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# The World

## TOPOF THE WORLD



Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus. File

### CHINA

**Yunus attends Hainan meet, set to meet Xi today**

*Beijing:* Gearing up for his meeting with President Xi Jinping, Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on Thursday asked China to reduce interest rates for Chinese loans and waive commitment fees on Chinese-funded projects. Yunus, who met Chinese Executive Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang on the sidelines of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference in Hainan, sought Chinese support in an array of developments, Bangladesh media reports said. He also called for a reduction of interest rates for Chinese loans from three per cent to 1-2 per cent to Bangladesh. Yunus, who arrived in Hainan on Wednesday on a four-day visit, is due to meet President Xi Friday. **PTI**

### THAILAND

**Thai cabinet approves draft law for casinos**

*Bangkok:* Thailand's cabinet on Thursday approved a draft law for casinos and entertainment complexes, as the government looks to attract more tourists and build a major gaming industry. Gambling is mostly banned in Thailand apart from state-controlled horse racing, the lottery and on some sports but successive governments have pressed the case for allowing casinos to draw in more foreign visitors. But the latest draft approved by cabinet will limit how many Thai punters can go to casinos, with an entry fee of 5,000 baht and proof of at least 50 million baht in bank deposits, effectively blocking large swathes of the population. **REUTERS**

### QATAR

**US nod for Qatar purchase of drones for \$2 bn**

*Dubai:* The United States has given an initial approval for the energy-rich Mideast nation of Qatar to buy eight armed MQ-9B Predator drones for its military, an estimated purchase worth nearly USD 2 billion. The approval announced Thursday comes after Doha had been trying to purchase the drones during the Biden administration, but hadn't gotten the OK despite serving as an interlocutor for Washington to the Taliban in Afghanistan, Iran and Hamas in Gaza Strip. **AP**

## FRANCE HOSTS NEARLY 30 LEADERS, CHIEFS OF NATO, EU

# Europe's 'coalition of willing' weighs more Ukraine aid, peacekeeping force

**Not all agree on a peace force plan, says Macron**

**JOHN LEICESTER, SAMUEL PETREQUIN & BRIAN MELLEY**  
PARIS, MARCH 27

FRANCE AND Britain will continue to forge ahead with plans to deploy troops in Ukraine to defend an eventual peace deal with Russia but only some other nations want to take part, French President Emmanuel Macron said Thursday after a summit of countries that have been mulling the proposal. Macron said "several" nations other than France and Britain want to be part of the armed force but added, "It is not unanimous." Paris and London say such a force would aim to secure any peace deal by dissuading Russia from attacking Ukraine again. "We do not need unanimity to achieve it," Macron said. French and British military officials will work with Ukraine to determine where the contingents should be deployed and how many troops they'd need to be a credible deterrent, the French leader added. "There will be a reassurance force with several European nations that will deploy," he insisted.



Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy with French President Emmanuel Macron, right and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer at the Elysee Palace in Paris on Thursday. AP

The summit of leaders of nearly 30 countries plus NATO and European Union chiefs came at a crucial juncture in the more than three-year war, with intensifying diplomatic efforts to broker ceasefires, driven by pressure from US President Donald Trump. But fighting rages on. Before the leaders met in the luxury of the French presidential palace, Russian drone attacks overnight wounded more than 20 people and heavy shelling

Thursday afternoon killed one person and knocked out electricity in parts of Kherson, Ukrainian officials said. Macron and other summit participants accused Russia of only pretending to want a negotiated settlement. "They are playing games and they're playing for time," said U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer. "We can't let them drag this out while they continue prosecuting their illegal invasion." US-brokered agreements

this week to safeguard shipping in the Black Sea and last week to halt long-range strikes on energy infrastructure were greeted as first steps toward peace. But Ukraine and Russia have disagreed over the details and accused each other of deal violations, foreshadowing a contentious process ahead. One reason why some European countries are balking at a potential deployment in Ukraine is because it's unclear

whether Trump would support such a contingent with air power and other military assistance. "This will require the... support of the US," Starmer said. "That's a discussion we've had with the president on many occasions."

Macron suggested they may have to do without U.S. backing. "You have to hope for the best, but prepare for the worst," he said. "My hope is that the Americans will be on our side and that the Americans will support, even play an active role." "But we have to be prepared for a situation where perhaps they won't join in," he added. Building a force big enough to act as a credible deterrent — U.K. officials have talked about possibly 10,000 to 30,000 troops — would be a considerable effort for nations that shrank their militaries after the Cold War but are now rearming.

Starmer's office said military planners from Europe and beyond have been drilling down into details, examining "the full range of European military capabilities including aircraft, tanks, troops, intelligence and logistics."

One nation that publicly rejected sending troops was Greece. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said those discussions were "somewhat divisive" and distracted from the goal of ending the war as soon as possible. **AP**

# Turkish student in US detained by masked people, Tufts University says visa cancelled

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
SOMERVILLE, MARCH 27

ATURKISH national and doctoral student at Tufts University has been detained by US Department of Homeland Security agents without explanation, her lawyer said on Wednesday. Rumeysa Ozturk, 30, had just left her home in Somerville on Tuesday night when she was stopped, lawyer Mahsa Khanbabai said in a petition filed in Boston federal court. A video obtained by AP appears to show six people, their faces covered, taking away Ozturk's phone as she yells and is handcuffed. "We're the police," members of the group are heard saying in the video. A man is heard asking, "Why are you hiding your faces?" Khanbabai said Ozturk was meeting friends for iftar. "We are unaware of her whereabouts and have not been able to contact her. No charges have been filed against



Rumeysa Ozturk is detained by Homeland security officials in Somerville on Tuesday. AP

Rumeysa to date," Khanbabai said. Neighbours said they were rattled by the arrest, which happened at 5:30 pm (local time). "It looked like a kidnapping," said Michael Mathis, a 32-year-old software engineer whose surveillance camera captured the arrest. "They're covering their faces.

## INDIANS, RUSSIANS, NORWEGIANS, SWEDES AMONG PASSENGERS, 39 RESCUED

# 6 killed as tourist submarine sinks off Egypt



The hospital in Hurghada on Thursday. AP

**MOHAMED EZZ & NAYERA ABDALLAH**  
CAIRO, MARCH 27

SIX RUSSIANS died on Thursday and 39 foreign tourists were rescued when a viewing submarine sank off the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Hurghada, the local governor's office said on Facebook, adding that no passengers or crew were still missing. The Red Sea Governorate said the submarine, named "Sindbad", had 50 people on-board: 45 tourists of different na-

# Khamenei aide: Iran ready for indirect US talks

**Tehran will evaluate letter by Trump, state its own conditions, says Kharrazi**

**REUTERS**  
DUBAI, MARCH 27

KAMAL KHARRAZI, an adviser to Iran's supreme leader, said on Thursday Tehran has not closed all doors to resolve its disputes with the United States and is ready for indirect negotiations with Washington.

Tehran has so far rebuffed U.S. President Donald Trump's warning it to make a deal or face military consequences. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called the message deceptive and Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said talks are impossible unless Washington changes its "maximum pressure" policy.

"The Islamic Republic has not closed all doors. It is ready for indirect negotiations with the United States in order to evaluate the other party, state its own conditions and make the appropriate decision," Kharrazi said, according to the semi-official *Iranian Students News Agency*.

Iran is meant to soon reply to Trump's letter, with Araqchi saying last week that Tehran would take into consideration both Trump's threat and opportunities in its response.

In his first 2017-21 term,

Trump withdrew the U.S. from a 2015 deal between Iran and world powers that placed strict limits on Tehran's disputed nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief.

After Trump pulled out in 2018 and reimposed sweeping U.S. sanctions, the Islamic Republic breached and has since far surpassed those limits in its escalating programme of uranium enrichment.

Western powers accuse Iran of having a clandestine agenda to develop nuclear weapons capability by enriching uranium to a high level of fissile purity, above what they say is justifiable for a civilian atomic energy programme. Tehran says its nuclear programme is wholly for civilian energy purposes.

Earlier this week, U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff had said that Trump's outreach to Iran's top authority, Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on a possible new nuclear deal is an effort to avoid military action.

"Our signal to Iran is let's sit down and see if we can, through dialogue, through diplomacy, get to the right place. If we can, we are prepared to do that. And if we can't, the alternative is not a great alternative."

ing the government until Friday to answer why Ozturk was being detained. As of Wednesday evening, the US Immigration and Custom Enforcement's online detainee locator system listed her as being held at the South Louisiana ICE Processing Centre in Louisiana.

A senior DHS spokesperson confirmed Ozturk's detention and the termination of her visa.

Ozturk was one of four students last March who wrote an op-ed in The Tufts Daily criticising the university's response to its community union Senate passing resolutions that demanded Tufts "acknowledge the Palestinian genocide", disclose its investments and divest from companies with direct or indirect ties to Israel.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people demonstrated in a park later Wednesday, with speaker after speaker demanding Ozturk's release and accusing both major political parties of failing to protect immigrants and stand up for Palestinians.

low the Atlantic near the sunken Titanic in June 2023. Egyptian authorities are conducting investigations with crew members to determine the causes of the submarine sinking. Red Sea Province Governor Amr Hanafy said.

There have been several recent incidents of tourist boats capsizing. Last June, a boat sank after suffering severe damage from high waves, though no casualties were reported.

The Tourism Ministry and the Chamber of Diving did not respond to Reuters requests for comment. **REUTERS**

## LAUNCHED IN 2014, SPINNING OBSERVATORY PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT NEARLY 2 BN STARS, LEADING TO OVER 13,000 STUDIES

# Gaia, European spacecraft that mapped the Milky Way for a decade, shuts down

**KATRINA MILLER**  
MARCH 27

FROM ANCIENT star streams to the innards of white dwarfs, the Gaia space telescope has seen it all. On Thursday, mission specialists at the European Space Agency will send Gaia, which is low on fuel, into orbit around the sun, and switch it off after more than a decade of service to the world's astronomers. Gaia has charted the cosmos since 2014, creating a vast encyclopedia of the positions and movements of celestial objects in

our Milky Way and beyond. It is difficult to capture the breadth of development and discovery that the spinning observatory has enabled. But here are a few numbers: nearly 2 billion stars, millions of potential galaxies and some 150,000 asteroids. These observations have led to more than 13,000 studies, so far, by astronomers. Gaia has transformed the way scientists understand the universe, and its data has become a reference point for many other telescopes on the ground and in space. And less than a third of the data it has gathered has so far been released to scientists.

"It's something that is now underpinning almost all of astronomy," said Anthony Brown, an astronomer at Leiden University in the Netherlands who leads Gaia's data processing and analysis group. "I think if you were to ask my astronomy colleagues, they couldn't imagine anymore having to do research without Gaia being there." Launched in 2013, Gaia's primary goal was to reveal the history and structure of the Milky Way by building the most precise, three-dimensional map of the positions and velocities of 1



Deployment testing of Gaia's sun shield at Europe's spaceport in French Guiana, where the mission launched in 2013. NYT

billion stars. With only a fraction of that data, astronomers have estimated the mass of the halo of dark matter engulfing our galaxy and identified thousands of trespassing stars, ingested from another galaxy 10 billion years ago. Measuring ongoing vibrations in the disk of the Milky Way has also led to evidence of an encounter with a satellite galaxy that orbits our own much more recently than scientists believed. That could be why the Milky Way appears warped when viewed from the side. Gaia's reach extended be-

yond what can be gleaned about our galactic address. The spacecraft has helped observe moons orbiting other worlds in our solar system, captured starquakes and spotted hyperfast stars zipping across the Milky Way. Within its catalog of stars, astronomers have found hints of new planets and black holes, including the closest known to Earth. Cosmologists have used Gaia's records of pulsing stars to help measure the expansion rate of our universe.

"Gaia has been and will be incredibly important to our understanding of the cosmos," said

Lisa Kaltenegger, an astronomer at Cornell University who, in 2021, used Gaia's catalog to learn which alien worlds might be able to see us. For more than 10 years, it has twirled slowly in space 1 million miles from Earth, where the gravity from our planet and the sun balance with the motion of the satellite. Twin telescopes, pointed in different directions on the spacecraft, scanned the sky, capturing optical light that streaked across its field of view. From this data, scientists inferred information about temperature, mass and chemical composition. **NYT**





## Over half of IITs saw 10 percentage point drop in placement since '21-22: Govt data

House panel says 'unusual decline'; among older IITs, sharpest fall in Delhi

**ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

IN MORE than half of the country's 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), placements for BTech students dropped by more than 10 percentage points in 2023-24 compared to 2021-22, according to the first such disclosure of data by the Union government.

Barring IIT (BHU) Varanasi, 22 of the 23 IITs have seen a drop in placements in 2023-24 compared to 2021-22, according to information provided by the government to the Parliamentary

Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports.

In its report on the Department of Higher Education's demand for grants 2025-26, the Parliamentary Standing Committee headed by Congress MP Digvijaya Singh noted that there is an "unusual decline" in placements in IITs and IITs between the year 2021-22 and 2023-24.

Among the IITs that saw a drop of more than 10 percentage points in BTech placements in 2023-24 compared to 2021-22, were the older IITs — Delhi (drop of around 15 percentage points,

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## INCIDENT IN JAMMU'S KATHUA DISTRICT

# 3 policemen killed in gunbattle during J&K search for terrorists

3 from terror group also killed, 5 days after forest sighting; likely came from Pak

**ARUN SHARMA**  
JAMMU, MARCH 27

THREE POLICEMEN and three militants were killed in a fierce gunbattle that broke out Thursday in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, sources said.

The militants are suspected to be part of a fresh group of around half a dozen who crossed over from Pakistan, and were



Security personnel at the site of an encounter with militants in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday. PTI

first spotted by a local couple in the forests at Saniyal village near the International Border on Sunday. After the local residents raised the alarm, security forces

began searches, and on Sunday evening, briefly exchanged fire with the militants.

The encounter on Thursday took place on the fifth day of the

combing operation by joint security forces in Hiranagar sub-division of Kathua.

The policemen killed Thursday were identified as Selection Grade Constables Tariq Ahmad from Reasi, Jaswant Singh from Londi in Hiranagar, and Balwinder Singh from Kanna Chak in Kathua.

Sub-Divisional Police Officer (Border) Dheeraj Katoch was among four injured security personnel. The other injured personnel were Constable Bharat Chalotra, Special Police Officer Happy Sharma, and Army's Naik Gurinder Singh.

After the brief encounter on Sunday, there had been no contact with the militants until Thursday. Several senior officers took part in the combing

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## HIS FIRST SINCE WAR BEGAN

# Putin will visit India, we share call for talks on Ukraine: Russia

Lavrov praises Modi and his govt for 'balanced position' on the conflict

**DIVYAA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

PRAISING THE Indian government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "consistently" taking a "balanced position on the Ukrainian crisis" and for advocating its "resolution through dialogue", Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Thursday that President Vladimir Putin will visit India this year and preparations for it are underway.

This will be Putin's first visit to India after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The announcement of the visit comes at a time when US President Donald Trump has taken the lead in mediating a ceasefire between the Kremlin and Kyiv. Trump is also expected to visit India for the summit of Quad leaders later this year.

In a video address to a conference titled 'Russia and India: Together Towards a New Bilateral Agenda', hosted by the Russian International Affairs Council and the Indian Embassy in Moscow, Lavrov said, "It is symbolic that Prime Minister Modi made his first bilateral foreign visit after his re-election last year to Russia. Now it is our turn. Russian President Putin has accepted the invitation of the head of the Indian government. The



President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin, Wednesday. AP

**EXPLAINED** **The war and Delhi**

THE RUSSIAN invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 did put India in a diplomatic pickle, but Delhi has been one of the few Capitals regularly talking to both the Kremlin and Kyiv at various levels, maintaining that the two sides need to do direct negotiations and find a way out of the crisis.

visit of the head of the Russian state to the Republic of India is being prepared."

The visit is part of a protocol between India and Russia for reciprocal annual visits by their leaders. Once the Ukraine war

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## MORE APPEAR, FEWER GET PLACEMENTS

IIT	Year	Students appeared for placements	% of students placed
Kharagpur	2023-24	1,336	83.91%
	2021-22	1,105	86.79%
Bombay	2023-24	819	83.39%
	2021-22	566	96.11%
Madras	2023-24	1,041	73.29%
	2021-22	847	85.71%
Kanpur	2023-24	719	82.48%
	2021-22	565	93.63%
Delhi	2023-24	938	72.81%
	2021-22	707	87.69%
Guwahati	2023-24	804	79.10%
	2021-22	616	89.77%

Source: Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports

## Meerut police warn namaz-on-road can lead to passport cancellation; Orwellian, says MoS

**AMIT SHARMA & NEETIKA JHA**  
MEERUT, NOIDA, MARCH 27

STEPPING UP security measures ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, police in UP's Meerut have warned against namaz on streets, saying violators would face legal action that could lead to registration of criminal cases, cancellation of passports and licences.

This has drawn a sharp response from Union Minister of State and RLD chief Jayant Singh



Minister of State and RLD chief Jayant Singh Chaudhary

Chaudhary who, in a post on X, said: "Policing towards Orwellian 1984!". He was referring to the Thought Police with sweeping powers in Orwell's 'Nineteen Eighty-Four'.

On Wednesday, Meerut police submitted a list of eight per-

sons to District Magistrate Dr Vijay Kumar Singh, saying they violated last year's order prohibiting namaz on the streets during Eid. Police have initiated steps for cancellation of their licences and passports.

Meerut City SP Ayush Vikram Singh said: "We have appealed to people that they offer namaz at a nearby mosque or reach the Idgah on time. We have given strict instructions that under no condition will prayers be allowed on roads."

He said last year a few people

had offered namaz on a road on Eid. "We registered an FIR against them... This time too if someone sits for prayers in the open, very strict action will be taken. We are making continuous appeals."

Singh said in case a criminal case is registered against a person, it can lead to cancellation of licence and passport. The person booked, he said, will not get an NOC (no-objection certificate) to apply for a passport or licence.

Meerut range DIG Kalanidhi Naithani said violators will face

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



**IE 100**  
2025

THE LIST OF MOST POWERFUL INDIANS

## Rap to Rahul to House norms, Opp unites to approach Speaker

**LIZ MATHEW & ASAD REHMAN**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

IN A show of unity, Opposition leaders of the INDIA bloc Thursday approached Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to register their protest at "disregard for Parliament and parliamentary procedures by the government" in the functioning of the House, handing him a letter signed by them.

The floor leaders of the Opposition parties also flagged "denial of opportunity" to Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi to speak in the House. Birla's suggestion on Wednesday that the



Speaker Om Birla in Lok Sabha on Thursday. PTI

Congress leader wasn't upholding the dignity of the House, followed by a quick adjournment of the Lok Sabha, was being "politicised", they said.

Sources said the Opposition letter raises 12 points, including

the non-appointment of a Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha, "disregard" for Business Advisory Committee (BAC) decisions, "neglect" of adjournment motions, "exclusion of key ministries" in Budget discussions, and "switching off of microphones" of Opposition leaders.

The Speaker, who met the Opposition leaders during Zero Hour, reportedly assured them that he would go through the issues and get back.

While INDIA bloc leaders

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**IN PARLIAMENT**  
PAGE 6

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Police notice fire at Judge's house in 8 hours. Supreme Court orders on hate speech. Free speech will some day get noticed by Mumbai, Guwahati, Delhi...

air cargo from Maharashtra. Officials claimed that over the past year, the two accused smuggled at least 100 kg of fentanyl precursors out of India.

On March 20, three days after the arrest, the US Department of Justice indicted Vasudha Pharma Chem Ltd and three of its employees on charges of illegally importing fentanyl precursors.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Two smuggling fentanyl inputs got it from firm indicted in US: ATS

**BRENDAN DABHI**  
AHMEDABAD, MARCH 27

THE GUJARAT Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) claims to have found a link between two persons arrested this month for allegedly smuggling "fentanyl precursors" to Mexico and Guatemala and a Hyderabad-based pharma company, whose top executives have been indicted in the United States

for unlawfully importing the precursors, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

On March 17, the Gujarat ATS arrested Satishkumar Haresh Sutar and Yukta Ashishkumar Modi, partners in three Surat-based pharma companies, for allegedly exporting fentanyl precursors — basic chemicals that form fentanyl, an opioid analgesic used in anaesthesia — illegally to Mexico and Guatemala through

## Gadkari meets Chandrashekhar Azad meets Akhilesh: Party to beat all parties

**PAGE 1**  
**ANCHOR**

**HAMZA KHAN**  
JAIPUR, MARCH 27

ARRIVING AT the birthday celebrations of Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) founder and Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal's son Ashutosh, Union minister Nitin Gadkari told the 10-year-old jokingly, "Become anything but a leader."

But going by the celebrations for Ashutosh's birthday, with a



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari at the birthday celebrations of RLP chief Hanuman Beniwal's son. X/@hanumanbeniwal

VVIP visitor list that started coming in Tuesday and has not flagged since, the boy's fate may be predestined.

Beniwal is the lone MP of his party, with no MLAs. But Ashutosh's birthday festivities have drawn several Union ministers and former Chief Ministers, as well as a surfeit of sitting and former MPs and MLAs. Including from Beniwal's home state Rajasthan.

One explanation is the friends Beniwal has picked up across parties in his shifting political career — and the potential

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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# FROM **PAGE ONE**

## 3 policemen killed in gunbattle during J&K combing ops

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## Uttarakhand Content Creator Contest 2025

### Explore Uttarakhand Beyond Frames



**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

**Pushkar Singh Dhami**  
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

With the aim of promoting the culture of State of Uttarakhand and promoting perennial tourism, developing the State as a wedding destination, the Uttarakhand Film Vikas Parishad is organizing a Content Creators Competition to invite the Social Media Content Creators as per the appeal/call of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and as per the instructions of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami. For the said event, mainly two categories i.e. 01 minute reel and 05 minutes short films have been included under the following 8 topics, one best film would be awarded in each category.

### Contest Topics (Category-Reel and Short Film)

- ▶ Traditional Foods of Uttarakhand
- ▶ Homestays of Uttarakhand
- ▶ Wedding Destinations of Uttarakhand
- ▶ Perennial Tourism of Uttarakhand
- ▶ Mythical Temples and Pilgrimage of Uttarakhand (relatively less famous)
- ▶ Adventure Tourist Places of Uttarakhand (relatively less famous)
- ▶ AYUSH and Wellness of Uttarakhand
- ▶ Untouched Scenic Tourist Places of Uttarakhand

Application starts 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2025

Last date: 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2025

For registration

Login

<https://itda.uk.gov.in/content-competition>

or

Scan



The best films selected in the prescribed categories for each subject will be awarded a prize of ₹5 lakh each.

To apply for the competition, the applicant must have minimum number of followers and subscribers on any one of the following platform on his/her personal social media, the screenshots of which must be attached by the applicant at the time of applying



Facebook minimum  
10,000 followers



X minimum  
5,000 followers



Youtube minimum  
5,000 subscribers



Instagram minimum  
10,000 followers

## Unseen Colors of Tourism, Visit Uttarakhand



### Adventure Tourism

Uttarakhand, which has its own distinct identity in the field of tourism in the country and the world, is a stronghold of adventure tourism activities along with being a land of Gods. Along with the religious tourism, the State Government has taken special initiatives to promote the adventure tourism. The tourists coming to the State can enjoy adventure thrills in Rishikesh through activities like rafting as well as bungee jumping, flying fox, river crossing and paragliding. The Tehri Lake situated in the lap of the mountains, captivates tourists with its enchanting natural beauty. Tourists are enjoying various activities in this lake like floating houses, Shikara boats and cruises, boating, jet speed boat rides, water skiing, zorbing, banana boat rides, bandwagon boat rides, hot air balloon rides and paragliding.



### Paragliding

Uttarakhand which is called the center of tourism, along with pilgrimage, adventure tourism activities are also attracting the tourists from India and abroad. Effective steps are also being taken in the field of air and water sports by the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board. Due to which the adventure tourism of Uttarakhand is getting recognition on a wide scale. The State is moving ahead towards the creation of employment along with tourism especially in the hills areas. The world, which has bowed before the spiritual powers of all the monasteries and temples including the Char Dham, is now also being attracting towards the tourism activities in the Uttarakhand.

### Trekking

Uttarakhand is full of hills & terrains which makes the State one of the best tourist destination for the trekking in the Country. Here you can test your physical fitness. Uttarakhand has been a favourite trekking destination for the passengers owing to its hills trails and untouched grandeur. For the adventurous and enthusiastic people, Uttarakhand offers endless spaces to discover something new through trekking. Munsiyari-Martoli-Milam-Ralam Glacier Trek in Pithoragarh District and Sunderdhunga-Pindari-Kafni Glacier Trek in Bageshwar District are one of the most popular trekking routes here.



### Stargazing

Stargazing is a magical way to bring Science to life and experience the beauty of our natural world. Looking up at the vast canopy of space is a thrilling experience that everyone can enjoy. If you like to gaze at the starry sky, then there are many places in Uttarakhand to turn this experience into memorable moments.

Some of the places in the State that offer clear stargazing views include Gurson Bugyal near Auli, Jyoalikhota near Nainital, Kedarkantha in Uttarkashi, Munsiyari in Pithoragarh, Majkhali (a small village near Ranikhet), Chakrata and Chaukodi. The Stargazing can also be enjoyed from there.



### Bungee Jumping

Bungee jumping is not just about tying a rope and jumping from a height, it is much more than a daring leap. This is a jump that removes fear from your heart forever and creates courage to face the fear. There can be no better place in the State than in the lap of nature surrounded by hills. Rishikesh in Uttarakhand has one of the highest bungee platforms in the Country, which is about 83 meters (about 272 feet) high.

## Uttarakhand Homestay

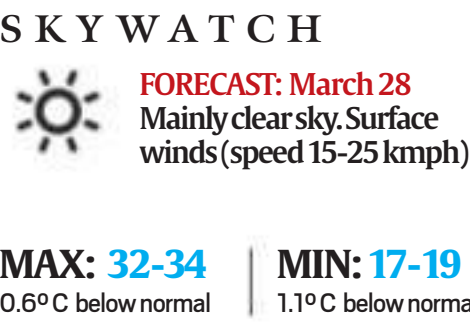
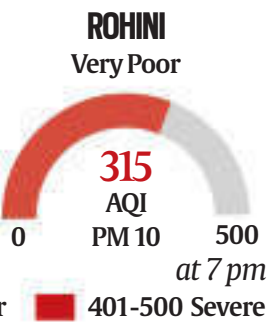
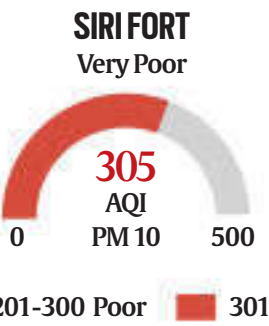
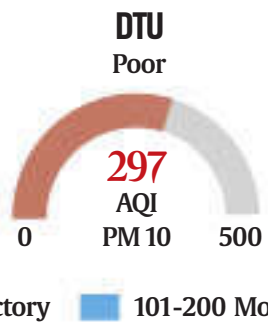
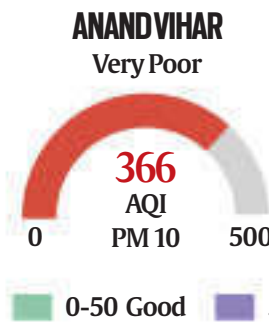
Feeling like home, with Uttarakhand Homestay



### Homestay on trekking route also

To give another unique experience to the tourists, the Uttarakhand Government has started the Trekking Traction Centre Home Stay Scheme. This innovative effort has provided the tourists a feeling of home-like comfort and safety on the trekking routes as well as the local people have got the gift of progress through self-employment. Under the Trekking Traction Centre Home Stay Scheme the 15 Trekking Traction Centres have been notified in Uttarkashi, Tehri, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh, Chamoli and Rudrapur in Uttarakhand. That means a total of 87 villages have been notified in 6 Districts. A about 215 beneficiaries have been selected so far and the financial support is being provided by the Uttarakhand Government for making the homestays in villages falling within 2 km radius of the Trekking Traction Centre.





‘Grand schemes only on paper’: BJP slams AAP for misleading Capital’s poor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

THE RULING BJP on Thursday accused the previous AAP-led Delhi government of continuously misleading the city’s Dalit community and the poor through “grand schemes”, which it alleged were “only on paper”.

“Over the past five years, the Kejriwal government introduced several schemes to attract Dalits and the poor politically, spending millions on their advertisements. However, in reality, Kejriwal only deceived them,” Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva alleged during a press conference.

Reacting to this, the AAP said Sachdeva seemingly had one job, which was “to wake up, hurl abuses at AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, and go back to sleep”.

Sachdeva further alleged that the Kejriwal government had announced schemes worth over Rs 200 crore for improving residential settlements of Dalits and the poor between 2020-21 and 2023-24, but only Rs 120.60 crore was spent.

The AAP, meanwhile, asserted it considers Babasaheb Ambedkar “our guiding principle, and has always followed the path he showed — prioritising health and education”.

## Cows obstruct CM’s convoy: MCD warns of action against dairies

### ‘Illegal construction to be demolished’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

ON WEDNESDAY, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta’s convoy was halted by stray cows in Haiderpur for 15 minutes. A day later, the MCD decided to intensify action against illegal dairies and their owners.

In a zonal committee meeting Thursday, officials resolved to not only seal unauthorised dairies but also demolish illegal constructions linked to them and impose penalties. The action will also extend to illegal electricity and water connections at the dairy owner’s residence.

The development comes after a herd of four to five cows suddenly appeared in front of the CM’s convoy on the Haiderpur flyover. She was on her way to carry out a spot visit to inspect the city’s Metro pillars when the animals obstructed her path. “Due to the driver’s presence of mind, an accident was averted,” a source said.

Keshavpuram Zone Chairman Yogesh Verma stated that dairy operators routinely release cows onto the roads after milking them, leading to frequent accidents. “The cor-



On Wednesday, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta’s convoy was halted by stray cows. Express

### PROBES INITIATED DURING AAP RULE

# Assembly disposes all 311 inquiries by House committees against officers

GAYATHRI MANI  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

IN A major relief for bureaucrats, the Delhi Legislative Assembly has decided to dispose all pending inquiries — a total of 311 — by the Assembly’s House Committees. Most of these inquiries had been initiated by the previous AAP regime. Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta said, “I feel Committees of the 8th Legislative Assembly should start with a clean slate and not get entangled in cases that appear to be motivated.” He further said, “We need to consider whether it befits the legislature or its committees to keep officers, some of whom have now retired, under stress.”

The Committee on Privileges, Committee on Petitions, and Committee on Questions and References look at cases related to government departments and issue notices to officials to appear before them.

According to Gupta, in a meeting on December 4, 2024, the 7th Legislative Assembly passed three resolutions to the effect that incomplete work of the Committees should be examined by the respective Committees of the 8th Legislative Assembly under Rule 183. Under this rule, any incom-

### CASES BEFORE THE COMMITTEES

■ In 2018, former Delhi Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash was allegedly assaulted at ex-CM Arvind Kejriwal’s Civil Lines residence. Days after, the Assembly House panel recommended privilege proceedings against him for contempt of the House after he did not attend committee summons, including one in relation to a scam in the Delhi Nagrik Sehkari Bank. Prakash and several bureaucrats moved the HC against the panel.

■ In 2023, the Committee on Petitions presented its investigation report, ‘Sabotaging the functioning Of OPD counters in Delhi government hospitals at the behest of the Hon’ble

Lieutenant Governor of Delhi” before the House. Alleging that delay by the Finance Dept in inviting tenders caused suffering to patients, it requested the President and Home Minister to suspend the Chief Secretary and the Finance Secretary.

■ Other bureaucrats against whom committee proceedings were underway included IAS officers Dr M M Kutty, Varsha Joshi, Amjad Tak, Sanjeev Khirwar, Amit Singla, Jaidev Sarangi, Rupesh Thakur and Nidhi Srivastava.

■ The next hearing date for all 8 cases is scheduled on April 30 in the Delhi HC.

plete work of a committee before dissolution of the Legislative Assembly can be forwarded to a committee of the new Legislative Assembly. “At the time of the dissolution of 6th and 7th Legislative Assemblies, the Assembly had

passed resolutions to carry forward incomplete work of these three committees,” he said.

However, after reviewing pending inquiries before the committees, Gupta concluded that “these should not have been

forwarded”. He further noted that the decision to dispose of the cases followed a resolution moved by Chief Whip, Laxmi Nagar MLA Abhay Verma, in the ongoing Budget session.

The Speaker emphasised that “if the complaints were genuine, the committees should have investigated these cases and reported to the House”. However, he pointed out that “the reasons for which they were kept pending by the then members of the committees are best known to them”.

The Committee on Privileges had 59 inquiries pending from the 6th Legislative Assembly and 69 inquiries from the 7th.

Former minister and AAP MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj, was one of the members of the Privileges Committee, and ex-MLA Akhilesh Pati Tripathi was the chairman.

Gupta said, “As per Rule 223, the Committee on Privileges is generally required to submit its report in a month. Most complaints were filed by members of the then ruling party against officers of the Delhi government.”

According to the House, the Petitions Committee has 107 inquiries pending from the 6th Legislative Assembly and 72 from the 7th Assembly. The Committee on Questions and References also has four pending inquiries from

the 7th Legislative Assembly.

Gupta highlighted that some of these inquiries have been pending since 2016, with no meetings held for investigation. Furthermore, some officers sought protection from the courts, and eight of these cases are now before the Delhi High Court. He requested the House to decide whether these cases should be carried forward or dropped, and the resolution was passed by the House.

The Chief Whip said, “A significant number of pending cases have either not been examined by the committees or have remained pending for several years without any report being submitted. Certain cases involving officials of the Delhi government have also led to the filing of cases in the High Court of Delhi.”

“This House resolves that no further action be taken on the pending cases referred to the Committee on Privileges, the Committee on Petitions, and the Committee on Questions and References during the Sixth and Seventh Legislative Assemblies and that they be considered as disposed,” Verma added.

An official alleged, “Several cases filed by the previous government were political and officials were called to the meeting and shouted at.”

### CM DURING BUDGET SESSION

## ‘AAP spent more on publicity than helping kin of Covid victims’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

CHIEF MINISTER Rekha Gupta Thursday lashed out at the Opposition AAP and its chief Arvind Kejriwal, alleging it has prioritised advertisements and publicity over providing financial assistance to Covid victims.

She said the erstwhile AAP government gave financial assistance of Rs 1 crore each to only 97 families of Covid warriors, but spent Rs 17 crore on “publicity”.

She was speaking in the Assembly during the ongoing discussion on the Budget. Her attack on the AAP came after Leader of Opposition Atishi criticised her for presenting a “hollow” budget of Rs 1 lakh crore, and accused the BJP government of reducing budgets in the health sector.

“During Covid, these people, who did no work except spending crores of money on their publicity, provided financial assistance to only 97 families and spent Rs 17 crore on advertising it. Did only 97 people die during Covid period in Delhi?” she asked.

