing project

for the Indian private space sector. It will bring in a dozen of private satellites which will provide data which is not available in the country today from Indian sources. We are not replicating what ISRO is doing but we are depending on outside data to get the data," he added.

Dr Goenka while highlighting the potential in satellite communications (SATCOM), said that the private sector is not present at all in this segment in terms of having their own satellites and we depend completely on NSIL (New Space India Limited), ISRO and outside sources.

"Now we have the first company who has been given the authorisation to use a frequency that ISRO has unused to set up launch SATCOM. This is just the first of many that will happen, and we will keep working on finding more it you (industry) frequencies and make it available to private sector," he added.

Dr AS Kiran Kumar, Member, Space Commission and Former Chairman, ISRO said that space is the frontier today which can provide significant advantages from uses to strategic applications including space tourism, adventure space, space habitation. "Soon we will see the launch of NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite," he added.

## After Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio inks deal with SpaceX to provide Starlink internet services



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, 12 MARCH

Mukesh Ambani-owned Jio Platforms Limited officially announced on Wednesday that it has signed a deal with the Elon Musk-owned SpaceX to bring Starlink's internet services to India, only a day after its competitor Bharti Airtel announced a similar deal on Tuesday.

"This agreement, which is subject to SpaceX receiving its own authorisations to sell Starlink in India, enables Jio and SpaceX to explore how Starlink can extend Jio's offerings and how Jio can complement SpaceX's direct offerings to consumers and businesses," the company said in an official statement.

Jio Platforms Limited plans to offer Starlink solutions through its retail stores and online platforms. Under this partnership, Jio's extensive presence as the world's largest mobile operator by data traffic and Starlink's leadership in low earth orbit satellite technology will be utilised to

provide reliable broadband connectivity across India, including its most remote and rural areas.

"Jio will not only offer Starlink equipment in its retail outlets but will establish a mechanism to support customer service installation and activation. The agreement with SpaceX is part of Jio's commitment to ensuring that reliable internet is fully accessible to all enterprises, small and medium businesses, and communities across India," the company said.

Reliance Jio Group CEO Mathew Oomen said: "Our collaboration with SpaceX to bring Starlink to India strengthens our commitment and marks a transformative step toward seamless broadband connectivity for all. By integrating Starlink into Jio's broadband ecosystem, we are expanding our reach and enhancing the reliability and accessibility of high-speed broadband in this AI-driven era, empowering communities and businesses across the country".

## Deepinder Goyal invests \$20M in LAT Aerospace

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 12 MARCH

Deepinder Goyal, Chief Executive Officer at Zomato has invested \$20 million in LAT Aerospace, a new startup working on developing low-cost short takeoff and landing (STOL) aircraft with up to 24 seats. These aircraft will focus on improving regional air connectivity.

As per a recent media report, the startup is co-founded by Surobhi Das, former Chief Operating Officer (COO) at Zomato, along with Goyal. Das will be leading the operations of the company while Goyal will be serving in a non-executive role.

Goyal's involvement will be one of making investments and mentoring the startup in a non-executive role, it said.

The company is currently in talks to raise \$50 million in seed funding. It is also looking to hire engineers in fields such as aerodynamics, material sciences, and hybrid propulsion systems. Notably, Surobhi Das had left Zomato in November 2023, and at the end of her tenure, she worked at Blinkit, Zomato's quick commerce platform, focusing on expanding markets and adding new categories. For the third quarter of financial year 2024-25 (FY25), Zomato reported a 57 per cent drop in consolidated net profit to Rs 59 crore.

## India's IT services industry to witness revenue growth of 4-6 per cent in FY26: ICRA

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 12 MARCH

A report released by the rating agency ICRA on Wednesday said India's IT services industry is expected to witness moderate revenue growth of 4-6 per cent in the financial year 2025-26 (FY26).

The projections are based on a sample set of companies that account for approximately 60 per cent of the industry's revenue.

ICRA said while the sector has seen gradual recovery over the past three quarters, growth is expected to remain



subdued in the near term due to global economic headwinds and policy uncertainties

in key markets such as the US and Europe. The report said the industry

## Individual housing loans outstanding grows 14 per cent at ₹33.53 lakh crore as of 30 Sept

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 12 MARCH

The individual housing loans outstanding as of 30 September, 2024, stood at Rs 33.53 lakh crore, marking a 14 per cent growth compared to the same period in the previous year, said the National Housing Bank (NHB) on Wednesday.

According to the report launched by the NHB, on Trends and Progress of Housing in India, 2024, Individual housing loan disbursements were recorded at Rs 4.10 lakh crore during the half-year that ended September 2024, while for the full financial year 2023-24, disbursements reached Rs 9.07 lakh crore.

Further it is said that upto



the said period, EWS & LIG accounted for 39 per cent, MIG accounted for 44 per cent and HIG accounted for 17 per cent of outstanding individual housing loans.

For the quarter ended September 2024, the Housing Price Index (NHB-RESIDEX) recorded a y-o-y increase of

6.8 per cent as compared to 4.9 per cent during previous year.

It said that the major initiatives of GoI, such as PMAY-G, PMAY-U, impact assessment of PMAY-U, Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF), Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) scheme, etc. have been covered in the report.

The report identifies regional disparities in credit flow and vulnerability to climate related risks, as some of the key challenges to be addressed by the sector.

It also identifies technological advancements in construction, digitization of land records etc. as some of the factors which will facilitate growth opportunities for the sector.

## Moody's projects India's growth to exceed 6.5 per cent next fiscal, up from 6.3 per cent this year

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 12 MARCH

India's economic growth will exceed 6.5 per cent in the next fiscal, up from 6.3 per cent this year, said Moody's Ratings on Wednesday. It cited the higher government capex and consumption boost from tax cuts and interest rate reduction for this growth.

Moody's said that following a temporary slowdown in mid-2024, India's economic growth is expected to reaccelerate and record one of the fastest rates among large economies globally.

"Government capital expenditure, tax cuts for middle-class income groups to boost consumption and monetary easing will help India's

real GDP growth exceed 6.5 per cent for fiscal 2025-26 from 6.3 per cent in fiscal 2024-25," Moody's Ratings said.

Moody's also projected a stable outlook for the banking sector, and said although the operating environment of Indian banks will remain favourable in the next fiscal.

Their asset quality will deteriorate moderately after substantial improvements in recent years, with some stress in unsecured retail loans, microfinance loans and small business loans, it added.

Banks' profitability will remain adequate as declines in net interest margins (NIMs) are likely to be marginal amid modest rate cuts, it said.

## Karnataka Inc to partner the state in making Karnataka a globally competitive state

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, 12 MARCH

The Karnataka chapter of leading chambers, the CII, has thrown in its lot with the state government in driving the next phase of growth of Karnataka - that will see a focus on bridging technology, sustainability, and economic inclusion to build a globally competitive and future-ready state.

With strong industry-government collaboration, Karnataka is poised to drive India's transformation into a developed economy, leveraging its innovation-driven MSME sector, high-tech manufacturing capabilities, and sustainable development policies.

The chamber and its members who congregated at its annual meet on Tuesday here deliberated on strategies to drive growth at an accelerated pace to contribute to the country's economic future through technology, innovation and sustainable practices.

The theme of CII's annual meeting was "Karnataka: Leading Technology & Knowledge Growth," and it brought together policymakers, industry leaders, academicians, and technopreneurs. On this occasion, Dr Selva Kumar, principal secretary, Commerce and Industry department, also launched CII CEL Microentrepreneurs Project -

Karnataka Abhivruddhigagi Belavanigeya Poshane (Nurturing Growth through Progress), aimed at strengthening the micro-entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The state government official said: "Karnataka has consistently been India's most preferred investment destination, evolving from being the 'State of Coffee' to the 'State of Technology'. Our progressive policies, robust infrastructure, and dynamic talent pool have created an ecosystem that fosters innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable growth. This has led to Karnataka contributing significantly

cantly to India's GDP, exports and employment generation."

The state is home to over 900,000 MSMEs, playing a crucial role in employment generation and economic diversification. Highlighting the significance of supporting microenterprises, Kamal Balli, Immediate Past Chairman, CII Southern Region & President & MD, Volvo Group India said, "The launch of the CII CEL Microentrepreneurs Project marks a significant step in empowering our MSMEs. As 98 per cent of MSMEs are microenterprises, this initiative will act as a catalyst for their growth by equipping them with modern management practices, leadership skills, and sustainable business strategies. Karnataka has the potential to lead this transformation and will play a critical role in India's vision of Viksit Bharat. Strong collaboration between the government, industry, and society will be key to making Karnataka a model for future-ready eco-



nomical progress."

Thomas John Muthoot, Deputy Chairman, CII Southern Region & Managing Director, Muthoot Fincorp, said "Karnataka has firmly established itself as India's leading hub for high-tech manufacturing and innovation, backed by robust government policies, a highly diverse and skilled workforce, growing infrastructure, and connectivity. As a key economic driver in the southern region, the state has become a preferred destination for global technology giants and advanced manufacturing industries seeking efficiency, scalability, and a future-ready

ecosystem."

Beyond Karnataka, CII is also strengthening its efforts to empower micro-entrepreneurs across India. A recent example is the launch of the CII Kerala Entrepreneurs Development Forum, an initiative by the CII Centre of Excellence on Employment & Livelihood, aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and employment in Kerala. The program provides mentorship, networking opportunities, and skill-building initiatives to help microenterprises scale and integrate into larger supply chains.

Emphasising the strong

partnership between CII and the government, Mr N Venu, Chairman, CII Karnataka State Council & CEO & Managing Director, India & Head - South Asia, Hitachi Energy, stated, "Collaborating closely with the government, CII Karnataka aims to create an enabling environment for Technology & knowledge sectors to thrive. Key areas include technology and innovation, R&D, GCCs, MSME growth, Electronics and Semiconductors and Renewables."