Gupta also alleged that the government’s ambitious plan to hold a shopping festival in the city never took off but expenditure of Rs 8 crore was reflected. “I asked what this festival was,

where it was held... Did people come from across the city to attend this... then I got to know, was not held...,” she said.

Further, the CM also accused the AAP of misusing funds in various welfare schemes meant for the public and said, “You not only stole from the government but from the people... you stole the entire future of the children.”

“They are continuously trying to prove faults in the Budget and are asking from where will the money come from? I want to tell Atishi ji that we will stop all leakages and put a stop to all the theft you did during your tenure... People gave you a chance to sit in the opposition, don’t criticise them too much, you will not get this chance next time,” she said while pointing to the AAP MLAs.

Atishi criticised the Budget, calling it a “hollow projection” due to the Delhi Economic Survey for the year not being presented.

Calling BJP’s Rs 1 lakh-crore budget an “illusion,” she said, “For the first time in Delhi’s history, the BJP government is set to create a record-high fiscal deficit of Rs 13,702 crore. The actual Budget is of Rs 78,000 crore, not Rs 1 lakh crore because the government will not be able to take loans under the Small Savings Scheme or receive expected funds from the Centre,” she said in the House.

## 1.6 lakh Delhi govt school students will now get free NEET & CUET coaching



Delhi CM Rekha Gupta and Education Minister Ashish Sood at the MoU signing with BIG, Thursday. Amit Mehra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

THE DELHI government will soon be offering free online coaching classes to Class XII students of government schools, preparing for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and Common University Entrance Test (CUET UG).

On Thursday, the Education Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bharat Innovation Global (BIG) Private Limited in this regard. BIG is a collaboration between the National Skill Development Corporation International, the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and ed-tech company Physics Wallah Limited.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who attended the MoU signing at the Assembly, said the initiative aims to help over 1.63 lakh students of Delhi government schools secure admission to medical colleges and central universities. “With this support, more students will have the opportunity to pursue their dreams of becoming doctors and securing admissions

in top universities,” she said. Education Minister Ashish Sood called the initiative a “landmark” move, and assured it will help aspirants in securing admissions to “top medical colleges and central universities.”

Physics Wallah, a popular coaching institute based in Noida, has been roped in to provide classes for 30 days from April 2.

Students will attend six hours of classes every day, which will run until May 5. The course will cover subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, General Aptitude, and English PDF notes for revision, regular tests, and a doubt resolution portal will also be made available. Additionally, a subject-wise study plan will guide students through the preparation process.

A similar programme was launched by the previous AAP-led government under the Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana, which provided free coaching to students from SC, ST, OBC and EWS categories for entrance and competitive exams. It was discontinued in 2022 due to funding disputes. Last year, the government announced it would revive the scheme ahead of the polls.



### PARCHED

View of a dry river bed of the Yamuna near ITO, Thursday. Tashi Tobgyal

## Remove illegal meat, fish shops: PWD Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

PWD MINISTER Parvesh Sahib Singh said he has given directions to all departments concerned to remove “illegal” encroachments including stalls of meat and fish sellers.

This was in response to a query raised during question hour in the Delhi Assembly Thursday, after Shakur Basti MLA Karnail Singh said meat is being sold openly in shops on roads and footpaths during Navratri and it hurts the sentiments of Hindus. He asked the minister to take action.

Singh said, “I have instructed all officials to remove illegal shops encroaching roads... I also urge all MLAs to report encroachments in their area and participate in a drive which will take place soon.”

## Atishi, Speaker in exchange over law & order

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

LEADER OF Opposition (LoP) Atishi and Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta got into a heated altercation on Thursday after the AAP leader sent a letter to the latter alleging that several party legislators have not been allowed to raise the issue of law and order in the city in the ongoing session of the House.

“In the Vidhan Sabha session today, the time has been fixed for special mention under Rule 280. Many AAP MLAs submitted issues of rising crime in their areas to the Vidhan Sabha office for special mention. I got a call from the Vidhan Sabha Secretariat late last evening. I was told you have re-



LoP Atishi. Amit Mehra

jected Special Mentions of five MLAs because they are on issues of rising crime, and ‘law and order’ does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Vidhan Sabha,” Atishi wrote.

Reacting to the letter, Gupta

alleged members of the Opposition have been trying to cause disruptions by “not raising real issues affecting the public”.

Asserting that the notices submitted by the Opposition — which he did not accept — were an attempt to misuse House procedures and create organised disruptions, Gupta said: “I would like to inform the Honourable members that they should raise questions or engage in discussions only on subjects for which the minister concerned can provide answers or take appropriate action.

However, considering the nature of issues raised in the House, the Speaker may allow notices on reserved subjects only if they are deemed extremely urgent and important matters affecting the Delhi people and requiring im-

mediate attention of the House.”

In her letter, Atishi also took a dig at the ruling BJP government over law and order. “It seems you want to stop this discussion because of the inability of the BJP-led Central government to stop rising crime in Delhi. Before the elections, BJP used to say it would solve problems of Delhi with the coming of the double-engine government, but after winning the elections, it is saying it will not let anyone speak on the problems.”

Hitting back at Atishi, Gupta said: “I will not allow this. Issues raised under Special Mention must be related to matters of urgent public importance. However, instead of focusing on real issues affecting the public, the Opposition members are more interested in creating disturbances.”



don’t flinch when he dips them in oil as he drops the kebab in. “I don’t fast. If I have to serve good food, I have to taste it,” he says.

Mohammad Alam Khan stands in front of a massive chunk of meat being seared at the broiler. Next to them, piled high, are *samosas* made with naan and stuffed with cabbage and meat. He calls it Afghani Samosa. “It’s light and easy on the stomach after fasting all day,” he says, squeezing a grill shut over a dozen *samosas* to reheat them.

At Zakir Nagar on Thursday evening. Express

### AHEAD OF EID

# Chapli kebabs to Afghani samosas: Smells of Iftar waft through Zakir Nagar

UPASIKA SINGHAL  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

AS THE evening call to prayer drifts from a nearby mosque on Thursday, the usually teeming alleys of Zakir Nagar in Southeast Delhi fall into an unusual hush. The smell of sizzling *kebabs* lingers in the air, creating a medley of aromas with the fried snacks and sweet syrup-soaked treats. A few motorbikes zip past, weaving through the narrow lanes, now momentarily emptied, their riders rushing home for Iftar. In this brief pause before the fast is broken, the neighbourhood, normally

a whirlwind of movement, holds its breath waiting for the first bite.

It is the 26th day of Ramadan. Eid is a few days away.

A blaring siren rips through the street, marking the break of the day’s fast. The lanes, which were empty minutes ago, begin filling up with a trickle of people. A little girl, barely eight years old, stands behind her cart heaped with glass bangles while chomping down on a slice of watermelon. The glitter twinkles and winks, catching the light of the lights strung overhead.

A pineapple seller beside her chews a mouthful of his ware, wipes the juice from his mouth, and

gestures at the fruit, “Take them. They’re sweet, I promise,” he smiles.

As one peeks inside shops and restaurants, owners wave away customers. “Come back after we’re done,” says one, sitting on the floor and breaking his fast with a few other men.

“The real action starts after 8 or 9 pm,” says Mohammad Faizan. “People finish eating at home and go out with friends or family... that’s when they usually stop for a snack or buy some clothes for Eid.”

Faizan stands behind a steaming hot *tawa*, oil bubbling in the centre. His hands deftly knead the meat into balls before he coolly flattens it on the pan. His fingers



# Pay Rs 40 lakh for occupying Lodi-era monument: SC to Defence Colony RWA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

THE SUPREME Court has asked the Defence Colony Residents' Welfare Association (DCWA) to pay Rs 40 lakh as compensation for occupying a Lodi-era monument, 'Gumti of Shaikh Ali', for more than 60 years.

A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Ahsanuddin Amanullah Tuesday directed that the amount be paid to the Department of Archeology, which has been entrusted with the work of conservation and rehabilitation of the monument.

Built during the late 14th or early 15th century of the Lodi era, not much information has been documented on the octagonal structure. During the 1990s, the building underwent a significant transformation — not a carefully planned restoration but a 'modern' one to house the office of the DCWA.

The counsel appearing for the RWA said the colony was established as a society for defence



Gumti of Shaikh Ali in Defence Colony. Archive

personnel and, at least in the initial years, it was totally inhabited by Army officers and their families and the composition of the residents has changed over the last many years.

The court said, "This consideration we have kept in our mind and for this reason, we are taking a lenient view on the compensation to be paid, but considering that 1,600 plots (4,000

units) have already been constructed, we quantify the compensation as Rs 40 lakh..."

The counsel submitted that this amount shall be recovered from funds collected from the residents.

Additional Solicitor General S D Sanjay, appearing for the government, said the rest of the amount needed for conservation and restoration of

the monument shall be funded by the Government of India and the Government of NCT of Delhi equally.

The SC bench was hearing a petition filed by Defence Colony resident Rajiv Suri, seeking its intervention to declare the structure as a protected monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958. He had initially approached the Delhi High Court, which declined to intervene.

Hearing the plea in August last year, the SC had asked the CBI to conduct a preliminary enquiry to find out how it came to be occupied by the DCWA. Perusing the report, the court had pulled up the Association and the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) over the alleged encroachments.

In November, the Supreme Court slammed both the DCWA and the ASI. "How dare you (DCWA) enter this? How dare you?" a livid bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Ahsanuddin Amanullah had said.

On Tuesday, ASG Sanjay told the bench that the land belongs to the Union of India.

Taking note, the court said, "For all effective purposes, we direct that the land be handed over to the Union of India through the Land & Development Officer (L&DO) within one week from today. The L&DO will, in turn, give ingress and egress facility to the Department of Archeology, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, which has been given the responsibility for conservation and restoration of the monument so that no hindrance is put on their work in any manner."

The bench also directed that the L&DO, in the meanwhile, remove all encroachments and ensure that no parking is permitted in that area henceforth. It further asked the officer to file an affidavit appraising the court about the action taken within a week. Suri's plea referred to several historical records and said the structure found a mention in a survey of Delhi monuments conducted in 1920 by Maulvi Zafar Hasan, a British-era archaeologist.

## EDUCATION MINISTER INFORMS ASSEMBLY 'CM Shri schools with robotic labs; bag-free Saturdays till Class 8'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

ROBOTICS LABORATORIES, AI-supported libraries, AR/ VR-enabled smart classrooms, and face recognition-based attendance to track students — these facilities will be available across 60 solar-powered and zero-waste campuses of CM Shri schools in Delhi, in tune with the Centre's 'PM Shri' schools, outlined Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood in the Assembly on Thursday.

Earlier on Tuesday, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta had announced a budget of Rs 19,291 crore for the education sector, against Rs 16,396 crore the previous fiscal year. The BJP government has announced fresh initiatives in the sector, including a Rashtraneeti Curriculum, New Era of Entrepreneurial Ecosystem and Vision (NEEV) Entrepreneurship Programme, Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Vidya Shakti Scheme, and Dr APJ Abdul Kalam language labs.

Additionally, nursery to Class 8 students will have "bagless" Saturdays under the 'Shiksha Saathi Buddy' scheme — wherein a senior student, a personal mentor and guide, would be allotted to a group of 10 children. In the Rashtraneeti curriculum — aimed



Under the 'Shiksha Saathi Buddy' scheme, nursery to Class 8 students will have 'bagless' Saturdays. File

at instilling governance and policy-making skills among school students — Youth Parliament, MUNs, and policy simulations would be organised, the House was informed. "... NEEV would provide funding up to Rs 20,000, but with the right team, right mentorship, and real-world execution," Sood told the Assembly.

For digitisation, free laptops would be provided to those excelling in Class 10 board exams, he said, adding that the government also plans to set up 175 new computer labs across these schools, as per the CBSE standards.

Sood assured there "would not be any delay in salary payments to teachers and staff across the 12 fully government-funded Delhi University (DU) colleges, stating that the BJP-led government has cleared the dues".

## Two children fall into Bawana canal, drown

PRAGYNESH  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

TWO BROTHERS playing with their friends along the banks of the old Bawana canal drowned after they fell in on Thursday morning, the Delhi Police said.

The children have been identified as Rohit, 13, and Mohit, 9. Police said Rohit's body has been recovered while the search is on for the younger sibling, the police said. Police said a call was received at 7.15 am that two children had drowned in the old Bawana Nahar, near Dariyapur Akhada, in Outer North Delhi. On reaching the spot, a 10-year-old friend of the victims informed the police about the incident.

"He said Rohit and Mohit, residents of Vijay Colony, had drowned while playing near the bank of the nahar," DCP (Outer North) Nidhin Valsan said.

A team, comprising personnel from the Delhi Fire Services, National Disaster Response Force, and local police started a rescue operation, recovering the body of the elder child, police said. Rohit was taken to MV hospital in Bawana, where he was declared dead upon arrival. "The doctor declared him brought dead. The deceased's body was later moved to the Forensics Department of BSA Hospital," said DCP Valsan.

Efforts are underway to trace Mohit, police said.

## Four booked for ATM heist, over Rs 3 lakh stolen

New Delhi: Four unidentified persons have been booked for allegedly uprooting and stealing an ATM — containing Rs 3.71 lakh — from a bank kiosk in Southeast Delhi's Govindpur area on Thursday, police said.

Technical surveillance revealed that the four suspects had reached the area in an SUV between 4 am and 4.30 am, entered the kiosk, and then fled with the machine, police said.

DCP (Southeast) Ravi Kumar Singh said a case has been registered and an investigation has been initiated.

CCTV footage is being analysed to trace the accused, police said. **ENS**

## 17 women among Bar Association poll winners

Polls to bar associations across 5 court complexes were held on March 21

NIRBHAY THAKUR  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

THIS YEAR, the bar associations in Delhi have more women representation after the results of its elections held on March 21, in line with the Delhi High Court order last month. It recorded 17 women winners i.e. 28 per cent of the total 61 winners across five court complexes — Patiala House, Rouse Avenue, Tis Hazari, Rohini, and Dwarka.

This is a jump of 12 percentage points from the last elections when seven (16 per cent) of the 43 winners (excluding Rouse

Avenue Court where polls have been held for the first time) were women. In the Saket and Karkardooma court complexes, elections were postponed due to alleged mismanagement. Repolling is likely after directions from the Delhi High Court.

While the elections concluded in the Patiala House court for the New Delhi Bar Association, a petition was filed in the Delhi High Court challenging the polls. It was directed by the High Court on March 25 that the court elections would be subject to the outcome of the petition.

As many as 359 candidates



At the Rouse Avenue Court in New Delhi. File

contested the elections for the posts of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and member executive among others, across the five court complexes. Close to a fourth of the candidates — 86 — were women. However, women candidates won only reserved posts — treas-

urer, lady member executive, senior member executive (woman), and member executive (woman).

In the Delhi High Court Bar Association elections, fought for five posts among 17 candidates, a woman won the treasurer's post (20 per cent of the total); three of the contenders i.e. 17 per cent were women.

A similar pattern was observed in the number of women judges, which is 44 per cent in lower courts of Delhi — a massive jump of 11 percentage points over the past six years.

However, the number plummets as one moves up the hierarchy. In the Delhi High Court, only 24 per cent of the judges are women, and the figure is just 6 per cent in the Supreme Court.

## ALLEGED HATE SPEECH CASE

# HC refuses to stay trial court proceedings against Sharjeel Imam

SOHINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

THE DELHI High Court Thursday refused to stay the trial court proceedings on the framing of charges against student activist Sharjeel Imam in a 2019 case where he is accused of hate speech and criminal conspiracy.

Imam approached the HC to challenge a March 7 order by a Saket court, which directed the framing of charges against him in the case. The trial court, while issuing the direction, observed that Imam's speech of December 13, 2019, near Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi was "venomous", "pitted one religion against another" and was "indeed a hate speech".

The trial court directed to frame charges under section 109 (abetment) of the IPC read with sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups), along with offences pertaining to unlawful assembly, rioting, assault on public servants, attempt to culpable homicide, as well as for charges under the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act (PDPP).

Imam, in his revised petition, has pointed out that the trial court failed to record any prima facie finding on the essential ingredients of IPC Section 153A being satisfied, and failed to record any piece of evidence connecting Imam's speech on December 13, 2019, to the subsequent violence that broke out on December 15, 2019.

He was arrested in this case on February 17, 2021. He is also seeking an ad-interim stay on the trial court's order.

Imam, in his plea, also highlighted that he was not at the place of occurrence at the alleged time of violence, with call

detail records, too, attesting his presence at Shaheen Bagh at the time and not Jamia University.

On Thursday, Justice Sanjeev Narula issued notice on Imam's main revision plea seeking setting aside of the trial court's order on framing of charges, as well as on an application seeking an interim stay of the order, while orally remarking, "I'm not staying any order."

In a separate plea filed earlier, Imam also sought to set aside the supplementary chargesheet against him, stemming from this same FIR, primarily on the ground that there cannot be multiple proceedings for the same incident or offence against the same person.

The prosecution is anticipated to submit its response by April 24, when the court will consider both of Imam's pleas together.

An FIR was registered at the New Friends Colony (NFC) police station under various provisions of the IPC, PDPP Act and the Arms Act following an incident of rioting at the Jamia University and Mata Mandir Marg on December 15, 2019.

Imam was not named in the FIR and was only implicated in this case in the first supplementary chargesheet filed by police in April 2020.

On January 25, 2020, an FIR was registered at the Inter-State Cell, Crime Branch, against Imam for having delivered two speeches during anti-CAA protests — including the one at Jamia on December 13, 2019 — under IPC sections 124A (waging war against the state), 153A (promoting communal enmity) and other offences.

Despite this FIR, Imam was booked for the same offences in a supplementary chargesheet filed in relation to the 2019 NFC police FIR.

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**Admission to Ph.D Programmes**  
**(July-December, 2025 session)**

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission in Ph.D programmes in Academic Departments (Engineering, Science, Management, Humanities & Social Sciences) at NIT Agartala for July-December, 2025 academic session.

Application for admission may be made **on-line only** on payment of a fee (non-refundable) of Rs. 500/- (Rs.300/- for SC/ST/PwD candidates). The detailed notification can be seen at the institute website **www.nita.ac.in**.

**Registrar, NIT Agartala**

**राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान अगर्तला**  
**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AGARTALA**  
Barjala, Jirania, P. O. - NIT Agartala, Pin - 799046, West Tripura  
Website : <http://www.nita.ac.in>

**F.NITA.5/(55-Acad)/MBA/2025-26** **Date: 23.03.2025**

**MBA ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR 2025-26**

Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates intending to pursue a two-year fully Residential full-time MBA program in the Department of Management, Humanities & Social Sciences of NIT Agartala, commencing in **July 2025**. Start date of online application is **24.03.2025**.

**Eligibility:** Graduates of full-time regular course in an Engineering discipline with 60% marks [CGPA/CPI of 6.0 on 10 point scale] and for any other disciplines with 55% marks [CGPA/CPI of 5.5 on 10 point scale] with a valid **CAT/CMAT/GMAT/MAT/Institute Level Test (ILT)** score. A relaxation of 5% in marks or 0.5 in CGPA/CPI on a 10-point scale on graduation marks may be extended to the SC/ST candidate. Final-year appearing candidates may also apply. For application and further details, kindly visit the institute's website : **www.nita.ac.in**.

**Registrar, NIT Agartala**

**PUBLIC NOTICE ON CHANGE IN MANAGEMENT & CONTROL OF CONATUS FINSERVE Pvt. Ltd. (CFPL)**

This Public Notice is jointly issued by the below parties in compliance with para 42.3 of Master Direction- Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Company- Scale Based Regulations) Directions, 2023 dt Oct 19, 2023, as amended from time to time & as advised by the RBI's Department of Supervision, Bengaluru vide letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> Mar 2025.

Shri. Ganesh Ramanand Rao, Bhaskar Priyadarshi, Murl Manohar, Mijar Rajaram Kamath, Smt.Gitanjali Narayanan, Late Govindarajan Parthasarathy through legal heir Smt.Gitanjali Narayanan, and CFPL

RBI in the said letter has conveyed approval for acquisition of shareholding of 60.35% of CFPL (NBFC) by Ganesh Ramanand Rao and for appointment of Bhaskar Priyadarshi and Murl Manohar as Directors in terms of para 42.1.1 of Master Direction- Reserve Bank of India(Non-Banking Financial Company- Scale Based Regulations)Directions, 2023 dated Oct 19, 2023, as amended from time to time.

As per para 42.3.1 of the said Master Directions and the RBI letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> Mar 2025, the Change in Control & Management as mentioned above will be effective post 30 days of publication of this Notice

**Particulars of Transferee:Ganesh Ramanand Rao intends to acquire 51.17% of the shareholding from the below transferors:**

Name of the transferors	No. of Equity Shares to be transferred	Percentage of Shareholding after transfer	Change in percentage of shareholding
Mijar Rajaram Kamath	17,49,980	0%	- 12.44%
MijarRajaram Kamath(assuming partly paid equity shares to be converted into equivalent number of fully paid equity shares to the extent paid up)	5,79,510	0%	- 4.12%
Late Govindarajan Parthasarathy through legal heir Gitanjali Narayanan	7,50,000	0%	- 5.33%
Gitanjali Narayanan	41,20,000	0%	- 29.28%

Further, the NBFC proposes to issue & allot 60,61,342 (Sixty Lakh Sixty One Thousand Three Hundred Forty Two) equity shares on a Private Placement basis to the existing shareholders & the new Directors; **Reasons for Change:** To enhance its capital adequacy, management depth, operational effectiveness and position the NBFC for future growth and expansion

Any clarification /objection in this regard may be addressed to the NBFC within 30(thirty) days from the date of this notice, addressed to Shri. **Ganesh Ramanand Rao** Director of the Company at the registered office of the Company at : No.555, 1st Floor, 80 Feet Main Road, F Block, Sahakranagara, Kodigehalli, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, 560092 or at email [ganeshr@conatus.co.in](mailto:ganeshr@conatus.co.in), Regional Office of the Reserve Bank of India at the email id [dbengaluru@rbi.org.in](mailto:dbengaluru@rbi.org.in)

Acopy of this Notice is also available on the website of the Company at [www.goconatus.com](http://www.goconatus.com) For CFPL

Date:28/03/2025  
Place: Bangalore  
Sd/- Ganesh Ramanand Rao  
Director

**"धारा मेरा, नौला मेरा, गांव मेरा, प्रयास मेरा"**

**मा. मुख्यमंत्री श्री पुष्कर सिंह धामी के द्वारा "भगीरथ ऐप" का शुभारंभ 28 मार्च 2025**

**जल स्रोतों के संरक्षण में चाहिए आपकी भागीदारी**

**ऐप से सूचना भेजना बेहद आसान**

- QR Code से भगीरथ ऐप डाउनलोड करें
- धारा, नौला एवं अन्य जल स्रोतों की संक्षिप्त जानकारी दें
- जल स्रोत की फोटो अपलोड करें
- स्वयं का नाम व जल स्रोत के साथ अपनी सेल्फी अपलोड करें
- इस जानकारी से मिलेगी जल स्रोतों के उपचार में मदद

**स्प्रिंग एंड रिवर रिजुविनेशन प्राधिकरण (SARRA), जलागम प्रबंध निदेशालय, देहरादून, उत्तराखंड**

**@Sarra\_Uttarakhand**

**त्रिपुरा विश्वविद्यालय**  
**TRIPURA UNIVERSITY**  
(केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय / A Central University), त्रिपुरा (W) Tripura (W), पिन - 799022

**No. F.TU/Teach-Rec/2025 EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION Date: 27.03.2025**

Tripura University invites online applications from the eligible Indian Nationals for filling up various vacant teaching positions of Tripura University.

The filling up of online application form will start from **29<sup>th</sup> March, 2025**. Last date of Submission is **18<sup>th</sup> April, 2025**. Details are available in the Tripura University website : [www.tripurauniv.ac.in](http://www.tripurauniv.ac.in) and <https://curec.samarth.ac.in> (NB: Hindi version is available at T.U. website).

**Sd/-, Registrar**



# 6 IN PARLIAMENT BUDGET SESSION

## QUESTIONS IN HOUSE

### GOVT DATA SHOWS SCHOOL ENROLMENTS DROP IN LAST 2 YEARS

*New Delhi:* The country has reported a drop in school enrolments in 2023-24, especially at the elementary level where numbers declined by around 8 percentage points compared to 2021-22, according to government data presented in Parliament Thursday. Replying to a question on the living standards of tribals, Union MoS for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey told LS gross enrolment ratio of tribal students at elementary level declined from 103.4% in 2021-22 to 97.1% in 2023-24. In comparison, the GER of students from all communities dropped sharply from 100.13% in 2021-22 to 91.7% in 2023-24. For students from all communities, GER at the secondary level decreased from 79.56% in 2021-22 to 77.4% in 2023-24. **PTI**

### 669 ASIATIC LIONS DIED IN PAST 5 YRS, HIGHEST IN 2024

*New Delhi:* A total of 669 Asiatic lions died in last five years but no deaths were recorded due to poaching, the government said Thursday. The Gir forest in Gujarat is the only natural habitat of the Asiatic lions. Replying to a question in RS, Union MoS for Environment Kirti Vardhan Singh said 142 lions died in 2020, 124 in 2021, 117 in 2022, 121 in 2023 and 165 lions died in 2024. "As reported by the (Gujarat) state government, the reported causes of lion deaths include old age, illness, injuries from fights, cub mortality, falling into open wells, electrocution, accidents etc," he said. **PTI**

## V-P rejects Cong privilege notice against Shah

*New Delhi:* Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar Thursday rejected a privilege notice filed by Congress against Union Home Minister Amit Shah following Shah's authentication of his statements relating to the presence of Opposition party's leaders in the management of Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF). The notice was given by Congress chief whip Jairam Ramesh. Ramesh alleged that Shah had cast aspersions on Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi regarding the functioning of the PM Relief Fund during his reply on the Disaster Management Bill, 2024. In his authentication, Shah cited a January 24, 1948, press note by the PIB in which the then PM Jawaharlal Nehru announced the creation of PMNRF, and which described the composition of the committee. Dhankhar cited the note and said the committee managing PMNRF is composed of the PM, Congress president, deputy PM and other members. "...I find there has been no transgression, absolute adherence to truth, which is vindicated by a document..." he said. **ENS**

## Cash discovery row: Cong demands Law Minister's statement

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

CONGRESS MP Manish Tewari on Thursday said Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal should make a statement in the House on alleged discovery of cash from the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma. Speaking in LS during Zero Hour, Tewari said, "The reports about alleged aberrations in the judiciary have disturbed the conscience of all right-thinking citizens." He said that "nobody is saying that anyone is innocent or guilty" and that "nobody is

### LS CLEARS IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS BILL, 2025

## 'India not dharamshala': Shah says action against those coming to create conflict

### Refer Bill to joint Parliamentary panel, says Opp

**VIKAS PATHAK**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah Thursday said that those who come to India for development are welcome but strong action will be taken against those coming to "create conflict" as the Lok Sabha passed the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, aimed at regulating immigration, entry, and stay of foreigners in India, by a voice vote. Replying to a debate on the Bill, Shah said, "To bolster national security and economy, to make our universities global, to lay the foundation for R&D, and to make this country the best in 2047, this Bill is very important... Whoever enters our territory, when, for what time period, and with what intent, it is important for us to know. We will track in detail the entry of each foreigner in India." "Parsis came to India from Persia and are safe here. If there



Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Lok Sabha, Thursday. **PTI**

is one smallest minority that stays with self-respect anywhere, it is here. Jews also came from Israel to India. Through CAA, we opened the doors for persecuted minorities," he said. "Under Section 3, there is a provision for denying entry to someone who is a threat to national security. This country is not a dharamshala. Now the blacklist has a legal backing," Shah said. Being the fifth largest economy in the world, people coming to the country is natural, Shah said. "We welcome those who come for developing India, but be it Rohingya or Bangladeshi, if they come to cre-

ate conflict here, we will act tough against them," Shah said. "We will have a database of all those who come to India. It will help medical tourism, ecotourism, heritage tourism, and the hospitality sector. It will help in employment and in GDP growth... Cartels of drugs, infiltrators and hawala traders will also be finished off through this Bill. It will prevent people from staying illegally in India. There will be penal provisions for them... We are replacing colonial laws on immigration with a new law in our new Parliament." The Bill mandates registration of foreigners arriving in

India, empowers the Centre to disallow a foreigner entry to India or exit from India, and to decide what kind of activity the foreigners shall not engage in. The keepers of accommodations, say hotels, and authorities of universities and hospitals, will be mandated to provide online information regarding the stay of foreigners. The onus to prove that the person is not a foreigner will under the Bill lie with the one suspected to be a foreigner. Under the Bill, any foreigner entering India without a passport and visa will be liable to a sentence of up to five years in jail or a fine of up to ₹5 lakh, or both. Regarding there being no appeal against the authorities' decision, Shah said be it America, England, Germany or France, there is no appeal apart from court and the same will be the case here. Targeting the CM Mamata Banerjee-led government in West Bengal, Shah said there is a delay fencing 450 km on India-Bangladesh border as Bengal government has not given land. "Who gives illegal immigrants Aadhaar and voter cards? They all get 24 Parganas Aadhaar cards," he said. Asked by DMK's K Kanimozhi

what the government was doing for Tamil refugees, Shah said that the Modi government had continued the policy of the previous UPA government, which DMK was part of, and willing to consider new suggestions. He also defended the CAA, saying that it was to benefit those who had fled neighbouring countries to defend their religion and families, but added that those who infiltrated into India would be dealt with differently and sternly. Initiating the debate, Congress MP Manish Tewari said that the Bill gave "arbitrary powers" to the Centre and made the decision of an immigration officer final and binding, and demanded that the Bill be sent to a Joint Parliamentary committee, which was backed by other Opposition MPs. Tewari flagged a provision that empowers immigration officers to seize damaged passports without clearly defining what constitutes "damage". "This provision allows for arbitrariness and gives immigration officers unchecked power to harass individuals by declaring their passports damaged and seizing them. Worse, there is no appeal against such decisions," he said.



## TEAM HUDDLE

Trinamool Congress members Mahua Moitra, Derek O'Brien and Kirti Azad at Parliament House on Thursday. **ANI**

### IN LOK SABHA

## Multi-lane highway share rose to 33%, 1-lane cut to 9% in 10 yrs: Govt

**DHEERAJ MISHRA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

THE SHARE of 4-lane and above national highways has increased to over 33% of the total NHs network of India in the last 10 years, Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari told the Lok Sabha on Thursday. Also, the proportion of single lane/intermediate lane has decreased by 52% in the last decade, the minister said, attributing the development to increased budgetary allocation and push for multi-lane National Highways (NHs) over the years. The data tabled in the House shows that out of 1.46 lakh km of total national highway network, the length of 4-lane and above NHs is 48,430 km. The length of single lane/intermediate lane, which has much lower traffic capacity, has been cut down to 13,000 km, which is almost 9% of the total NHs network. The share of 2-lane NHs is still the highest — 84,774 km or 58% of the total NHs network of



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari in LS, Thursday. **ANI**

the country. In the light of changing socio-economic conditions in the country and in order to ensure safe and comfortable mobility of road users and reduction in accidents, widening of roads is one of the important projects of the ministry. Responding to the questions raised by Sanjay Haribhau Jadhav, a Shiv Sena (UBT) MP from Parbhani in Maharashtra, Gadkari said currently, a total of 636 NHs projects of four/six/eight laning in 16,422 km length, costing ₹6.35 lakh crore, are under construction

and 8,852-km length have been completed. "...193 NHs projects of four/six/eight laning in 5,496 km length costing ₹2.18 lakh crore have been approved/awarded in the country. At present, 24 NHs projects of eight-laning in 546 km length costing ₹44,401 crore are under construction in the country," said Gadkari. According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the traffic capacity for 4-lane NHS is 10,500 passenger car units or PCUs, 22,500 PCUs for 6-lane highways and 34,000 PCUs for 8-lane NHs. Some of the key multi-lane NHs approved in 2024-25 are 88-km-long 6-lane Agra-Gwalior National High-Speed Corridor, 231-km-long 4-lane Kharagpur-Moregram National High Speed Corridor, 68-km-long 4-lane Ayodhya Ring Road, 47-km-long 6-lane Ring Road around Kanpur, 8-lane Elevated Nashik Phata Khed Corridor near Pune and 6-lane access-controlled NH from JNPA Port (Pagote) to Chowk in Maharashtra.

## House panel: Judiciary, Govt synergy must to ensure timely processing of recommendations, appointments

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

A PARLIAMENTARY committee on Thursday called for synergy between the Executive and the Judiciary for timely filling up of vacancies of judges in the 25 high courts and said there was a need to develop an institutional mechanism to align new appointments with retirements. It also said that the process of judicial appointment and pen-

dency of cases are critical issues that require "urgent attention". In its report on demands for grants for 2025-26 of the Department of Justice in the Law Ministry, the committee said, "There must be synergy between the Judiciary and the Government to ensure timely processing of recommendations and appointments. The committee feels that a coordination mechanism should be developed between the Judiciary and the Ministry of Law and Justice

to track the status of appointments delays." It said an institutional mechanism "may be" developed wherein the process of the retirement of a judge and the appointment of his or her successor is aligned which would ensure that the vacancy is filled immediately after the retirement. The high courts with the most significant backlog — Allahabad, Bombay, and Rajasthan — should be prioritised for judicial appointments, it proposed.

The panel said the judicial workforce could be augmented by hiring more administrative staff, junior judicial officers, and court assistants to ensure smooth and efficient operations. During its recent study visit to the Kerala High Court, the committee had observed the successful deployment of mobile legal aid Units (Mobile E-sewa Kendras) which get stationed periodically in the districts in remote areas. These units have been ac-

tively providing legal services to people in far-flung locations, particularly in large tribal population, where they have played a crucial role in delivering justice. The parliamentary committee recommended the expansion of the services to other remote areas to conduct awareness sessions and assist people in accessing legal services, in the country. As on March 1, out of a sanctioned strength of 1,122 judges, the high courts had 359 vacancies.

## Equalisation levy withdrawal not linked to Trump tariffs: Sitharaman

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

THE CENTRE'S move to remove the 6% equalization levy on digital ads has nothing to do with today's global situation, and is part of an ongoing process, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in Rajya Sabha on Thursday. She was responding to Opposition members who said that the Centre's move was a response to tariff announcements made by US President Donald Trump. "On withdrawing levies and if it is a reaction to President Trump's tariff war... there were two types of equalisation levies — 6% levy imposed in financial year 2016, and 2% levy imposed in 2020. The 2% levy was removed in the July Budget, after stakeholder consultation, to ease compliance burden. That was much before President Trump took office. So, 6% levy which is being removed is part of that process," she said. "We have been doing this since 2023... steadily, every year, newer items are being brought in, keeping in mind Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat's needs. This is an ongoing process. It has nothing to do with today's global situation, but a process which will continue even in future," she said. Sitharaman was responding after Rajya Sabha considered the



**FM Nirmala Sitharaman in RS, Thursday. **PTI****

Appropriation (No.3) Bill 2025 and the Finance Bill 2025. As part of amendments to the Finance Bill 2025, the government had proposed to remove the equalization levy on online advertisements, which applies to payments exceeding ₹1 lakh a year to non-resident service providers. On reduction in customs duties, she said, "By bringing down customs duty or removing it, we are benefiting small and medium industries which import raw materials... Budget after Budget we are coming up with reduction in duties so that India's aspirations of being a manufacturing hub, and aspirations in building capacities for battery manufacturing are being supported," she said. On fiscal deficit, she said: "In 2014, when PM Modi-led government was formed, India was the 10th largest economy. Today, we have reached the stage of fifth largest economy, and in a few years we will be third largest... we faced a crisis, but India is one of the fastest growing economies today. You (previous UPA governments) faced the crisis and outcome was 'fragile five'."