With Karnataka contributing approximately 8.6 per cent to the national GDP despite having just 5 per cent of India's population, the state continues to be an economic powerhouse. Nearly 65 per cent of Karnataka's energy comes from renewable sources, further cementing its leadership in sustainable growth.

Mr Rabindra Srikantan, Vice Chairman CII Karnataka State Council 2024-25 & Managing Director, ASM Technologies, said "As Karnataka

continues to lead in technology, innovation, and sustainability, our focus will be on strengthening industry-government collaboration to drive inclusive growth. We aim to further empower MSMEs, accelerate digital transformation, and position Karnataka as the hub for future-ready industries. Through initiatives like the CII CEL Microentrepreneurs Project, we are committed to fostering an ecosystem that nurtures entrepreneurship and propels the state towards its vision of Viksit Bharat."

**New CII Karnataka office bearers**

On the occasion of its annual meeting, the CII Karnataka chapter also announced its new office bearers for the year 2025-26.

Rabindra Srikantan, Founder and Managing Director, ASM Technologies Ltd elected as the Chairman while Mr Guruprasad Mudlapur, President Bosch Group India and Managing Director, Bosch

Ltd will serve as the Vice Chairman.

Rabindra Srikantan has, with his over 35 years of experience, brings a global perspective to leadership in engineering, design, and manufacturing. Under his leadership, ASM has built a global presence delivering Engineering R&D and Design-led Manufacturing solutions.

Guruprasad Mudlapur has been the President of the Bosch Group in India and the Managing Director of Bosch Limited since 1 July, 2023, and Chief Technology Officer of Bosch Limited, since 2022. He was the Vice President at Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions India (now BGSW) in 2013 where he headed the electronics engineering division and was responsible for design & development of Automotive Semiconductors and Electronics Control Units. He was also the Regional President and Managing Director of Bosch Automotive Electronics Pvt Ltd.

# BSF seized contraband worth a record ₹461 crore in 2024

This unprecedented seizure marks the highest confiscation recorded in the past decade

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
GUWAHATI, 12 FEBRUARY

The Border Security Force (BSF) seized contraband worth Rs. 461.07 crore in 2024 during anti-smuggling operations along the India-Bangladesh border.

This unprecedented seizure marks the highest confiscation recorded in the past decade, as reported in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, responding to a parliamentary query, emphasized the BSF's multi-pronged strategy to combat smuggling.

This includes round-the-clock surveillance, intensified patrolling, and the estab-



Shipment of observation posts, effectively curbing illicit activities along one of India's most porous and vulnerable borders.

The Indo-Bangladesh border, spanning approximately 4,096 kilometers, is among the most densely populated and vulnerable international

borders in the region. The terrain varies from dense forests and hilly regions to riverine stretches, making it a prime target for cross-border smuggling of narcotics, cattle, gold, and other contraband.

According to official data presented in Parliament,

BSF seizures since 2015 have amounted to Rs. 2,806.17 crore. The record-breaking figure of Rs. 461.07 crore seized in 2024 alone underscores the growing challenges and the enhanced efficiency of border security measures.

Minister Rai outlined a series of measures adopted to strengthen border security, including the deployment of additional personnel and the construction of border fencing, particularly in vulnerable stretches. Flood-lighting and the establishment of Border Out Posts (BOPs) have significantly bolstered security, especially in riverine and densely forested areas.

Advanced technology also plays a pivotal role in the BSF's anti-smuggling oper-

ations. State-of-the-art equipment such as Hand-Held Thermal Imagers (HHTI), Night Vision Devices (NVD), Twin Telescopes, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) have been deployed to ensure round-the-clock monitoring and rapid response. Intelligence gathering capabilities have been significantly upgraded, and coordination with state governments and central intelligence agencies has been enhanced.

The surge in contraband seizures reflects both the growing scale of smuggling attempts.

The porous borders and socio-economic challenges in border areas continue to fuel smuggling activities.

# Ahead of Holi, UP CM distributes gas cylinder refills to 1.86 crore families

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, 12 MARCH

Ahead of Holi, the festival of colours, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath distributed Rs 1,890 crore subsidy for gas cylinder refills to 1.86 crore eligible families in Uttar Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

The chief minister formally launched the scheme here on Wednesday with the press of a button. Ministers in charge of all districts also joined the programme via video confer-

encing. Highlighting the transformation brought by the scheme, CM Yogi said: "While people once had to pay bribes for gas connections, today, 10 crore families across the country have received this facility free of cost. Additionally, free gas cylinders are being provided on Holi and Diwali." He highlighted that Holi and Ramzan coincide this year, ensuring everyone benefits from this initiative.

In his address, the chief minister recalled that the Ujjwala

Yojana was launched in 2016, benefiting 10 crore families nationwide, including nearly two crore beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh. He reiterated the government's commitment to its 2021 election promise—ensuring free gas cylinders on Holi and Diwali if re-elected in 2022. He said, "Since then, the initiative has been implemented annually to help people celebrate their festivals easily. With Holi and Ramzan falling together this year, the scheme will bring joy to even more households."

# Allahabad HC allows painting, lighting of Sambhal's mosque

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
PRAYAGRAJ, 12 MARCH

The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday approved white washing and painting in outer walls of Sambhal's Jama Masjid.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has been given a week's time to complete the work. The High Court has ordered the ASI to paint the mosque and put up lights.

The court said: "The Masjid Committee can do white wash-



ing and painting on the outer walls of the mosque. During Ramadan, the mosque could be decorated with lighting, but during this time, there

should be no harm or any kind of damage to the structure."

The single bench of Justice Rohit Ranjan Aggarwal pronounced the order on

Wednesday.

On February 25, the lawyer of the Jama Masjid Committee, Zahuh Asghar, filed a petition in the High Court for white washing of the mosque. The petition said that the mosque gets white washed and painted before Ramadan every year. But this time the authorities are not giving permission for this.

However, the Hindu side opposed white washing and painting of the mosque. Its photographs were also filed by ASI in the court.

temple can be erased by white washing and painting and therefore permission should not be given.

Earlier in compliance with the court order, the ASI filed an inquiry report. In the report, the Archaeological Survey of India said there is no need for white washing and painting of the mosque. During the investigation, dirt and bushes have been found to grow in the mosque. Its photographs were also filed by ASI in the court.