## Chidambaram: How will Govt respond if Trump imposes tariffs?

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

WHAT WILL the government's response be if US President Donald Trump presses tariffs on India, former Finance Minister P Chidambaram asked in Rajya Sabha on Thursday. "President Trump has made it clear that he will launch a tariff war on April 2. If he presses tariffs on India on April 2, what is the government's response? What is India's response? There has been no statement of policy, no discussion in parliament, no consultation with the Opposition parties. The government is holding its cards close to its chest, if it has any cards at all," Chidambaram said, adding that this can be contrasted with the "openness" of Canada Mark Carney. He referred to the Centre's move to remove the 6% equalization levy on digital ads, saying: "The Finance Minister announced some tariff reductions in February. Obviously, Mr Trump is not satisfied." "If concessions and flattery have failed, and if tariffs are going to be imposed... I want to know what is the government's response," he asked.

Chidambaram was speaking during a discussion to consider the Appropriation (No.3) Bill 2025 and The Finance Bill 2025. He also pointed to the government's fiscal deficit. "The Finance Minister said that the endeavour will be to keep the fiscal deficit each year such that the Central government debt remains on a declining path as a percentage of



**Congress MP P Chidambaram in RS, Thursday. **PTI****

the GDP. The intent is good. Looking at the performance, I'm afraid we have to reconsider that statement. When this government assumed office in 2014, the fiscal deficit was 4.5% at the end of the previous year. In the middle of this government's tenure, it improved to 3.4% in 2018-19. But at the end of 2024-25, it is 4.8%. Effectively, the country's economy is back to where it started. The government will say Covid happened, but every government faces crises," he said. Opposition members raised matters of fiscal devolution, unemployment, and private consumption. Asking where the promise of fiscal devolution is, BJD's Sasmit Patra said: "Consider the allocation of Central funds for flagship schemes... States have very little say in policy. Is the Centre treating States as equal partners in India's journey?" He called for reducing cesses and surcharges, allowing States more discretion over Central funds and greater autonomy in designing and implementing programmes, and ensuring "fair devolution" by honouring the "federal spirit of the Constitution". TMC MP Sagarika Ghose said: "Where is *achhe din*? The economy faces a crisis of consumption. Private consumption is simply not reviving. Private investment has slumped."

## House panel recommends framework for direct recruitment in CBI, law to probe national security cases without general consent

CBI should strive to establish permanent cadre with structured career progression to ensure long-term stability: Panel

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

NOTING THE shortage of suitable deputations to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) — where a significant number of posts are filled on deputation from various organisations — a Parliamentary committee Thursday recommended that the organisation develop an independent framework by allowing direct recruitment through SSC, UPSC, or a dedicated CBI examination. The committee said that the

organisation should also introduce lateral entry for specialists in cybercrime, forensics, financial fraud, and legal domains. With the organisation also dependent on state consent to investigate matters, the 145th report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on the Demands for Grants (2025-26) pertaining to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) also recommended a separate or new law that would grant CBI wider investigative power without the

consent of the states in cases affecting national security and integrity. When it comes to human resources, the committee noted the challenges CBI faces in receiving nominations. The CBI has informed the committee that it was not receiving sufficient or suitable nominations from state police that was traditionally a major source of induction, particularly for the rank of inspector and below. It added that nominations weren't being received because of the shortage of manpower within the lending departments.

The organisation also noted delay in sending relevant documents by the lending department after identifying the personnel. It also pointed out that, selection of candidates without suitable skills result in non-selection even after scrutiny. The committee noted that the lack of incentives for the lending department also discourages them from deputing personnel. "The CBI should strive to establish a permanent cadre with structured career progression, this in turn will help CBI in ensuring long-term stability. An in-

house expertise team should be constituted which will make it less reliable on outside experts," the committee said, adding that deputation may be retained only for select senior posts. When it comes to its investigative powers, the organisation said that states have granted it a general consent for investigating a specified class of offences against specified categories of people. For investigating any matter that is not covered by the general consent, specific consent of the state government is required to investigate in the state. To add to the challenges, the

committee noted that eight states had withdrawn the general consent as well "limiting severely its ability to investigate corruption and organised crime." Hence, the committee recommended a separate law allowing the agency to investigate matters of national security and integrity without the consent of the state. "The law should also include safeguards to ensure impartiality, preventing state governments from feeling powerless. This reform is essential to ensure timely and unbiased investigations," said the committee.



# 7 GOVT & POLITICS

## Ready to work with India for fair boundary solution: China's PLA

**K J M VARMA**  
BEIJING, MARCH 27

THE CHINESE military said Thursday it is willing to work with its Indian counterpart to implement a fair and just solution to the border issue besides sound and stable defence ties.

A spokesman for China's National Defence, Senior Colonel Wu Qian, made the remarks at a media briefing here while replying to a question about the disengagement and the follow-up process at the eastern Ladakh part of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"The Chinese military is willing to work together with our Indian counterparts to implement a fair and just solution on the border issue," Wu told reporters. He said the Chinese military would also like to "contribute our wisdom and strength to the beautiful vision of a shared dance between the dragon and

elephant and a sound and stable military-to-military relationship."

The dragon-elephant dance has become a constant theme of China of late as the two countries ended the over four-year freeze of relations after reaching agreement over the disengagement process in eastern Ladakh last October.

This was followed by a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Russia last year and a number of high-level meetings to normalise relations.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, in his annual press conference on March 7, said "cooperative pas de deux", a ballet between the dragon and the elephant is the "only right choice for both sides".

On March 17, the Chinese Foreign Ministry reiterated the same while welcoming Modi's remarks on Sino-Indian ties

favouring dialogue over discord.

"China appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent positive statements on China-India relations," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing while responding to a question about Modi's remarks in conversation with American podcaster Lex Fridman.

On Tuesday, India and China held a fresh edition of diplomatic talks in Beijing focusing on ensuring effective border management and early resumption of cross-border cooperation and exchanges, including on trans-border rivers and Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra.

In the meeting of WMCC (Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination) on China-India Border Affairs, the two sides explored various measures and proposals to give effect to the decisions taken during talks between NSA Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister

Wang Yi at the Special Representatives (SR) dialogue in December.

On Wednesday, Gourangal Das, Joint Secretary (East Asia) in the Ministry of External Affairs, who led the Indian delegation at the WMCC meeting, met Liu Jinsong, Director General at the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Department of Asian Affairs, during which they explored ways to rebuild ties and agreed to initiate efforts to promote people-to-people exchanges, including arrangements for resumption of direct flights and resume Kailash Mansarovar Yatra this year.

In the meeting, the two sides also discussed the resumption of dialogue mechanisms in a "step-by-step" manner to utilise them to address each other's priority areas of interest and concern and move the relations to a "more stable and predictable path", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a press release. **PTI**

## Centre increases NREGS wages by 2-7% for FY26

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

THE CENTRE has hiked the wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the range of 2-7% for the financial year 2025-26.

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), which is the nodal ministry to run the rural job guarantee programmes, on Thursday issued a notification revising the NREGS wages for the FY 2025-26.

The government notifies the NREGS wage rates under subsection (1) of Section 6 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005. The new rates become effective from the 1st day (April 1) of the financial year.

The NREGS wage rates are fixed according to changes in the CPI-AL (Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers), which reflects the increase in inflation in rural areas.

According to notification, the NREGS wage rates for 2025-26 has been hiked in the range of 2.33-7.48%. Several states, including Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Meghalaya, have seen 7% hike in the NREGS wages for 2025-26 fiscal over the prevailing rates. States like Assam, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have seen a hike of 2-3%.

In Haryana, the NREGS wages will touch the ₹400-mark during 2025-26 from its current rate of ₹374 per day. This is the first time that the NREGS wages will touch the ₹400 figure in any state.

In the current financial year (2024-25), Goa had seen the maximum hike of 10.56% over its previous year (2022-23) wage rate;

**In Haryana, the NREGS wages for 2025-26 will touch the ₹400 per day mark, the highest in any state so far.**

Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand recorded the lowest 3.04%.

During the current financial year (2024-25), 5.66 crore households have availed the rural job guarantee scheme till March 19. Under MGNREGA, every rural household, whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work, is entitled to get at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year.

While Section 3 (1) of MGNREGA provides for "not less than 100 days" work per rural household in a financial year, it has become de facto upper limit as the NREGA software does not allow data entries for employment above 100 days to a household unless specifically requested by the State/UT.

In some cases the government allows additional 50 days of wage employment (beyond the stipulated 100 days). For instance, every Scheduled Tribe household in a forest area is entitled to get 150 days of work under NREGS, provided that such families have no other private property except for the land rights granted under the Forest Right Act, 2016.

Besides, the government, under Section 3(4) of MGNREGA, can also provide an additional 50 days of unskilled manual work in a financial year in such rural areas where drought or any natural calamity (as per Ministry of Home Affairs) has been notified.

## PM writes to Yunus, calls for 'mutual sensitivity' to each others' concerns

**DIVYAA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

AMID THE chill in Delhi-Dhaka ties over violence against minorities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote to Bangladesh Chief Adviser Mohammad Yunus on March 26, the country's National Day, and called for taking forward bilateral ties based on sensitivity to each others' concerns.

Greeting the people of Bangladesh, Modi wrote: "This day stands as a testament to our shared history and sacrifices that have laid the foundation of our bilateral partnership. The spirit of the Liberation War of Bangladesh continues to remain a guiding light for our relationship, which has flourished across multiple domains, bringing tangible benefits to our people."

"We remain committed to advancing this partnership, driven by our common aspirations for peace, stability, and prosperity, and based on mutual sensitivity to each other's interests and concerns," he said in his

note sent Wednesday.

India's relations with Bangladesh have taken a hit after violence against Hindu minorities under the Yunus-led interim government after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ouster in August last year. The Ministry of External Affairs has repeatedly condemned the violence while urging Bangladesh to protect them and religious institutions.

Modi's outreach comes after the Bangladesh interim government sought a meeting between Yunus and the Indian Prime Minister on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC summit, to be held early April in Bangkok. The meeting is not confirmed yet, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had told a consultative panel of MPs last week.

The Ministry of External Affairs has said that over 2,374 incidents of violence against minorities were reported in the neighbouring country between August 5, 2024, and February 16, 2025, but police verified only 1,254 of them. It said Dhaka had deemed 98% of these incidents "political in nature".

## SC to hear plea today for FIR against Justice Varma

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

THE SUPREME Court on Friday will hear a petition seeking the registration of an FIR against Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma over the discovery of cash at his official residence during a fire on March 14 night.

The plea by Advocate Mathews J Nedumpara will be heard by a bench of Justices A S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan.

The Supreme Court had in the 1991 ruling in *K Veeraswami Vs. Union of India* held that approval of the Chief Justice of India is mandatory for registering a criminal case under Section 154 of the Criminal Procedure Code against a sitting High Court or Supreme Court judge.

The petition challenges this. "The consequence of the aforesaid direction, that no FIR shall be filed, was certainly not present in the minds of the Hon'ble judges. The said direction creates a special class of privileged men/women, immune from the penal laws of the land. Our judges, except for a minority... are men and women of the greatest of erudition, integrity, learning and independence... But incidents where judges are caught red handed accepting money... cannot be denied. The judgement in *K Veeraswami's* case, to the knowledge of the petitioners has stood in the way of an FIR being registered even in an offence involving POCSO," the plea said.

CJ Sanjiv Khanna had on March 22 set up a three-member committee to conduct an inquiry into the allegations against Varma in the wake of the cash discovery. Nedumpara's petition also questions this and says only the police can investigate the matter. "The resolution of the Collegium investing the committee power to conduct such an investigation is rendered void ab initio inasmuch as the Collegium cannot confer jurisdiction upon itself to order so where the Parliament or the Constitution has conferred none," it said.

## DISCOVERY OF CASH AT JUSTICE VARMA'S HOUSE

## Bar leaders meet CJ, oppose judge's Allahabad HC transfer

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

LEADERS OF six high court bar associations on Thursday met Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and sought the withdrawal of the recommendation to transfer Justice Yashwant Varma to the Allahabad High Court.

Soon after the meeting, Allahabad High Court Bar Association chief Anil Tiwari said the CJ had assured them that he would consider the demands. The CJ, however, did not promise anything, said sources privy to the development.

The representatives of the High Court Bar associations of Allahabad, Gujarat, Kerala, Jabalpur, Karnataka and Lucknow met the CJ and four collegium members, Justices BR Gavai, Surya Kant, Abhay S Oka and Vikram Nath. They raised several demands, including setting in motion criminal action over the discovery of cash at the judge's official residence. They also flagged the "larger issue" of corruption in the judiciary.

"The five members (of the collegium) listened to us very carefully and told us in a positive way each and every point raised by you in writing will be considered by us strictly within the premises of law. Don't worry at all". This is a very big statement by five senior judges," Tiwari told media persons soon after the meeting.

He said the Allahabad bar body will now discuss whether to continue with its indefinite strike, launched on March 25 to protest the repatriation of Justice Varma to his parent high court.

According to Tiwari, the CJ referred to the reasons behind collegium's recommendation to transfer Justice Varma. The CJ said that in any case, Justice



Members of Bar associations arrive at the Supreme Court to meet CJ Sanjiv Khanna on Thursday. **PTI**

ered by us strictly within the premises of law. Don't worry at all". This is a very big statement by five senior judges," Tiwari told media persons soon after the meeting.

He said the Allahabad bar body will now discuss whether to continue with its indefinite strike, launched on March 25 to protest the repatriation of Justice Varma to his parent high court.

According to Tiwari, the CJ referred to the reasons behind collegium's recommendation to transfer Justice Varma. The CJ said that in any case, Justice

Varma would not discharge any judicial function at the Allahabad High Court, he said.

Advocate Yeshwant Shenoy, president of the Kerala High Court Bar Association, said: "One thing we pointed out to the chief justice and his collegium is our concern is not Justice Yashwant Verma per se... we have pointed out that when the courts or in the collegium is unable to pull out the bad apples, it affects the entire judiciary."

The collegium understood the concerns and said they want a "clean judiciary", he said.

## Judges' panel records statements of police, fire, security personnel

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

THE THREE-MEMBER committee of judges looking into the discovery of cash at Justice Yashwant Varma's residence has, over the last two days, recorded the statements of five police personnel who were among the first responders to the March 14 fire at the house.

The panel, formed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, is also learnt to have recorded the statements of three security per-

sonnel of Justice Varma, Delhi Fire Services chief Atul Garg and three firefighters.

The committee is learnt to have asked the CRPF personnel stationed at Varma's home to record their statements on Friday morning.

On Wednesday afternoon, following the directions of the panel, New Delhi district DCP Devesh Kumar Mahla sealed the store room where the cash was discovered after the fire.

A source said two head constables and a constable were questioned on Wednesday afternoon.

## Telangana Assembly passes resolution against delimitation

**NIKHILA HENRY**  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

TELANGANA CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy moved a resolution against delimitation in the Assembly on Thursday. "The house expresses its deep concern on the manner in which the impending delimitation exercise is being planned, without transparent consultations with stakeholders," it read.

The resolution, was later adopted by the House and passed. The resolution is in line with Reddy's statement at the meeting hosted by Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin in Chennai on March 22.

"The House urges that any de-



Telangana CM Revanth Reddy

limitation exercise should be carried out transparently and after extensive consultations with all state governments, all political parties and all stakeholders. The States which have effectively implemented the population control program pushed by the Centre, and consequently whose population share has come down, should not be penalised and population should not be the sole yardstick for delimitation,"

it states. The resolution noted that "the purpose and intent behind the 2nd, 84th and 87th Constitutional amendments aimed at national population stabilisation are yet to be achieved".

"Hence, while continuing with the freeze on the number of Parliamentary seats, taking State as a unit, redrawing the boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies can be taken up, duly augmenting the SC and ST seats as per latest population and also providing for reservation for women," it states.

The resolution also sought an increase in the seats in the state Assembly from 119 to 153, as promised in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

## TN Assembly passes resolution against proposed Waqf Bill

**ARUN JANARDHANAN**  
CHENNAI, MARCH 27

THE TAMIL Nadu Assembly passed a resolution Thursday urging the Union government to withdraw the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, calling it a direct infringement on the religious and property rights of the Muslim community.

Chief Minister M K Stalin, while moving the resolution, accused the BJP-led central government of "systematic discrimination" against minorities and non-BJP-ruled states.

"The Waqf (Amendment) Bill is yet another attempt by the Union government to interfere



Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin

in the religious administration of Muslims," Stalin said in his address. "This law increases government control over Waqf properties, undermines their autonomy, and threatens the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution," he said.

The resolution asserts that the Bill "severely harms the rights and interests of the minority Muslim community" and demands its "complete with-

drawal". Stalin said that Tamil Nadu had already registered its opposition before the Parliamentary Joint Committee but was disregarded, leaving no option but to formally oppose it in the Assembly.

Stalin framed the Bill as part of a broader trend of exclusionary policies by the BJP government. "Whether it is the Citizenship Amendment Act, the imposition of Hindi, financial discrimination against non-BJP states, or anti-social justice policies like NEET and NEP – every action of the Union government targets specific communities," Stalin said. He accused the BJP of introducing "a divisive agenda" in governance.



## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



(From left) Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi, DMK MP Thamizhachi Thangapandian, and CPM MP John Brittas at Sharad Pawar's residence in New Delhi

## IN GOOD BOOKS

DMK MP THAMIZHACHI Thangapandian, a Tamil poet and writer, has often surprised her MP friends with her versatility. Her popularity among the members was evident from the audience that attended the launch of her new book — Beatrice Webb: Portrait of a Reformist — in the Capital. The event, hosted by NCP MP Supriya Sule and Thangapandian's party colleague K Kanimozhi at the official residence of NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar, was attended by MPs of several parties, including the Congress, DMK, Left parties, TMC and TDP, from both Houses. The panel discussion had Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi, CPM MP John Brittas besides DU professor Swati Pal. Many in the audience admitted that they were not familiar with Webb, a social reformer and co-founder of London School of Economics.

## GROUNDNED PLAN

During a discussion on the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) scheme, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Thursday faced a barrage of questions from Opposition MPs on high airfares. Naidu explained that the government is taking several steps at multiple levels to offer affordable air travel. With members from both sides seeking permission to raise questions, Speaker Om Birla proposed a debate on the issue. His suggestion received applause from the MPs, but many members were visibly disappointed when Birla said they could stay back on Friday afternoon to discuss the issue during the Private Member Bill discussion. With Monday being Eid holiday, many MPs are likely to leave for their constituencies by early Friday afternoon.

## GUESS(T) WHO

In the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), there is an unwritten rule that party leaders should neither attend family functions of leaders of other political parties nor invite them to their family functions. A source said when BSP chief Mayawati expelled former party MP Ashok Siddharth on charges of indiscipline last month, one of the reasons for the strict action was the presence of a BJP MLA at a marriage function of Siddharth's family in Agra. After learning about the reason, many BSP leaders who attended the function are now trying to find out who the MLA was.

## Collegium recommends transfer of Delhi HC judge to Calcutta HC

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

THE SUPREME Court Collegium on Thursday recommended the transfer of Delhi High Court judge Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma to the Calcutta High Court.

Sources said that at the meeting on Thursday, Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna proposed the transfer. Justice Sharma, who currently ranks 18th in seniority in the Delhi High Court, was appointed a HC judge in 2022. He was the District and Sessions Judge, New Delhi and Registrar

(Vigilance) of the Delhi High Court before his elevation.

Justice Sharma's transfer comes on the heels of two other transfers from the Delhi HC.

Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma, in whose residence wads of cash were discovered when a fire broke out on March 14, has been recommended for a transfer. Another judge, Justice CD Singh, was also recommended for a transfer from the Delhi HC, back to Allahabad HC, which is his parent HC, in November. Both transfers are yet to be notified by the Centre.

## 'Forced to leave' India last yr, French journalist says allowed to resume work

**DIVYAA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

FRENCH JOURNALIST Vanessa Dounac, who had alleged that the government had "forced" her to leave India in February last year, said Thursday that she has been issued a one-year permit to resume work in the country.

She said in a statement: "The Government of India has authorised me to resume my profession as a foreign correspondent based in New Delhi. A one-year work permit has been granted to me by the relevant authorities." Dounac, who has covered South Asia from New Delhi for French publications including La Croix, Le Point, Le Soir and Le Temps, had said that she had been denied permission to work as a journalist in India in September 2022.

While she was able to stay on in the country because of her Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) status, the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) issued her a notice in January 2024 ac-

cusing her of "malicious" reporting. The agency, which operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs, sought an explanation for why her OCI status should not be cancelled for violation of rules.

A month later, Dounac left the country saying she was "being forced to leave by the Government of India". Dounac is married to an Indian national and has written on a range of subjects including the Maoist insurgency.

She said in her statement Thursday: "I am very pleased that my professional rights as a journalist to work in India have been reinstated. As always, I have only ever wanted to do my job as a journalist, with integrity and rigour, in a country I love and respect."

"With my permit suspended however, I had to abandon my position as a regional correspondent in India and South Asia for several publications and everything I had built over twenty-five years in Delhi. Under the threat of serious accusations and the possibility of expulsion, I was forced to leave India suddenly in February 2024."



# Assam reporter arrested again; ‘he’s not even a journalist’, says Sarma

SUKRITA BARUAH  
GUWAHATI, MARCH 27

A DAY after a court in Guwahati granted him bail, Assam journalist Dilwar Hussain Mozumdar was held again late Thursday evening in a separate case. This case is based on a complaint by the managing director of the Assam Co-operative Apex Bank (ACAB), whom he had questioned regarding alleged irregularities on Tuesday.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is the director of the ACAB, and BJP MLA Biswajit Phukan is its chairman.

Mozumdar, a reporter with the Assam-based digital media portal The CrossCurrent, was detained in the Pan Bazar police station on Tuesday after he went to cover a protest against the ACAB. He was arrested late Tuesday night based on a complaint filed by a security guard at the bank, who alleged criminal intimidation and violation of the SC/ST Act.

The court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate granted Mozumdar bail on Wednesday evening, but he remained in the Guwahati Central Jail throughout Thursday. Around 8 pm, he was taken from the jail to the Pan

Bazar police station again.

“He has been arrested in connection with another FIR based on a complaint by the bank MD. He will be produced before the court tomorrow; we will move for his bail in this case as well,” said his lawyer, Santanu Borthakur.

In this FIR, the MD, Domboru Saikia, whom Mozumdar had approached for a comment, has alleged that the journalist unlawfully entered the first floor of the bank and attempted to take away documents. Before Mozumdar was arrested in the second case, Chief Minister Sarma told reporters that “two-three cases” had been registered against him and he would be arrested in all. Sarma also said he could seek bail.

Journalists and journalist bodies had protested against Mozumdar’s arrest on Wednesday, calling it an attack on press freedom. However, on Thursday, Sarma questioned whether Mozumdar can be called a journalist, saying that the Assam government does not officially recognise people working in news portals as journalists.

“Legacy media is recognised as journalists by the Assam government. But YouTube channels, portals – the recognition of these is just something that is being dis-

cussed. A decision has not been made on this... We don’t register them, we don’t give them advertisements, we don’t give them ID cards. So this person does not come under the Assam government’s understanding of journalist,” he said. He also alleged that he should be considered a businessman and claimed that he owns a dumper business.

He also stated that Mozumdar was not arrested on journalism-related charges.

“He went to a bank, he is not even a journalist... He might have gone for personal work; no one can say... If a journalist goes and fights with someone, will he not be arrested?... We will not arrest for any write-up. If you write something against me, you will not be arrested for that... The freedom that journalists have is for writing, but what they go and speak about in an office; that is a different issue,” he said.

He also posted a statement on X, stating: “I would like to clarify that Assam police has not arrested any journalist in recent times.”

The CrossCurrent editor Arup Kalita, however, pointed to Mozumdar’s career of over a decade in different organisations and the fact that he is the Assistant General Secretary of the Guwahati Press Club.



Congress activists during a protest near the Assembly in Bhubaneswar on Thursday. PTI

## Violence rocks Odisha Assembly area as Congress workers clash with police

SUJIT BISOIYI  
BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 27

THE ODISHA police Thursday resorted to lathi charge, used water canons and fired tear gas shells as Congress workers broke barricades and proceeded towards the state Assembly as part of their ‘Vidhan Sabha gherao’ programme over “rising crimes against women” under the BJP rule.

Several Congress workers and personnel sustained injuries during a confrontation at the lower PMG square in Bhubaneswar.

Heavy police deployment was made in view of the protest, with over 80 platoons of forces mobilised and multi-level barricades erected around roads connecting the state Assembly.

Police said they resorted to lathi charge and used other tactics to disperse the agitators, who pelted stones and chairs at the personnel guarding the barricades. The police also alleged that the Congress workers tried to torch a police vehicle, which was averted.

Hundreds of Congress workers took out a rally from the Ram Mandir square towards the protest venue, slamming the BJP

government for “failing to protect the dignity of women in Odisha”.

Many senior Congress leaders, including state PCC president Bhakta Charan Das, were detained by the police.

“We were staging peaceful protests and tried to march towards the assembly. But the police fired tear gas shells at our leaders and workers. Many sustained injuries. The government cannot silence us using police force. We will take this fight to the streets and every village. We will soon launch Nari Nyay Satyagraha throughout the state,” said Das.

# Death of ex-MLA after surgery: Kin seek answers from Bengaluru hospital

REENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

THE FAMILY of Jyothi Devi Komireddy, the former Congress MLA from Telangana’s Metpally who fought for 33 per cent reservation for women in legislative bodies, is seeking answers after she underwent surgery and never regained consciousness, eventually passing away on November 8 last year.

On March 17, her son, writer and author Kapil Komireddi, through his lawyers, sent a “formal demand for clarification” to Dr Devi Shetty, a cardiac surgeon and chairman and founder of Narayana Health, seeking a response to several queries. These range from questioning the propriety of the process to decisions taken by the surgeon and the hospital. Dr Shetty did not respond to calls, messages and emails seeking comment.

Jyothi Devi (70) underwent surgery at Narayana Health, Bengaluru, on October 30 after being diagnosed with a rare condition called porcelain aorta with aneurysm.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Kapil Komireddi said that he was misled, coerced and lied to to opt for the surgery without being adequately made aware of the risks involved. “The explanation of risk was wrapped in a blanket of reassurance and tied with a bow that carried a warning of the consequences of not taking the risk,” he said.

A letter from Komireddy and Associates LLP to Dr Shetty, dated March 17, read: “In April 2024, my client consulted you with his mother and later via video call in June. You reassured him that her case was less risky than others you had handled... However, three doctors in Singapore advised against surgery due to her age (70) and the

high procedural risks. Despite this, your office repeatedly pursued my client, leading to the surgery on or about October 31, which lasted at least 10 hours. Mrs Komireddy never regained consciousness and passed away on November 8.”

Kapil’s lawyer asked: “Why was the surgery delegated, in part or whole, to your son rather than performed entirely by you?”

He also asked why the intensivist was “not physically present during the surgery and the immediate post-operative period”.

“You met my client on October 31 but did not see her again until November 4... On November 4, you assured my client that his mother was stable and improving, yet your intensivist stated minutes later that she was unlikely to survive. What accounts for this stark contradiction?” the lawyer wrote.

“Why was my client not informed that his mother had suffered a brain herniation and instead learned of this incidentally from a junior staff member?” he wrote. “My client requested that his mother’s body be returned in good condition. You assured him this would be done, yet on November 9, it was delivered with blood on her face and an A4 sheet pinned to her chest,” he wrote.

Jyothi Devi was a one-time MLA from the Metpally assembly constituency, which was later merged into the Korutla seat. She won the by-election in 1998, defeating BJP’s T Venkata Ramana Reddy.

She served as an MLA for 17 months but it was during her term as president of the All India Women MLAs’ Association that she made the biggest impact, leading the campaign for 33 per cent reservation for women in legislative bodies. Her husband, senior Congress leader Komireddi Ramulu, won from the same constituency in 2004.

## Karnataka to go for fresh survey of SCs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, MARCH 27

THE KARNATAKA Cabinet Thursday accepted the interim report on internal reservation submitted by a one-man Commission and approved its recommendation of conducting a fresh survey for a scientific classification of sub-castes in the Scheduled Caste (SC) category.

The term of the Commission under Justice Nagamohan Das was also extended by two months to complete the survey of SC groups in the state, after which the state would announce the internal reservation to SC communities in the state, Law and Parliamentary Affairs minister H K Patil said. The high-level committee for the survey will be headed by the chief secretary.

The chief secretary will deploy of-

ficials in around 6,000 gram panchayats, 300 town and municipal corporations to ascertain the number of sub-castes. “Within two months, the survey will be completed and a report submitted to the government,” Patil said.

The Justice Das Commission submitted its interim report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday morning after which it was taken up during the Cabinet meeting.

## Temple ‘washed after Kanhaiya’s visit’; non-BJP parties untouchables, asks Cong

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, MARCH 27

THE PURPORTED The purported washing of a temple in Bihar’s Saharsa district after Congress leader Kanhaiya Kumar’s visit has caused a controversy on Thursday, with the Congress asking if supporters of non-BJP parties “would be treated as untouchables” and the BJP saying the incident showed a “rejection” of Kumar’s politics.

The incident took place at the Goddess Durga temple at Bangoan village, which Kumar visited during his ongoing Palayan Roko, Naukri Do (Stop Migration, Provide Jobs) yatra.

Kumar had delivered an address from the temple premises.

A video, which has gone viral, showed that some people purportedly washed the temple soon after Kanhaiya Kumar left the village.

While Kumar refrained from commenting on the matter, Congress spokesperson Gyan Ranjan Gupta told The Indian Express: “We want to know if only RSS and BJP supporters are pious people and the rest are untouchable. The act has disrespected the descendants of Lord Parshuram. Have we entered a new phase of ultra-Sanskritisation in which non-BJP parties and supporters will be treated as untouchables?”

BJP spokesperson Asit Nath Tiwari, however, said: “In the first place, we should first verify the identity of those who washed the temple after Kanhaiya Kumar’s visit. And if a temple is washed after the Congress leader’s visit, it shows the kind of rejection towards Kanhaiya Kumar’s brand of politics.”

A Bangoan village resident said that, usually, people from all caste groups and backgrounds are allowed inside the temple. “It (washing) of the temple after Kumar’s visit) could be the work of some miscreants,” the elderly resident said. Kanhaiya Kumar belongs to the upper-caste Bhumihar community.

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Asset Reconstruction

APPENDIX IV-A

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

SALE NOTICE FOR THE AUCTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Secured Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Guarantor(s) and Mortgagor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor i.e. Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited acting in its capacity as trustee of EARC Trust SC 30 (EARC), the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer ("AO") of EARC on December 19, 2024, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and "No Recourse" basis on April 30, 2025 for recovery of Rs. 468,51,34,223/- (Rupees Four-Hundred Sixty-Eight Crore Fifty-one Lakhs Thirty-Four Thousand Two-Hundred Twenty-Three Only) as on September 20, 2024, together with further interest at contractual rates, other costs, expenses and after adjusting any payment received thereon till the actual date of complete payment to the Secured Creditors from Net 4 India Limited ("Borrower"), Jasjit Singh Sawhney S/o Shri. Amarjit Singh Sawhney, Pawanjyot Kaur Sawhney and Suzzan Pal (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Guarantors").

Description of Secured Assets put for Auction

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY Land and Office Building Block D-25, Sector 3, Noida, Uttar Pradesh Bounded by: East: Plot No. D-24 West: Plot No. D-26 North: Plot No. D 3 & 4 South: Road 18 Mtrs. Wide

The reserve price along with the details of e-auction and description of the immovable property are as follows:

(Amt in Rs.)

Reserve Price Fixed	Earnest Money Deposit	Date of Inspection	Date of Auction
Rs.15,55,00,000/-	Rs.1,55,50,000/-	21-04-2025	30-04-2025

Increment in Bidding

Rs. 10,00,000 (Rupees Ten Lakh Only)

Last Date of Submission of Bid

Before 5:00 PM on April 29, 2025

e-Auction Portal

<https://edelweissarc.auctiontiger.net>

Helpdesk

09265562621, 09265562618, 09978591888 arc@auctiontiger.net, support@auctiontiger.net

Date & time of e-Auction

April 30, 2025 (Wednesday) at 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in EARC's website i.e. <https://www.edelweissarc.in/>. For further information, you may contact Ankita Goel, Contact No.9888566854, E-mail: [Rishabh.jhabak@edelweissarc.in](mailto:Rishabh.jhabak@edelweissarc.in) and [Ankita.goel@edelweissarc.in](mailto:Ankita.goel@edelweissarc.in)

Date: 28.03.2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer

Place: Uttar pradesh For Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited

Planning & Development Department

Old Secretariat

Bihar, Patna-800015.

Notice inviting e-tender no: P&DD/RFP- 01 /2025-26

(Through e-procurement mode only)

Tender no: P&DD/RFP- 01 /2025-26 [Website-<https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>]

The Planning & Development Department Government of Bihar, Patna invites e-tender under two bids system from reputed Agencies for Selection of Social Media Management Agency for Planning & Development Department. The RFP Document can be downloaded from the website- <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>. The bid document should accompany the cost of RFP document in the form of e-payment mode in rupees.

This invitation to bid is open to all bidders meeting minimum eligibility criteria as mentioned in this RFP.

S.N.	Scope of Work	RFP Document Fee (inclusive of GST @18%) to be paid through e-payment mode (In Rupees)	Tender Processing Fee (None Refundable) (inclusive of GST @18%) to be paid through e-payment mode (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rupees)	Time of Completion
1	Selection of Social Media Management Agency for Planning & Development Department	Rs. 5,900/-	Rs. 5,90/-	Rs. 2,00,000/- (Two Lakhs Only)	Within 45 days from date of agreement

Tender Schedule/Programme

S.N.	Activity	Date/Time: Duration
1.	Date of Issue of notice inviting tender	01.04.2025
2.	RFP Release date (Start Date)	03.04.2025 05.00 PM ( <a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> )
3.	Pre-Bid Meeting	07.04.2025 - 11.00 AM  Venue- Planning & Development Department Old Secretariat Bihar, Patna-800015.
4.	Last Date/Time for submission/uploading of offer/Bid	25.04.2025 up to 05.00 PM
5.	Date & Time for opening of technical bid	28.04.2025 - 11.30 AM ( <a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> )  Venue- Planning & Development Department, Room Old Secretariat Bihar, Patna-800015
6.	Nodal Officer for any queries	Himanshu Kumar Rai (Special Secretary) Email:- <a href="mailto:secy-plandev-bih@nic.in">secy-plandev-bih@nic.in</a> Mobile No.- 8809972596
7	Financial Bid Opening Date and Time	To be Notified  Venue- - Planning & Development Department, Room No-164 Old Secretariat Bihar, Patna-800015

Detailed description of the item and instruction for submitting bid/offer can be downloaded from e-tender website (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

Special Secretary  
(Planning & Development Department)  
Bihar, Patna.