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Tender No. SDSTE-LHS-PUB-17GATE-PA; Dated : 11.03.2025. E-Tender is invited by Divisional Signal and Telecom Engineer-1, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building, near Howrah Railway Station, Howrah - 711101 for the following work: **Name of Work :** ELIMINATION OF MANNED L.C.GATES BY LHS / RUB AT 17 GATES OVER HOWRAH DIVISION OF HOWRAH DIVISION; **Bidding Type :** Normal Tender; **Tender Type :** Open; **Tender Closing Date Time :** 03.04.2025 at 15:00 hrs. **Advertised Value (Rs.) :** 1,11,31,984.00; **Bidding Style :** Single Rate for Each Schedule Item; **Earnest Money / Bid Security (Rs.) :** 2,05,700.00; **Contract Type :** Works; **Bidding Start Date :** 20.03.2025; **Ranking Order For Bids :** Lowest to Highest; **Bidding System :** Single Packet; **Date Time of Uploading Tender :** 11.03.2025 at 15:07 hrs.; **Tendering (Days) :** S and T; **Validity of Offer (Days) :** 60; **Period of Completion :** 6 Months; **Contract Category :** Expenditure. (HWH-667/2024-25)  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@EasternRailway](https://www.instagram.com/EasternRailway)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Notice No.: MLDT\_OPTG\_LB\_24\_25, Dated: 11.03.2025. Open e-Tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Operation Manager, Eastern Railway, Malda, P.O.-Jhaljharia, Dist.-Malda, Pin-732102 (W.B.) for the following work: **e-Tender No.: MLDT\_OPTG\_LB\_24\_25, Dated : 11.03.2025; Name of the Work :** Provision for Location Box (150 Nos.) at all stations of Malda Division; **Tender Value (Rs.):** 30,46,800.00; **Earnest Money (Rs.):** 61,000.00; **Date & time of Submission of e-tender :** Upto 12.00 hrs. of 02.04.2025 from 19.03.2025; **Website Particulars & Notice Board :** Website : [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) In Notice Board : Sr. DOM office, DRM Building, Malda. (MLD-244/2024-25)  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@EasternRailway](https://www.instagram.com/EasternRailway)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice No.: MC\_WC\_Flushingsystems\_CP, Date: 11.03.2025 Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Co), Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Room No. 42, 1st Floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 invites sealed Open Tenders on "SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM" in prescribed tender forms from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work: **Name/Description of Work:** Supply Installation and commissioning of Electro pneumatic pressurized flushing system at Chitpur depot based LHB Coaches to MCF specification MMDTS-19027-REV-01; **Tender Value(In Rs.):** 48,95,525.00; **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** 97,900.00; **Contract Period in Months :** 12; **Bidding Start Date:** 18.03.2025; **Date and Time of Closing of Tender:** 01.04.2025 at 17:00 hrs. **Date and Time of Tender Opening:** 01.04.2025 at 17:00 hrs. Tender document including e-tender notice and eligibility criteria of the work may be seen and downloaded from [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) (Website URL). No manual offer will be accepted. (SDAH-379/2024-25)  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@EasternRailway](https://www.instagram.com/EasternRailway)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Tender No. OD-FE-AMCR2-HWH-25 Dated : 11.03.2025. E-Tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (ENHM&FRT) Howrah, Eastern Railway, DRM Building, Near Railway Station, Howrah-711101 for the following work: **Name of Work:** AMC OF 5/6 Kg DCM Cartridge Pressurized Type, 6 Kg Stored Pressure Type, 9 Ltr. Water Mist Type And 4.5 Kg CO2 Type Fire Extinguishers Provided At Different Railway Stations and its Unit Offices, Head-quarter Buildings and Stationary Locations over Entire Howrah Division; **Bidding type :** Normal Tender; **Tender Type :** Open; **Tender Closing Date Time :** 02.04.2025 at 15:00 hrs.; **Advertised Value :** Rs. 44,93,447.32; **Bidding Style :** Single Rate for Each Schedule Item; **Earnest Money (Rs.) :** 89,900.00; **Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.) :** 0.00; **Contract Type :** Works - General; **Bidding Start Date :** 19.03.2025; **Ranking Order For Bids :** Lowest to Highest; **Bidding System :** Single Packet System; **Date Time of Uploading Tender :** 11.03.2025 at 11:28 hrs.; **Tendering Section :** MECH CN W; **Validity of Offer (Days) :** 60; **Period of Completion :** 24 Months; **Contract Category :** Expenditure; **Expenditure Type :** Revenue. (HWH-669/2024-25)  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@EasternRailway](https://www.instagram.com/EasternRailway)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Tender No. MC-Lorry-PKR-CnW-HWH-25, Dated: 10.03.2025. Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Carriage and Wagon), Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway station, Howrah-711101 invites open E-Tender for the following work: **Name of the Work:** Hiring of Diesel Operated Lorries having capacity of 10 Ton for Transportation of Materials under the Control of Carriage and Wagon Department, Pakur, Howrah Division, Eastern Railway for 3 years. **Tender value :** Rs. 53,27,616.88; **Period of Contract :** 36 months from the Date of Commencement of Work; **Earnest Money to be Deposit :** Rs. 1,06,600.00; Website Particulars for submission of Tender online: [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) Bid Closing Date and Time : 01.04.2025 up to 14:00 hours. (HWH-666/2024-25)  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@EasternRailway](https://www.instagram.com/EasternRailway)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. ENGG-10/24-25 (Open), dated 10.03.2025 (Capital Tender). E-tenders are invited by the Chief Works Manager, Eastern Railway, Kancharpara Workshop, North 24 Parganas, P.O. - Kancharpara, Pin-743145 (WB) through website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) from reputed contractors with sufficient experience and financial capability who have executed similar nature of work in the past preferably with Railway/CPWD/ PWD/MES/ Irrigation or any other Public Sector Undertakings for the following works: **SI.No. (1); Tender No. : WT-25-24-25; Description of Work :** AT KPWW- Provision of testing facility of RMPU of AC coaches under S26 & Trailer Coach testing facility under S15 as centre of excellence at S/20. **Tender value :** Rs. 17,26,320.15; **Earnest Money/Bid Security:** Rs. 34,500.00. **Cost of tender document:** Nil. **Competition period from the date of issuance of LOA :** 04 months. **SI.No. (2); Tender No. : WT-26-24-25; Description of Work :** AT KPWW- Renovation of development of Schaku Coupler section as centre of excellence. **Tender value :** Rs. 66,00,537.80; **Earnest Money/Bid Security:** Rs. 1,32,000.00. **Cost of tender document:** Nil. **Competition period from the date of issuance of LOA :** 09 months. **Date & time of opening of tender :** 02.04.2025 after 14.30 hrs. for both tenders. "The Railway BD vide L.No.20/20/C.D.E-1/CT/3E/GCC/ POLICY, DT-30.12.2020 had instructed not to take any EMD for any works tender upto 31.12.2021. But, as there is no such further instruction till date, hence, the EMD system is returned back. The scope of work is indicative only. However, details can be viewed at Indian Railway e-tendering site (IREPS) i.e. <https://www.reps.gov.in> Advertisement period : Time during which all information pertaining to tender shall be available but offers cannot be submitted. **Offer submission period :** Fifteen days prior to opening of tender, during which tenderers can submit their offer. **Tender will be closed on 02.04.2025 at 14:00 hrs. and tender will be opened on same date at any time after 14.30 hrs. as per availability of opening personnel and net accessibility.** (MISC-382/2024-25)  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@EasternRailway](https://www.instagram.com/EasternRailway)

**OFFICE OF THE SAKOJHORA II GRAM PANCHAYAT**  
**Notice Inviting Quotation**  
e-Quotation is invited by the AOP Uja Samiti, Sakojhora II GP by e-NIQ No.: 08 / SAKO II / (WB)-25, dated 07.03.2025. The last date & time of bid submission is 21-03-2025 up to 18-00 hours. For details, visit: [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) Sd/- Pradhan & Sanchalok Artho O Parikalpana Upa Samiti Sakojhora II GP

**S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER**  
For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tender for the following works before 15:00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15:30hrs. **SI.No. : 1; Tender Notice No. : E-KGP-HQ-08-2025; Description of work :** (i) Civil Engineering work in connection with Replacement of power supply equipment with RDSO approved IPS at LC nos. PH-18, PH-23, PH-46, PH-55, TD-10 & TD-35; overaged 9 nos. Electric Lifting Barrier and different parts of ELB in Kharagpur division & (ii) Construction of Gate goomty at LC No. PH-6, PH-10 & Electrical room at each LC in connection with Interlocking of LC Gates under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Tamluk; **Tender Value (Rs.) :** ₹1,31,01,842.16; **Earnest Money (Rs.) :** ₹2,15,500.00; **Tender Document Cost (Rs.) :** ₹0.00; **Date of opening :** 26.03.2025. **Completion period of the work :** 15 Months. **Bidding Start Date:** For SI. No. 1 from 12.03.2025 and up to 18:00 hrs. on 26.03.2025. Interested tenderers may visit website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) for full details/ descriptions/specifications of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit "www.reps.gov.in" to participate in all tenders. (PR-1225)  
Dy. CSE/TE/Work/HQ/GRC acting for and on behalf of the President of India, South Eastern Railway, Kolkata-700043 invites e-Tenders against tender no. **ST\_P\_SER\_2025\_MPL\_VOIP\_4** Closing Date/Time 10.04.2025 11:30 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **SI. No. : 1; e-Tender Notice No. : ST\_P\_SER\_2025\_MPL\_VOIP\_4, Dated 11/03/2025; Description of Work :** Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of IP-MPLS Technology for Unified Communication Backbone & VOIP based Train Control Communication System (TCS) over Adra, Kharagpur, Ranchi and Chakrabarti Division of South Eastern Railway; **Approximate cost of work (in Rs.):** ₹58,79,15,414.89; **Earnest money (in Rs.):** ₹30,89,60,00.00; **Closing date and time :** 10.04.2025 at 11:30 hrs. The detailed of tender notice for the above tender has already been published in website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) (PR-1225)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
e-Tender Notice No. : AEN/Sports Ground-Bldg/LLH, Dated : 10.03.2025 E-Tender is invited by Chief Works Manager, Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah-711204 from reputed approved and eligible contractors of Railways and those of appropriate list of Dept. of Govt./Public sector undertaking for the under mentioned works:- **SI.No. 1. Tender No. : AENWS-Sportsground-LLH; Name of Work :** Upgradation of Workshop Sports Ground at Liluah workshop for multipurpose Sports activities under CWM/LLH Workshop; **Tender Value :** Rs. 98,74,185.65; **Cost of Tender Document:** Nil; **Bid Security (Rs.) :** 1,97,500.00; **Completion Period:** 210 Days; **SI.No. 2. Tender No. : AENWS-SportsbuildingLLH; Name of Work :** Construction of Sports Association building (Two storied) with Sports gallery and Sports Officers' Chamber etc. at Liluah under CWM/Liluah; **Tender Value :** Rs. 40,71,169.42; **Cost of Tender Document:** Nil; **Bid Security (Rs.) :** 81,400.00; **Completion Period:** 210 Days; **Date and Time of Closing of Tender:** 03.04.2025 up to 12.00 hrs. The details of tender are available at website <https://www.reps.gov.in> alongwith corrigendum (if any). Tenderer are requested to submit their offer on line on the above website. No manual offer will be accepted. (MISC-380/2024-25)  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@EasternRailway](https://www.instagram.com/EasternRailway)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. 222-SI/IW-II, dated: 10.03.2025. E-Tender is invited by the Divisional Engineer/HQ, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: **Tender No.: TN-259-24-25. Name of the Work :** For the Electrical work towards shifting of existing Sealdah Yard [Power House] Sub-Station due to over age basis of switch gear and sub-station building under SSE/Works/Station/Sealdah under the jurisdiction of AEN/II/SDAH; **Tender Value (In Rs.):** 1,15,53,479.18; **EMD (In Rs.):** 2,07,800.00; **Date & time of closing of tender :** 04.04.2025 at 15:00 hrs.; **Completion period for the work :** 09 (Nine) months; **Date & time of opening of tender:** 04.04.2025 at 15:00 hrs. The tender document and other details are at [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. (SDAH-377/2024-25)  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@EasternRailway](https://www.instagram.com/EasternRailway)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
**E-AUCTION NOTICE**  
No. Commercial/Tender/STAT/Malda/2023 Dated : 11.03.2025 Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Malda, Malda Town office, P.O.-Jhaljharia, Dist.-Malda, Pin-732102 (West Bengal), (Auction Conducting Officer) has published e-auction catalogue on [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) for awarding contracts of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushdhi Kendras (PMBJK) Stall in circulating area at Bhagalpur Jn. Railway station over Malda Division. **Auction Catalogue No. : PMBJK-BGP-25-04; Auction Start : 28.03.2025 at 11:45 hours; Seq. No. AA/1; Lot No./Category: PMBJK-MLDT-BGP-PMBJK-4-24-1; Station :** Bhagalpur. (MLD-248/2024-25)  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@EasternRailway](https://www.instagram.com/EasternRailway)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/C, Eastern Railway, Kancharpara Workshop, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin-743145 invites open GeM Service Tender for CAMC of Electrically Operated Multitrack Traverser, BOT Capacity and Plant No. 18/232 for period of 02 years through open tender basis at Carriage Workshop/Eastern Railway/Kancharpara. **BID No. : 05.03.2025. BID End Date/Time:** 26.03.2025 at 11:00 hrs.; **BID Opening Date/Time:** 26.03.2025 at 11:30 hrs.; **EMD: 2 % of Bid Estimate value i.e. Rs. 88,911.00 e-PBG: 3 % of P.O value. Estimate value of Tender:** Rs. 44,45,567.40; **Period of Completion:** 2 Year; **Estimate No:** MCP/M&P/ CAMC/ Alpha Traverser/80 Ton/18-232/ Estimate/2024-25 dated 17.02.2025. The GeM Service BID Documents will be available at GeM Portal (Govt. e Market Place) i.e. GeM Portal <https://gem.gov.in> and rates are to be quoted online and submitted online through GeM Portal i.e. <https://gem.gov.in> (MISC-381/2024-25)  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@EasternRailway](https://www.instagram.com/EasternRailway)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice No. 12 of 2025; Date: 10-03-2025. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. : DCESTMLG-14-2025. Name of work & Location:** (a) At Nambari - Renovation of Senior Institute at Goshala colony. (b) At Nambari - Complete renovation of Community Hall at Goshala colony including the development of Malibang Field attached to Community Hall. **Tender Value :** ₹3,30,71,932.52; **Earnest Money :** ₹3,15,400.00. **Tender No. : DCESTMLG-15-2025. Name of work & Location:** (a) NFR HQ Office - Raising of boundary wall with provision of lighting arrangement and development of centralized toilet block (b) At Maligaon - Upgradation of PCMM office, construction of conference hall including furniture. **Tender Value :** ₹2,72,34,075.12; **Earnest Money :** ₹2,86,200.00. **E-tenders will be closed at 13:00 hrs. on 02-04-2025 and will be opened at 13:00 hrs. on 02-04-2025.** For details please visit [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in). Dy. Chief Engineer/Estato, Maligaon (NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY "Serving Customers with a smile")