For further details please visit : [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)  
PR- 022852 (Planning) 2024-25

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार , दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer/C, Northern Railway, DRM Office, Delhi Division, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055, for and on behalf of the President of India invites sealed open electronic-tenders for under noted work:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Approximate cost of work	Earnest Money to be deposited	Completion Period	Date of Opening
1.	Reconditioning of Wheel Burns/scabs and Reconditioning of cupped welded joints over Delhi Division under DEN/Track/DLI	Rs. 77,59,500/-	Rs. 1,55,200/-	12 Months	22.04.2025

The e-tender is to be submit through railway website "<https://ireps.gov.in>". The tender can be submit on website up to 15:00 hrs. on 22.04.2025 and shall be opened there after.

No.: 128-W/Sr.DEN-C/NIT-35-24-25-WC Date: 27.03.2025 954/2025

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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--- [ceerdcapfsdran-jhr@nic.in](mailto:ceerdcapfsdran-jhr@nic.in)

e-Procurement very Short Notice, 4<sup>th</sup> Call

e-Tender Reference No. -RCD/FSD/AP/ RAN/74/24-25 Dated 26.03.2025

1-	Name of Work	Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report for Kanke road (Ram Mandir) via Chief Justice residence, sidhu Kanhu park, CM residence gate, Advaisi hostel to ATI Chowk & from Sidhu Kanhu Park via Ranchi College Ground to state Guest House road School including replacement of culverts and bridges, proposal for new culverts and bridges, complete Land Acquisition Proposal including ownership details all complete as per latest guidelines, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Proposal, Forest Diversion Proposal with clearance of all stages etc as required, 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.
2-	Work completion time	20 Days
3-	Tentative Length	2.00 km
4-	Cost of Tender Document & Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Cost of Tender Document - Rs 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand) (Non-Refundable) through online mode only. EMD :- Rs 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand) through online mode only. As per the Departmental Letter no -4632(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://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">https://jharkhandtenders.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	28.03.2025, 05.00 PM
6-	Last date and Time of submission of Tender (With Tender Fee and EMD)	08.04.2025, 12.30 PM
7-	Date and Timing of Bid opening	09.04.2025, 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://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a> )
10	PR No	348466 Road (24-25)

For further information please go through the website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer  
Field Survey Division,A.P  
Road Construction Department, Ranchi

PR 349329 Road(24-25)#D

Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and KC Venugopal at DCC meeting in New Delhi on Thursday. Anil Sharma

Cong considering power decentralisation in ticket distribution, says Khara

THE CONGRESS is considering a proposal to decentralise powers in ticket distribution for elections, said party's media and publicity department chairman Pawan Khara following a meeting of district Congress leaders from 13 states and three UTs at the new party headquarters in Delhi on Thursday.

A total of 338 DCC (District Congress Committee) office-bearers attended the meeting. The meeting came amid the Congress's "efforts to shift to a more decentralised organisational model in which the party's district units are more autonomous".

Khara said the proposal to give a role to the DCCs in ticket distribution for elections was received "favourably" at the meeting and that "in the days to come, there will be some announcements". "The party is working to make DCCs financially empowered so they can implement programmes of the AICC and PCC. The AICC is going to take some decisions for the DCCs to be economically empowered," he said.

The meeting was chaired by party president Mallikarjun Kharge. Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and general secretary K C Venugopal also present.

ASAD REHMAN

NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

NCP (SP) extended national working committee in its meeting in New Delhi discussed the controversy over Aurangzeb and several leaders said that there was an attempt being made to turn Maharashtra into a communal laboratory.

Party chief Sharad Pawar said he was not the one to get disheartened by one electoral defeat and urged party workers to gear up for future elections.

Pawar stressed strengthening the organisation and focusing on regions where it can bring about a change in the election-going states such as Bihar and Kerala.

On the action against comedian Kunal Kamra for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Deputy CM Eknath Shinde, Awhad said that the issue was overhyped.

-PTIINPUTS

Aurangzeb row attempt to make Maharashtra communal lab, says NCP-SP

Aurangzeb row attempt to make Maharashtra communal lab, says NCP-SP



LARRY KRAMER, PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR, LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

‘US varsities have helped the world, Trump crackdown damaging that’

**LARRY KRAMER**, President and Vice-Chancellor of the London School of Economics and Political Science, is in India as part of the institution’s efforts to build and strengthen connections across the board with alumni and prospective Indian students. The former Dean of Stanford Law School spoke to **RITIKA CHOPRA** on a range of issues — from the financial crisis facing the UK’s higher education sector to the US crackdown on campuses and foreign students, to generative AI’s threat to academic integrity.

**With UK universities exploring campuses in India, is LSE considering a footprint in India?**

There’s a range of opportunities from a full-fledged branch campus to in-country programs to partnerships with universities. We’ll explore all options to see what makes most sense for us. It’s different for different universities, so we haven’t made a decision yet.

**What led to the financial crisis where nearly three-quarters of UK institutions are expected to face deficits by September 2025?**

UK universities traditionally depended on government support, which shifted in the 1990s towards government-subsidised loans. In 2010, they capped fees and haven’t raised them since. This strained most schools with predominantly UK students. LSE avoided this problem because we can charge market rates to inter-

national students, who make up 70% of our population. Most universities are now seeking more international students as their only way to increase resources. LSE foresaw this and also developed philanthropy and extended education programs, while many UK universities now struggle without these resources.

**What according to you is the way out?**

Several options exist: The Labour government could choose options ranging from increasing fees to opening up to market rates, though the latter would be unpopular. Government could increase support as it used to. Universities must maximise efficiency while growing alumni support and extended education programs. Lifelong learning addresses rapidly changing skill requirements while generating income. I’m unsure if mergers or closures are inevitable. Mergers face cultural challenges, while closures harm students and staff. Better solutions must be found.

**At a time when universities face staff cuts and course closures, how do you justify the £42.4 million spent on vice-chancellors’ pay across 121 universities last year? Is this leadership by example during these challenging times?**

Obviously it’s unseemly for leadership to be paid grossly disproportionately to others. But compare what a vice chancellor



gets to a corporate president - it’s not even close. The idea that vice chancellors are overcompensated given the challenges of the job today, I just don’t accept. It’s an incredibly difficult position with significant sacrifices. I took a 60% pay cut to come to the UK because the job is challenging and interesting. The real financial crisis comes from the government restricting our ability to charge fees proportionate to the cost of education we provide. The problem isn’t money wasted on salaries. That’s looking in the wrong direction.

**But universities are being forced to let go of people. One might naturally think if you can’t afford to keep staff, perhaps leadership salaries should be reconsidered.**

The difference between what a vice chancellor gets and what

people might think reasonable won’t save jobs. It’s merely a gesture. The real problem is in the fee structure, how we’re permitted to operate, and costs imposed by government bureaucracy. Sometimes it looks like they’re trying to put us out of business. They impose massive costs for reports nobody will use, demanding outside review of exams and grading of scholarship. Universities spend enormous amounts preparing for these reviews - costs that dwarf anything spent on leadership salaries.

**How does generative AI’s threat to academic integrity compare to traditional plagiarism, and are existing policies adequate to address this new challenge?**

AI is harder to detect than plagiarism because it creates unique content each time. You can spot patterns in AI writing, but detection isn’t certain enough for punishment. But I believe this is the wrong approach anyway. Rather than controlling AI, we should embrace these tools as learning resources. The question becomes: what and how should we teach when students use AI?

At LSE, we’ve created a grant program for faculty to redesign courses around AI, with expert support for AI integration. Their materials are shared openly so others can learn from these ap-

proaches. We don’t have a universal policy - departments establish their own guidelines while maintaining academic integrity standards. We must think of AI like calculators a generation ago. You don’t ban them; you reconsider what to teach and how to assess learning with these tools. It’s not about stopping AI use, but educating effectively in a world where it exists.

**In the US, the Trump campaign has vowed to cancel student visas of those taking part in pro-Palestinian protests. What is your view on such punitive responses?**

The U.S. university system has been an enormously beneficial thing for the world. I think the actions the Trump ad-

ministration is taking against it now are going to damage it hugely. I was a constitutional law scholar. The First Amendment applies on US territory regardless of where the person is from. So it’s wrong for any administration to punish people for exercising free speech. I think I’ll stop there.

**Are you concerned about the precedent this sets for academic freedom and the right to protest globally?**

Certainly it won’t for us. Well, I’m sure the British government is not going to do what the American government is doing.



**How do you justify LSE becoming the first UK university to secure a court order last year against pro-Palestinian student protesters, and what message does this send about free expression on your campus?**

We fully embrace free speech. Initially, we allowed students to encamp inside a building and engaged in negotiations about their demands. However, they expanded to cover entire first floor with tents, blankets, posters, and electronic equipment, creating a significant fire hazard confirmed by two inspections. This forced us to shut down the building, displacing 400 faculty and staff and disrupting 450 planned events. We believe in free speech, but its limits are: you can’t do anything illegal, harass individuals, or significantly disrupt school business. When protest crossed into substantial disruption, our hand was forced. We got the court order to vacate the building while still offering to continue conversations. At that point, we had no choice.

**How should a university balance student activism with maintaining academic neutrality and free speech?**

The limits are: you cannot do anything illegal, harass or bully individuals, or disrupt school business. Our obligation is to protect everyone. We have people not involved in protests who need to work and study. Students have paid to come study, and protests can’t prevent them from doing

their work. There’s plenty of room to express ideas, which we fully support, but those are the boundaries we must maintain.

**What is your view on academic institutions taking a stand on political issues?**

I think it’s a mistake for institutions to take positions because it inevitably shuts down free speech for those with different views on campus. Our role is to create a space where students, faculty and staff can engage in open exchange and debate. To protect their free speech, the institution should not take positions itself.

**Given warnings about UK universities compromising academic freedom by becoming financially dependent on partnerships with authoritarian states like China, how does LSE navigate this tension while maintaining its principles? Are there red lines you won’t cross, even at the cost of funding?**

Yes, and they’re clear when we enter into the partnerships, whether it’s with the government or a private donor. It’s always the same, which is the university is going to protect the integrity of its processes and donors can’t dictate what we’re going to do, what the research is going to find or anything like that. That goes into the partnership at the front end.

**How would LSE handle a situation like UCL’s, where a teacher last year was barred**

**from teaching a course after complaints from Chinese students, considering your large Chinese student population?**

That’s different. It’s not outside dictation but balancing competing demands within our community. You navigate case-by-case. We won’t tell professors what to teach or say, nor force students to take classes with professors they object to. For elective courses, students can choose alternatives. We tell professors they have views but also responsibilities to create a welcoming environment for all students without ostracising anyone. These situations require ongoing balance.

**Has LSE ever had to balance such “competing demands” given the large international student body on campus?**

We haven’t faced an explicit situation like that that I’m aware of, certainly not since I’ve been there. What I would say is we’re aware of the possibility. So an ongoing conversation in the university is about the difference between your responsibilities inside the classroom and your freedoms outside. Academic freedom protects your ability to teach what it is that you think you should teach, and your contractual responsibilities to the students require you to do it in a way that nevertheless does not exclude or ostracise some of them or make them feel completely unwelcome in the classroom.

Yogendra Yadav guest at Explained.Live event today

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

**DATE:** 28 March 2025  
**TIME:** 6 pm  
**TO REGISTER, SCAN THE QR CODE:**

A POLITICAL confrontation is building up with a year to go before the freeze on the delimitation exercise ends.

The DMK has taken the lead in opposing the exercise and is trying to get other Opposition parties on its side to demand that the exercise be put on hold for another 25 years. The exercise is carried out to ensure that every constituency has a similar number of people, so that every lawmaker represents, roughly speaking, the same number of people.

The issue has been extremely contentious in India. On the demand of the southern states, delimitation was frozen for 25 years, first in 1976 and then in 2001. The southern states had argued that they stood to lose out in the delimitation exercise because they had performed better on population control. The same argument is being made again by DMK and other parties as the Centre began talking about carrying out delimitation after 2026.

To understand some of the issues involved, and a possible way

forward, *The Indian Express* has invited Yogendra Yadav, member, Swaraj India, and national convenor, Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan, for an online Explained Live event Friday. Yadav, who has written extensively on the subject, will be in conversation with Monojit Majumdar, Editor Explained, and Amitabh Sinha, Deputy Editor. Explained.Live is a series of explanatory conversations that *The Indian Express* hosts from time to time.

CM lays stone for township for Wayanad landslide-hit families

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 27

KERALA CM Pinarayi Vijayan Thursday laid the foundation stone for the township for survivors of the devastating landslides that hit Wayand last July. The township will come up on 64 hectares of land taken over from Elstone tea estate under Kalpetta municipality in Wayanad.

The event was attended by members of the state Cabinet, Opposition leaders and Congress Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, among others.

Addressing the gathering, which included survivors and beneficiaries of the project, Vijayan said the Wayanad rehabilitation programme sends a message that no disaster can defeat Kerala provided that the government acts with willpower and the people of the state stand with it.

“This rehabilitation will be marked as Kerala’s own survival. It gives the message that nothing is impossible if the people are with the government,” the CM said.

Vijayan said the cost of the rehabilitation was estimated as



CM Pinarayi Vijayan, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and others during foundation stone laying ceremony for Wayanad landslide victims’ township, Thursday. @pinarayivijayan/X

Rs 2,221 crore. The state had expected aid from the Centre as a major source of funds for the rehabilitation programme, but so far, the Centre has only given a loan of Rs 529 crore, he said.

The township will have 430 single-storey, 1,000-square-foot houses constructed in small clusters. It will also have common amenities such as a health centre, market, health club, school and other centres for community living.

As many as 242 families are

included in the first phase of the rehabilitation. Of those, 175 beneficiaries have given their consent for a house in the township, while 67 others, who want to live outside the township, have agreed for a compensation of Rs 15 lakh each.

The Wayanad landslides hit the villages of Mundakkai, Chooralmala and Attamala in Wayanad’s Meppadi panchayat, claiming 298 lives. As many as 17 families were completely wiped out.

HC gives nod to Carbide waste disposal after successful trials

**Jabalpur:** The Madhya Pradesh HC Thursday allowed the state government to dispose of chemical waste from the defunct Union Carbide factory in Bhopal at a Pithampur plant after it was told that a trial incineration did not cause any adverse consequences.

The hazardous waste shall be disposed of in a safe manner at the plant in Dhar district within 72 days, said a division bench of CJ S K Kait and Justice Vivek Jain.

The government had asked for 72 days to complete the process.

Some local organisations in Pithampur were opposed to the disposal of the waste near the town, but the government, in its affidavit filed before the court on Thursday, said the three trials of disposal were successful and did not lead to any adverse impact.

The court then directed the government to ensure all safety measures were taken, and dispose of the waste. The government was asked to file a report on June 30, said senior advocate Naman Nagrath, representing petitioner late Alok Pratap Singh.

Singh had filed the writ petition in 2004 regarding removal of the waste from the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal, the epicentre of the 1984 gas leak disaster. **PTI**

Pune driver, who set bus on fire killing 4, arrested

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
PUNE, MARCH 27

THE PIMPRI Chinchwad police on Thursday arrested the 56-year-old driver, who allegedly started a fire on a minibus at Hinjewadi IT hub, that killed four employees of a graphics printing company on March 19.

Confirming the arrest, DCP Vishal Gaikwad said that the driver, Janardan Humbarikar, was produced before a court, which sent him to police custody till March 29.

Humbarikar was undergoing treatment for his burns and other injuries. He was discharged on Thursday and was placed under arrest by the police.

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e-Tender No.: IRCON/2052/Santragachi/Tender/2025/121 Dated: 28.03.2025  
e-Tender for and on behalf of South Eastern Railway is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Design, Fabrication, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Wall/Hanging/Floor Mounting Type LED Illuminated Signage Boards at Santragachi Station Building and Platforms in connection to Station development project of Santragachi of South Eastern Railway in Howrah District of West Bengal".  
Estimated Cost of the Work (including all taxes & GST) Rs. 2,08,00,327/-  
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 3,10,000/-  
Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission 11.04.2025 up to 17.00 Hrs.  
For further details, visit website https://etenders.gov.in/procureapp. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website. Chief General Manager/East, 37B, Prantik Pally, Khasa, Kolkata-700107

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ई-निविदा सूचना  
महाबलेश्वर गिरिस्थान नगरपरिषद हद्दीमधील विविध विकास कामांच्या ई-निविदा महाराष्ट्र शासनाच्या [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in) या संकेतस्थळावर दिनांक 28/03/2025 पासून प्रसिद्ध करण्यात आलेल्या आहेत.  
सही/-  
(योगेश पाटील)  
प्रशासक तथा मुख्याधिकारी  
महाबलेश्वर गिरिस्थान नगरपरिषद, महाबलेश्वर

Calcutta HC to JU: Don’t invite political leaders, stick to academicians

**TANUSREE BOSE**  
KOLKATA, MARCH 27

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Thursday directed Jadavpur University (JU) administration to not invite any political functionary to programmes organised on the campus. Instead, the HC said, the university should invite only academicians.

A Division Bench of CJ TS Sivagnanam issued the directive to the JU on a PIL seeking the court’s intervention for safety and security on the campus in the wake of the March 1 incident in which Education Minister Bratya Basu’s vehicle was allegedly damaged by protesting students. A student was allegedly injured by a vehicle in the minister’s convoy.

During the hearing, the petitioner, Biswaroop Bhattacharya, demanded the installation of CCTVs and a permanent police outpost on the campus. “Our demand is university needs to be protected. The prevailing situation is unbelievable. Ministers are being attacked. Something has to be done regarding the security at the university...the state should come to the rescue of the university,” Bhattacharya said. “There is an interim V-C (vice-chancellor). Classes are

being held, but some of them are being disturbed... Outsiders and certain organisations are disturbing the classes. RSS is functioning inside the campus,” the petitioner told the court.

Appearing for the West Bengal government, senior counsel Kalyan Banerjee told the court JU has become “famous for all the wrong reasons in recent years”. “The trouble in JU has been going on for a long time. It is being done by students as police can enter campus only when authorities make a requisition for it. This problem has become a chronic disease in JU,” he said.

He claimed that following the June 2024 incident of a raging death on the campus, the government had provided CCTVs, but they were taken away by students. “Police cannot enter the campus on their own... When they (university authorities) fail to control the situation, the blame comes to us (the government),” Banerjee told the Bench. Riju Ghosal, the counsel for JU, told the HC that during a virtual meeting of Interim V-C (Bhaskar Gupta), Pro Vice-Chancellor (Amitava Datta) and Registrar (Indrajit Banerjee) of the university on March 15, measures were taken to improve security on the campus. **WITHPTIINPUTS**

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PR No. - 022860 (Industry)D. 2024-25



# 10 GOVERNANCE AWARDS



Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & IT, flanked by Viveck Goenka, Chairman of The Indian Express Group, and George Varghese, CEO, *The Indian Express*; Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group; Arjun Ravindran, Director, Vajiram & Ravi; Sudhakar Rao, Branding Director, ICFAI Group, jury members Wajahat Habibullah, former chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities and Amarjeet Sinha, Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress, with winners of The Indian Express Excellence in Governance Awards

## Acts of Renewal and Rebuilding

The third edition of The Indian Express Excellence in Governance Awards saw bureaucrats, politicians and entrepreneurs applaud innovation and determination of some of the country's best district magistrates

**NxtGen<sup>1</sup>**  
CLOUD TECHNOLOGIES

Presents



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**T**HE INDIAN EXPRESS Excellence in Governance Awards, held recently at ITC Maurya, New Delhi, honoured 16 district magistrates from over 450 entries across 29 states — for their pioneering work across categories from agriculture and disaster management to e-governance, healthcare, innovative education and social welfare.

From empowering students in Arunachal Pradesh with technology so that the classroom becomes a hub for innovation, helping farmers in Tamil Nadu take their produce to the world, floating community-based water conservation efforts in Jharkhand, starting projects for women in Odisha, providing over 40 villages with solar energy in Jharkhand to steering a 56-hour rescue operation after a devastating train tragedy in Odisha — these were stories of heroism, grit, determination and innovation.

At the third edition of the award ceremony, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & IT, was the chief guest and the guest of honour was Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology and Earth Sciences; MoS, Prime Minister's Office; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Atomic Energy and Space.

In his address Singh said: "There is a huge democratisation of civil services. It is no longer confined to an elite section. Earlier on we had civil servants mostly from south India, now we have toppers from the most unlikely states like Punjab and Haryana. So that's a huge demographic change. You have a huge percentage of women civil servants coming in, almost 28-30 per cent, which was hardly 3-4 per cent earlier."

Vaishnaw qualified governance as "the ability to develop trust between the government and the society — when the society believes that we have a system which will be working for us, which will support us, and give us justice when we need it."

On the occasion, Viveck Goenka, Chairman and Managing Director of The Indian Express Group, said, "The award-winning DMs bring the gains of freedom, governance and development to the most vulnerable of their fellow citizens. They secure and renew our democracy."

The winners were chosen by a distinguished jury headed by Wajahat Habibullah, former chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities and the country's first Chief Information Commissioner, and comprising Nirupama Rao Menon, former Foreign Secretary; KM Chandrasekhar, former Cabinet Secretary; and Amarjeet Sinha, Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress. PwC was the knowledge partner for the awards.

The evening also saw an audience of bureaucrats, politicians and entrepreneurs, including Minister of State SP Singh Baghel; Manish Tewari of the Congress; D Raja of CPI; Anil Baluni of BJP; KC Tyagi of JD (U); former Union Minister KJ Alphons; Hansraj Ahir, Chairman, National Commission of Backward Classes; V Srinivas, Secretary, Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances; Centre for Policy Research president Srinivas Chokkakula; Special CP (Crime), Delhi, Devesh Srivastava; Sudhakar Rao, Director Branding, ICFAI Group; Arjun Ravindran, Director, Vajiram & Ravi IAS; Sonali Mitra, Director Marketing & Communications, PwC India, besides ambassadors and lawmakers.



Viveck Goenka and George Varghese present Union Minister Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, a print of *The Indian Express* that was published on November 6, 1956, the day Singh was born



(Left) D Raja, General Secretary, Communist Party of India, with Congress MP Manish Tewari



Viveck Goenka with BJP's chief spokesperson Anil Baluni



Union Minister Jitendra Singh shakes hands with JD (U)'s KC Tyagi and (centre) former Union Minister KJ Alphons



(Left) Amarjeet Sinha, former advisor to the Prime Minister and jury member, with V Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances

Associate Partners



University Partner



Knowledge Partner







Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw greets the audience as he arrives for the function



(Right) Anandrao Vishnu Patil, Additional Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, with winners Aditya Vikram Yadav and Suryawanshi Mayur Vikas (centre)



(Left) Sudhakar Rao, Branding Director, ICFAI Group, with KJ Alphons and KM Sarayu (winner)



(Left) Nanu Bhasin, Additional Director General, (Media & Communication), Press Information Bureau with OP Mishra, former Indian Police Service Officer



(Left) Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Chairperson, National Commission for Backward Classes, with SP Singh Baghel, Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying



Wajahat Habibullah, former chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities and jury chair, interacting with the winners



Kausar Jahan, Chairperson, Delhi Haj Committee, talking to AP Abdullakutty, BJP National Vice President



(Left) Alka Lamba, President, All India Mahila Congress, with (Retd) Brigadier Dalbir Singh

# ‘If you can face the man in the mirror and say what I’m doing is right, then that’s the right choice for being a good officer’



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on changes in the administrative services and the role of AI in the future for DMs. He was in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group

● You've been in the services and now you're leading the services as a minister. From your vantage point, what do you think has changed in the services from when you started?

The people who are joining the services today are much smarter. They are far better exposed to today's technologies, resources and the kind of things that we would never be able to imagine that we could get in our districts.

Second, the fund flow in the districts is significantly higher compared to what it used to be in the past, so the opportunities to make a difference are much bigger.

Third, the work atmosphere has now expanded beyond State boundaries because of the use of technology. When I interact with young officers, they will tell me, 'You know, I saw this in Assam or Tamil Nadu, so I replicated that'.

● Ten years ago it would have been unfathomable to think of anybody sharing a portfolio with the Railways. Is it the technology that's kind of changed in how you administer the Railways? How do you view the administration of the Railways specifically?

The biggest strength of the Railway bureaucracy is its technical strength. They have hardcore technical people who understand technology, who understand railway operations, who understand what goes in making a bridge stable, what goes in making a tunnel stable. They are able to really calibrate themselves to the new challenges. I think that is the biggest strength of the Railways. Our Prime Minister always tells us that when you interact with the bureaucracy, you have to think of its strengths and play on that strength. So in the case of the Railways, if we use its technical strength then one can achieve a lot. That is what I have understood in my three-and-a-half-year old journey.

● You have other portfolios too, so are there any intersections?

Many. Today technology straddles across sectors and it is no longer vertical, it's a horizontal thing. For example, there are so many things that we did in railways which were useful for the telecom sector and things in telecom that were useful for the railway sector. There are so many things in electronics which are so useful in the railways that you can implement them straight away. And the experience of a large organisation like the railways gives the right inputs where we can make the correct innovation-friendly policies in IT.

● What's your advice to the young IAS aspirants or even the DMs? Is governance now less fragmented than it used to be or is it more specialised?

The world today is very different from the world which was there, let's say, 20, 40 or 60 years ago. In today's world the role of specialisation is increasing day by day

## RAPID FIRE

One thing that's changed for an IAS aspirant today compared to when you were studying?

I think too much information! How do you cope with so much GK? We'll require a chatbot to do the GK exam.

One thing that's not changed?

I think the level of aspiration in our villages throughout the country. In fact, it has expanded. Earlier, in many places like Maharashtra and Gujarat, people would generally not aspire to be an IAS officer but today (they do).

At some point, 'babudom' got a bit of a bad name in India. When and why was that?

I'm not a history student. I live in the present and think of the future.

One lesson from your Wharton MBA days that has helped your effectiveness as a minister and administrator.

The economic point of view. We can think of everything and anything in multiple ways. One way of thinking is that this is good, this is bad, this is moral, this is immoral. You are putting different types of frames of reference on things but when you study finance in a deep way, when you start understanding the nuances and then you start looking at things from an economic point of view, that makes a big difference in our day-to-day life.

The one lesson from the IAS that you think should be taught in MBA schools around the world?

Creating a value system. Creating institutions is not something which is easy. When we want to build institutions in a country, we can learn from the IAS, especially the institution of a district magistrate.

so you would really be in a good stead if you pick one or two subjects that you like — somebody can work on sustainability, somebody on gender issues, on finance, on technology. You can study that subject and keep experimenting with it over a long period of time.

Gone are the days when a pure generalist approach would do. Even in humanity-related (areas) like, say, the Ministry of Social Justice, the understanding of what caste is, of how caste interplays in a country, the understanding of how years of discrimination have shaped people's thinking — these are things which require specialised thinking. I think specialisation is very important. It's going to be even more important in the coming years.

● You studied at IIT, you were in the IAS and you then studied at Wharton. Is IIT and IAS a better combination to be a good administrator in the year 2025 or is a BA and IAS a better combination to be a good administrator?

None of the above. What's important is your value system. If your value system is strong, if you know that you can face the man or the woman in the mirror and look into the eyes and say that, yes, what I'm doing is right, then that's the right choice for being a good officer.

● You are a techie. Do you worry about AI replacing the role of a DM or that it will make it tougher for people to administer in a world of AI?

On the contrary, I think AI and every technology would really empower DMs in doing things better, improving their efficiency and making sure that the communication between citizens and government improves. If we can develop that trust between the government and the citizens, I think that's the biggest definition of good governance... I think AI will really help with it. AI or any technology, if harnessed well, can make a big difference.

● The question about AI replacing jobs still stands. Is that something you think about?

I think the nature of jobs has been changing for the last thousands of years, right? Earlier the pace of change used to be in decades, then it reduced to years and now it's reducing further. The pace of change will be there but people in positions should make sure that our citizens are equipped with the right skills which can help them cope with this change, cope with this transition because this transition is going to take place. How we prepare others for it is what's going to matter.



Shyam Bagri, Founder, Bagrry's India Private Limited



Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj



AP Abdullakutty, BJP National Vice President



Pradeep Bhandari, National Spokesperson, BJP



Arjun Ravindran, Director, Vajiram & Ravi



Sarthak Das, Senior Associate, PwC





The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

The colour of me

How do we fight internalised prejudices? Perhaps, as with so many things, it is wise to begin with children



KANI KUSRUTI

TO BEGIN WITH, a memory: I'm a child, whose relatives advise her to wear only light-coloured clothes. "If you wear black or any other dark shade, we can't see you," they complain, only half joking. This stricture — "don't wear black!" — breeds in me a distaste for lighter colours. Ask me now and I'll tell you how much I love black, and that I wear it all the time. And that, to me, it's just a colour, like blue or orange. But that's not all, is it?

In a post on Facebook that has now gone viral, Kerala's Chief Secretary, Sarada Muraleedharan, wrote about a comment that someone made regarding her tenure, "that it is as black as my husband's (her predecessor) was white". This is a loaded comment in any context, but in a society where the colour of one's skin is constantly remarked upon, where one's value is often determined by the tone of one's complexion, there is much more to be unpacked in any comment about "blackness" or "whiteness". "I need to own my blackness," Muraleedharan declared and recounted how, as a child, she asked her mother whether she could go back into her womb, so that she could emerge again, "all white and pretty".

White and pretty. I heard these words a lot, almost always paired with each other, during my childhood in Kerala. It is understood by everyone even today, but especially women and girls, that there is a hierarchy of colour, and therefore, of beauty. So deeply is this colourism embedded in our consciousness that upon entering any room, an automatic appraisal mechanism kicks in: Am I the darkest person in this room? Am I the fairest? Or am I somewhere in the middle? In school, my classmates and I would compare our skin tones, trying to determine who fell where on the scale of beauty. I would often be compared to my lighter-skinned cousins to my disadvantage, and my childhood friend bore similar comparisons to me.

We were all assigned — or assigned ourselves — a place in the hierarchy, and if we were not beautiful, not "white", we would be offered reassurances of another kind. At least you're good at studies. You'll be fine.

I can imagine that Muraleedharan heard similar comments when she was growing up as a child. Everyone hears them: The many girls I know, dark-skinned and stunning, whose portfolios keep getting rejected by the selection committee of the Miss Kerala beauty pageant. The journalist, Arathi P M, one of the most articulate people I know, was told that she was not "presentable" enough to read news live on television. The TV host who interviewed me last year, asking for minute adjustments in the lighting set-up for the show and then turning to me and joking, "You see, I wouldn't show up on the camera otherwise," The colour prejudice we have all internalised shows up in these myriad ways, from the desperate plea of a child, hoping to be given a second chance to be "fair and lovely", to the defensive humour of a man who has perhaps heard one too many punchlines at his expense about the colour of his skin.

In her post, Muraleedharan calls for a change in attitude not just towards dark skin, but towards the colour black itself. She calls it, "...the most powerful pulse of energy known to humankind". Black, as she says, "is the colour that works on everyone, the dress code for the office, the lustre of evening wear, the essence of kajol, the promise of rain". I understand where she is coming from, because I have been there.

Yet, there is more at work than simple colour prejudice. This is what struck me when I read the scholar Rekha Raj's post, a response to Muraleedharan, where she writes, "...no one has made fun of me by saying that I am dark. Because everybody in my house and town is black!" Her words made

me wonder about the many implications of colourism, the ways in which they manifest and how we respond. Because, let's not forget, roiling under the surface of our colour prejudice are other deeper, more insidious prejudices. Take, for example, caste. In a society where everyone has the same skin tone, it might be harder for casteism to disguise itself as colourism.

There is an outward acknowledgement today of colourism in our society, and I do come across people who say that darker skin tones are beautiful. But is this mere political correctness or do they truly appreciate beauty in all its diversity? Because the hard fact is that despite some progress, the standard of beauty remains what it has always been. Look at our films, for example. To an extent, we have learnt how to use make-up and lighting to better showcase the different types of beauty that exist here, but does the vast diversity of our people actually find representation on the screen? And it's about more than just the colour of a person's skin. It's about the shape of their nose, the size of their eyes. There is a certain template of sharp features and light skin which is, no doubt, attractive, but it does not reflect the diversity of beauty in this country. It conforms, instead, to an ideal we have drawn from our assumptions about what is beautiful and what is ugly.

How do we fight these prejudices that we have internalised? I wish I knew the answer. Perhaps, as with so many things, it is wisest to begin with children. Let's not saddle them with biases that we continue to struggle with and teach them to embrace diversity of every kind — colour, yes, but also so much more. The ugliness of prejudice in our society is, after all, not just skin deep.

Kusruti is an actor. Her most recent film is All We Imagine As Light

ONE STEP FORWARD

SC task force on student suicides can help understand crisis better. But a solution calls for more

THE SUPREME COURT'S decision this week to set up a task force to address the alarmingly high rate of student suicides in the country is an acknowledgement of a crisis. The statistics speak of a system failing its most vulnerable. According to the most recent NCRB data, there were over 13,000 student suicides in 2022. As the Court noted, they're a "grim reminder" of how inadequate and ineffective existing frameworks have been in addressing the mental health concerns of students, and point to the need for a more "robust, comprehensive and responsive mechanism to address the various factors" that drive students to the final, irrevocable step.

That the Court has not turned its eyes away from a problem that only seems to worsen — a 70 per cent increase in the last decade — is welcome. However, the task force, which is to be headed by former Supreme Court Justice Ravindra Bhat, is not the solution; it is merely one step towards addressing the challenge. Its work, which will include representatives from various fields, could shed much-needed light on what remains a little understood problem. It has been mandated with drawing up a report on a range of factors that lead to student suicides, including academic pressure, ragging, sexual harassment, financial burden, mental health stigma and discrimination based on caste, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation. It will also carry out an assessment of existing frameworks and measures, and make recommendations.

But the larger picture of student well-being calls for the participation of all stakeholders: Parents and teachers who, with vigilance and compassion, must shepherd the young through the tough phases of life, instilling the understanding that there is life beyond a failed test; educational institutions that must invest in their students' welfare and staff trained to identify the red flags. The government, too, must make good on the promise of initiatives like the National Education Policy 2020, which emphasises student well-being and mental health, by prioritising reform that focuses on nurturing individual potential, rather than a one-size-fits-all model. Crucially, there needs to be a concerted effort to replace the hyper-competitive nature that characterises student life with a genuine love for knowledge, where curiosity, rather than rote learning, is rewarded. The Supreme Court's initiative is a beginning, but results will only come from the sustained and collaborative action of all stakeholders.