**ENGINEERING WORKS**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE No. 12 of 2025; Date: 10-03-2025.** E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. : DCESTMLG-14-2025. Name of work & Location:** (a) At Nambari - Renovation of Senior Institute at Goshala colony. (b) At Nambari - Complete renovation of Community Hall at Goshala colony including the development of Malibang Field attached to Community Hall. **Tender Value :** ₹3,30,71,932.52; **Earnest Money :** ₹3,15,400.00. **Tender No. : DCESTMLG-15-2025. Name of work & Location:** (a) NFR HQ Office - Raising of boundary wall with provision of lighting arrangement and development of centralized toilet block (b) At Maligaon - Upgradation of PCMM office, construction of conference hall including furniture. **Tender Value :** ₹2,72,34,075.12; **Earnest Money :** ₹2,86,200.00. **E-tenders will be closed at 13:00 hrs. on 02-04-2025 and will be opened at 13:00 hrs. on 02-04-2025.** For details please visit [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in). Dy. Chief Engineer/Estato, Maligaon (NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY "Serving Customers with a smile")

For and on behalf of President of India, the Dy. CSE (Co)/Kharagpur-721301 invites e-tender for the following works and will be opened at 12:00 hrs. **SI. No. : 1; Tender Notice No. : ST-OT-Rainnet-CMS-SHM, Date: 11.03.2025; Description of work :** S&T portion of work for rainnet connectivity & CMS connection for construction of new 60 bedded Running Room at Shalimar; **Tender value :** ₹28,84,246.48; **EMD :** ₹57,700.00; **Cost of tender document :** Nil; **Date of Opening :** 04.04.2025; **Completion Period :** 3 Months. **Date of Submission :** up to 12 hrs. of 04.04.2025. Interested Tenderers may visit website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) for full details description specification of the tender and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. (PR-1225)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Abridged Tender Notice No. KPA-ERS-OT-42-24-25, dated, 10.03.2025, Tender Notice for E-tender invited by Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Kancharpara Workshop, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin-743145 for the following work: **Tender No. : KPA-ERS-OT-42-24-25, Description:** "Rehabilitation of Aluminium Foil 5400 KVA transformer for electric locomotives, Qty. 10 nos". **Tender Value :** Rs. 2,55,00,950.00 only inclusive of GST & all others charges. **Date & time of opening of tender :** 03.03.2025 at 15:00 hrs. **Period of completion:** 24 months. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website: [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in). The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. (MISC-377/2024-25)  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@EasternRailway](https://www.instagram.com/EasternRailway)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
E-Auction Notice No. COMP/PUB/HWH/EMU/2024 Date: 11.03.2025 E-Auction is invited by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah Division, DRM Building, Howrah, 4th Floor, Yatri Niwas, Near Howrah Station, Howrah-711101 for awarding contract of Commercial Publicity Rights. **Catalogue No. : PUB-HWH-25-11; Auction start date & time:** 26.03.2025 at 12:00 hrs.; **Seq. No. : AA/1; Lot No. : ADVT-IntExt-S1-EMUR22-25-1 (Advertising - Train Interior and Exterior); Description :** Awarding Commercial Publicity Rights Through Vinyl Wrapping (graphic Films According to RDSO Specification) on the Exterior Surface of the Entire Side Walls (barring Windows and Mandatory Signage) and on the Specified Locations inside the Coaches of 12 Coach EMU Rake Plying over Howrah Division; **Seq. No. : AA/2; Lot No. : ADVT-IntExt-S1-EMUR24-25-1 (Advertising - Train Interior and Exterior); Description :** Awarding Commercial Publicity Rights Through Vinyl Wrapping (graphic Films According to RDSO Specification) on the Exterior Surface of the Entire Side Walls (barring Windows and Mandatory Signage) and on the Specified Locations inside the Coaches of 12 Coach EMU Rake Plying over Howrah Division. (HWH-670/2024-25)  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@EasternRailway](https://www.instagram.com/EasternRailway)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE INVITING E-AUCTION**  
E-Auction Notice No. COMP/PUB/HWH/EMU/2024 Date: 11.03.2025 E-Auction is invited by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah Division, DRM Building, Howrah, 4th Floor, Yatri Niwas, Near Howrah Station, Howrah-711101 for awarding contract of Commercial Publicity Rights. **Catalogue No. : PUB-HWH-25-11; Auction start date & time:** 26.03.2025 at 12:00 hrs.; **Seq. No. : AA/1; Lot No. : ADVT-IntExt-S1-EMUR22-25-1 (Advertising - Train Interior and Exterior); Description :** Awarding Commercial Publicity Rights Through Vinyl Wrapping (graphic Films According to RDSO Specification) on the Exterior Surface of the Entire Side Walls (barring Windows and Mandatory Signage) and on the Specified Locations inside the Coaches of 12 Coach EMU Rake Plying over Howrah Division. (HWH-670/2024-25)  
Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@EasternRailway](https://www.instagram.com/EasternRailway)

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
**E-AUCTION NOTICE**  
No. Com/Pay & Use/MLDT/Misc/2024 Dated : 11.03.2025 Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Malda, Malda Town office, P.O.-Jhaljharia, Dist.- Malda, Pin-732102 (West Bengal), (Auction Conducting Officer) has published e-auction catalogue on [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) for operation of Pay & Use Toilet lot at Pirpanti (PPT), Jamalpur (JMP) & Munger (MGR) station over Malda Division. **Auction Catalogue No. : pay-use-04-2025; Auction Start : 27.03.2025 at 11:45 hours; SI. No. 1; Lot No: PnU**

# Wit, satire and nostalgia

KRISHNAN SRINIVASAN

Humour is hard to define, being an intensely personal and private reaction. The sense of wit and appreciation of the jocular is even more idiosyncratic than the private sensations of horror, consternation and shock generated by the genres of ghostly paranormal writing or filming. Suresh Subrahmanyam, an erstwhile advertising and marketing executive, has been a regular humourist on several media platforms, and has so far published four compilations of his columns, of which I have read two.

Whether Indians have a sense of humour at all is debatable, judging by the propensity of local Savonarolas and police personnel servile to political correctness and the ruling party in the capital, to initiate legal cases against any unfortunate attempting in public to engage in innocent witticisms which will unfailingly wound the hyper-sensitive sentiments of those vigilantes eager to be affronted. Consequently, for defying the inquisitors and the stone-faced bigots, Suresh deserves multiple thanks for his endeavours. Not each of his columns inspires a grin or raises a laugh, but his innocent objective is laudable. His gaze on human and national foibles is wry and benevolent, and his short takes have covered a wide spectrum of daily life; the Indian

obsession with cricket, the bitterness of married life, the screaming brigade of the TV anchors, and the controversy about names, whether regarding 'Bharat' or Elon Musk's many progeny.

Humour is a category of literature that is accessible but not easy to sustain, but if there is to be a fifth collection in the offing, it will be as pleasurable a read as its predecessors.

Suresh's prose disguises his great learning and wide knowledge; his scholarship is impressive. His favoured writers, whom he quotes frequently – one could even say, excessively – are PG Wodehouse and William Shakespeare. There is no denying the greatness of these two authors and their place in the pantheon, but in the specific groves of written humour, noteworthy also are SJ Perelman, James Thurber, Evelyn Waugh, Sue Townsend and Helen Fielding, and many others. For Suresh Subrahmanyam even to be referenced along with those champions is sufficient praise indeed.

The reviewer is a former foreign secretary



**Spot Light**  
**MORE AND MORE ABOUT LESS AND LESS**  
**BY SURESH SUBRAHMANYAN**  
**NOTIONPRESS, CHENNAI, 2024**  
**317 PAGES, ₹445/-**

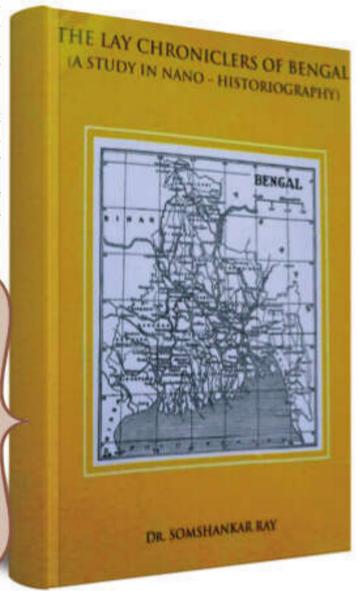
## RECOMMENDED READING

# Divulging in Nano Historiography

"The term nano-history (anu itihās) pertains to historical narratives focusing on smaller entities or localities, such as districts, sub-divisions, towns, and villages, rather than nations or larger regions," explains Dr. Somshankar Ray. In his book, "The Lay Chroniclers of Bengal: A Study in Nano Historiography", he delves into the region's local historical dynamics in fascinating detail.

In an article for The Statesman, Dr Ray, an assistant professor at Vidyasagar College for Women, Kolkata, had further noted, "In undivided Bengal, from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century, a noteworthy trend emerged, where chronicles of sub-regions were crafted, predominantly in Bengali." And, "It is remarkable to find out that most of the local chroniclers were not institutional academicians but so-called amateurs or laypersons. They comprised junior-level government employees, lawyers, school teachers, minor zamindars and small-time businessmen." This book takes the reader on a tour of this amazing world of nano-history and its chroniclers.

**Spot Light**  
**THE LAY CHRONICLERS OF - A STUDY IN NANO HISTORIOGRAPHY**  
**BY DR. SOMSHANKAR RAY**  
**ONEWORLD BOOK PUBLISHING, 2021**  
**244 PAGES 490/-**



# Reflections on architecture— Its meaning and purpose

P VENUGOPAL

The book "Listening to Stillness", a compilation of transcribed lectures and conversations of Prof. Neelkanth Chhaya on architecture, put together with loving care by team Akarmaa, is a wellspring of critical and reflective thinking, brilliant insights and plural world views about the discourse and its practice. His talks are qualified by reverence for human life, nature, our planet, Gandhian ideals and a passionate inquiry into how architecture can subtly mediate these realms and concerns and celebrate our existence. Prof. Chhaya's talks, informed by existential, social and ecological consciousness, locate the goals for architectural discourse and its practice in an expansive canvas of moral and ethical responsibility.

In the preface to the book, Prof. Chhaya critiques the prevalent rational worldview, which he explains considers nature, our planet, all materials and resources as objects for human consumption, and writes, "Our world system, arising out of these colonizing, extractive, exploitative and consumerist outlooks, is set for ecological disasters, which we are in the midst of." In contrast, he points to learning from biotic

ecosystems that he explains invariably follow not a linear but a circular process of absorption, use and waste. Against this backdrop, explaining Aldo Van Eyck's profound observation, "Architecture need do no more, nor should it ever do less, than assist man's homecoming", Prof. Neelkanth Chhaya writes, "Feeling at home perhaps arises out of a sense of being at rest, of being at peace, of being relaxed and in harmonious relationship with the world". He further writes, "In consequence, architecture works with the poetry of interconnectedness" and continues, "Architecture can make the unpredictable and ever-surprising play of material, light, sound, texture and smell remind us of the wonder of existence."

Further, in a conversation on Architectures of Indian Modernity, Prof. Neelkanth Chhaya reflects on the consequence of pursuing a singular idea and worldview, and says, "This is something which, I think, human societies and modernism cut at the root. They said, 'Find the one good way and throw away everything that went before.' That violent notion of the idea as something that rules in a singular way is something which is the worst part of the last two hundred years of thinking". In another brilliant talk at a com-

petition to design for the warkari pilgrims, he speaks on pilgrimage as a sacred journey that unites the pilgrim with the world. Subsequently distinguishing a tourist and pilgrim, he reflects on the present state of architecture, "The pilgrim connects ourselves to the world, the tourist disconnects and becomes the voyeur of the world and can, therefore, do any kind of damage to the earth. And this is what our architecture is today. That it has to look good, and it has to give pleasure at any cost, and everything should be under control". Instead, Prof Chhaya suggests that architecture should become a "vessel of hospitality".

In the Takshila lecture on Architecture and Society reflecting on our present world of quick and ephemeral image-driven experiences in relentless succession where the architect merely becomes a provider of impressive experiences, Prof. Neelkanth Chhaya writes, "experience after experience and we remain unfulfilled and empty and this is what the architect is supposed to handle too. The architect is the entertainer, the magician, the jester for society, and this leads to something very important in that you are not anymore heard because you are simply the entertainer". Against this backdrop, Prof Chhaya suggests

that the way out from this condition is to address necessities perceived in a profound sense, as rhythms of nature in which human life likes to participate and says, "So, then architecture is a means to comprehend, accept, adapt to, and make tangible the rhythms of nature".

The concluding piece of the book is an article by Prof. Neelkanth Chhaya titled "Gandhi's architecture and its meanings". In the article, he presents an insightful study of two Ashrams that Gandhiji built at Sabarmati in Ahmadabad and Sevagram near Wardha. On Hriday Kunj, the ashram at Sabarmati, he writes, "A sense of open spaciousness pervades, allowing the flow of breezes through the house". About the ashram at Sevagram, called Babu Kuti, he writes, "He (Gandhiji) insisted that it should be made with materials that were found within fifty kilometres of the location that it should be built by hand; it should use the simplest of techniques and that it should cost as little as an ordinary Indian could afford".

In the ensuing paragraphs of the article on the ashrams, Prof. Chhaya also explains the vows followed at the Sabarmati ashram and their import for the conscientious use of materials and energy. After a detailed explanation, he proceeds to sum-

marise, "We might summarize such a philosophy as a short but expressive phrase: participation rather than mastery. In many ways, an attitude of participation would be an attitude of recognizing the interconnectedness of all phenomena that comprise the world. Mastery, in contrast, requires a clear separation of parts so that some part can establish mastery over other parts".

These excerpts are examples, and there are several other talks in the book by Prof. Neelkanth Chhaya and discussions with him by eminent thinkers, all imbued with rich thought. His conversations celebrate holistic thinking over disintegrated and individualistic thinking, plural world views over singular worldviews rolling towards singular destinies, cyclic and interconnected processes over linear extractive regimes, diffused and distributed systems with a democratic prospect over concentrated power centres of production and planning, participation in the rhythms of nature over mastering them and architecture as a mediator that assists our homecoming over its alienation from life.

On the one hand, it may be argued that our political and market realities, the power of the deepening neo-liberal landscape, the buoyant aspirations of people, and the exi-

gencies and complexities surrounding contemporary professional practices of architecture could test the prospect of reaching Prof. Chhaya's ideals. On the other hand, the latter can serve as a counterpoint of reflective stillness and a moral compass and equally test the moral and ethical content and poetic value of our engagements with the discourse of architecture and its practice. Those ready for this encounter may dive into one of our times' precious, thought-provoking and intellectually stimulating books!

**Spot Light**  
**LISTENING TO STILLNESS**  
**BY PROF. NEELKANTH CHHAYA**  
**THANNARAM-AKARMAA, 2025**  
**223 PAGES**



The writer is a practising architect based in Hyderabad

# Revisiting controversy surrounding CAG's Rafale report

Excerpted from CAG Ensuring Accountability Amidst Controversies: An Inside View

A seminal contribution to public accountability and reporting by CAG Mr Mehriishi was the much-discussed 'redacted' report (presented to Parliament in February 2019) on the acquisition of Rafale fighter aircraft from France. This report concluded that the 2016 agreement for 36 Rafale aircraft was 2.86% cheaper than the previous proposal and included certain recommendations for improving the defence acquisition process.

The report on what was called 'the Rafale deal' was criticised for several omissions and 'redactions', particularly concerning pricing and cost-related details. Here's a summary of the criticisms:

a. Exclusion of Price Comparisons: The report compared the 2007 and 2016 deals but redacted the exact price figures of the aircraft and other cost details due to confidentiality clauses. Critics argued that this lack of transparency made it difficult to assess the government's claim of cost savings in the 2016 deal.

b. Omission of Offset Clauses: The report failed to analyse the offset agreements, including the role of private company Reliance Defence in Dassault's offset obligations, which had been a significant point of public and political debate.

c. Selective Focus: The report concentrated primarily on technical and procedural aspects whilst avoiding in-depth scrutiny of critical financial and contractual elements, particularly the pricing structure.

d. Lack of Accountability: By redacting key pricing details, the report failed to hold the government accountable for its claims of securing a 'better deal' in terms of cost and value for money.

e. No Examination of Customary Practices: The report avoided commenting on deviations from established procurement practices, such as the lack of financial guarantees and the bypassing of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in manufacturing offsets.

The broader criticism held that these 'omissions' sparked allegations that the report failed to adequately address public concerns about the Rafale deal, particularly regarding transparency, potential cost esca-

lations and the rationale behind key contractual decisions. Critics considered the report incomplete in its efforts to clear doubts about the deal's fairness and value.

## What was the defence of CAG?

There was no public defence, but it could have followed these lines. He was not bound to restrict his examination to only one contract, which incidentally had acquired political overtones. He therefore undertook an examination of several Air Force acquisitions in the report. Redaction was carried out based on considerations of pure national interest.

It is the prerogative of CAG how, the manner, extent and reporting must be conducted. As of December 2024, there is no publicly available information indicating that the PAC has submitted a report to Parliament specifically addressing the CAG's report on the Rafale aircraft acquisition. The redacted Rafale report set a rather complex precedent whereby the CAG could be pressurised or reminded to redact future reports on other issues, attributable either to national interest or confidentiality clauses in intergovernmental or incorporate agreements.