LIFE ON THE OUTSIDE

'Prince' Harry is discovering that the real world is even less of a fairy tale than the royal life

S PARE A THOUGHT for the "spare". Harry of the House of Windsor has had a tough life — for a "royal". The spotlight has chased him practically from when he was born and a voracious public, obsessed with the powerful fiction that is the idea of royalty, has treated his family's triumphs and tragedies as entertainment. Perhaps, by all but cutting ties with the family he was born into, Harry thought he could escape the oppressions and pettiness. That by striking out on his own, with a partner who is not from the world of "insiders" he inhabits, he could be more than a second son. Unfortunately, the world outside has its share of cruel dramas, too.

Earlier this week, Harry resigned from a charity he founded. Sentebale was founded by the self-exiled prince and Prince Seeiso of Lesotho in 2006 to help families affected by AIDS. He has reportedly been closely involved with it ever since, even after he left England for the New World and tried to make it as a content creator for Netflix. Both Harry and Seeiso stepped down as patrons due to "untenable" differences with the charity's chairperson, Sophie Chandaoka. Chandaoka has accused Harry (in barely veiled comments) of turning a blind eye to misgovernance and acting with apathy.

There is little doubt that the reality show/soap opera that is British royalty can be oppressive. And Harry, having married an "outsider" would have had an even harder time of it. But squabbles and biases infect many a workplace and family. Harry, like most "royals", has never faced the pressures of work and the real world. Like the life he left behind, the one on the outside isn't a fairy tale either.



SURANJALI TANDON

AS WE BID farewell to the equalisation levy, its genesis has piqued interest. The 6 per cent levy on online advertising was conventionally brought to life through the Finance Act in 2016, rather than the Income-tax Act. The benefit of introducing the tax in such a way was that it would do away with the treaty override. That is, a taxpayer could no longer avoid the tax on grounds that the treaty did not recognise it as a tax applicable. As expected, large digital corporations were averse to such a tax even though many at the time reported fairly low rates of taxes across the world — a feature that the European Court of Justice has repeatedly attempted to set right.

Directionally, the international tax landscape has been progressing to close loopholes for tax avoidance, but what became a severe challenge was that no mutually agreed solution existed on the taxation of digital companies. The OECD, while finalising its work on taxation of the digital economy under the BEPS programme, left options at the table. But there was no particular solution. India took the initiative to be the first to introduce the levy. Though mentioned among the plausible measures, it was seen as unilateral subversion of whatever exists as the notion of international tax diplomacy. In the years that followed, the measure came to be critiqued for resulting in double taxation and for imposing additional costs on consumers. Yet, this did not deter other countries. The shift in approach pushed the US — home to large tech companies — to take notice.

The international community of tax negotiators was simultaneously brokering an agreement that would fit the requirement of ensuring taxes are aligned with market

A TAX IN OUR INTEREST

The equalisation levy has been withdrawn even when there is no global tax deal

size. The sore point of the negotiations was how much of the profits from bespoke services offered by digital companies were to be taxed in markets like India. While the US preferred to draw a line in the sand with only residual returns, India firmly believed that an agreed formulary apportionment of profits was the way ahead. Neither sat well with other countries.

The OECD began to create a more elaborate proposal that kept all members invested, although members, particularly the US, held a strong influence. In the process, the solution got lengthier and negotiators began growing tired of the deluge of consultations and discussions. In 2021, the US, which was distancing itself from the global tax deal, made a comeback with the Joe Biden administration asserting that it would throw its weight behind a solution that would tax top firms fairly. This would expand the focus from just US-based tech companies.

Based on the request of its principal financier, the OECD pivoted its approach slightly. India, too, invested its time and resources in the process. However, economic interests and size set the equation and India's efforts were not enough even though it received support from African countries. The fissures in international dialogue started to become apparent as reservations made their way into documents. Even as the OECD attempted to rescue the deal, developing countries began to wonder if it was time to shift to another forum.

The UN received resounding support from 110 countries in 2024 for the creation of an international tax convention. The UN tax committee recommended a simpler withholding tax on payments made for

services that could be introduced to treaties to avoid double taxation. The withholding tax was a non-starter but for the very same reason that is now holding up the OECD approach—consensus. The UN framework convention has reestablished the truth about international tax law that there are alternative models and countries can negotiate to preserve their interests.

In the light of this reality, digital taxes are expected to have a longer life. However, political change in the US revived the dispute on the levying of taxes. In 2020, the US launched USTR investigations that found the expanded scope of India's equalisation levy on digital services discriminatory. In response, the US threatened to levy retaliatory tariffs. India eventually withdrew the 2 per cent tax. The threat of tariffs has returned with President Donald Trump and it is possible that the 6 per cent equalisation levy is being withdrawn to dial down the trade tensions.

Many argue that the equalisation levy is discriminatory and its costs were passed to consumers. But in the absence of taxation of profits, would these arguments still hold? Any tax can be passed forward and there is no evidence of that. Reportedly, revenues collected from the levy were Rs 40 billion in 2022. The timing of the withdrawal, especially in the absence of a global tax deal, is interesting. Unfortunately, a tax that served India's interests well will no longer be available. It will, however, always serve as an example of how much a developing country can achieve through domestic measures without having to serve the illusion of consensus.

The writer is associate professor, NIPFP



MARCH 28, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

INITIATIVE ON PUNJAB

THE GOVERNMENT MAY announce a fresh initiative on Punjab. Governor Arjun Singh and his senior adviser, R V Subramaniam, in Delhi for consultations with the cabinet committee and the Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, are believed to have brought the lists of Akali detainees for a review of their cases and possible release. Even the possibility of holding an inquiry into the November riots has reportedly been discussed.

'NO PLOT TO KILL PM'

DR JAGJIT SINGH Chauhan went out of his way to deny a report that a plot was being

hatched in his so-called Khalistan house to kill Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during his forthcoming visit to Paris, Washington, Cairo and Algeria. In a letter to Gandhi, he said, "I have no intention of causing you even a minor injury let alone killing you."

UPROAR IN LOK SABHA

THE LOK SABHA witnessed uproarious scenes during question time when Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi attempted to explain the controversial remarks he made last week on Calcutta in the Upper House. CPM members, agitated over Gandhi's observation that Calcutta was a "dying city", clashed with those on the treasury benches when

they said the rules did not permit the Prime Minister to refer to his remarks in the other House.

UK MIGRATION RULES

PRIME MINISTER MARGARET Thatcher's government has announced an almost total ban on doctors and dentists from abroad coming to work in Britain. The Social Services secretary said immigration rules would be tightened from April 1. The London Times said the rules were aimed particularly at doctors from the new Commonwealth — the "Black", "Brown" and Asian countries of the association — and dentists from predominantly White Australia.



DIS/AGREE  
THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

A fortnightly column, which offers not this-versus-that, but the best of both sides, to inform the debate



C R Sasikumar

Netflix's 'Adolescence' has put the spotlight on the lengthening shadows of online lives. A parent and a young adult write in

Parenting without a compass

Adolescence is difficult, navigating it as a parent has no map in the digital age. Love, though, may still be the answer



PAROMITA CHAKRABARTI

IN HIS 13TH year, my son receives a T-shirt with graffiti on it: "I am an interesting person". Written beneath, in a bolder font, a single word: "Online". I am an interesting person. Online.

I insist it is untrue. He is a funnier person in real life, more annoying surely, but kind, gentle, if infuriatingly argumentative, I say. He refuses to rise to the bait. It is a gift that has struck a chord. He has only recently been initiated into social media and already he seems at home with its circadian rhythms. Every weekend, he spouts names of new games; apps and widgets flower on the home screen whose functions I have to Google to keep up. We run through the safety checks, negotiate the what and who with and for how long — and trust him to listen to us. We tamp down frissons of anxiety and hope we are doing enough.

The truth is, our generation doesn't really know what we are up against. We have passed down the wisdom we have grown up with — don't talk to strangers, look on either side before you cross the road, be careful with your words, be kind — but we don't quite know how to navigate this vast, uncharted territory of the internet, on which one can be a million different people from one day to the next. Our finger on its pulse is indecisive, vacillating. We are trying to keep up but we don't seem to be keeping pace. So we do what we can. Ask and insist, read the riot act when on-line time threatens to overtake real life. We argue and fight, write notes to make up. And we talk.

About how sometimes friendships feel more real when the person is online. How the ether glow of the screen can be a pick-me-up on days when nothing seems to be going right. How the only other thing that feels so exciting is a good book.

I think back to this as I watch the final, gut-wrenching episode of Stephen Graham and Jack Thorne's limited series on Netflix, *Adolescence*. Eddie and Amanda Miller, parents to 13-year-old Jamie, sit in their room, wondering where they might have gone wrong. Their son is incarcerated in a juvenile detention centre, awaiting trial for the murder of a classmate, a girl he has stabbed seven times because she made him feel inadequate; their lives are upended by all the signs they saw but couldn't read. "Did we make

him?" they ask each other. "Should we have done more...?" asks Eddie in agony. "I think it'd be good if we accepted that maybe we should have done," his wife responds.

Should we have done more? Could we have done more? Did we take our eyes off the ball a little bit? Is there a way to make it better? Did we make him so? These are difficult questions to answer in hindsight. But these answers are not necessarily online. In a world that has so much advice for girls and women, the template for masculinity has remained disturbingly fixed across cultures — a game of one upmanship in which an emasculation of the loser seems to be the only right answer. Men like Andrew Tate might be the flag bearers of the global manosphere and its toxic brand of masculinity but it's hard to ignore the more insidious home-grown variants, offline. "Don't cry like a girl," boys are told; "*chudiyan pehni hai kya* (are you wearing bangles)?" they are taunted. The crossover into the shadowy realm of "bois locker room" and deepfakes, double-entendre emojis and alpha males in love or loathing with themselves, seems only a step away. In this hierarchy, women are always pegged lower, more a sexualised fantasy, a conquest, less a companion. In this world, anger and loneliness go hand in hand.

In the final scene, Eddie steps into Jamie's room, trying to find remnants of a childhood he hadn't known was in the past. The space-themed wallpaper, the teddy bear on the bed, the drawings on the wall speak of the "gormless" little boy far removed from the teenager who had turned her loneliness and hurt into a weapon: "I'm sorry son, I should've done better," Eddie says.

Perhaps, he could have. Perhaps, it might still not have made a difference. Or, perhaps, like the Sheenagh Pugh poem, it might have saved them all: "*Sometimes our best efforts do not go/ amiss, sometimes we do as we*

*meant to/ The sun will sometimes melt a field of sorrow/ that seemed hard frozen: may it happen for you.*"

Adolescence is a difficult time. But it need not be lonely. For a generation adrift on the world wide web, there's one thing that we have going for us. Our capacity to love. There's comfort in the knowledge that sometimes we know our boys, still not fully formed, better than themselves — the frailties they won't admit to, the quiet strengths they are yet to realise. Every day, there are parts of them that recede further and further away from us as they become their own person. But the face of the young adult will always be familiar, like a warm hug after a hard day.

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The loneliness we can't tuck away

We are trying to figure ourselves out. There is a lack of control over our inner and outer worlds



YAJAS VAIDYANATHAN

THE GATES OF my high school swung open at 8:30 AM, and I waddled into the premises, not entirely hopeful about what the day had in store for me.

The school's social order had ranked me somewhere at the bottom, ruled ostensibly by jocks and sweaty pubescent footballers hoping to rule the world someday. The classroom smelled the usual — Playboy Generation deodorant, drenched post-workout socks, and chatter amongst girls and boys about landing the next big date. It was only when I settled down that I caught a lot of eyes scanning me, eventually cutting to every teen exchanging looks with their friends and giggling nonstop. I was used to the dark, having walked without leaning on the boys who nodded at every command of the "big eleven" — the high school football team. I pretended to ignore it all until someone tapped me on the shoulder and asked a question that left me bewildered. "It is true

then? How did you manage that in the washroom?" I asked him to be direct. "No really, how did you manage to sneak into the girls' washroom for a makeout?"

The last thing a 15-year-old me expected was for people to accuse me of this. My brain fogged up. Visions of my grief-stricken household with my mother crying over my nana's passing, my father leaving for a sabbatical in Boston, and my recent anxiety attack flooded before me. Rumour mongering was not an alien phenomenon, but it seemed like a systematic subterfuge on every student's part to turn me into an outcast.

Netflix's *Adolescence*, created by Jack Thorne and Stephen Graham, brought to the surface memories I had

carefully tucked away. It made me aware of the micro-hierarchies that teenagers attach so much meaning to. Social media presence and browsing through comments on them: "Is there a satisfactory number of them? Has my friend not liked my picture yet? Is the person I am interested in purposefully ignoring my post while they have liked others?" The four-part series revived memories of searching the web or leaving digital footprints on documents, blogs. Whether this feeling of being ostracised calls for a heinous act such as murder is, of course, highly questionable. However, the show deals with the questions I have asked after several instances that left me feeling rejected.

Over the past few years, alienation amongst the younger generation of college-goers and teenagers has intensified. We find

ways to be an insider. The feeling of being left out, in turn, fosters a sense of social inadequacy. Fortunately, India has not had instances of school shootings. But several cases in the US have involved perpetrators who were socially atypical. For instance, the perpetrators of the Columbine massacre came from healthy non-abusive families. Harassment by peers turned them towards the consumption of violent media online and desensitised them to the sanctity of life.

In a conversation with his wife, Amanda, Eddie says he may have overlooked deviations in his son's behaviour and his actual interests. One cannot help but wonder about ways to read between the lines to bridge a communication gap between the parents and their child. Eddie and Amanda's son Jamie has a bright mind and was an effervescent child when he was with the family. But behind closed doors sat a brooding, vituperative teenager who hid his online bullying from his parents and sister. An expression of vulnerability could have been seen as chickening out or snitching on a member of an in-group that the teenager may have deeply wanted to be a part of. The case of Charlie Simms from *The Scent of a Woman* is reminiscent of a similar situation, wherein he is hesitant of speaking up against his peers, despite running the risk of being expelled from school.

The show addresses a case of murder by a 13-year old boy as a result of being called an incel, targeting a girl who refused to go out with him. While this can be seen as a classic case of male chauvinism, it is important not to lose sight of the phase of life Jamie was in. Adolescence is a period of dynamic uncertainty, when youngsters are trying to figure themselves out. There is a lack of control we have over our inner and outer worlds. People may often try to seek liberation through a grip over an external tangible circumstance — a situation, or in this case, a person. While this phase is universally experienced, why does it pervert an individual to the extent that Jamie went to — dehumanise or eliminate others?

Fyodor Dostoyevsky claimed that a society which systematically tries to torture and imprison the best people in it is ludicrous. An individual contains within himself a tyrant with a quest for domination as well as a suffering victim of injustice. In Jamie's case, the victim within him dies after he claims to be a force, and the tyrant prevails. Adolescence ties to capriciousness, and the young adult tries to strangle the innocence of an impetuous child within us.

Who is to blame? Stephen Graham raises the same question in one of his interviews after the show's release. Is it conditioning on the parents' part, the society, or the constant metamorphosis of our social world? Do we or do we not change our plea?

The writer is student of Writing MA currently on a leave of absence from the Royal College of Art, London

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The fact is that Pakistan cannot afford a hostile regime in Afghanistan, as this has severe internal security implications for this country." — DAWN, PAKISTAN

In Parliament, beyond politics

A look at some of the interventions by MPs, across party lines, on issues that affect the lives of citizens



ZERO HOUR

BY DEREK O'BRIEN

PARLIAMENT SESSION AFTER Parliament session, a few things change. The coffee spoons have moved from Central Hall to the seemingly swank, yet soulless, corridors of a modern-day cafeteria. Heritage can't be traded in for the Hyatt-like. In the about-to-be-concluded Budget session, a few Members of Parliament were spotted wearing white kicks. Kangana Ranaut is the photojournalist's top shot.

In all this hubbub, it is the MPs who are seated in the first two rows of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha — from the five biggest parties — who tend to dominate news output. Almost by way of some unspoken rule, issues picked up for coverage by the channels and newspapers are centred mainly around the political. What this often means is that the lower an issue scores on the "political quotient", the fewer its chances of dominating a narrative. Here are seven such issues recently raised by MPs across political parties. The subjects may have not made multi-column stories or news tickers, but are serious interventions on citizen welfare.

**Road accidents on highways, Ghanshyam Tiwari, BJP**

In the last five years, about 8 lakh people have died in highway accidents in India. About half of unnatural and untimely deaths in India happen due to road accidents. Per the government's own admission in Parliament, we have failed to achieve the target of reducing road accidents by 50 per cent.

**Rehabilitation for acid attack victims, Sanjay Singh, AAP**

In the last 11 years, 200 women have been survivors of acid attack cases. One-third of the victims are girls below 18 years of age. Survivors have often struggled to secure justice for themselves in a timely manner, with some cases going up to 20 years. In 2015, the Supreme Court ordered completely free medical treatment for acid attack victims. What's the compensation that victims get? Just 5 lakh rupees.

**Blood transfusion for thalassemia patients, Sagarika Ghose, AITC**

India faces serious shortages in the supply of healthy uninfected blood for transfusions. We require 14.6 million units of blood each year and fall short by 7 million units. Around 1,50,000 Thalassemia patients depend on such transfusions for survival. Shortages in supply interrupt the transfusion cycles for these patients. Life-saving drugs for thalassemia patients are also reported to be in short supply. Lack of

awareness about blood transfusion and associated health benefits often leads to pre-conceived notions and reluctance about blood donations. There is an urgent need to strengthen screening protocols to ensure a sufficient supply of healthy uninfected blood.

**Safety of school transport, Fauzia Khan, NCP-SP**

As of 2021, one out of two vehicles used as school transport do not have seat belts, speed governors, or transport managers. Three out of four parents surveyed were not able to verify if GPS and CCTVs were active in school buses. Vehicles used for school transport in India excessively lack safety equipment and first aid kits. These vehicles also often lack emergency contact information, enabling reckless driving. Despite one of the highest number of road accidents, India doesn't have a comprehensive policy on school transport safety.

**Drug addiction among children, Ajeet Madhavrao Gopchade, BJP**

Drug addiction among children, especially poor children is a rising cause for concern. What drugs are children accessing? Pain relief balms on bread, fevicol, paint, petrol, diesel, turpentine, nail polish remover, multiple kinds of cough syrup and many more easily available substances. These substances cannot be and are not prohibited for sale, making legal remedies close to impossible. As of 2022, 1.5 crore children aged between 10 and 17 were addicted to such substances.

**Low-cost gene therapy for SMA, Haris Beeran, IUML**

Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is an incurable and rare genetic disorder affecting 8,000 to 25,000 Indians annually. SMA affects nerve cells in the spinal cord and is fatal if untreated. Gene therapy medicine, used to treat the disease in infants below two years of age, costs 17 crore rupees. Molecule therapy, requiring 30 bottles of medicine annually, costs 6.2 lakh rupees per bottle. The National Policy for Rare Diseases (2021), stipulating local manufacture of drugs for rare diseases, must be pushed into action to save precious lives battling SMA.

**Crisis of Plastic Pollution, Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla, YSRCP**

The Central Pollution Control Board estimates that India generates 3.5 million tonnes of plastic waste each year. About half of that waste is collected, of which 50 per cent is recycled. Where does the rest of the plastic waste go? Landfills, rivers, oceans. What doesn't end up here is burnt, contributing to air pollution. Plastic ends up in the air that we breathe, the water that we drink, and the food that we eat. Failure to recycle plastic is also an economic problem. India imports more than 80 per cent of crude that is also used to make plastics. Recycling plastics effectively can save at least Rs 50,000 crore annually.

The writer is MP and leader, All India Trinamool Congress Parliamentary Party (Rajya Sabha)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOT A ONE-OFF

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'TR(hea)P' (IE, March 27). The Rhea Chakraborty case is a classic example of a media trial where the accused was pronounced guilty before the court's verdict. The excessive coverage and sensationalisation created a frenzy, which proved detrimental to the accused, her family and the justice system. There have been several instances where the media overstepped its boundaries; examples include the Jessica Lal, Aarushi Talwar-Hemraj Banjade and Sunanda Puskar murder cases. It is essential for the media to recognise its responsibility and exercise restraint in reporting sensitive cases, ensuring that an individual's right to a fair trial is not compromised.

SSPaul, Nadia

DO IT RIGHT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Court must revisit NJAC' (IE, March 27). The discovery of burnt bundles of Indian currency notes from the official residence of Yashwant Varma has rekindled the debate on the fate of the 2015 National Judicial Appointments Committee (NJAC) Act. There must be discussions on how to reform the process of appointments, but the discussions initiated by Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on the topic could trigger the suspicion that the government is pushing its agenda. This is best avoided. True, our legislature must discuss further reforms in the judiciary but it should be conducted on a more appropriate occasion and in a measured way.

Khokan Das, Kolkata

NO LAUGHS ALLOWED

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A joke' (IE, March 25). It is a matter of grave concern that the space for open criticism is drastically shrinking in a democracy like India where, once, dissent and criticism were embraced. That era laid the strong foundation of a healthy society where ideas from different walks of life were picked up for the growth and enrichment of a diverse culture. The state's censorship of freedom of speech and uncomfortable truths is deplorable and regressive. India has witnessed a steady erosion of such freedoms. The disturbing silence of civil society in these matters does not bode well for the future of comedy or Indian democracy.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali



# Classifieds

## PERSONAL

**I, PRACHI SHRIPATRAO YADAV W/O MURALEEDHAR S. ASKI, R/o Flat No-II-B/8 Type-3, Pusa Campus, I.A.R.I., New Delhi 110012, I declare that my wife and My Minor Daughter has been wrongly written as PRACHI SHRIPATHRAO YADAV and MAYRA in my minor Daughter MAYRA ASKI, aged about 8 Year, In her Birth Certificate No. 6338. The actual name of Mine and My Minor Daughter are PRACHI SHRIPATRAO YADAV and MAYRA ASKI, which may be amended accordingly** 0070958859-1

**I Ankit Kalra S/o Shri Madan Lal Kalra R/o Flat No. 50, on 1st Floor, Vidya Vihar Apartment, Plot No. 48, Sector-3, Rohini, New Delhi vide Sale Deed Dated 29.08.2017 at Doc. No. 7616. However, Original Share Certificate no.372) dated 24-Sep-2017 issued by Vidya Vihar DDA in favour of Deepak and Naveen Sankani bearing was lost from the possession of PNBHFL. If any find the above said original document, return back the same to PNBHFL at 5th Floor, Kirtiash Bhawan, 22 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi -110001 as the same is being mortgage with the Said PNBHFL. Hence this notice is hereby given that any person or legal heirs, bank or financial institutions, or any parties, Any claim, charge, interest, bid, demand, rights, of whatsoever nature in respect of or against the said property by way of inheritance, share, transfer, mortgage, possession, However, nature, and hereby required to make the same known in writing with documentary support to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication, failing which the said claim of such person/s, if any will be considered as waived and settled. **MR. SAMIR KUMAR / LAJIT KUMAR (ADVOCATE) M/S. EXCEL LAW GROUP LLP** Office at Address: 87-C, 3rd Floor, Pocket-2, Sector-6, Dwarka, New Delhi; Mobile: 8130395390/91.**

**I, Kirpi W/o. Vinod Sati R/o Kh. No. 240, Ground Floor, Street No. 242, Sushant Vihar, Village Kadipur, Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm & declare that my name is Kirpi and Kirpi Sati both names belong to me and the correct name is Kirpi.** 0040781752-1

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**I, GURUBACHAN KAUSHIK S/O NATTHI RAM R/O NATTHI RAM 34, RAIPUR KHADAR, SECTOR-126, NOIDA-201304, have change my name to GURUBACHAN SHARMA.** 0070958857-1

**I, Deepak Kumar S/o Sh. Banwari Lal Meena R/O 85 1st Floor, Front Side Rani Garden, Geeta Colony Gandhi Nagar, East Delhi Delhi-110031 declare that in the school record my daughter's SEJAL KANWAT date of birth wrongly written as 21.03.2012. The actual date of birth of my daughter's SEJAL KANWAT is 21.07.2011, which may be amended accordingly.** 0070958938-1

**I, Mahendra, S/o-Suman Chand Bansal, R/o C-2/19, Rohini Sector-14, Prashant Vihar, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Mahendra Bansal** 0040781850-3

**I, MRIDULA, D/o UDAI VIR SINGH R/o-96, Rishi Apartment Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to MRIDULA SINGH.** 0040781850-4

**I, KM. PARMILA RANI, W/O SATENDRA KUMAR, R/O A-87, SECTOR-55, GAUTAMBU DH NAGAR, NOIDA, UTTAR PRADESH-201301. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PARMILA SAINI.** 0040781805-6

**I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS HIMANSHI, D/O-RAM NIWAS, R/O NAHARPUR RUPA, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS HIMANSHI SHARMA.** 0040781805-5

**I, Dilip S/o Bhasu Das, R/o C-2/37/38, Malka Ganj, North Delhi, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Dilip Kumar.** 0040781828-5

**I, DEEPAK, S/o RAJ KUMAR Pal R/O C-246, Hari-Nagar, New Delhi-110064, that my name is Inadvertently written as Deepak Sidhu in my minor Daughter AKANSHA aged-14- years in her School Records. But my actual and correct-name is DEEPAK.** 0040781851-11

**I, Bijendar Singh, S/o Harpal Singh R/o, 69, 59 Road Near-RBS Tower nathpur, Gurgaon(Haryana)- 122002, have changed my name to Bijender Singh.** 0040781828-4

**I, BIPIN KUMAR, S/O SRIKANT RAJAK, R/O, FLAT NO-M-404, STELLAR JEEVAN, GREATER NOIDA WEST, SECTOR-1, GAUTAM-BUDDHA-NAGAR, UP-201306, have changed my, name from BIPIN KUMAR RAJAK to BIPIN KUMAR, for all, future purpose.** 0040781850-5

**I, ANKIT MAHESHWARI R/O HNO.2, RAIL VIHAR, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034. HAVE CHANGED MY CHILD NAME ANAY TO ANAY MAHESHWARI.** 0040781805-2

**I, ANKIT MAHESHWARI R/O HNO.2, RAIL VIHAR, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034. HAVE CHANGED MY CHILD NAME ANAYA TO ANAAYA MAHESHWARI.** 0040781805-1

**I, Satish Chander Dahiya, S/O Jagdish Dahiya, R/o 61-C, Block-A-3, Utsav-Vihar Karala, Delhi 110081, have changed my name to Satish Dahiya.** 0040781851-1

**I, Sarvesh C/o Dalvir Singh, R/o C-143, Fourth-Floor, Ramprastha-Colony, Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201011, have changed my-name to Shikha Bansal.** 0040781851-4

**I, SRI SANGEETA TOMAR, W/O- MANENDRA PRATAP SINGH, R/O- VILLA NUMBER -346, B-BLOCK, OMAXE CITY, SECTOR-19, SONIPAT, HARYANA-131001 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANGITA DHAKARE.** 0040781850-1

**I, Ravinder Kaur Nagi, W/o Gurmeet Singh, R/o B-191, First-Floor, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Ravinder Kaur.** 0040781851-5

**I, RAMNIWAS, No.3203898-NKS-O/SHER SINGH, R/o-VIIL-BIDAWAS, PO-NANGAL SHAHBAZPUR, Teh-BAWAL, Distt-REWARI HARYANA-123501, have changed my, son's name from DAKASH to DAKSH, for all future purpose.** 0040781850-6

**I, Sandeep Kumar, S/o Dharamveer R/o-97/B, 80, Gaj Harijan Basti Sultanpuri C-Block, Delhi-110086, have changed my minor daughter name DEEPANSHI aged 9 years to VIPRITA.** 0040781850-2

**I, RAJEEV KUMAR ARORA, S/o Sudarshan Kumar, R/o, A-119, First Floor, Front-Side, Janta Colony, Shivaji Vihar, Tagore Garden, west-Delhi-110027, have changed my name to RAJEEV KUMAR.** 0040781828-3

**I, Piyush S/o-Rakesh Kumar, R/o Flat No-4052, Solomon Height, Plot-8, Sector-19-B, Dwarka, Dwarka Sec-6, South-West, Delhi, Delhi-110075, have changed my name to Piyush Gahlot.** 0040781805-8

**I, PRAVEEN AGARWAL, S/O, KANHIA LAL AGRAWAL R/O, 53, JAGANNATH BHURI, NEAR SHRI KRISHAN JANM PHOONIM, MATHURA, UTTAR PRADESH-281001, have changed my name to PRAVEEN AGRAWAL.** 0040781805-4

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**I, A Xavier alias Anthoni Xavier S/o Perinayaganan Anthoni Samy R/o Plot No-D/177, F/F, F/S, LHS Block D1, Mansa Ram Park Near Dwarka Mor Metro Station, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Anthoni Xavier for all future purpose.** 0130050538-1

**I, No 10406142Y EX Hav Pitam Singh, R/o, Vill- Nagla, Merthiha Post-Baderua Distt-Mathura(UP), Pin-281001, I declare that my wife and daughter name has been wrongly-written as Mithilesh Kumari and Kumari Nisha in my service-records. The correct-wife's name is Mithilesh Devi and daughter's name is Nisha Kumari.** 0040781805-10

**I, Nirmila Devi Dahiya, W/o Satish Dahiya, R/o 61-C, Block-A-3, Utsav Vihar Karala Delhi-110081, have changed my name to Nirmila Dahiya.** 0040781851-2

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**I, Kirpi W/o. Vinod Sati R/o Kh. No. 240, Ground Floor, Street No. 242, Sushant Vihar, Village Kadipur, Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm & declare that my name is Kirpi and Kirpi Sati both names belong to me and the correct name is Kirpi.** 0040781752-1

**I, Kanishka Pahuja w/o Sanjay Pahuja R/O 128, Post box Gadai Pur, South Delhi, Delhi-110030, declare that before marriage my name was Ropal Doultnani D/o Deepak Doultnani was written on all previous documents like school certificates & FD documents.After marriage name has been charged to Kanishka Pahuja for all future purposes.** 0070958855-1

**I, GURUBACHAN KAUSHIK S/O NATTHI RAM R/O NATTHI RAM 34, RAIPUR KHADAR, SECTOR-126, NOIDA-201304, have change my name to GURUBACHAN SHARMA.** 0070958857-1

**I, Deepak Kumar S/o Sh. Banwari Lal Meena R/O 85 1st Floor, Front Side Rani Garden, Geeta Colony Gandhi Nagar, East Delhi Delhi-110031 declare that in the school record my daughter's SEJAL KANWAT date of birth wrongly written as 21.03.2012. The actual date of birth of my daughter's SEJAL KANWAT is 21.07.2011, which may be amended accordingly.** 0070958938-1

**I, Mahendra, S/o-Suman Chand Bansal, R/o C-2/19, Rohini Sector-14, Prashant Vihar, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Mahendra Bansal** 0040781850-3

**I, MRIDULA, D/o UDAI VIR SINGH R/o-96, Rishi Apartment Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to MRIDULA SINGH.** 0040781850-4

**I, KM. PARMILA RANI, W/O SATENDRA KUMAR, R/O A-87, SECTOR-55, GAUTAMBU DH NAGAR, NOIDA, UTTAR PRADESH-201301. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PARMILA SAINI.** 0040781805-6

**I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS HIMANSHI, D/O-RAM NIWAS, R/O NAHARPUR RUPA, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS HIMANSHI SHARMA.** 0040781805-5

**I, Dilip S/o Bhasu Das, R/o C-2/37/38, Malka Ganj, North Delhi, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Dilip Kumar.** 0040781828-5

**I, DEEPAK, S/o RAJ KUMAR Pal R/O C-246, Hari-Nagar, New Delhi-110064, that my name is Inadvertently written as Deepak Sidhu in my minor Daughter AKANSHA aged-14- years in her School Records. But my actual and correct-name is DEEPAK.** 0040781851-11

**I, Bijendar Singh, S/o Harpal Singh R/o, 69, 59 Road Near-RBS Tower nathpur, Gurgaon(Haryana)- 122002, have changed my name to Bijender Singh.** 0040781828-4

**I, BIPIN KUMAR, S/O SRIKANT RAJAK, R/O, FLAT NO-M-404, STELLAR JEEVAN, GREATER NOIDA WEST, SECTOR-1, GAUTAM-BUDDHA-NAGAR, UP-201306, have changed my, name from BIPIN KUMAR RAJAK to BIPIN KUMAR, for all, future purpose.** 0040781850-5

**I, ANKIT MAHESHWARI R/O HNO.2, RAIL VIHAR, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034. HAVE CHANGED MY CHILD NAME ANAY TO ANAY MAHESHWARI.** 0040781805-2

**I, ANKIT MAHESHWARI R/O HNO.2, RAIL VIHAR, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034. HAVE CHANGED MY CHILD NAME ANAYA TO ANAAYA MAHESHWARI.** 0040781805-1

**I, Satish Chander Dahiya, S/O Jagdish Dahiya, R/o 61-C, Block-A-3, Utsav-Vihar Karala, Delhi 110081, have changed my name to Satish Dahiya.** 0040781851-1

**I, Sarvesh C/o Dalvir Singh, R/o C-143, Fourth-Floor, Ramprastha-Colony, Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201011, have changed my-name to Shikha Bansal.** 0040781851-4

**I, SRI SANGEETA TOMAR, W/O- MANENDRA PRATAP SINGH, R/O- VILLA NUMBER -346, B-BLOCK, OMAXE CITY, SECTOR-19, SONIPAT, HARYANA-131001 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANGITA DHAKARE.** 0040781850-1

**I, Ravinder Kaur Nagi, W/o Gurmeet Singh, R/o B-191, First-Floor, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Ravinder Kaur.** 0040781851-5

**I, RAMNIWAS, No.3203898-NKS-O/SHER SINGH, R/o-VIIL-BIDAWAS, PO-NANGAL SHAHBAZPUR, Teh-BAWAL, Distt-REWARI HARYANA-123501, have changed my, son's name from DAKASH to DAKSH, for all future purpose.** 0040781850-6

**I, Sandeep Kumar, S/o Dharamveer R/o-97/B, 80, Gaj Harijan Basti Sultanpuri C-Block, Delhi-110086, have changed my minor daughter name DEEPANSHI aged 9 years to VIPRITA.** 0040781850-2

**I, RAJEEV KUMAR ARORA, S/o Sudarshan Kumar, R/o, A-119, First Floor, Front-Side, Janta Colony, Shivaji Vihar, Tagore Garden, west-Delhi-110027, have changed my name to RAJEEV KUMAR.** 0040781828-3

**I, Piyush S/o-Rakesh Kumar, R/o Flat No-4052, Solomon Height, Plot-8, Sector-19-B, Dwarka, Dwarka Sec-6, South-West, Delhi, Delhi-110075, have changed my name to Piyush Gahlot.** 0040781805-8

**I, PRAVEEN AGARWAL, S/O, KANHIA L**



**The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking**  
(OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)

**TENDER NOTICE**  
**E-tender is Re- invited for the supply of following items.**  
  
(1) 79975 (Corrigendum).  
  