This is a legacy that the institution of CAG could have done without. Some critics noted that the CAG in this case was also a member of the procurement committee that recommended the purchase when he was Finance Secretary, and hence there could have been a conflict of interest when he examined the matter as CAG. One has to wait to see what future audit reports hold for the nation and the public, which is also a stakeholder of CAG according to its Vision and Mission statement.

The period from August 2020 to November 2024 did not show any significant improvement, either in terms of the quality of reports presented to Parliament or public interest in his reports, particularly those concerning GoI. The CAG during this period was Mr G.C. Murmu. His tenure saw some noteworthy initiatives, including taking the lead in examining Blue Economy and using Artificial Intelligence (AI), focusing on the audit of Panchayati Raj institutions through stakeholder engagement, establishing a specialised training institute in Rajkot, Gujarat, expediting government accounting standards, natural resources accounting, and international audits.

However, there were also some unfortunate incidents. Towards the end of his tenure, Mr Murmu faced

criticism and allegations of indiscretion, including the posting of a junior officer with questionable integrity to one of its overseas audit offices, despite protests from senior management regarding the IAAS officer's probity.

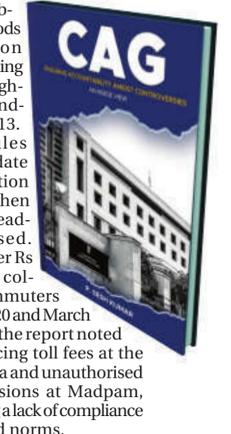
The officer had to be recalled from the posting. Although allegations were circulating in the media and many senior IAAS officers had brought it to the CAG's attention, instead of preventing the posting, the officer was allowed to proceed. Only a month later, with just days remaining in Mr Murmu's tenure, the officer was suspended following a quick inquiry.

IAAS officers were agitated by another significant development during Mr Murmu's tenure when the CAG tabled (August 2023) a significant audit report No. 7 of 2023 to Parliament titled Compliance Audit on Toll Operations of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The report uncovered a range of irregularities and inefficiencies in the functioning of the NHAI across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala, including Dwarka Expressway in NCR. These findings sparked controversy, not only over governance lapses but also due to anomalies within the CAG's own handling of

the aftermath of the report exposed critical issues in toll collection practices. It highlighted that NHAI continued to levy toll fees at several plazas, including Nathavala, Chalageri and Hebbalu, during periods of construction delays, contravening the National Highways Fee (Amendment) Rules, 2013.

These rules explicitly mandate that toll collection should cease when construction deadlines are missed. Despite this, over Rs 124 crore was collected from commuters between May 2020 and March 2021. Similarly, the report noted a delay in reducing toll fees at the Paranur toll plaza and unauthorised annual fee revisions at Madpam, further indicating a lack of compliance with established norms.

**Spot Light**  
**CAG ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY AMIDST CONTROVERSIES: AN INSIDE VIEW**  
**BY P SESH KUMAR**  
**WHITE FALCON PUBLISHING, 2025**  
**223 PAGES 244 PAGES, ₹ 699/-**



# PSG stun Liverpool to reach QF; Barcelona, Bayern, Inter also win

French giants edge out English outfit on penalties while trio of former European champions also progress into last eight

AGENCIES  
LIVERPOOL, 12 MARCH

Paris won 1-0 at Anfield before more Gianluigi Donnarumma shoot-out heroics helped them to overcome Liverpool on penalties and reach the UEFA Champions League quarterfinals.

Paris keeper Donnarumma saved twice in the shoot-out as Paris overcame a 1-0 first-leg deficit to reach the quarterfinals.

Ousmane Dembele completed a slick move by slotting in his seventh goal of the campaign in the 12th minute, drawing Paris level in the tie in doing so, but Liverpool dominated after the break and Luis Enrique's side needed Donnarumma to brilliantly paw Luis Diaz's header away and maintain overall parity in the tie.

The visitors went closest during extra time before Donnarumma denied Darwin Nunez and Curtis Jones from the spot, allowing 19-year-old substitute Desire Doue to convert the decisive penalty.

Earlier, Barcelona became the first team into the last eight, turning on the style in an emphatic second-leg win against Benfica in the early kick-off. Raphinha and Lamine Yamal starred as Barcelona roared into the quarterfinals. The pair combined for the 11th-minute opener, the Spanish youngster providing a fine cross for the Brazilian international to coolly volley in. Nicolas Otamendi replied almost instantly for Benfica with a header.

Yamal netted the pick of the goals with a sublime curl-



ing strike on 27 minutes, and Raphinha then fired in his 11th of the campaign to become the overall top scorer this season and end the contest before half-time.

Bayern Munich also cruised through against Bundesliga rivals Leverkusen. Harry Kane's tap-in and Alphonso Davies' first-time finish sealed a convincing victory for Bayern. Kane, twice denied by

Lukas Hradecky in the opening stages, extended the lead across the tie early in the second half with a straight-forward strike after Patrik Schick's clearance rebounded into the path of the Bayern No.9. The England captain then turned provider when spotting the run of Davies into the area, with the Canadian international full-back sweeping in impressively.

The visitors pressed for further goals in the closing stages, with Jamal Musiala denied by the woodwork on two occasions. Bayern will meet Inter in the quarterfinals after the Nerazzurri completed their assignment against Feyenoord.

Inter are through to the quarter-finals for just the second time since 2010/11 after wrapping up a com-

fortable aggregate triumph over Feyenoord. Marcus Thuram put the Serie A side ahead in style eight minutes in, receiving the ball midway inside the Feyenoord half and weaving his way into the penalty area before unleashing a sensational long-range strike.

Jakub Moder reduced the deficit for Feyenoord from the penalty spot just before

half-time but Inter replied with a spot kick of their own shortly after the interval, converted by Hakan Calhanoglu for his second goal in the Champions League knockout rounds – the first coming in February 2015.

Barcelona, Bayern, Inter and PSG are the first four teams through to the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

## Barca, Madrid greats raring for 'Legends Faceoff' in Mumbai

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, 12 MARCH

With football's greatest rivalries coming to Indian soil with legends of Real Madrid and FC Barcelona reigniting their iconic battle, Luis Figo, Carles Puyol, Fernando Morientes, and Ricardo Quaresma are among the football greats excited to bring the magic on the pitch in 'Legends Faceoff'.

This historic faceoff will take place at the 55,000-capacity DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on 6 April.

Figo, a Ballon d'Or winner (2000) and a key figure in Portuguese football history, played for both FC Barcelona and Real Madrid, winning multiple La Liga titles and the 2002 UEFA Champions League with Los Blancos.

"India, I know you love football, and I can't wait to bring the magic to Mumbai. Let's make this an unforgettable night!" Figo said.

Puyol is a defensive powerhouse for FC Barcelona and Spain, captaining Barca to six La Liga titles and three UEFA Champions League trophies, while also playing a crucial role in Spain's 2010 FIFA World Cup triumph and UEFA Euro 2008 victory.

"India, I've seen your passion for football from afar – now it's time to witness it up close. Can't wait to feel the energy in Mumbai!" said Puyol.

Morientes, a prolific goalscorer, was instrumental in Real Madrid's dominance, securing three UEFA Champions League titles (1998, 2000, 2002) and representing Spain in two FIFA World Cups (1998, 2002) and UEFA Euro 2004. "I've played in some of the most electric stadiums in the world, and now it's time to experience India's football madness. See you soon, Mumbai!"

added Morientes. Quaresma, known for his flair and creativity, was a key part of Portugal's UEFA Euro 2016-winning squad. The former FC Barcelona and FC Porto winger also won league titles in Portugal and Turkey, along with the UEFA Europa League with Porto (2011), cementing his reputation as one of the game's most skillful wingers. "I've heard incredible things about football fans in India. Excited to finally experience it in Mumbai!" stated Quaresma.

This is not the first time Barca Legends are heading back to India. They last played in Calcutta on September 29, 2018 against a team of veterans from Mohun Bagan, comfortably winning 6-0.

Speaking on the association Josep Maria Meseguer, Head - Barcelona Legends, said, "We truly appreciate India's efforts in bringing a historic match like El Clasico to Mumbai. Football holds a special place in the hearts of Indian fans, and events like these help strengthen the global football community. A special thanks to John Zaidi and The Sports Front team for their dedication and passion in making this possible. Their vision and hard work have created an incredible platform for fans to experience the magic of Barca Legends and Real Madrid Leyendas live."

Speaking about this landmark event, John Zaidi, CEO and Co-Founder of The Sports Front, added, "Legends Faceoff is a historic moment for Indian football, and we are thrilled to bring these iconic players to Mumbai. This match is not just about football; it's about celebrating the passion and love for the game that Indian fans have always shown. We can't wait for an unforgettable night on 6 April."

## Indian Wells: Rune beats Tsitsipas, enters 9th Masters 1000 QF

AGENCIES  
INDIAN WELLS, 12 MARCH

Holger Rune overcame Stefanos Tsitsipas in the Indian Wells fourth round to snap the Greek's seven-match winning streak.

Rune flashed his entire repertoire in a 6-4, 6-4 win over Tsitsipas that upped his record against the Greek Grand Slam finalist to 4-0. He pulled off perhaps one of the shots of the year in the second set, a tweener lob.

Rune is into his ninth Masters 1000 quarter-final, with his best result at this level a title run in Paris in 2022 when he was just 19. Having reached the same stage in Indian Wells last year, the 12th seed is the first Scandinavian since Stefan Edberg in 1994-95 to advance to consecutive quarter-finals in the California desert, ATP reports.

Rune had an inconsistent start to the year. The World No. 13 reached the fourth round at the Australian Open



but struggled in February, failing to record consecutive wins at tour-level events in Rotterdam, Buenos Aires and Acapulco.

After earning his 16th Top 10 win and first on an outdoor hard court, Rune will aim to continue his run when he meets Tallon Griekspoor in the last eight.

"It was an extremely good match from my side from start to finish. I stayed very committed to my game plan. Mentally I was very, very

good. I think that's what made the difference. How composed I could stay," Rune, who had to retire at his last tournament in Acapulco due to food poisoning, said in a TV interview.