**Note:** For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>  
**PRO/AAM(M)/130/2025****GENERAL MANAGER**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,  
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION II ND AJMER**  
**E-mail [ex.en.wrdii.ajmer@gmail.com](mailto:ex.en.wrdii.ajmer@gmail.com) Tel. 0145-2627133**

5895  
**Notice Inviting Bid**  
**Nit No 17/2024-25**  
1 Bid is invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM dated 08.04.2025. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the [sppp.rajn.in](http://sppp.rajn.in) of the state. The approximate value of the procurement in Rs. 284.80 Lacs.  
**NIB code:- WRD2425A0303**  
**UBN:- WRD2425RFP0003**  
  
**Sd/-**  
**(Anil Yadav)**  
**Executive Engineer**  
**Water Resources Div IInd Ajmer**  
**DIPR/C/4221/2025**

19.03.25

**MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED**  
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)  
**Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangalore - 575 004**  
**Ph: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425**

**No. E-142110****Date: 14.03.2025**  
**TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)**  
MESCOM invites tender for the following  

Tender No	Particulars	Quantity
MESCOM/2024-25/SE0041	Procurement of Delivery Van with Mandatory spares to mount the portable type of cable fault locator.	1 No.

  
The interested bidders may log on to [www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) on or after 28.03.2025.  
**Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Procurement)**  
**DIPR/ADM/KSCMA/1691/2425 dt. 27.03.2025**  
**For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912**

**MAHARASHTRA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION**  
583/B, MARKET YARD, GULTEKDI, PUNE - 411037  
Phone : 020 – 24206830 | Web site: [www.mswarehousing.com](http://www.mswarehousing.com)

**TENDER NOTICE NO. MSWC/Comp/SAPHANA/03/2025**  
(Electronic tendering system only)  
Tenders are invited through electronic tendering system (E-tender) from bidders with the pre-qualifying requirements for Selection of System Integrator (SI) for implementation, Design, Development, Upgradation of SAP ECC 6.0 to RISE with SAP S/4HANA and AMS (Application Management Services) for Four (04) years.  

S. N.	Particulars	Cost of blank Tender form (Non Refundable)	EMD	Date of issue	Last Date of submission	Date of opening
1	Selection of System Integrator (SI) for implementation, Design, Development, Upgradation of SAP ECC 6.0 to RISE with SAP S/4HANA and AMS (Application Management Services) for Four (04) years	15,000/- (Incl. of GST)	10 Lakhs	28/03/2025 to 11/04/2025 upto 17.00 hrs.	11/04/2025 to 17.00 hrs.	15/04/2025 at 11.30 hrs at H.O., Pune

  
Bidding documents can be seen and downloaded from the website "<http://mahatenders.gov.in>" (Select Organisation- Co-operation & Marketing Textiles, Mumbai). The tender documents is available on <http://mahatenders.gov.in> and must be submitted in electronic format on this website only.  
**Right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason is reserved.**  
**CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल**  
**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,**  
**भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, देवघर**

**ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट नोटिस**  
ई-टेंडर रेफरेंस नं०- BCD/EE/11/DEOGHAR/2024-25 दिनांक- 27.03.2025  

Sl.	Particulars	Proposed Construction of District Bar Council Building Madhupur Dist- Deoghar for the Year 2024-25.
1.	कार्य का नाम	
2.	प्राक्कलित राशि (रु०)	रु० 3,46,72,970.00 ( तीन करोड़ छियालीस लाख बहत्तर हजार नौ सौ सत्तर रुपये) मात्र।
3.	कार्य पूर्ण की अवधि	11 (ग्यारह) माह
4.	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	08.04.2025 11:00 बजे
5.	बिड प्राप्ति के लिए अंतिम तिथि / समय	21.04.2025 11:00 बजे
6.	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, देवघर।
7.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि / समय एवं स्थान	22.04.2025 11:00 बजे नोडल पदाधिकारी, ई० प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग, लाइन टैंक रोड, झारखण्ड, राँची।
8.	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या	9162458095
9.	ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाइन संख्या	6200167600

  
10. परिणाम विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रचन की राशि देय होगी।  
11. सूचना प्रीबिडिंग की एवं ई-गवर्नेंस विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार के आदेश ज्ञापक 120 दिनांक 03.10.2023 के द्वारा निर्गत SOP (मूलक संशोधन प्रक्रिया) एवं भवन निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार के पत्रांक 2229 दिनांक 06.10.2023 के आलोक में निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रचन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।  
12. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रचन की राशि का ई-भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, SOP के तहत अग्रचन की राशि उसी खाते में वापस होगी। अगर खाता बंद कर दिया जाता है जो उसकी संपूर्ण जवाबदेही निविदादाता की होगी। सरकार द्वारा निर्गत सभी अवलन परिपत्र लागू रहेंगे।  
• अन्य किसी भी प्रकार की सूचना बदलाव <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।  
**Note:- UCAN Registration is mandatory for the Bidders.**  
**नोडल पदाधिकारी, ई – प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल**  
**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,**  
**PR 349402 Building(24-25)#D भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, देवघर**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-AUCTION NOTICE**  
The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ PS, Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites e-Auction through IREPS (<https://ireps.gov.in/>) for allotment of contracts of Multipurpose Stall/Special Minor Units (SMUs) at following railway stations/locations:  

E-Catalogue No.	Type of Units	Station and Reserved for category	Date & Time for e-auction
MPS-01-2025	Multi Purpose Stall Unit	15 Multi Purpose Stalls at various Railway Stations over Delhi Division	Start: 21.04.2025 at 11:00 hrs
MPS-02-2025	Multi Purpose Stall Unit	15 Multi Purpose Stalls at various Railway Stations over Delhi Division	Start: 22.04.2025 at 11:00 hrs
MPS-03-2025	Multi Purpose Stall Unit	15 Multi Purpose Stalls at various Railway Stations over Delhi Division	Start: 23.04.2025 at 11:00 hrs
MPS-04-2025	Multi Purpose Stall Unit	15 Multi Purpose Stalls at various Railway Stations over Delhi Division	Start: 24.04.2025 at 11:00 hrs
MPS-05-2025	Multi Purpose Stall Unit	14 Multi Purpose Stalls at various Railway Stations over Delhi Division	Start: 25.04.2025 at 11:00 hrs
CTG-01-2025	Special Minor Units (SMUs)	3 Special Minor Units (SMUs) at various Railway Stations over Delhi Division	Start: 21.04.2025 at 15:00 hrs

  
**Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen** [https://ireps.gov.in/\(E-Auction-Leasing\)](https://ireps.gov.in/(E-Auction-Leasing))

**Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module -Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module.**  
**Payment of One Time Registration Fee; Current Account in State Bank of India; Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account; Lien Marking of Funds; Updation of Turnover Details.**  
**A new mechanism namely Virtual Account Number (VAN) has been introduced now for E-Auction Leasing module, which can be used by the bidders as an alternative to Lien Marking Mechanism.**  
**The bidders are free to switch between Lien Marking Mechanism (if activated) and VAN mechanism at any point of time, before entering the bidding room. VAN mechanism does not require the bidder to have a current account in State Bank of India. The users are free to transfer money from any of their existing bank accounts in any bank to their VAN account, which enables them to participate in IREPS E-Auctions.**  
**Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender/E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.**

**Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query**  
Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi - 110055; Email: [catering.delhidivision@gmail.com](mailto:catering.delhidivision@gmail.com), Tel: 011-23743084  
**No. : 23 AC/CTG/MPS POLICY 2017(Computer No. 44158)**  
**Date: 26.03.2025**  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**


**S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER**  
**e-Tender No.: KBSE/RGRC/Engg./WT-06 (Open), Date: 26.03.2025. For & on behalf of President of India, Chief Electrical Engineer (Project), South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites E-Tender for the following work. Name of work with its location: Open e-Tender for Construction of 02 units Type-IV, 08 units Type-III & 12 units Type-II staff quarters at Soro and 02 units Type-IV staff quarter at Belda including all other ancillary works such as compound wall, drain, RCC road etc. in Kharagpur-Bhadrak jurisdiction for up-gradation work of Electric Traction System from 1x25KV to 2x25KV Traction System for Kharagpur-Bhadrak section of South Eastern Railway in Kharagpur division to meet 3000MT loading target. Approx. Cost of this work: ₹ 11,77,00,833.24. Earnest Money: ₹ 7,38,50,000. Completion period of the work: 18 (Eighteen) months. Date & Time of Closing: e-tender will be received on line using IREPS Portal up to 15.00 hrs. on 21.04.2025. Website Particulars & Notice Board locations: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & Office of the Chief Electrical Engineer (Project)/South Eastern Railway/Garden Reach (Engg.). Any corrigendum may please be seen before starting of bid i.e up to 06.04.2025 in IREPS Portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). (PR-1279)**

**IN THE COURT OF THE XIX ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-18)**  
**IN**  
**O.S. No. 6391/2021**  
**BETWEEN:-** Sri. Sampreeti Aswath Kumar, S/o Aswath Kumar, Aged about 18 years, Residing at No.2329, 3rd Main Road, RPC Layout, Vijayanagara 2nd Stage, Bangalore North, Hampinagar, Bangalore, Karnataka 560104. **...PLAINTIFF**  
**AND:-** UIDAI Regional Office, Bengaluru, Office at, Khanja Bhavan, No. 49, 3rd Floor, South Wing Race Course Road, Bengaluru 560001. **2. Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, Office at, Pragati House, 3rd Floor, 47-48, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019. ...DEFENDANTS**  
**SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO.2 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION**  
Defendant No.2 Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, Office at, Pragati House, 3rd Floor, 47-48, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019.  
WHEREAS, the plaintiff has filed the above suit against the defendants for the purpose of declaring the name change of the plaintiff. Hence, you are hereby summoned to appear before this Honble court of City Civil and Sessions Judge (CCH-18) either in person or by a pleader on 16.04.2025 at 11.00 am to defend the above case, failing which the matter will be heard and determined as Ex-Parte.  
Given under my hand & seal of the Court, this, 5th day of March 2025  
**By Order of the Court**  
**Sd/- Senior Sheristadar**  
**City Civil Court, Bangalore**  
**Advocate for Plaintiff**  
**SHIVAKUMAR**  
#8/1, First Floor, Ali Askar Cross Road (Cunningham Cross Road, Bangalore-52.

**ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHANKAR VIHAR**  
(NEAR MAHIPALPUR) DELHI CANTT-10  
**TELE NO – 011- 26153558/9**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**  
EOI is solicited from suitable vendor for conversion of CCTV cameras analog to IP (Phase-1) as per specification mentioned in EOI form at Army Public School, Shankar Vihar. Site visit is mandatory before quoting the rate. Details for the above and EOI form are available at school counter against DD/NEFT/RTGS/UPI of Rs 1000/- Forms duly filled be submitted by 10Apr 2025.  
**Chairman**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Pradeep @ Bittu, S/o Raj Pal Singh, R/o H.No - C - 13/36, Near Masjid, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** has committed the offences (or is suspected to have committed) in case **FIR No. 213/22, U/s 379/411 IPC, P.S. North Rohini, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Pradeep @ Bittu** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Pradeep @ Bittu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Pradeep @ Bittu** accused of **P.S. North Rohini, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **03.05.2025**.  
**By Order**  
**Ms Ebbani Aggarwal**  
**Judicial Magistrate First Class - 03**  
**Room No. 107, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**  
**Rohini Courts, Delhi**  
**DP/3709/RD/2025**

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, RR Nagara Zone, BBMP Office Building, CA No.3, 1st Main Road, Outer Ring Road, Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Upanagara, Bengaluru - 560060.

**No: EE/KEN/TEND/20/2024-25****Date: 27-03-2025**  
**INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)**  
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)  
The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, R.R. Nagara Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the Construction of Works detailed below.  

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	<b>TWO COVER SYSTEM - (CALL-1)</b> Maintenance and Drilling of Borewells in 110 Villages at Yeshwanthapura Constituency. Approximated Amount of Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 398.40, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,98,000/-

  
**Calendar of Events:** 1) The Tender Documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 4.00 PM on 29-03-2025. 2) Date of Pre Bid Meeting on 02-04-2025 at 3.00 PM in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Ideal Homes, Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone, Bengaluru - 560098. 3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: 05-04-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 4) Date of Opening of Bids: 07-04-2025 at 11.00 AM. Further details can be had from the above office.  
**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BBMP.**

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,**  
**DURG CIRCLE DURG (C.G.)**  
**Durg, Dated: 17.03.2025**

**e- Procurement Tender Notice**  
(1st Call)  
Online tenders in form "A" percentage rate basis are invited on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh dated 07-04-2025 :-  

NIT No.	Name of work	P.A.C. (Rs. In lacs.)
186/Durg(Mo.-Man-A.Chowki) 2024	CONSTRUCTION OF P.W.D. DIVISION OFFICE BUILDING AT MOHLA, DISTT. MOHLA MANPUR A. CHOWKI (C.G.) U/C ELECTRIFICATIONS	161.62
187/Durg(Mo.-Man-A.Chowki) 2024	CONSTRUCTION OF P.W.D. (B/R) SUB -DIVISIONAL OFFICE AT MOHLA, DISTT. -MOHLA-MANPUR-A.CHOWKI	61.08
188/Durg(Mo.-Man-A.Chowki) 2024	CONSTRUCTION OF 2 NOS "G" 5 NOS "H" 3 NOS "I" TYPE RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS FOR CIVIL COURT STAFF AT AMBAGARH CHOWKI, DISTT-MOHLA-MANPUR-A.CHOWKI	88.25
189/Durg(Mo.-Man-A.Chowki) 2024	CONSTRUCTION OF P.W.D. (B/R) SUB -DIVISIONAL OFFICE AT CHOWKI, DISTT. -MOHLA-MANPUR-A. CHOWKI	61.08

  
**Note :-**  
1- General Conditions, detailed NIT, Tender documents & other information of the above construction work downloaded from the Eprocurement web portal or departmental website <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>.  
2- NIT No. & Name of the Work should be essentially mentioned on the envelope through the Registered Post/Speed Post in this office.  
**Sd/-**  
**Superintending Engineer**  
**P.W.D., Durg Circle Durg (C.G.)**  
**Tel. 0788-2210876**  
**No. 242506134/7**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF STATE TAXES AND EXCISE**  
**Corrigendum**  
**NOTICE FOR ALLOTMENT OF RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSES IN FORM L-2, L-14, L-14A & L-20B THROUGH AUCTION-CUM-TENDER PROCESS FOR THE YEAR 2025-26 IN THE STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH.**  
In partial modification to the Public Notice No. 7-1/2025-EXN-7244-7263 dated 17-03-2025, even No. 5635-61 dated 15-03-2025 published on 16-03-2025, 6263-83 dt. 20-03-2025, 6504-6522 dt. 22-03-2025, 6651-66 dt. 24-03-2025 and 6882-93 dt. 25-03-2025, it is further notified for the information of general public that sealed tender applications for allotment of retail Units in Form L-2, L-14, L-14A and L-20B for the retail sale licensed outlets of Country Liquor (L-14/L-14A), retail sale licensed outlets of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (L-2) and retail sale of Country Fermented Liquor (L-20B) in following District of State of Himachal Pradesh is fixed as under.  
1. The date of receiving applications and opening of tender alongwith venue is also given in the schedule below :-  


Sr. No.	Name of District	Venue	Date and Time for submission of tender applications	Date of bidding-cum-opening of tender
1	Kangra	Lions Club Shyamnagar, Dharamshala	28-03-2025 (from 09:00 AM to 12:00 PM)	28-03-2025 at 12:30 PM onwards
2	Bilaspur	Zila Parishad Hall, Bilaspur.		
3	Kullu, Lahul & Pangi area	Conference Hall of Multipurpose Building, Dhalpur District Kullu.		
4	Mandi	Zila Parishad Hall, Bhufi, Mandi		
5	Shimla	Bachat Bhawan, DC Office, Shimla		
6	Una	O/o Dy. Commissioner of State Taxes & Excise, District Una		

  
**Note: The tender application forms can be received and tenders can also be filed on the day of opening of tenders as per the time allowed by the Chairman of the Allotment Committee of the District.**  
2. The Auction-cum-Tender process will be subject to approval by the Commissioner of State Taxes & Excise, Himachal Pradesh who reserves the right to reject the same without assigning any reason.  
3. The dates, time and venues are liable to be changed at the sole discretion of the Commissioner of State Taxes & Excise, Himachal Pradesh.  
4. Other terms and conditions shall remain same as mentioned in the Public Notice dated 13-03-2025.  
5. The Excise Policy for the financial year 2025-26 is also available on the official website of the department i.e. [www.hptax.gov.in](http://www.hptax.gov.in).  
**By order**  
**(Dr. Yunus) IAS**  
**Commissioner of State Taxes & Excise**  
**Himachal Pradesh**  
**No. 1379/2024/2025/HP**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF STATE TAXES AND EXCISE**  
**NOTICE FOR ALLOTMENT OF RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSES IN FORM L-2, L-14, L-14A & L-20B THROUGH AUCTION-CUM-TENDER PROCESS FOR THE YEAR 2025-26 IN THE STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH.**  
In continuation to the Public Notice No. 7-1/2025-EXN-5568-5593 dated 13-03-2025 published on 14-03-2025, even No. 5635-61 dated 15-03-2025 published on 16-03-2025, 6263-83 dt. 20-03-2025, 6504-6522 dt. 22-03-2025, 6651-66 dt. 24-03-2025 and 6882-93 dt. 25-03-2025, it is further notified for the information of general public that sealed tender applications for allotment of retail Units in Form L-2, L-14, L-14A and L-20B for the retail sale licensed outlets of Country Liquor (L-14/L-14A), retail sale licensed outlets of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (L-2) and retail sale of Country Fermented Liquor (L-20B) in following District of State of Himachal Pradesh is fixed as under.  
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**By order**  
**(Dr. Yunus) IAS**  
**Commissioner of State Taxes & Excise**  
**Himachal Pradesh**  
**No. 1379/2024/2025/HP**

**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH**

**CORRIGENDUM**  
Ref : Global Tender Enquiry Notice No. PI(EP)/24-25/G-07  
Following changes are made:-  

Sr. No	Equipment/Item Name	Original Bid Submission Date	Revised Bid Submission Date	Original Bid Opening Date	Revised Bid Opening Date	Deptt. Name
1.	ICU Ventilator with Integrated Metabolic Monitoring/ Automatic Closed Loop Weaning with PAV (Proportional assist ventilation)	29.03.2025	14.04.2025	31.03.2025	15.04.2025	Neurosurgery

  
All other details shall remain the same  
**Professor In-Charge (EP)**

**Noida Power Company Limited**  
Electric Sub Station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida-201310

**TENDER NOTICE**  
Sealed tender under two Bid System (Commercial & Technical) are invited for following job from all interested bidders  

NIT No.	Tender Description	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)	Start and Due Date & Time of Submission
NPCL/FY24-25/Security Services/042	Rate Contract for Hiring of Security Services for NPCL Offices	2.0	28.03.2025 & 18.04.2025 (up to 17:00 hours)
NPCL/FY24-25/AC/044	SITC of Air Condition Units at NPCL Office Buildings	0.5	28.03.2025 & 11.04.2025 (up to 17:00 hours)

  
Cost of Individual Tender Document (Incl. GST) Rs 1180/-  
For other tender details and further amendment/corrigendum, please visit our website [www.noidapower.com](http://www.noidapower.com)-->Procurement-->Tenders  
**DGM (CMM)**

**Mumbai Port Authority**  
**E-AUCTION NOTICE**

E-auction in Two Cover system through GeM Portal are invited by FA&CAO, MbPA for the "Sale of Duty Credit Scrip" issued by DGFT under Service Export From India Scheme (SEIS) as detailed below:  
**E-auction No. : 19995**  

Sl. No. (1)	Scrip No. (2)	Port of Registration (3)	Value (Rs.) (4)	Date of Issue/Validity Date (5)	Start/Bid Floor Price (6)
1	Mumbai Port Authority 0311042032	Bombay Sea (INBOM1)	31,10,57,165.93	11/03/2025 10/03/2026	95% of Column (4)

  
For any further details visit website : [www.mumbaiport.gov.in](http://www.mumbaiport.gov.in), [www.gem.gov.in](http://www.gem.gov.in) and for submission/participation in tender visit website [www.gem.gov.in](http://www.gem.gov.in)  
**MbPA-27-2025**

**BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल)**  
ई-मेल: [pmbridculhd@gmail.com](mailto:pmbridculhd@gmail.com)  
CIN No. U45203UR2008SGC032591

**ब्रिज, रोपवे, टनल एण्ड अदर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ उत्तराखण्ड लिमिटेड**  
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड राज्य अवस्थापना विकास निगम लिमिटेड परियोजना इकाई-हल्द्वारी इकाई कार्यालय : रातौला कॉलोनी, छोटी मुखानी, पोडाँ0 – बड़ी मुखानी, हल्द्वारी, नैनीताल – 263139  
**पत्रांक: 430/ब्रिडकुल/टेंडर-94/2025****दिनांक: 27/03/2025**

**निविदा सूचना**  
1- महामहिम राज्यपाल, उत्तराखण्ड, की ओर से प्रबन्ध निदेशक ब्रिडकुल द्वारा निम्न तालिका में उल्लेखित कम संख्या 01 हेतु इस निगम में सम्बन्धित श्रेणी- I। (2 से 5 करोड़ तक के सिविल निर्माण कार्यों) हेतु पंजीकृत एवं अनुभव प्राप्त ठेकेदारों / फर्मों से मदवार दरों पर टू-बिड सिस्टम के आधार पर निम्नानुसार ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है-  
2- महामहिम राज्यपाल, उत्तराखण्ड, की ओर से प्रबन्ध निदेशक ब्रिडकुल द्वारा निम्न तालिका में उल्लेखित कम संख्या 02 हेतु इस निगम में सम्बन्धित श्रेणी- I। (2 करोड़ तक के विद्युतीकरण कार्यों) हेतु पंजीकृत एवं अनुभव प्राप्त ठेकेदारों / फर्मों से मदवार दरों पर टू-बिड सिस्टम के आधार पर निम्नानुसार ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है-  

S. No	Ref No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost including (GST & all Taxes) (In lac)	Earnest Money (In Lac)	Cost of tender Document (In Rs.)	Time Period
1	BRIDCUL / HLD /05/2024-25	जनपद-उधमसिंह नगर के रुद्रपुर में राजकीय सम्भ्रक्षण गृह के प्रथम तल पर सुरक्षा का स्थान के भवन का सिविल निर्माण कार्य।	339.91	6.80	5000 + 18% G.S.T.	12 माह
1	BRIDCUL / HLD /06/2024-25	जनपद-उधमसिंह नगर के रुद्रपुर में राजकीय सम्भ्रक्षण गृह के प्रथम तल पर सुरक्षा का स्थान भवन विद्युतीकरण सम्बन्धित कार्य।	46.28	0.93	4000 + 18% G.S.T.	12 माह

  
उपरोक्त निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि 29.03.2025, अपराह्न 03.00 बजे तथा निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 12.04.2025 अपराह्न 03.00 बजे तक है। उपरोक्त के सम्बन्ध में वर्णित निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी एवं निविदा प्रपत्र व किसी भी प्रकार के परिवर्तन आदि की सूचना वेबसाइट <https://uktenders.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध होगी। अधोहस्ताक्षरी को बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदा को स्वीकृत अथवा निरस्त करने का पूर्ण अधिकार होगा।  
**परियोजना प्रबन्धक**

**KALYANA KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION**  
Stores & Purchase Department, Central Offices, Sarige Sadana, Main Road, Kalaburagi-585 102. Tel. & Fax No. 08472-260502, COS&P-77606 86172 S.O.-77609 92029  
**No. KKT/CO/COSP/ 16 /2024-25****Date: 27.03.2025**

**TENDER INVITING NOTICE (THROUGH KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)**  
Tenders through KPP portal (pre-qualification & commercial) are invited for procurement of following Goods.



CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT GOVT. OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
Civil Secretariat, Jammu.  
E-mail ID: jkccivilaviation@gmail.com  
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS NO. CAW-002 OF 2025. JAMMU, 26 Mar, 2025.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, E-Tender from the reputed Insurance Companies registered by the Govt. of India and AIRDA for the Insurance Of Bell-407 Helicopter, VT-LJK for the further period of One year, from 06:00 HRS 27-04-2025 to midnight 26-04-2026.

Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	26/03/2025 05:00 PM
Period of Downloading of Documents	26/03/2025 05:30 PM
Date of pre-Bid Meeting through VC link: https://meet.google.com/sum-fufe-ngd https://meet.google.com/sum-fufe-ngd	01/04/2025 02:00 PM
Start Date of submission of bids	02/04/2025 11:00 AM
Last date of Submission of bids	09/04/2025 01:00 PM
Date of Opening Technical Bid	09/04/2025 04:00 PM

**"Instruction for Online Bid Submission"**

1. The tender document along with other Terms and Conditions of the NIT and relevant documents can be downloaded from the Union Territory Website <http://jkenders.gov.in>

2. The tender shall be deposited in electronic format on the Union Territory website <http://jkenders.gov.in>

3. The tender uploaded on the website will be opened on 09-04-2025 at 04:00 PM or any other subsequent date convenient to the Tenderers/Committee in the Office Chamber of Director Finance, Civil Aviation Department, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Civil Secretariat, Room No. 3/50, Jammu.

4. The complete bidding process will be online.

5. Submission of hard copy is exempted.

6. Documents required to be notarized for submission may be submitted on the letter head under the signature of the authorized signatory.

7. Cut of the Tender document is Rs. 1,000/- (Rupees One thousand only) in the shape of Demand Draft (non refundable) Online in favour of Accounts Officer, Civil Aviation Department, J&K, Jammu. However Bid security amount of Rs Two Lakh (Rs 02,00,000/-) be submitted in the form of DD. However the insurance companies under PSUs are exempted from the tender document fee and EMD/Bid security amount as per the guidelines of the General Insurance Council letter dated 07-06-2019. Tender Fee can be paid digitally. Bank details: a. BANK: J&K Bank, Moving Secretariat, Civil Secretariat, Jammu & Kashmir, Jammu. b. ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0110010110090291. c. IFSC CODE: JAKA0MOVING. d. MICR code: 190051002, JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK MOVING SECRETARIAT, address: Civil Secretariat, Jammu & Kashmir; Branch code in Moving. Contact Number: 2455235.

8. Scanned copies of all necessary documents as per tender documents need to be uploaded as part of the technical bid. These documents, in original, may be asked for submission subsequently.

9. The Earnest Money/ Bid Security shall be forfeited if: a. Any tenderer withdraws his tender during the period of tender validity or makes any modification in terms and condition of tender; and b. The company fails to execute the agreement within 10 days of signing of contract documents.

10. Instructions to bidder regarding e-tendering process: Bidders are advised to get Digital Signature Certificate as per Information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from approved vendor.

11. Bidders have to submit their bids in two bid format i.e. Technical and Financial Bid online in electronic format with Digital Signature. Financial bid shall be submitted ONLINE only. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

12. Bidders must upload the scanned copy of all necessary documents, like CDR/PAN/Demand Draft (Tender fee) bid security declaration/Registration certificate duly renewed online as per dates mentioned above.

13. The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission due to any reason.

14. The Tender/Purchase Committee shall reserve the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

15. The rates offered should be quoted in figures as well as in words inclusive of all taxes and levies or any other charge. Taxes/Charges not mentioned in the offers will not be allowed and admissible.

16. Any erasing/overwriting/mutilation in the tender form will result in outright rejection of the tender.

17. Conditional and ambiguous tender will not be entertained.

18. The terms and conditions as reflected in ANNEXURE "A" of section A, are mandatory and should be read very carefully by the intending tenderers while furnishing their tenders, which are enclosed and shall form a part of this NIT.

Sd/-  
Director Finance,  
Civil Aviation Department  
JAMMU, 26 Mar, 2025

E-Bid No. CAW-NAZR/7/2025/5 DIPPK-13471/24

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE**  
28 March 1994

Terrorists have often targeted police check posts, morchas, and camps. In one such attack, three personnel of E Coy, 4th Bn, were stationed at a morchha in Police HQ, Batmaloo. At 1245 hrs, a grenade was lobbed through a loophole, exploding inside and critically injuring the troops. Due to the crowded surroundings, retaliatory fire was not an option. L/Nk Khushal Singh and Ct. (Bugler) Nand Ram were swiftly evacuated to Army Hospital, Srinagar, where they succumbed to their injuries, attaining martyrdom.

**BORDER SECURITY FORCE**  
**L/NK SATENDER KUMAR PANDEY**  
07.02.1966 – 28.03.1994

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Srinagar (J&K)

**HC GYAN SINGH**  
24.01.1945 – 28.03.1994

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Kupwara (J&K)

**ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (APCRDA)**  
Lenin Center, Governorpet, Vijayawada - 520 002 (A.P.)  
NIT No. 119/ MAU61-ADMINIS/APWS/3/2025-IS Dated: 27.03.2025

**E PROCUREMENT SHORT TENDER NOTICE**

**NAME OF WORK:** APCRDA- Expression of Interest (EOI) for implementation and deployment of ICT Platform along with financial proposal for a period of 05 years.

The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 28.03.2025 to 04.04.2025 up to 14.00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid is 04.04.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs, Technical bid opening 04.04.2025 @16.00 Hrs. For further details Please refer to [www.approcurement.gov.in](http://www.approcurement.gov.in) and [www.crda.ap.gov.in](http://www.crda.ap.gov.in).

Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada

बिहार सरकार						
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय						
शोध एवं प्रशिक्षण प्रमंडल-2, शोध भवन, खगौल, पटना						
ectr2d2kha@gmail.com						
आम सूचना						
एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय, नई दिल्ली द्वारा Writ Petition (civil) No.-932/2022 बिहार राज्य अर्द्ध सरकारी अराजपत्रित कर्मचारी महासंघ एवं अन्य बनाम भारत संघ एवं अन्य में दिनांक-03.09.2024 को पारित अंतरिम आदेश को आलोक में बिहार राज्य निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड में झारखण्ड राज्य के अन्तर्गत कार्यरत रहे कर्मियों के बकाया दायित्व (वेतनादि एवं सेवा लाभ) का भुगतान हेतु आवेदन अभी तक अप्राप्त है, वैसे Traceless कर्मियों द्वारा शोध एवं प्रशिक्षण प्रमंडल-2, शोध भवन, खगौल, पटना के कार्यालय में आवेदन विहित प्रपत्र में सभी अभिलेखों के साथ उपलब्ध कराया जाये ताकि भुगतान की कार्यवाई संभव किया जा सके। बिहार राज्य निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड, झारखण्ड राज्य के अन्तर्गत वैसे Traceless कर्मियों की सूची जिनका आवेदन अप्राप्त है:-						
क्र०	ईकाई वार क्र०	नाम एवं पिता का नाम	पदनाम	जन्मतिथि	योगदान की तिथि	अभ्युक्ति
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ईकाई-गुमला नियमित						
1	1	श्री सुरेन्द्र प्रसाद पिता-रखो रामजी सिंह	कोषस्थक	11-04-1954	01-07-1982	
2	2	श्री राजकिशोर प्रसाद पिता-रखो रामदास राम	हेल्पर	-	18-11-1989	
3	3	श्री राम केवल राम पिता-बंशरीराम राम	स्वीपर	19-01-1954	01-07-1989	
4	4	श्री दुर्गा उरांव पिता-रखो भुखन उरांव	चौकीदार	01-07-1958	01-07-1982	
5	5	रखो गया सिंह पिता-श्री बाबुदेव सिंह	चौकीदार	01-02-1953	11-07-1982	
5	6	श्री ओम प्रकाश गुप्ता पिता-रखो भगवान दास गुप्ता	चपरासी	05-10-1951	06-01-1986	
ईकाई-गुमला दैनिक वेतनभोगी						
7	1	श्री रामनिहारी प्रसाद शाही	पत्राचार लिपिक	-	07-06-1980	
8	2	श्री रामजी तिवारी	कार्यदर्शक	03-01-1954	20-01-1978	
9	3	श्री पुरेश कान्त चौधरी	कार्यदर्शक	-	01-08-1979	
10	4	श्री हनुमान झा	कार्यदर्शक	-	01-10-1980	
11	5	श्री मनसा उरांव	ज्वेलमैन	-	01-03-1979	
12	6	श्री अब्दुल जम्हार अंसारी	मैकेनिक	-	01-03-1980	
13	7	श्री सुभाष सिंह	ऑपरटर	25-01-1957	23-03-1975	
14	8	श्री दिनेश सिंह	मशीन चालक	-	-	
15	9	श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद गुप्ता	हेल्पर	-	11-01-1979	
16	10	श्री मिथिलेश शर्मा	चौकीदार	06-02-1958	01-06-1979	
17	11	श्री शिवाधार सिंह	चपरासी	16-10-1961	01-11-1979	
18	12	श्री लक्ष्मण शुक्ला	चौकीदार	-	01-09-1979	
19	13	श्री बैजनाथ सिंह	चौकीदार	-	01-01-1979	
20	14	श्री मुद्रक राम	चौकीदार	-	01-06-1980	
21	15	श्री रफीक अंसारी	हेल्पर	-	01-12-1979	
22	16	श्री राज कुमार शरण	कार्यदर्शक	-	02-02-1979	
23	17	श्री केशलेन्द्र कुमार	कार्यदर्शक	-	01-10-1980	
24	18	श्री युगेश्वर मेहता	हेल्पर	-	28-02-1979	
दुमगाई डोल्टेनमर्ग नियमित						
25	1	श्री लालबहादुर राम	कनीय सहायक	-	-	
26	2	श्री शिव मुरल सिंह	लेखा लिपिक	28-01-1952	01-07-1982	
27	3	श्री मुलन राम	चौकीदार	-	31-01-2002	
28	4	श्री दुधनाथ राय, पिता-श्री कलाश चय	चौकीदार	01-08-1952	03-05-2000	
29	5	श्री गंगाधारी राम	चौकीदार	07-01-1957	08-04-1989	
30	6	श्री रामेश्वर राजत	मशीन चालक	15-01-1957	03-07-1987	
31	7	श्री जगदीश सिंह	मशीन चालक	10-01-1951	21-01-1987	
32	8	श्री गयानन्द मिश्रा पिता-श्री शंकर मिश्र	ट्रेक्टर चालक	06-04-1951	21-01-1987	
ईकाई-देवर नियमित						
33	1	श्री गीतम सिंह श्री दिनेश्वर सिंह	मशीन चालक	05-01-1950	01.07.1989 वरीयता का लाभ 01.07.1982	
34	2	श्री बबुजा सोरेन श्री बडकू सोरेन	आदेशपाल	05-01-1950	01.07.1989 वरीयता का लाभ 01.07.1982	
35	3	श्री माधो यादव रब० मिश्री यादव	आदेशपाल	30-04-1949	01-07-1982	
36	4	श्री हरिहर नाथ शर्मा	पत्राचार लिपिक	05-01-1953	01-07-1989	
37	5	श्री रामधारी पासवान	आदेशपाल	-	-	
38	6	रब० राजेश्वर सिंह	ट्रक चालक	06-02-1942	01.07.1982	
39	7	रब० रामधनी पासवान रब० हीरा पासवान	आदेशपाल	15-04-1951	01.07.1989 वरीयता का लाभ 01.07.1982	
40	8	श्री विजय कुमार मिश्रा	लेखा सहायक	-	-	
41	9	श्री महेंद्र सिंह श्री जगेश्वर सिंह	जीप चालक	02-01-1987	21.01.1987 वरीयता का लाभ 01.07.1982	
42	10	श्री विद्यानन्द दास रब० जेमु दास	चौकीदार / आदेशपाल	12-06-1961	01.07.1989	
43	11	श्री कमलेश्वरी यादव श्री बलदेव यादव	चौकीदार / आदेशपाल	08.06.1952	01.07.1989 वरीयता का लाभ 01.07.1982	
44	12	श्री जेतु मरांडी श्री पुनू मरांडी	चौकीदार / आदेशपाल	10.10.1959	28.05.1987 वरीयता का लाभ 01.07.1982	
45	13	श्री महावीर दास रब० जादु दास	चौकीदार / आदेशपाल	01.03.1950	01.07.1989	
46	14	श्री सुमेश्वर शर्मा	कनीय सहायक	24.05.1949	01.07.1982	
47	15	रब० शालीग्राम सिंह श्री जेमन सिंह	ट्रक चालक	01.01.1935	21.01.1987 वरीयता का लाभ 01.07.1982	
ईकाई-देवर दैनिक वेतनभोगी						
48	1	श्री रामकान्त पोथार	लेखा लिपिक	13.12.1952	06.12.1979	
49	2	श्री नवीन कुमार सिंह	लेखा लिपिक	10.01.1960	21.02.1979	
50	3	श्री राम गुलाम सिंह	पत्राचार लिपिक	11.01.1956	01.03.1979	
51	4	श्री वासुदेव चौधे	कार्यदर्शक	-	-	
52	5	श्री दिवाकर मिश्र	कार्यदर्शक	01.11.1959	01.08.1978	
53	6	श्री प्रमोद कुमार सिंह	कार्यदर्शक	-	-	
54	7	श्री दिनेश प्रसाद चौधरी	कार्यदर्शक	04.10.1950	04.07.1978	
55	8	श्री अकशेस कुमार सिंह	कार्यदर्शक	01.01.1954	28-01-1979	
56	9	श्री गोपाल साह	कार्यदर्शक	-	-	
57	10	श्री सुनील कुमार सिन्हा	कार्यदर्शक	04.07.1950	14.11.1979	

58	11	श्री ध्रुव कुमार सिंह	कार्यदर्शक	01.01.1950	12.02.1980	
59	12	श्री परमेश्वर सिंह	ऑपरटर	-	-	
60	13	श्री अनिल चन्द्र सिंह	कोषस्थक	-	-	
61	14	श्री रंजनधारी शर्मा	हेल्पर	-	-	
62	15	श्री रामकान्त सिंह	हेल्पर	28.06.1949	01.04.1979	
63	16	श्री दिनेश कुमार राय	खलासी	-	-	
64	17	श्री महेंद्र झा	खलासी	-	-	
65	18	श्री प्रकाश कुमार सिन्हा	खलासी	-	-	
66	19	श्री जवाहर मंडल	खलासी	-	-	
67	20	श्री सुबोध कुमार	खलासी	02.01.1960	01.11.1979	
68	21	श्री नुरजमा अंसारी	खलासी	25.11.1961	02.10.1979	
69	22	श्री विजय शंकर शर्मा	खलासी	10.01.1950	01.11.1978	
70	23	श्री सुबलाल यादव	खलासी	01.01.1951	12.12.1978	
71	24	श्री रामानन्द मिश्रा	खलासी	05.05.1960	24.12.1978	
72	25	श्री मुजफ्फर आलम	चतुर्थ वर्ग	11.11.1954	18.09.1978	
73	26	श्री अखिलेश्वर राय	चतुर्थ वर्ग	-	-	
74	27	श्री सुरेंद्र राम	चतुर्थ वर्ग	30.12.1961	04.06.1979	
75	28	श्री रामजी मंडल	चतुर्थ वर्ग	-	-	
76	29	श्री सिराजुद्दीन खाँ	चतुर्थ वर्ग	-	-	
77	30	श्री सीताराम प्रसाद	चतुर्थ वर्ग	-	-	
78	31	मो० सगीर मलिक	चतुर्थ वर्ग	01.01.1955	01.11.1980	
79	32	श्री सीताराम सिंह	चतुर्थ वर्ग	18.01.1952	01.05.1978	
80	33	श्री गंगा मिस्त्री	चतुर्थ वर्ग	18.03.1959	18.03.1979	
81	34	श्री राम देव यादव	चतुर्थ वर्ग	-	-	
82	35	श्री लाल बाबू यादव	चतुर्थ वर्ग	-	-	
83	36	श्री सुभाष सिंह	चतुर्थ वर्ग	-	-	
84	37	श्री सुरेंद्र प्रसाद सिंह	चतुर्थ वर्ग	-	-	
85	38	श्री राम स्वार्थ सिंह	चतुर्थ वर्ग	-	-	
86	39	श्री जनार्दन प्रसाद यादव	चतुर्थ वर्ग	-	-	
87	40	श्री रामप्रदाश सिंह	चतुर्थ वर्ग	-	-	
88	41	श्री बिन्देश्वरी साहू	कार्यदर्शक	-	-	
89	42	श्री बिन्देश्वरी मिश्रा	चतुर्थ वर्ग	-	-	
90	43	श्री सुरेंद्र राय	चतुर्थ वर्ग	-	-	
91	44	श्री विमल राय	चतुर्थ वर्ग	-	-	
92	45	श्री निहार खान	चतुर्थ वर्ग	-	-	
93	46	श्री सरजू शरण मिश्रा	चतुर्थ वर्ग	07.01.1960	21.01.1979	
94	47	श्री इशराफील अली	कार्यदर्शक	01.02.1941	01.03.1978	
95	48	श्री बिन्देश्वरी सिंह	खलासी	-	-	
96	49	श्री वैजनाथ राय	आदेशपाल	-	-	
97	50	श्री विजय कुमार सिंह	मैकेनिक	03.01.1953	01.11.1979	
98	51	श्री मुरारी प्रसाद	चौकीदार	08.06.1952	11.01.1979	
99	52	श्री निलकंठ दुबे	चौकीदार	06.06.1950	01.12.1978	
100	53	श्री वैद्यनाथ यादव	जोहर चालक	01.01.1949	15.05.1980	
101	54	श्री नीम महतो	पम्प चालक	-	-	
ईकाई-राँची नियमित						
102	1	श्री अर्जुन प्रसाद रजक रब० विन्देश्वर बैठा	खलासी	10.04.1960	10.04.1990	
103	2	रब० शंकर दयाल पाण्डेय पिता- रब० रामरूप पाण्डेय	चौकीदार / आदेशपाल	15.01.1969	01.07.1982	
104	3	श्री योगी जयसवाल पिता- रब० गुलाब जयसवाल	चौकीदार / आदेशपाल	05.02.1960	01.07.1982	
105	4	रब० खडेरन बैठा पिता- श्री रामदेवबाल बैठा	चौकीदार / आदेशपाल	15.09.1952	01.07.1982	
106	5	श्री शंकर मुर्मू पिता- आशा मुर्मू	चौकीदार / आदेशपाल	15.06.1956	01.11.1989	
107	6	अकशेस कुमार पिता- एस.डी. गिरी	पत्राचार लिपिक	09.06.1954	27.12.1989	
108	7	दिनेश सिंह	मैकेनिक	-	-	
ईकाई-राँची दैनिक वेतनभोगी						
109	1	श्री करुण कुमार मिश्रा	पत्राचार लिपिक	31-01-1957	30-03-1981	
110	2	श्री नरेश प्रसाद	अंशपाल	07-08-1953	11-08-1978	
111	3	श्री सकलदेव सिंह	कार्यदर्शक	20-07-1948	01-05-1979	
112	4	श्री सुरेंद्र कुमार	कार्यदर्शक	-	-	
113	5	श्री प्रमोद कुमार शर्मा	कार्यदर्शक	-	01-05-1979	
114	6	श्री ललन तिवारी	कार्यदर्शक	-	02-03-1978	
115	7	श्री दिनेश सिंह	मैकेनिक	-	-	
116	8	श्री सुखदेव प्रसाद	ऑपरटर	-	-	
117	9	श्री दरोगा सिंह	ऑपरटर	-	01-03-1978	
118	10	श्री पारसनाथ सिंह	चौकीदार	-	01-11-1980	
119	11	श्री गोपालजी प्रसाद	चौकीदार	25-12-1959	01-09-1981	
120	12	श्री श्याम लाल राम	चौकीदार	15-04-1950	15-03-1989	
121	13	श्री अलखदेव सिंह	खलासी	-	-	
122	14	श्री सुरेश महतो	खलासी	10-01-1959		




**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, RNT MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER ASSOCIATED GROUP OF HOSPITALS, UDAIPUR (RAJ.)**

No. RNT/Pur-I/F/16/(e-Tendering Proc)/2024-25/1023 Dated: 21.03.2025  
**Notice Inviting Bid No. 27/2024-25 (e-Tender)**

Bids for Medical Equipments are invited from interested bidders upon Date: 21.04.2025 Time: 10.30 AM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state.

UBN-MCU2425GLOB00294 Sd/-  
 (Dr. Vipin Mathur)

DIPR/C/4289/2025 **PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER**

 **NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**

TENDER NOTICE No. AGC-ELG-T-31-2024-25 Dated: 25.03.2025

**E-Tendering Notice**




Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N.C. Railway, Agra on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only (E-Tendering) for the following works.

**Name of work with its location & Completion Period:** (A) Electrification work for Agra Division- Raja ki mandi/ Billochpura- Construction of RPF out post office building cum 15 bedded Barrack (10 Bed for Male and 05 Bed for Female staff) for the use of RPF staff at Raja Ki Mandi/Billochpura Railway Station along with other modern facilities. (B) Electrification work for Construction of 03 Bedded RPF Barrack at Agra East Bank (Yamuna Bridge) railway station with modern facilities.

**Completion period 08 months**

**Approx. Cost of the work: ₹1377951.47**

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) Tenders can only be submitted through web portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) upto 15:00 hrs on 22.04.2025 **538/25(DG)**

 North central railways  @CPROINCR  [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in)

**इंडियन बैंक**  
INDIAN BANK

**ALLAHABAD**

**Raxaul Branch**

**APPENDIX-IV-A"[See proviso to rule 8(6)]**

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Bank, Raxaul Branch**, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is",** and **"Whatever there is"** on **30.04.2025** for recovery of **Rs.1,89,19,102/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty-Nine Lakh Nineteen Thousand One Hundred & Two Only)** (as on 26.03.2025) with further interest charges and expenses thereon due to the **Indian Bank, Raxaul Branch**, Secured Creditor, from

- 1. Ms Shakti Food Industries** (Borrowing Firm) Prop. Shailendra Kumar S/o Narendra Mishra, Situated at Vill-Shubhanpur, Block-Sahebganj, Dist-Muzaffarpur- Bihar-843125
- 2. Sri Shailendra Kumar** (Borrower & Mortgagor) S/o- Narendra Mishra,
- 3. Smt. Umravati Devi** (Guarantor & Mortgagor) W/o Narendra Mishra
- 4. Ajay Kumar** (Guarantor) S/o Kamalnath Prasad

Above 3 (2,3 & 4) resident at Nahari Road, Behind Sona Talkies, Laxmipur, Raxaul- 845305, Dist. East Champaran.

The Specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

<b>Detailed Description of the property :</b> All part & parcel of property Land in the name of <b>Shailendra Kumar</b> , S/o- Narendra Mishra vide sale deed no. 501 dated 06/02/2018 <b>(A)</b> Khata No.41, Khesara No. 1249, Thana No.90, <b>(B)</b> Khata No.41, Khesara No. 1250, Thana No.90, having Total Area -31 Decimal situated at Mauza- Shubhanpur, PS Sahebganj, Sub Registry Paru, Dist- Muzaffarpur. Boundary <b>(A): North:</b> Kachhi Sarak, <b>South:</b> Mokir Alah Khesra 1250 Wata Imroje, <b>East:</b> Nala, <b>West:</b> Muna Devi. Boundary <b>(B): North:</b> Mokir Alah Khesra 1249 Wata Imroje, <b>South:</b> Dilip Mishr, <b>East:</b> Nala, <b>West:</b> Munna Devi	<b>Not Known</b>
<b>Encumbrances on property</b>	
<b>Reserve Price</b>	<b>Rs.61,16,000/- (Sixty-One Lakh &amp; Sixteen Thousand Only)</b>
<b>EMD Amount</b>	<b>Rs.6,11,600/- (Six Lakh Eleven Thousand &amp; Six Hundred Only)</b>
<b>Bid Incremental amount</b>	<b>Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)</b>
<b>Date and time of e-auction</b>	<b>30.04.2025 from 11 am to 03 pm</b>
<b>Property ID No.</b>	<b>IDIB30256666725</b>

Bidders are advised to visit the website (<https://baanknet.com>) of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support.baanknet@psballiance.com.

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <https://baanknet.com> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. Contact No. 8291220220.

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://Baanknet.com>

**Date : 28.03.2025**

**Place : Raxaul**

**Sd/- Authorised Officer**  
 Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

**QR Code**

Bank Website	E-Auction Website	Document	Property Location	Video of Property	Photos of Property

**Contact Person: 1. Sanjay Pandey- Authorised Officer- 9934719425**  
**2. Sunil Kumar Baitha- Branch Manager- 7890168328**

 **EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY** 

**E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE**

**E-Tender notice no.: 25-26-1-HRT-ABS-**  
**FIBA Date: 26.03.2025**

For and on behalf of President of India,  
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, Carriage  
Repair Workshop, Harnaut invites open  
e-tender for the following works as  
detailed:-

- 1. Name of work with its location :** "FIBA Modification of Air Spring LHB Coaches at Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut".
- 2. Approx. cost of the work :** Rs. 29,73,651.33 (Rupees Twenty-Nine Lakh Seventy-Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-One and Thirty-Three Paise Only).
- 3. Cost of Tender Form :** Nil, **4. Earnest Money to be deposited :** Rs. 59,500.00 (Rupees Fifty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only).
- 5. Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of Tender:** The tender have to be submitted online on <https://www.irops.gov.in> website up to 12:00 hrs. on 15.04.2025 and will be opened on the same day at 12:30 hrs.
- 6. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. :** Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website: <https://www.irops.gov.in> & full details of notice can be seen on notice board in the office of Chief Workshop Manager, Administrative Building, Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut, Nalanda, Bihar - 803110. All corrigendum will be uploaded on website if required.

**Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer**  
**Carriage Repair Workshop/Harnaut**  
**PR/202345/HRT/MECH/T/24-25/44**



**केनरा बैंक**  
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम

**Canara Bank**  
A Govt. of India Undertaking



**RECOVERY & LEGAL SECTION, REGIONAL OFFICE**

**Dumri Road, Gobarsahi, Muzaffarpur, Dist- Muzaffarpur, Bihar- 842002, Mob: 8437350570**

**PROPERTY FOR E-AUCTION**

**E-AUCTION Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / hypothecated/ Pledged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Canara Bank** will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on **15.04.2025**. Details are as under:

Sl. No.	Name / Add. Contact No. of the Branch	Name and Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s)	Outstanding in Rs.	Details of Property	Reserve Price (Rs.) EMD/ Bid Multiples Amt./Ac No / IFSC Code
1	<b>Areraj Branch</b>  <b>(4954)</b>  <b>Mob. 8210998461</b>	<b>Borrower : M/S Suru Foods &amp; Beverages Pvt Ltd.,</b> Registered Office Address - At- R-7, Ansal Chamber - II, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066, <b>Borrower :</b> <b>M/S Suru Foods &amp; Beverages Pvt Ltd.</b> Unit Address - At- Ward No - 5,	<b>Rs.</b> <b>3,34,57,815.69</b> as on <b>12.05.2025</b> + interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	<b>Property 1</b> - All the part and parcel of the Commercial Land in the name of <b>Late Harendra Kumar Pandey</b> , represented by Legal Heirs Mr. Piyush Kumar Pandey S/o- Late Harendra Kumar Pandey, Mr. Himanshu Kumar Pandey S/o- Late Harendra Kumar Pandey and Smt Anupama Diwedi D/o- Late Harendra Kumar Pandey situated at Vill/ Mauza- Hardiya, PS- Govindganj, Thana No-88, Anchal- Areraj, Distt- East Champaran, Bearing- <b>A)</b> Sale deed no. 678 dated 29.01.2013, khata no. 68, Survey no. 345, Area 01 Kaththa 16 Dhur (12 Decimal), <b>Boundary - North</b> :- Dwarika Pandey Khesra No- 349, <b>South</b> :- Harkesh Pandey, Khesra no. 345 <b>East</b> - Mustari, Khesra No. 346 <b>West</b> :- Mustari, Khesra No. 344, <b>B)</b> Sale deed no. 7358 dated 31.05.2011, Khata No. 16 & Khesra No. 455, Area 15 Dhur (05 Decimal), <b>Boundary - North</b> :- Nij Mokir Alah, <b>South</b> :- Legal Heirs of Late Sakal Pandey <b>East</b> :- Bhubneshwar Pandey <b>West</b> :- Nij Mokir Alah, <b>C)</b> Sale deed no. 7358 dated 31.05.2011, Khata No. 93 & Khesra No. 342, Area 01 Kaththa (06 1/2 Decimal), <b>Boundary - North</b> :- Singeshwar Pandey & his brothers, <b>South</b> :- Satyadev Dubey & his brothers <b>East</b> :- Nij Mokir Alah <b>West</b> :- Pokhar, <b>Name of Title Holder: Late Harendra Kumar Pandey</b> , represented by Legal Heirs Mr. Piyush Kumar Pandey S/o- Late Harendra Kumar Pandey, Mr. Himanshu Kumar Pandey S/o- Late Harendra Kumar Pandey and Smt Anupama Diwedi D/o- Late Harendra Kumar Pandey <b>Property 2</b> - All the part and parcel of Commercial ancestral Land in the name of Late Harendra Kumar Pandey, represented by Legal Heirs Mr. Piyush Kumar Pandey S/o- Late Harendra Kumar Pandey, Mr. Himanshu Kumar Pandey S/o- Late Harendra Kumar Pandey and Smt Anupama Diwedi D/o- Late Harendra Kumar Pandey, situated at Vill/ Mauza - Hardiya, PS- Govindganj, Thana No-88, Anchal- Areraj, Distt- East Champaran, bearing Khata No. 35,49,88 & Khesra No. 344, 346, 458, 454, 341, Area - 12 Kaththa 04 Dhur. <b>Boundary - North</b> :- Khushi Dewan, <b>South</b> :- Siwan Yogiyar ur Janerwa, <b>East</b> :- Nij, <b>West</b> :- Nij & Satyadev Dubey. <b>B) W.R.T</b> Khata No. 35, Khesra No. 346 & Area 05 Kaththa 12 Dhur. <b>North</b> :- Shambhu Raut, <b>South</b> :- Siwan Yogiyar ur Janerwa, <b>East</b> :- Nij & Awdesh Pandey, <b>West</b> :- Nij, <b>C) W.R.T</b> Khata No. 35, Khesra No. 458 & Area 00 Kaththa 16 Dhur. <b>North</b> :- Anirudh Dubey, <b>South</b> :- Bhanu Pandey, <b>East</b> :- Farikain (Sharer), <b>West</b> :- Nij, <b>D) W.R.T</b> Khata No. 49, Khesra No. 454 & Area 02 Kaththa 02 Dhur. <b>North</b> :- Shambhu Raut & Anirudh Dubey, <b>South</b> :- Bhanu Pandey, <b>East</b> :- Nij, <b>West</b> :- Nij, <b>E) W.R.T</b> Khata No. 88, Khesra No. 341 & Area 01 Kaththa 01 Dhur. <b>North</b> :- Khushi Dewan, <b>South</b> :- Satyadev Dubey, <b>East</b> :- Nij, <b>West</b> :- Sadak, <b>Title Holder: Late Harendra Kumar Pandey</b> , represented by Legal Heirs Mr. Piyush Kumar Pandey S/o- Late Harendra Kumar Pandey, Mr. Himanshu Kumar Pandey S/o- Late Harendra Kumar Pandey and Smt Anupama Diwedi D/o- Late Harendra Kumar Pandey <b>Property 3</b> - All the part and Parcel of Commercial Land in the name of <b>Mr. Himanshu Kr Pandey</b> , situated at Vill- Hardiya, PS- Govindganj, Thana No-88, Anchal- Areraj, Distt- East Champaran, bearing Sale deed no. 2520 dated 05.04.2019, Khata no. 68, Survey no. 345, Area 01 Kaththa 16 Dhur (12 Decimal), <b>Boundary - North</b> :- Mustari, <b>South</b> :- Siwan Yogiyar ur Janerwa, <b>East</b> :- Mustari, <b>West</b> :- Mustari, <b>Title Holder: Mr. Himanshu Kumar Pandey</b> , <b>Property 4</b> - All the part and Parcel of Commercial Land in the name of Mr. Piyush Kumar Pandey, situated at Vill- Hardiya, PS- Govindganj, Thana No-88, Anchal- Areraj, Distt- East Champaran, bearing Sale deed no. 4635 dated 12.09.2011, Khata no. 14, Survey no. 456, Area 01 Kaththa (6.66 Decimal), <b>Boundary - North</b> :- Harendra Kr Pandey, <b>South</b> :- Nij Farikain, <b>East</b> :- Bhubneshwar Pandey, <b>West</b> :- Harendra Kr Pandey <b>Title Holder: Mr. Piyush Kumar Pandey</b> ,	<b>Rs. 2,61,00,000/-</b> <b>Rs. 26,10,000/-</b> <b>Rs. 10,000/-</b> <b>A/c -</b> <b>209272434</b> <b>IFSC Code -</b> <b>CNRB0004954</b>

**A) Boundary** - W.R.T Khata No. 35, Khesra No. 344 & Area 02 Kaththa 13 Dhur. **North** :- Khushi Dewan, **South** :- Siwan Yogiyar ur Janerwa, **East** :- Nij, **West** :- Nij & Satyadev Dubey. **B) W.R.T** Khata No. 35, Khesra No. 346 & Area 05 Kaththa 12 Dhur. **North** :- Shambhu Raut, **South** :- Siwan Yogiyar ur Janerwa, **East** :- Nij & Awdesh Pandey, **West** :- Nij, **C) W.R.T** Khata No. 35, Khesra No. 458 & Area 00 Kaththa 16 Dhur. **North** :- Anirudh Dubey, **South** :- Bhanu Pandey, **East** :- Farikain (Sharer), **West** :- Nij, **D) W.R.T** Khata No. 49, Khesra No. 454 & Area 02 Kaththa 02 Dhur. **North** :- Shambhu Raut & Anirudh Dubey, **South** :- Bhanu Pandey, **East** :- Nij, **West** :- Nij, **E) W.R.T** Khata No. 88, Khesra No. 341 & Area 01 Kaththa 01 Dhur. **North** :- Khushi Dewan, **South** :- Satyadev Dubey, **East** :- Nij, **West** :- Sadak, **Title Holder: Late Harendra Kumar Pandey**, represented by Legal Heirs Mr. Piyush Kumar Pandey S/o- Late Harendra Kumar Pandey, Mr. Himanshu Kumar Pandey S/o- Late Harendra Kumar Pandey and Smt Anupama Diwedi D/o- Late Harendra Kumar Pandey **Property 3** - All the part and Parcel of Commercial Land in the name of **Mr. Himanshu Kr Pandey**, situated at Vill- Hardiya, PS- Govindganj, Thana No-88, Anchal- Areraj, Distt- East Champaran, bearing Sale deed no. 2520 dated 05.04.2019, Khata no. 68, Survey no. 345, Area 01 Kaththa 16 Dhur (12 Decimal), **Boundary - North** :- Mustari, **South** :- Siwan Yogiyar ur Janerwa, **East** :- Mustari, **West** :- Mustari, **Title Holder: Mr. Himanshu Kumar Pandey**, **Property 4** - All the part and Parcel of Commercial Land in the name of Mr. Piyush Kumar Pandey, situated at Vill- Hardiya, PS- Govindganj, Thana No-88, Anchal- Areraj, Distt- East Champaran, bearing Sale deed no. 4635 dated 12.09.2011, Khata no. 14, Survey no. 456, Area 01 Kaththa (6.66 Decimal), **Boundary - North** :- Harendra Kr Pandey, **South** :- Nij Farikain, **East** :- Bhubneshwar Pandey, **West** :- Harendra Kr Pandey **Title Holder: Mr. Piyush Kumar Pandey**,

**Last Date of EMD 11.04.2025 For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in [www.canarabank.com/pages/bihar](http://www.canarabank.com/pages/bihar), <http://baanknet.com>**

**Date: 25.03.2025**    **Place: Muzaffarpur**

**Authorised Officer (Canara Bank)**





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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

# ‘Preparation’ for rape vs ‘attempt’ to commit rape: what law says

**AJOY SINHA KARPURAM**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

THE SUPREME COURT on Wednesday stayed a ruling of the Allahabad High Court that said grabbing the breasts of a minor child and breaking the string of her pyjama “hardly constitute[d] an offence of attempt to rape”, and merely amount[ed] to “preparation”.

A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and AG Masih said “some of the observations made in the impugned order...depict a total lack of sensitivity on the part of the author of the judgment”.

In his order passed on March 17, Justice Ram Manohar Narayan Mishra of the Allahabad High Court deleted the charges of attempted rape against three accused persons and directed that they should be tried for the “minor offence” of assaulting or using criminal force against a woman under Section 354B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC), read with Sections 9/10 (aggravated sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act).

The HC was hearing an appeal by the accused against an order of a POCSO court summoning them to trial under Section 376 IPC (rape) and Section 18 (punishment for attempt to commit an offence) of the POCSO Act.

The HC’s March 17 verdict and the stay ordered by the SC on Wednesday spotlight the thin line between the “preparation” to commit an offence and the “attempt” to commit that offence.

It is a crucial distinction, as “preparation” is not punishable in the vast majority of cases, while an “attempt” to commit an offence is criminally punishable.

The distinction is also relevant for an important ongoing debate: how should courts define and punish an attempt to commit rape?

## ‘Preparation’ vs ‘attempt’

To prove an attempt to commit an offence, certain other things must be proven, including that the accused made preparations to commit the offence, the Supreme Court has held earlier. In essence, preparing to commit an offence is a stage that precedes

the attempt to commit that offence.

In *Abhayanand Mishra v. State of Bihar* (1961), the SC ruled that to prove an attempt to commit an offence, the prosecution must broadly show that:

■ The accused had the “intention” to commit that offence.

■ The accused made preparations to commit the offence.

■ The accused then acted towards committing the offence — this need not be the “penultimate act”, that is, the final act before the offence is committed.

■ The penultimate act took place “during the course of committing that offence”. (This is known as the requirement of “proximity”).

Crucially, an attempt is said to be made only when this penultimate act takes place — an accused cannot be held guilty for merely making preparations without taking any action towards committing a crime.

As the SC put it in *State of Maharashtra v Mohd. Yakub* (1980), “attempt begins where

preparation ends”.

## Standard applied by the HC

The facts of the case, as recorded in the HC judgment, are as follows:

The accused persons met the minor girl and her mother and offered to drop the child home on their motorcycle. On the way, “they started grabbing her breasts and...dragged her and tried to take her beneath the culvert and broke the string of her pyjami”. Two wit-

nesses who heard the cries of the child arrived on the scene before the offence of rape could take place. The accused persons made some threats and

fled. They were charged with attempt to commit rape under the IPC and POCSO Act.

The HC held that the “allegations...and facts of the case hardly constitute an offence of attempt to rape... The prosecution must establish that it had gone beyond the stage of preparation”.

The HC also relied on an old English case, *Rex v. James Lloyd* (1836), in which the judge,

**EXPLAINED  
LAW**

# India’s deep sea challenge

Operating in the depths of the ocean is a challenge that India must embrace to maximise its economic potential and protect its security interests. This is more so given that China is the world leader in the field

**SONAL GUPTA**  
MUMBAI, MARCH 27

THE EUROPEAN Space Agency (ESA) shut down its space observatory mission, Gaia, on Thursday. Launched in December 2013, Gaia aimed to create the most precise three-dimensional map of the galaxy.

From July 2014 to January 2025, Gaia recorded 3 trillion observations of 2 billion stars and objects, and helped inform at least 13,000 scientific publications.

## The Gaia mission

Gaia, formerly the Global Astrometric Interferometer for Astrophysics (GAIA), was designed to map the universe by accurately measuring the positions and motions of stars and various celestial objects.

It was positioned at Lagrange point 2 (L2), around 1.5 million kilometres ‘behind’ the Earth, as viewed from the Sun. This location effectively allowed the spacecraft to view the larger cosmos unhindered by the Earth, the Sun and the Moon.

Twin telescopes placed in different directions directed light to a single digital camera with nearly a billion pixels, making it the largest in space. The spacecraft is fitted with three instruments — an astrometer, a photometer and a spectrometer — that help interpret the location and motion of stars and other objects.

## Through Gaia’s eyes

Gaia’s observations have shown scientists the shape of the Milky Way: a central bar and spiral arms. Viewed from its edge, the galaxy is seen as a disc with a bulge at the centre. However, Gaia showed that this disc is warped and wobbles slowly from left to right, likely due to collisions with a smaller satellite galaxy.

Chris Lintott, a British astrophysicist and professor at the University of Oxford,



Artist’s impression of ESA’s Gaia satellite observing the Milky Way. Wikimedia Commons

believes the ripples produced by these collisions still exist and may have resulted in the formation of stars, including the Sun. “This shows how Gaia is revealing that the Milky Way’s history is both more dynamic and more complex than we thought,” he said in a lecture last month.

Last April, Gaia discovered a “sleeping giant” black hole, 33 times the mass of the Sun, located less than 2,000 light years from Earth. This marked the first time such a massive black hole was found in the Milky Way. While black holes had previously been detected by the light emitted from materials falling into them, those identified by Gaia are “truly black and can only be detected by their gravitational effects”, according to the ESA.

Gaia has also detected over 1,50,000 asteroids and projected their orbits, including those that may pose a threat to Earth in the future.

Despite its scope and magnitude, Gaia has likely mapped only about 2% of the 100 billion stars in the Milky Way. The bulk of Gaia’s data remain to be processed. Scientists at the ESA are downlinking all the data collected by the spacecraft over the years. Their release over the coming years could lead to more discoveries.

**EXPERT  
EXPLAINS**



**BISWAJIT DASGUPTA**

LAST MONTH, India completed wet testing of its Matsya-6000 submersible, capable of diving up to 6 km below the surface to look for underwater minerals off the coast. The launch of the first deep-sea manned vehicle is planned for later this year — it will put India in a select group of nations with the capability to send humans to these depths.

Last week, China unveiled a compact deep sea cable-cutting device that can be mounted on certain submersibles — and which is capable of severing the world’s most fortified underwater communication or power lines. China reportedly operates the largest fleet of submersibles in the world.

## Deep sea challenge

The intense oceanic activity around the world over the past two decades has focused on the Deep both for its economic resources and as the theatre of possible future conflicts.

According to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS), the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of a country extends from the baseline of its coast to 200 nautical miles (about 370 km) into the sea. A nation has exclusive rights to living and non-living resources in the waters and on the seabed within its EEZ.

Average depth in the Indian EEZ is 3,741 metres — this is more than four-and-a-half times the height of Burj Khalifa, the world’s tallest building. But it is shallow compared to the deepest ocean — the bottom of the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench in the western Pacific lies more than 10 km under the surface, more than the cruising altitude of most aircraft.

Operating in the deep sea requires a distinct technology and extremely specific capabilities that are challenging and expensive to develop. Consider:

■ While sound can travel long distances underwater, its propagation is seriously affected by hydrological conditions such as temperature, pressure, and salinity. Generally speaking, the lower the frequency of the sound wave, the better the propaga-



Matsya-6000 has been developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology as part of the Samudrayaan Project under India’s Deep Ocean Mission. PIB

tion of sound underwater.

Very low frequency (VLF) and extremely low frequency (ELF) sound technologies represent the cutting edge of science, and require deep research and enormous funding to develop.

■ Pressure underwater increases by approximately one atmosphere (atm) for every 10 metres of ocean depth. One atm is roughly equivalent to the mean sea-level atmospheric pressure on Earth, or 101,325 Pascals. The pressure at the ocean bed in the Indian EEZ is upwards of 380 atm, or 380 times that on the surface of the Earth.

Vessels that descend to such depths need to be constructed using particular material and processes in order for them to operate safely. (Remember the OceanGate Titan submersible disaster of June 2023?)

## Need for such technology

It is, however, imperative that India overcomes the challenge posed by the deep sea. To be able to ride on the blue economy in the future, India must have the technologies to harness the resources of the ocean and the seabed.

The ocean is a storehouse of resources, from fish, minerals, gas hydrates, oil and gas, and nutraceuticals to oceanographic data that may help in combating climate change

and contribute to meteorological research. It is essential to harness these resources to maximise India’s economic potential.

This will require the development of technologies for hydrographic research and exploration activity, as well as supporting capabilities such as diving, salvage, and submarine rescue.

Then there is the development of underwater infrastructure. Undersea cables crisscrossing the oceans are the backbone of modern communications technology. They are responsible for transmitting more than 95% of the intercontinental Internet traffic, seamlessly enabling activities from digital communication and transmission of video to banking transactions worth billions of dollars.

Developing the capability to lay and maintain these cables is critical to provide millions of Indians with digital connectivity, and to sustain an economy that increasingly relies on the same.

Apart from undersea cables, other deep sea infrastructure can include oil pipelines, equipment for mining, and scientific research.

Beyond exploiting the oceans’ resources, mapping of the deep sea and maintaining a high degree of underwater domain awareness is critical for safeguarding maritime and security interests.

Take for instance the deep sea cable-cut-

354(b) IPC i.e. assault or abuse a woman with intent to disrobing or compelling her to be naked”, which carries a punishment of 1-5 years’ imprisonment.

## Earlier instances

The almost two-centuries-old *Lloyd* ruling continues to act as a basis for deciding if an accused attempted to commit the offence of rape.