Earlier, Griekspoor overcame Japanese qualifier Yosuke Watanuki and the rain to reach his first ATP Masters 1000 quarter-final.

In a rain-disrupted clash, Griekspoor earned a 7-6(4), 6-1 win to become the first Dutchman to advance to the

last eight at a Masters 1000 since Robin Haase in Toronto in 2018.

Griekspoor captured the biggest win of his career in the second round when he upset No. 2 in the ATP Rankings Alexander Zverev. Griekspoor has been in red-hot form in recent weeks, having also advanced to the semifinals in Dubai.

In the women's section, No. 23 seed Elina Svitolina of Ukraine withstood rain and battled into the Indian Wells Open quarterfinals with a 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 upset of No. 4 seed American Jessica Pegula.

The former Indian Wells semifinalist shook off her early misfortunes and flipped the match on its ear as she claimed 12 of the final 15 games to earn a trip to her 21st WTA 1000 quarterfinal, and first since 2021.

On a misty day in the California desert, Svitolina and Pegula had to brave a lengthy rain delay after the first game of the third set. It was Svitolina who came back from the

interlude with fire in her eyes. She put Pegula on the back foot and raced away with the win.

Pegula entered Indian Wells having just won the Austin title earlier this month, but Svitolina came out on top, earning just her third win over Pegula in their eight career meetings.

Svitolina, who is into the quarterfinals at Tennis Paradise for the first time since 2019, will face either Mirra Andreeva, who ousted Elena Rybakina for the second time in three weeks to advance to the quarterfinals with a commanding 6-1, 6-2 win.

The 17-year-old Russian Andreeva's run in the desert comes fresh off the heels of her capturing a maiden WTA 1000 title at the Dubai Championships, which propelled her to become the youngest player to reach the Top 10 since 2007.

Earlier, Iga Swiatek thumped 15th-seeded Karolina Muchova with 6-1, 6-1 victory to march into the quarterfinals.

## Yuva All Stars: Jaipur, Falcons, Yoddhas, Spartans win

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
HARIDWAR, 12 MARCH

Sonipat Spartans, Yuva Yoddhas, UP Falcons and Jaipur Pink Cubs registered victorious on Day 6 to strengthen their position in the Yuva All Stars Championship 2025 here at the Vandana Kartaria Indoor Stadium.

Yuva Yoddhas thrashed Kurukshetra Warriors 55-27 in the reserve leg-fixture after suffering a narrow loss against the same opponent in the season opener of the Yuva All Stars Championship 2025.

Both teams were at their best, before the Yoddhas inflicted an all-out and a Super Raid by Shivam Singh to take a 24-11 lead at half-time.

The Yoddhas continued to dominate the game as they inflicted two All Outs in the second half on the Kurukshetra Warriors, denying them several chances. They won the match by 28 points and solidify their top spot in the Pool B standings with 25 points.

Shivam Singh was the standout player with 14 raid points. With seven tackle points, Sonu Rathee was the star defender in the first encounter of Day 6.

In the second game, Sonipat Spartans stunned the in-form Junior Steelers 49-32 in the second match. The Spartans took a strong seven-point lead by inflicting an all-out on the Steelers. However, the Haryana-based club got back into the game with an all-out on the Sonipat Spartans in the dying minutes of the first half. The half-time score read 19-17 in favour of the Spartans.

In the second half, the Spartans stole the show with an exceptional attacking and defensive performance, scoring 30 points. Ankit Kumar Rana (9 raid points) and Akash Deshal (8 raid points) were the top performers in Sonipat's 17-point win against the Junior Steelers. Sonipat Spartans have moved to the second position in Pool B, while the Steelers are third in Pool A.

UP Falcons got the better of Palani Tuskers in the third encounter, winning 46-30. Palani Tuskers had a horrific start to the game, scoring just seven points in the first half. However, they regrouped and added 23 points to their tally in the second half. Despite their efforts, the Falcons were stronger and took home the victory.

Raiders Arjun Sirohi and Kunal Bhati ruled the match with 11 and 8 points, respectively, for the Falcons. Lucky Kumar was the best defender with six tackle points. With a convincing victory over the Tuskers, UP Falcons have moved to the second position in Pool A points table with 17 points, while Palani Tuskers are fourth with 12 points.

In the last match of the day on Tuesday, Jaipur Pink Cubs defeated Warriorz K.C. 39-36 to settle the scores, having lost to the Warriorz 35-42 in the reverse fixture. The Pink Club had a great first half with 21 points, including one All Out and Super Tackle each.

## 'Harmanpreet said he'll try to make it memorable': Arshdeep on senior debut



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 12 MARCH

Rookie forward Arshdeep Singh has recently been in the spotlight for his consistent performances, earning him his senior India debut at the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 (Men) in Bhubaneswar.

The 20-year-old Arshdeep first made headlines during the 2024 Men's Junior Asia Cup in December last year as he scored six goals in the tournament and was impressive with the stick. "It was a very good tournament for me, and I scored some good goals. Especially winning against Pakistan in the final was a special moment for me. I thought I would get a chance to play for the seniors after the Junior World Cup later this year, but I didn't expect to make it into the senior squad so early," he commented.

Although he did catch eyes during the Junior Asia

Cup, Arshdeep Singh's breakout tournament was the Hockey India League (HIL) earlier this year, where he was named the Upcoming Player of the tournament. He was one of the first names in the Hyderabad Toofans team sheet and scored three goals to help his side reach the final.

Talking about his HIL experience, Arshdeep shared, "The atmosphere in my team, Hyderabad Toofans, was very positive, which is why I could play so freely and thrive in the tournament. I was with the team when I got to know that I have been selected in the national team. I called my mom first because it was truly a proud moment for me."

Although it was a big day for Arshdeep when his name was in the lineup against Spain, he was more excited than nervous since the senior players in the squad helped him cope with the pre-match blues. About his debut,

Arshdeep said, "My debut experience was very good. I got to play two matches, and learnt a lot, especially how structured the top teams in the world are. Playing with the senior players has boosted my confidence and has motivated me to improve my game. I was excited because I wanted to make the most of this chance. The senior players really helped me. Sukhjeet advised me to play freely and not think about the mistakes I make. He told me the way I react after making mistakes is more important. Captain Harmanpreet Singh told me he will try his best to win the match to make it memorable for me and told me to try my hardest to score a debut goal," he said.

The federation has also recognised his talent and hard work, as he has been nominated for the Hockey India Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Men - Under 21).



## PERRY REFLECTS ON WPL SHOW

After not making it to the playoffs of 2025 Women's Premier League (WPL), Royal Challengers Bengaluru all-rounder Ellyse Perry admitted the season was a tricky one for her team, who were disappointed with some of the performances not being up to the mark. Defending champions RCB began their campaign on a strong note with two consecutive wins, but faced five successive losses

For more updates [www.thestatesman.com](http://www.thestatesman.com)

# After Champions Trophy triumph, Pandya sets sights on T20 World Cup

Instrumental in India's recent limited-overs dominance, star all-rounder has already picked his next target

TRIDIB BAPARNASH  
NEW DELHI, 12 MARCH

Hardik Pandya has been instrumental in India's recent dominance in white-ball cricket. With the Men-in-Blue clinching back-to-back ICC titles in a span of nine months — the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean, in June last year and the recently concluded Champions Trophy in Dubai, the star all-rounder said that the most beautiful feeling for him is to just step out onto the field wearing the iconic blue jersey of India.

Now, with two major trophies in the bag, Pandya has already set his sights on the next big challenge, the upcoming T20 World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka next year. As he gears up for the marquee event, his focus remains on ensuring India extends its dominance in limited overs cricket.

With the tournament on home soil, India will not only have the advantage of familiar conditions but will also enter with additional pressure of being the defending champions.

"I love wins like this where everyone comes there, puts their heart out and you know I think this was for India, this was for Bharat. The



champions trophy is done, next goal ICC T20 World Cup in India, lifting the cup," Pandya said.

**Redemption after 2017 heartbreak**

Despite heading into the 2017 Champions Trophy final as the favourites, India had famously lost the title to arch-rivals Pakistan. Notably, though, Pandya led the counterattack with a blistering 76 off 43 balls to help

India recover from a precarious 72/6 chasing a target of 339. He shared an 80-run stand for the seventh wicket off just 57 balls before being run out after a mix-up with his partner Ravindra Jadeja. But despite his valiant effort, India suffered a crushing 180-run defeat.

Now a senior member of the team, Hardik was one of the few players from that squad to feature in this final.

This time, he turned the script around beautifully, scoring a crucial 18 off 18 in the death overs to put the game firmly in India's hands.

"In 2017, the work was left. You know I could not finish the job back then. And I am very very glad that tonight is the night where I can say that you know what, I am a champions trophy winner as well. So, sounds good I think," said Hardik.

**Hunger still on**

The 31-year-old made it clear that he is far from done and is determined to win more trophies for India. With back-to-back triumphs, including last year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup, he is eager to keep adding to his growing list of achievements.

"For me it has always been about winning as many championships as I can.

"I did say when we won in 2024 that this is not done, I still need 5-6 more trophies there. I am very happy that one more is added. The most important thing in my life and my cricketering journey has always been about how I can make sure that my team can win."

He emphasized that the joy of stepping onto the field in blue is as strong as ever and that the victory feels even more special to him, as it was a true team effort with every player contributing to the success. "And it's very very satisfying, very very calming, very very happy moment for me that every time I step on the field. You know, somehow even if I don't confirm that the team wins, I think that's the most beautiful feeling which I have. Everyone came out there and you know showed their class at the same point of time, the belief which they have," he pointed out.

## ODI rankings: Gill remains on top, Rohit climbs to No. 3 after CT win



AGENCIES  
DUBAI, 12 MARCH

After the recently concluded ICC Men's Champions Trophy-winning campaign, India skipper Rohit Sharma moved up to third place in the ODI batting rankings chart, led by fellow opener Shubman Gill.

India lifted their third Champions Trophy title with a thrilling four-wicket victory over New Zealand in Dubai, star performers from both teams have been rewarded in the rankings update released on Wednesday.

Rohit, who smashed a match-winning 76 off 83 balls in the final, jumped two places to third. For his impressive performance in the final, Rohit was awarded the Player of the Match trophy. Meanwhile, Virat Kohli, who amassed 218 runs in the tournament, remains in the top five (fifth place) following his haul of 218 runs in the tournament.

New Zealand's batters also made notable progress. Daryl Mitchell moves up one place to sixth, while young sensation Rachin Ravindra climbs an impressive 14 spots to 14th. Glenn Phillips also makes a leap, advancing six places to 24th.

New Zealand's skipper Mitchell Santner was one of the standout performers with the ball, taking nine wickets in the tournament, including two in the final. His efforts see him jump six places to No. 2 in the ODI bowling rankings, just behind Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana.

Fellow Kiwi Michael Bracewell also made a significant gain, moving 10 places up to 18th.

India's spin duo Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja saw their rankings improve after their key contributions in India's unbeaten campaign. Kuldeep, who picked up seven wickets, climb to No. 3, while Jadeja moved up to 10th after claiming five wickets.

Afghanistan's Azmatullah Omarzai remained the top-ranked ODI all-rounder, but the Champions Trophy saw a major shake-up just below him. Mitchell Santner rose to fourth, while Michael Bracewell (up to 7th) and Rachin (up to 8th) make jumps after their all-round displays.

Meanwhile, Gill was named the 'Player of the Month' for February on Wednesday following his exceptional batting performance throughout the month in 50-over format.

The India top-order star took home the award, beating competition from Australia's Steve Smith and New Zealand's Glenn Phillips.

In his five one-day internationals over the course of the month, Gill compiled 406 runs, averaging 101.50 at a strike rate of 94.19.

This included a stellar outing in the 3-0 series over England, wherein Gill registered three consecutive scores of over fifty.

He began with a confident 87 in Nagpur and followed it up with a 60 in Cuttack. He finished in a grand style, smashing a hundred in Ahmedabad. His 112 came from merely 102 balls and included 14 fours and three sixes.

Gill was awarded the Player of the Match for this innings and also took home the Player of the Series award.

# Rohit must have the goal of playing 2027 ODI WC, feels Ponting

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 12 MARCH

A couple of days after India skipper Rohit Sharma put to bed rumours around his retirement from the 50-over format with a one-liner, former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting believes that the star batter is likely to have a specific goal in mind when he made the announcement.

Having been appointed India's captain back in 2021 at the age of 34, Rohit on Sunday clinched his second ICC title - following the ICC Men's T20 World Cup win last year - as India closed an invincible Champions Trophy campaign. Now approaching 38, there were rumours around the veteran batter's retirement from the ODI format, an act not without precedence, given how Rohit had retired from T20s after winning the T20 World Cup. But Rohit quashed them in the press conference following the final win against New Zealand. "I'm not going to retire from this format, just to make sure no more rumours are spread," Rohit told reporters



after a Player-of-the-Match performance.

Ponting said the Indian skipper's decision had deeper

implications for Indian cricket. "When you start getting to that point of your career, everyone's waiting for you to retire.

And I don't know why, when you can still play as well as he's played (in the final), I think he was just trying to put

those questions to bed once and for all and say, 'no, I'm still playing well enough. I love playing in this team. I love

leading this team.' And I think, the fact that he said that, to me, it means that he must have that goal in mind of playing in the next (50-over) World Cup (in 2027)," Ponting said on The ICC Review.

During the 2023 ODI World Cup, the Indian team had an exceptional run under Rohit's leadership. However, the side fell at the final stage, having been dealt a six-wicket defeat at the hands of Australia in the summit clash. Ponting believes that a sense of unfinished business may have to do with Rohit's decision to step in-charge until the 2027 Men's Cricket World Cup to be held in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. "I think probably the fact that they lost the last one and he was captain, that might be the thing that's playing on the back of his mind," Ponting noted. "Just have one more crack at trying to win the T20 World Cup, the Champions Trophy, and the ODI World Cup. I mean when you see him play like he played in the Champions Trophy final, you wouldn't say that his time is up just yet."

# Indian middle-order lets go of top-order dependency, finds stability, consistency as 2027 ODI WC awaits

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 12 MARCH

With two successive white-ball titles following T20 World Cup 2024 and ICC Champions Trophy 2025 wins, the Men in Blue, left heartbroken by a loss to Australia at 2023 World Cup finals, are at the top of the world again. A highly-motivated and confident India, halfway through their journey towards 2027 ICC Cricket World Cup, has managed to solve its biggest issue in white-ball cricket that kept its trophy cabinet empty for so long: Instability and inconsistency in the middle-order.

Since 2010s, India's white-ball success has been dependent on the heroics of its biggest superstars, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Openers Shikhar Dhawan, the 'Mr ICC' for India and later, the 'Prince' Shubman Gill served as highly-attacking openers that would complement Rohit and Virat well. If Rohit did not get



them, Gill did. If Gill did not get them, Rohit did. If Rohit-Gill failed, it was Virat's safety net that guarded India from danger. However, in recent years, India found itself struggling to find new middle-order replacements for its former stars, skipper MS Dhoni, Suresh Raina and Yuvraj Singh, three men who kept India steps ahead of their opponents with a rare mix of calm and aggression.

So whenever this famed trio lost form, there was often no hiding for Team India as despite success of their top-

order, they would stand exposed against world-class batting line-ups. This was the case plenty of times before the 2023 World Cup in India, when these veterans battled occasional dips in form. India tried several alternates, like Kedar Jadhav, Ambati Rayadu, Vijay Shankar, Manish Pandey, young Rishabh Pant and Hardik Pandya, but their ability did not match the intensity and demands of an occasion as big as an ICC event. A tracking of India's middle-order performances from their World Cup title

defence in 2015 till now shows that in 2020s, a stability in Indian middle order has come, with Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul being key accumulators and likes of Axar Patel, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav being given a role to blast right from ball one. This stability and role clarity has given the Indian middle-order the consistency it wanted since years and it could win them many championship titles in years to come.

From 2015 World Cup to 2019 World Cup, India's middle-order struggled due to inexperience, age catching up with its superstars and consequent inconsistency.

**2015 World Cup**  
During the 2015 World Cup, the top-order of Shikhar, Rohit and Virat made 1,068 runs in 24 innings, with four centuries and three half-centuries. Compared to them, the middle order consisting of Suresh Raina, MS Dhoni, Ajinkya Rahane and Ravindra

Jadeja made a total of 786 runs. They together scored a century and five fifties in 24 innings. But other than Raina's half-centuries against Pakistan and Bangladesh (in quarter-finals), Dhoni's fighting half-century in semifinal against Australia, the middle-order failed to deliver notable contributions in big matches. A crumbling against Australia in the semifinals left this middle-order short of achieving its true potential.

**2017 Champions Trophy**  
In the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy, India bet on its two old, match-winning horses, a returning Yuvraj and Dhoni, both in their mid to late 30s. Two fresher talents, Hardik and Kedar also earned call-ups to the squads. Once again, India entered the final largely due to the unstoppable Rohit-Shikhar-Virat trio, which made 900 runs in 15 innings. However, the middle-order once again crumbled, especially during the high-profile clash

against Pakistan in the final during a 339-run chase.

**2019 World Cup**  
During the 2019 World Cup in UK, a stable middle-order was non-existent as options like KL Rahul, Dhoni, Hardik, Kedar, Rishabh and Vijay were tried out. The top-order of Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, Virat and Rahul made a massive 1,540 runs in 27 innings, averaging 61.60, with a strike rate of 91.72, with seven centuries and eight fifties. Compared to this, the middle order scored just 790 runs in 31 innings. Only three half-centuries came from middle-order, two by Dhoni and one by Kedar (80 runs in five innings, with a fifty). Hardik was at his hard-hitting best though, delivering explosive 226 runs in nine innings at an average of 32.28, with a strike rate of over 112 and best score of 48. KL scored just 37 runs in two innings in the middle-order, while Vijay scored just 58 runs in his run

at numbers four and six. Pant, who made 116 runs in four matches at an average of 29.00 and best score of 48, was just finding his feet in white-ball cricket at number four spot, aged just 21.

**2023 World Cup**  
The dark ages of Indian middle-order came to an end under the captaincy of Rohit, with Iyer and Rahul taking centre-stage as accumulators. In the 2023 WC, India's top order scored heavily, blasting right from ball one. Rohit, Virat, Gill and Ishan Kishan delivered fireworks with 1,763 runs in 33 innings.

Finally, the middle-order also executed its role perfectly, delivering 1,219 runs in 34 innings with three centuries and five fifties. Iyer and Rahul were the backbone of this middle-order. Jadeja and Suryakumar chipped in some useful cameos. If it was not for the fumbling in the final, these numbers would have looked even more better.

**2025 Champions Trophy**  
Now, coming to the Champions Trophy, India delivered its most complete performance ever, with all the main men joining the party in knockout stages as well. The middle-order, boosted by Axar's spin counter-attack, scored 591 runs in 18 innings. Shreyas, KL Rahul, Axar and Hardik played as per demands and conditions to the perfection. As compared to the middle-order, the top order of Rohit, Gill and Virat made a combined 586 runs.

Now, in the 2023 ODI WC and 2025 CT, the Indian middle-order has let go of its dependency on top-order and has reliability and identity of its own.

The numbers do not lie that the consistency is more than ever and most of the experiments have passed the test. Will this same middle-order guide India to the 2027 ODI World Cup and become the all-time greatest ever?