In May 2024, the Rajasthan HC applied the standard test for ‘attempt’ as well as the *Lloyd* ruling to alter an attempted rape conviction and instead hold the accused guilty under Section 354, thus reducing the punishment.

In 2004, the Supreme Court had adopted a similar approach to achieve the same result in *Aman Kumar & Anr v. State of Haryana*.

The Supreme Court, which took *suo motu* cognizance of the HC verdict on March 25, now has the opportunity to reconsider the legal standard for attempted rape. While issuing a stay on the ruling, the court noted that the HC’s observations “are totally unknown to the tenets of law and depict total insensitivity and inhuman approach”.

ter that China has announced. The development of complex underwater sensors and response mechanisms to act against any such disruption will be crucial to tackling any threats from hostile actors.

## What India must do

As for every niche technology, the essential prerequisites for developing deep sea tech are financial strength, academic and research capabilities, and highly qualified and skilled human capital.

It is not surprising, therefore, that China, France, Japan, Norway, Russia, South Korea, and the US are far ahead of the rest of the world in this area. Chinese investments in deep sea science and engineering centres are paying rich dividends today.

In 2018, the Indian government launched the Deep Ocean Mission under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. The development of the Matsya-6000 submersible is a part of this mission. While this is welcome, the fact is India currently does not have even decent deep sea fishing capability — and needs to do much more.

The establishment of institutes of excellence in deep sea research will nurture academic excellence, expertise, and skill in the area. India also needs to incentivise every aspect of deep ocean science and engineering through generous funding and a strong, empowered body to drive this multi-dimensional mission forward at a faster-than-usual pace.

It is time to upgrade the Department of Ocean Development to a full-fledged ministry, led by a cabinet-rank minister, and make all departments and agencies responsible for ocean development accountable to this minister.

Well-funded, time-bound and result-oriented projects must be executed in “mission-mode”, with quick approvals, ease of doing business, and high accountability of stakeholders. A “ten year plan” will be helpful in this regard.

Lastly, India must remember that all these deep sea technologies are inherently “dual use” — the very vessels and equipment developed for ocean research and exploitation could also have disruptive uses in conflict. This too needs active consideration in its deep ocean strategy.

Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta (Retd) is a former Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, Indian Navy

# As AI-generated art goes viral, the story of Miyazaki and his Studio Ghibli

**ANAGHA JAYAKUMAR & ARJUN SENGUPTA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

STUDIO GHIBLI-STYLE images have taken over the Internet after OpenAI released its “most advanced image generator yet” via an update to the GPT-4o model. People around the world have been using the artificial intelligence chatbot to adapt images to the distinctive style developed by legendary Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki.

But not everyone is happy. Many see this as an affront to the creative process, especially given Miyazaki’s own views about AI-generated art.

## Analogue artist in a digital age

Miyazaki was born in Tokyo in 1941. At an early age, he got hooked on manga, a popular and distinctive style of Japanese comics and graphic novels. After studying economics and political science at university, he began his career as an animator in 1963.

Miyazaki worked in the long-running

series *World Masterpiece Theater*, and films such as *The Wonderful World of Puss ’n Boots* (1969) and *Future Boy Conan* (1978) before co-founding Studio Ghibli with director Isao Takahata, and producer Toshio Suzuki in 1985. Miyazaki has himself directed most of the films produced by the studio.

Over the years, Studio Ghibli has developed a distinctive aesthetic, one that has

found admirers around the world. Miyazaki’s frames are vivid in detail, rich in colour, and imbibe even daily objects with a dream-like character.

Crucially, Studio Ghibli productions are meticulously hand-painted, and use next to no digital assistance. Even in an age where computer animation has taken over the world, Miyazaki’s work is defined by the fact that behind each frame is the labour of a human illustrator, often Miyazaki himself.

“I believe that the tool of an animator is the pencil,” he told *The New York Times* in an interview in 2021.

Naturally, Miyazaki has been a vocal critic of AI-generated art.

For *Never-Ending Man: Hayao Miyazaki*, a 2016 documentary about his life, he was



A still from Hayao Miyazaki’s Oscar-winning *The Boy and the Heron* (2023). Studio Ghibli via AP

shown a demonstration of an AI-generated animation. His response has gone on to become one of the most oft-quoted repudiations of AI art.

“I am utterly disgusted... I would never wish to incorporate this technology into my work at all. I strongly feel that this is an insult to life itself,” he famously said, before ending the discussion with the follow-

ing words: “I feel like we are nearing the end of times. We humans are losing faith in ourselves.”

## Progressive themes

Much like their visual aesthetic, Studio Ghibli’s stories blend the mundane with the fantastical. They are also deeply political, and contain complex characters who blur the bi-

nary between good and evil.

Having grown up in post-World War II Japan, pacifism is a recurring theme in Miyazaki’s works.

*Porco Rosso* (1991) was described by Daisuke Akimoto as “anti-war propaganda”. He wrote that the “fundamental political message of the film is not only anti-fascism, but also anti-war pacifism”. (‘A Pig, the State and War: Porco Rosso’ published in 2014 in *Animation Studies*). In *Princess Mononoke* (1997), the protagonist goes against tradition to try and end a historic conflict between two communities.

Environmentalism is another common theme of Studio Ghibli films. In 2008, Miyazaki told *The Japan Times* that he felt very frustrated growing up because he saw nature being destroyed “in the name of economic progress”.

Miyazaki’s films push audiences to reflect on the effects of capitalism on the natural world by telling stories about the relationship between humans and nature. Hannah Kong Walter wrote for *The Cambridge Language Collective* earlier this year: “Nature in Studio Ghibli is never just a physical setting: it is otherworldly, and if

nothing else, a reminder of the power and beauty of the imagination. These films do not so much concern the natural world and its importance as one’s connection to it.”

Miyazaki has also been praised for his treatment of female characters. Many Studio Ghibli films tell coming-of-age stories of girls. But they do so without resorting to either sexualisation or fluff, something that is rare even today. His female protagonists are strong-willed, capable of navigating the complexities of the world while still remaining true to themselves.

*Spirited Away* (2001), perhaps the most famous Studio Ghibli film of all time, tells the story of ten-year-old Chihiro, who mysteriously gets trapped in the world of *kami* — spirits in Japanese folklore — and must figure out a way to free her family, and return to the human world.

This was the first non-English film to win the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature (although Miyazaki refused to attend the ceremony, citing his opposition to the Iraq War), and has found itself on multiple ‘Best Of’ lists. Miyazaki’s *The Boy and The Heron* (2023) too won the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature.



TRADERS FEAR SELECTIVE CONCESSIONS

# Trump’s 25% auto tariffs raise worries for India’s \$7 bn component exports

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA & AGGAM WALIA  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Wednesday decided to expand his trade war to the world’s most traded product—automobiles and auto parts—by announcing 25 per cent tariffs on imports from April 3, raising uncertainty over Indian exports of nearly \$7 billion worth of auto components to the US and future growth potential in the North American market.

Citing national security concerns, the White House said that automobiles would be subject to 25 per cent tariffs starting on April 3—a day after US reciprocal tariffs are set to come into effect—while auto parts would face similar tariffs “no later than May 3 2025,” unless such actions are expressly “reduced, modified, or terminated.”

An industry source told *The Indian Express* that Trump’s new tariffs would have a bearing on India’s auto component exports to the US, which stood at \$6.79 billion in FY24, as auto components are the only segment where India has a significant presence in the fast-growing US market. The source added that selective relax-



US President Donald Trump at the White House. AP/PTI

ations of the tariffs favouring specific countries could adversely impact Indian exports.

## Exporters fear selective relaxations

“The White House said the tariff would apply not only to fully assembled cars but also to key automobile parts, including engines, transmissions, powertrain parts, and electrical components, which are India’s largest auto component exports. That list could expand over time to encompass additional parts. From a competitive position, things remain the same. The problem will be if there are selective relaxations, if US demand slumps as goods become more expensive, or if China undercuts

through opaque subsidies,” the source said.

The fresh tariffs are significant as North America—primarily the US—and Europe are the largest export markets for Indian auto components, showing significant growth in FY2024, according to the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA)’s annual report. Asia remains a key market, although growth was stable, and Germany is also a notable export destination, the report showed.

Notably, India’s auto component exports—including drive transmission, steering, and engine components—reached \$21.2 billion in FY24, reflecting 5.5 per cent growth. This was primarily driven

## Auto stocks fall on Trump tariff

*New Delhi:* Auto stocks declined on Thursday. Shares of Tata Motors tanked 5.56 per cent to settle at Rs 668.60 on the BSE. The stock of Ashok Leyland dropped 2.77 per cent, Eicher Motors declined 0.97 per cent, Mahindra & Mahindra dipped 0.35 per cent and Apollo Tyres skidded 0.24 per cent. **PTI**

by robust demand from markets like North America and Europe, which contributed nearly 32 per cent each. The other key markets for Indian exports are Asia and West Asia. However, overall growth has remained flat compared to the previous year.

Reduction of import duty may be counterproductive

Stressing that the Indian auto sector contributes nearly one-third of the country’s manufacturing GDP, a Global Trade and Research Institute (GTRI) report cautioned against reducing tariffs on passenger cars to avoid US tariffs, warning that such a move

could prove counterproductive.

“The Australian experience offers a cautionary tale. When Australia reduced its import tariffs from 45 per cent to 5 per cent in the late 1980s, it paved the way for the eventual collapse of its domestic auto manufacturing industry. With the Indian auto sector contributing nearly one-third of the country’s manufacturing GDP, any similar misstep must be avoided. Preserving the stability of the Indian auto sector is vital,” the report said.

The US imported \$89 billion worth of auto parts globally last year, with Mexico accounting for \$36 billion, China for \$10.1 billion, and India for just \$2.2 billion, the GTRI report noted, adding that the new tariffs could also open up export opportunities for India.

## Indian companies in the US

Several Indian companies that manufacture auto components also have a presence in the US through their subsidiaries or joint ventures, including Gurugram-based Sona Comstar, Pune-based Bharat Forge, the Motherson group, TVS Holdings, and JK Fenner.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# India seeks clarity on reciprocal tariffs but US holds back

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

INDIAN TRADE negotiators have sought details on US implementation plans for reciprocal tariffs set to take effect on April 2 during ongoing trade talks. However, US counterparts have remained focused on discussing the scope of the deal, revealing little about reciprocal tariffs that India is keen to avoid, *The Indian Express* has learnt. This has raised concerns among Indian trade officials that the US could use reciprocal tariffs as leverage to push for an early conclusion of the deal on goods, where it has sought broad market access in sectors including automobiles, whisky, and agriculture.

“The Indian side has sought details on the implementation plans for reciprocal tariffs, as there is a lack of clarity on whether the new tariffs will be applied sector-wise or at a national level. But US counterparts that include political appointees, have not shared any details,” a government official said.

“Talks are currently focused on the language of the terms of reference (ToR), which define the scope of the trade deal. This has created a sense that the April 2 tariffs will take effect and be used to pressure India into signing the goods agreement early,” the official said.

Earlier this week, US President Donald Trump hinted at a possible softening of stance on reciprocal tariffs, stating that a “lot of

## Talks progressing well: Goyal

*New Delhi:* The ongoing talks between India and the US for the proposed trade agreement between India and the US are progressing “well” and will be for the “good” of both nations while protecting India’s interests, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday. Goyal also said that he is in regular and constant dialogue with the industry from different sectors including agriculture, engineering, electronics, textiles, and various interest groups. All are “very” excited about a potential bilateral trade agreement with the US, he said, adding, “The discussions are ongoing. They are progressing well and will be for the good of both the United States and India”. He was speaking at the Times Now Summit here. **PTI**

countries” would be given a break on April 2. However, as threatened, Trump announced that tariffs on automobiles and parts would take effect next week.

This paper had earlier reported that US demands include greater market access, primarily in automobiles, whisky, and certain agricultural products. Indian negotiators, meanwhile, are seeking improved market access in labour-intensive sectors such as textiles and leather. On digital trade, India expects the US to push for greater access to data, challenging India’s strict data localisation norms, which require Indian data to be stored within the country. During Trump’s first term, disagreements over data localisation were a major source of friction between the two nations.

On Wednesday, Trump escalated his trade war by announcing 25 per cent tariffs on automobiles and auto parts from April 3, raising uncertainty over Indian auto component exports worth nearly \$7 billion and the sector’s future growth prospects in the North American market. Citing national security concerns, the White House said that automobiles would be subject to 25 per cent tariffs starting on April 3—a day after US reciprocal tariffs come into effect—while auto parts would face similar tariffs “no later than May 3, 2025,” unless such actions are expressly “reduced, modified, or terminated.” Query emailed to the Commerce and Industry Ministry late on Thursday remained unanswered till press time. A Goldman Sachs report suggested that India could be affected by Trump’s tariffs at the national level, the product level, or through non-tariff barriers, all of which could complicate trade relations between the two nations.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# Adani arm resumes power supply to Dhaka

*Mumbai:* Adani Power has resumed power supply to Bangladesh after halting it for almost four months over unpaid dues, sources in the know said.

Bangladesh is making payment of \$90-95 million per month, but earlier dues are yet to be paid, sources said. “...the payments from Bangladesh are just about meeting monthly consumption by it. The have promised they will clear earlier dues,” sources said. Bangladesh owed \$850 million to Adani Power, which currently stands at \$800 million. These would be cleared in next six months, people familiar with the matter said. An Adani Power spokesperson did not comment.

**RAGHAVENDRA KAMATH, FE**

## BRIEFLY

### Govt plans to borrow ₹8L cr in H1 FY26

*New Delhi:* The Centre is planning to mobilise Rs 8 lakh crore through dated securities during the April-September period of 2025-26 to fund the revenue gap. **PTI**

### I-T dept offices to remain open on March 29-31

*New Delhi:* Income tax department offices will remain open on March 29 to March 31 to facilitate taxpayers in completing pending tax-related business. **PTI**

### Indian billionaires’ wealth a third of country’s GDP

*New Delhi:* The cumulative wealth of 284 Indian billionaires is a third of the country’s GDP, a report said. Gautam Adani has emerged as the biggest wealth gainer globally with a Rs 1 lakh crore jump in his fortune to Rs 8.4 lakh crore, as per the Hurun Global Rich List. Mukesh Ambani saw a 13 per cent drop in his wealth to Rs 8.6 lakh crore. **PTI**

### US economy grew 2.4% in 4th quarter

*Washington:* The US economy expanded at a healthy annual 2.4 per cent pace the last three months of 2024. **AP**

## CANDIDATE OPEN HOUSE FOR PM INTERNSHIP SCHEME

# Internship candidates flag age limit, job prospects, few IT sector openings

AGGAM WALIA  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

A REQUEST to relax the age limit from 24 years to 25 years, doubts over employment prospects after internship and very few openings in the information technology (IT) sector — these were some of the concerns flagged by prospective applicants in ‘Candidate Open House for the PM Internship Scheme’ organised by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs on Thursday.

Several attendees asked whether interns would be on the payroll of the companies following the completion of the internship under the PMIS, while some suggested the government should formulate a policy to ensure jobs after internships. In response, officials attending the session said employment post-internship is not guaranteed and that a year-long internship experience will make applicants more employable. “After your internship, it is entirely the company’s decision to take you on roll or not. This scheme ensures a 12 month internship and a completion certificate after 12 months,” a person involved with the implementation of the scheme said during the session.

This was the third such open house session held for the candidates, which saw around 1,700 registrations and more than 1,750 queries. The earlier sessions were held on March 10 and 19.

## FICCI-EY REPORT ‘Digital media overtakes TV in 2024’

*New Delhi:* Digital media in India has overtaken traditional television in 2024, becoming the largest segment in the media & entertainment (M&E) sector, contributing an unprecedented 32 per cent to the overall revenues, according to the latest FICCI-EY report.

Moreover, digital media is expected to be the first M&E segment to cross Rs 1 trillion in ad revenues in 2026, it said.

The Indian M&E sector is expected to grow at over 7 per cent in the next three years to cross Rs 3 lakh crore, it added.

The Indian Media and Entertainment (M&E) sector in 2024 reached a total valuation of Rs 2.5 lakh crore (\$29.4 billion) and contributed 0.73 per cent to India’s GDP in 2024.

“Looking ahead, the Indian M&E sector is expected to grow by 7.2 per cent in 2025, reaching Rs 2.7 trillion (\$31.6 billion) ...” it said. **PTI**

FIRST PILOT ROUND		INTERN DEMOGRAPHICS	
Top five companies*	Internship opportunities	Top five states	Interns **
Jubilant Foodworks	14,263	Uttar Pradesh	1,234
Maruti Suzuki India	12,444	Assam	994
ONGC	6,020	Bihar	715
Reliance Industries	5,000	Madhya Pradesh	693
Eicher Motors	4,260	Odisha	467
*offered internship opportunities		** Joinings in first round	
Source: Ministry of Corporate Affairs			

“Internships are a stepping stone to your career. You will get a chance to learn from top companies in India, build networks and gain experience. This will definitely help you in your career,” the person added. The weekly open house session was being held to answer queries regarding the scheme. In the second round of the scheme, which began in January, around 1.18 lakh internship opportunities are up for grabs, spread across 735 districts. The application window for the second round will close on March 31.

This comes after a lukewarm response to the scheme’s first pilot round last year when the number of candidates who joined the internship were lower than expected. Earlier, on March 17, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while launching the mobile app for the scheme, had even urged more companies to participate in the PM Internship

Scheme, citing larger national interest. “In this second phase, more industries have come forward. I appreciate the industry’s readiness to come forward and offer positions, but for a country of our size and with the objective that the top 500 companies participate, we still have some way to go,” she had said.

In the open house session, some attendees also requested raising the age limit from 24 years to 25 years, citing lack of available job opportunities. In response, officials reiterated that the scheme is only for applicants aged between 21-24 years. “There are very few jobs related to software development here and even in those that are available, 10x more people have applied than the requirement,” another attendee said.

In the first round of the pilot of the scheme that started in October last year, over 1.27 lakh internship opportunities were provided by companies in 745 dis-

tricts across the country, as per Ministry of Corporate Affairs data shared with the Parliament’s Standing Committee. Around 6.21 lakh applications were received from over 1.8 lakh candidates. Over 82,000 internship offers were made to over 60,000 candidates. Out of this, over 28,000 candidates accepted offers to join the internship but only over 8,700 candidates joined the scheme.

The top five companies that have offered internship opportunities under the first pilot round of the PMIS are: Jubilant Foodworks Limited (14,263 internship opportunities), Maruti Suzuki India Limited (12,444), ONGC Limited (6,020), Reliance Industries Limited (5,000), and Eicher Motors Limited (4,260). As per the region-wise breakup of the 8,725 interns in the first round, Uttar Pradesh led with 1,234 interns, followed by 994 interns in Assam, 715 in Bihar, 693 in Madhya Pradesh and 467 in Odisha.

Under the scheme, an amount of Rs 4,500 will be provided per month by the Government of India to selected candidates through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), with an additional Rs 500 offset to be provided by the company’s CSR (corporate social responsibility) funds. The government also provides a one-time grant of Rs 6,000 per annum for incidentals to cover miscellaneous expenses incurred by selected candidates during their internship.

# ‘Indian corporates’ fund raising touches record high in FY25 despite volatile market’

HITESH VYAS  
MUMBAI, MARCH 27

FUND RAISING by Indian corporates touched a record high in fiscal 2024-25, with Rs 3.71 lakh crore being raised through equity routes and Rs 11.22 lakh crore from debt market. During the current financial year, fund mobilisation through public equity increased by 92 per cent to Rs 3,71,460 crore, compared to Rs 1,90,104 crore, according to Prime Database.

“If Rights Issues of Rs 16,167 crore (including of Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)/ Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) were to be added, the overall equity fund raising nearly touched Rs 3.88 lakh crore in 2024-25,” said Pranav Haldea, Managing Director, PRIME Database Group.

Fund raising through debt also reached an all-time high of Rs 11,327 crore (including of InvITs/REITs) of which Rs 11,04,331 crore was through private placement of debt and Rs 8,044 crore

MOBILISATION VIA PUBLIC EQUITY UP BY 92%	
<b>DURING THE</b> current financial year, fund mobilisation through public equity increased by 92 per cent to Rs 3,71,460 crore, compared to Rs 1,90,104 crore, according to Prime Database	<b>FUND RAISING</b> through

through public bonds.

In FY 2024-25, 78 Indian corporates raised an all-time high of Rs 1.62 lakh crore through main board initial public offers (IPOs) in 2024-25, over 2.5 times of Rs 61,922 crore mobilized by 76 IPOs in 2023-24. The largest IPO in the fiscal was from Hyundai Motor (Rs 27,859 crore), followed by Swiggy (Rs 11,327 crore) and NTPC Green Energy (Rs 10,000 crore).

In the financial year, new age technology companies (NATCs) made a comeback after two rela-

tively quiet years, with eight IPOs (Awfis, Blackbuck, Digit Insurance, Firstcry, Iglo, Mobikwik, Swiggy and Unicommerce) raising Rs 21,438 crore. Of the 78 IPOs, 56 received a mega response of more than 10 times while seven IPOs were oversubscribed by more than three times.

The average number of applications from retail rose to 21.33 lakh in 2024-25, as against 13.15 lakh last year. The highest number of applications from retail were received by Waaree Energies

(70.13 lakh) followed by Bajaj Housing Finance (58.66 lakh) and KRN Heat Exchanger & Refrigeration (55.23 lakh).

“IPO response was further buoyed by strong listing performance. Average listing gain (based on closing price on listing date) increased slightly to 30 per cent, in comparison to 29 per cent in 2023-24,” Haldea said.

Out of the 78 IPOs, 46 continue to trade above the issue price. In fact, the average return of the 78 IPOs of 2024-25 has been 15 per cent, despite the market correction in the second half of the year.

Activity in the SME IPO segment also saw a huge increase in 2024-25, with 235 SME IPOs collecting around Rs 9,133 crore, 53 per cent higher than Rs 5,971 crore from 204 IPOs last year. The largest SME IPO was of Danish Power (Rs 188 crore). The average issue amount has seen a four-fold jump in four years from just Rs 9 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 39 crore in 2024-25.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)



A Flipkart delivery executive. Getty Images

Covid (2017-19) to around 8 per cent post-Covid (2022-24), the report said.

“This decline is driven by higher inflation and a stagnation of real wages. The stress in consumption is evident in e-retail growth in 2024 being 10 per cent-12 per cent, compared to historical growth rates of over 20 per cent,” it added.

However, the recent fiscal and monetary policy interventions are expected to drive a rebound in e-retail growth, especially from the festive period of 2025, on account of revival in the consumption cycle, the report said. The e-retail market is expected to scale to \$170-\$190 billion by 2030,

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# ‘India to double investment limit for foreign individuals’

*New Delhi:* The Reserve Bank of India is set to double to 10 per cent a cap on investment by individual foreign investors in listed companies, as it aims to boost capital inflows, according to two senior government officials and documents reviewed by *Reuters*.

Emails seeking comment from the finance ministry, the central bank, and the market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), did not get any response. The plans envisage allowing all foreign individual investors to invest a maximum of 10 per cent in a listed company, the document showed. That is up from the 5 per cent holding in an Indian company allowed to overseas Indian citizens. **REUTERS**

# WITH ROOM RENT OVER ₹7,500/ DAY Restaurant services in hotels fall under 18% GST: CBIC

*New Delhi:* Hotels charging a room rent above Rs 7,500 a day at any time in any financial year will be considered ‘specified premises’ for the next fiscal and restaurant services provided inside such premises will attract 18 per cent GST with input tax credit, the CBIC said on Thursday.

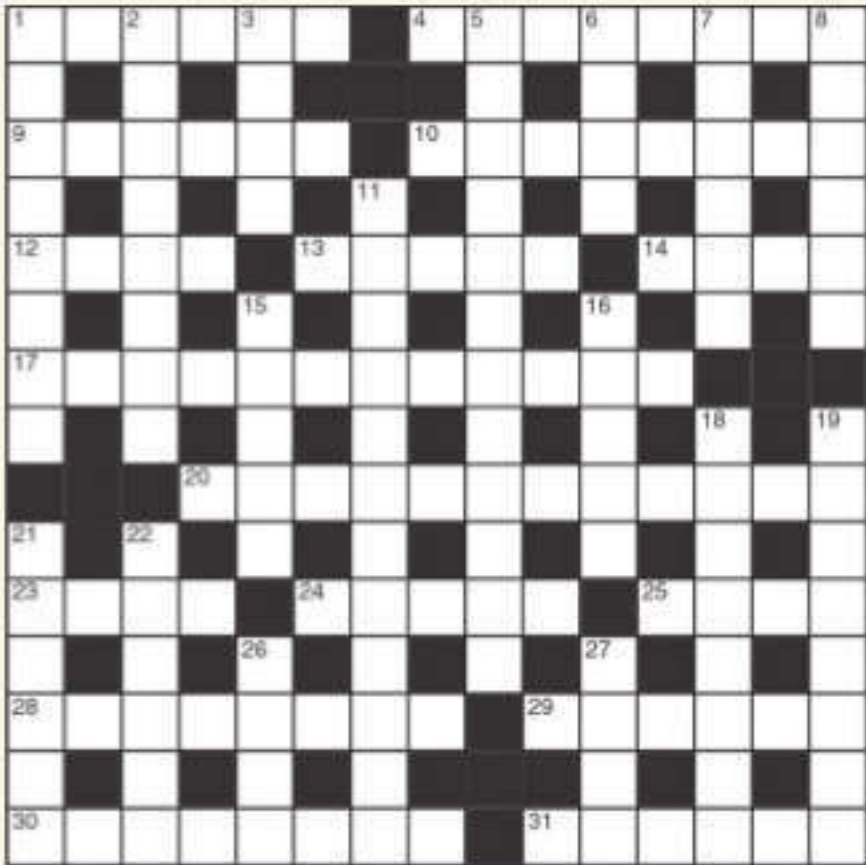
From April 1, 2025, the taxability of such restaurants which operate inside hotels will be on

the basis of value of supply (transactional value).

This would replace the concept of ‘declared tariff’ which included charges for all amenities provided in the unit of accommodation (given on rent for stay) like furniture, air conditioner, refrigerators or any other amenities, but without excluding any discount offered on the published charges for such unit. **PTI**



CROSSWORD 5635



- ACROSS  
1 Replacing the last of the footlights (6)  
4 Fairytale prince given marching order (8)  
9 He takes his bow before he performs (6)  
10 Second employer (8)  
12 Some sugar plum pulled out (4)  
13 How one may feel when unemployed or in bed (5)  
14 Looking extremely cold and depressed? (4)  
17 He deals openly with his clients (6,6)  
20 A moneylender might, but it won't appear in his books (4,8)  
23 Join with one reservation (4)  
24 Hold out for new iron lining (5)  
25 Great singer eager for comeback (4)  
28 Plant that has done real damage (8)  
29 The main worry for the old sailor (6)  
30 The original makers of sinks (8)  
31 Kidnap tenor (6)
- DOWN  
1 Perfect though said to lack foundation (8)  
2 Again but for the last time presumably (4,4)  
3 Not now the capital of Norway (4)  
5 It's no use the pair arranging for a decorator (12)  
6 The normal thing in government (4)  
7 Hard water? That depends (6)  
8 Get together and tuck in (6)  
11 Drink avoided by most ventriloquists (6,2,4)  
15 A fruit of the lemon variety (5)  
16 Point always cut off (5)  
18 Confuse by suggesting that one should be less calm (8)  
19 Tidy flat (8)  
21 Temporarily stop working on hedge (3,3)  
22 Ladies' man holding ancient city office (6)  
26 Take a meal up for the girl (4)  
27 Father uplifted after he makes a pile (4)

Solutions Crossword 5634 Across: 1 Ahead, 4 Optical, 8 Emu, 9 Illusions, 10 Trellis, 11 Aught, 13 Reaped, 15 Serbia, 18 Sated, 19 Biretta, 21 Elderdown, 23 Ego, 24 Linseed, 25 Handy Down: 1 Abetter, 2 Exuberant, 3 Drill, 4 Owlsh, 5 Testate, 6 Coo, 7 List, 12 Go-between, 14 Endorse, 16 Analogy, 17 Abroad, 18 Spell, 20 Ranch, 22 Don

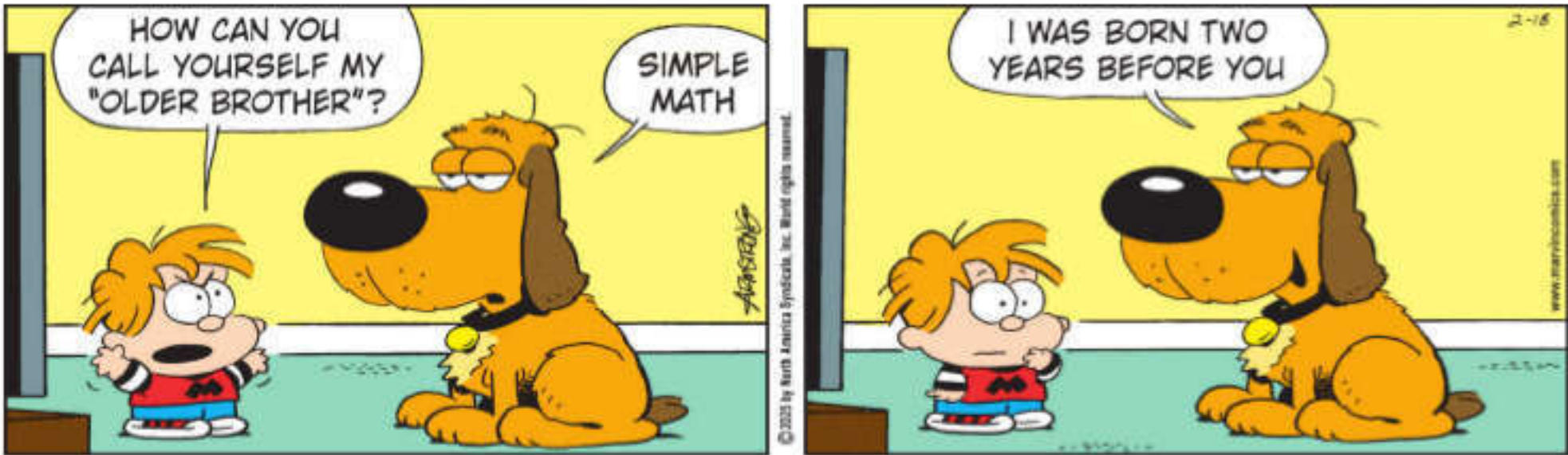
OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The Sun is still urging you to make the most of social contacts, but already you're moving into a new phase which could last a month and will leave you feeling rather isolated. This is not a bad thing; you actually want to be alone sometimes.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

If a promised move of home or major domestic change is held up over the next six months, the reason is that you should stay where you are and address fundamental questions. It may be that you need to work at a current relationship.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

I don't think that anyone should tangle with you at the moment. If they do, they must reckon on the fact that you're in a martial mood, and that you will therefore undoubtedly give as good as you get. You are not about to give way gracefully if there's no reason to do so.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Money matters should now be settled, at least as far as the short-term is concerned. You may now like to consider other questions, like where on earth you're going to go on holiday this year, if anywhere. You see, the important connections seem to lie a long way away.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You can make great strides forward at this time. Hopefully personal matters may be put to one side. In that case, you could direct your thoughts towards the financial situation. There are indeed purchases to be made, but savings seem more perfectly to suit your mood.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Your role and purpose must be to renew bonds with individuals who have drifted apart. The chance of a dispute at work can be postponed with some fancy footwork and a few words of reassurance. The fact that a partner may be feeling uncomfortable with current arrangements is enough.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Did you know that you have a reputation amongst astrologers for being lazy? Actually, I think you are misunderstood. The fact is that at times like these you quite properly resent tasks which are beneath your dignity. You don't like to waste your talents. It's simple.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Your partnerships are not always straightforward. This you know well enough. Your long-term task now is to simplify all family relationships, get down to essentials and strip away the waffle. You might have to wait while a partner gets their act together, though.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Given that you may have to delay decisive moves at home, you may still do your bit to improve your lot. Your strongest emotional contacts are with family members or people you live with and, if you recognise this simple fact, then a number of problems will disappear.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Do get on with plans, proposals and intuitive ideas. If you talk to people today you should find them sympathetic listeners, and this knowledge may encourage you to confide feelings you'd normally keep to yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

The heavy hand of Saturn is now a semi-permanent influence on your life, but I must say that it is a very favourable one. It could bring eventual security, even though today you may have doubts over your financial future. You'll get your way through cautious and consistent planning.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Don't hang back or give way to a sudden attack of nerves. You have the chance to push yourself forward and it may be another four weeks before a similar opportunity comes your way. Remember all my past advice about the need to charm other people.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.  
A sound \_\_\_\_\_ in a sound \_\_\_\_\_ is a short but full description of a happy state in this world. - John Locke (4,.,4)

DMUJO

ILVNY

IIMSD

EJLUBM

SUDOKU 5907

SUDOKU 5906

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 84 BNSS**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **MD Hasan S/o MD Farmaan, R/o H.No. 31, Lal Qtr, Sector-4, Vijay Vihar, Rohini, Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 873/23, U/S 392/411/34 IPC, PS Sarai Rohilla, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **MD Hasan** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **MD Hasan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that **MD Hasan** the said accused of **FIR No. 873/23, U/S 392/411/34 IPC, PS Sarai Rohilla, Delhi**, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **28.04.2025**.

By Order  
**Ms. Manuj Kuashal**  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-04,  
Central Distt., Room No.-37,  
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/3781/N/2025  
(Court Matter)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Person namely **Sangita S/o Suresh R/o Jhuggi D-Block, Near Railway Station, Nangloi, Delhi** and E-257, Mangolpuri, Delhi in has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 270/2019 U/s 379/34 IPC PS: Kotwali Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sangita**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sangita**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sangita**, accused of **FIR No. 270/2019 U/s 379/34 IPC PS: Kotwali Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **05.05.2025**.

By Order  
**Ms. Sayesha Chadha**  
JMFC-08, Room No. 272  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/3604/N/2025  
(Court Matter)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 CrPC**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Mahender Singh S/o Amar Singh, R/o H.No. 16/72, Kalyanpuri, Delhi-91** Also at: 4/11, Triolkpuri, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 958/15, U/S 379/411 IPC, PS Madhu Vihar, East Distt., Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Mahender Singh** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Mahender Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that **Mahender Singh** the said accused of **FIR No. 958/15, U/S 379/411 IPC, PS Madhu Vihar, East Distt., Delhi**, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **30.04.2025**.

By Order  
**Sh. Udbhav Kumar Jain**  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-04,  
Room No.-13, 2nd Floor, Shahdara Distt.,  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/3797/ED/2025  
(Court Matter)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Person namely **Prakash S/o Munna Lal, R/o: H. No. 12, Lalit Ji Ka Makan, Village Nahar Pur, Sec-7, Rohini, Delhi** (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 314/2017, U/s 356/379/411 IPC**, registered at P.S.: North Rohini, Delhi and the warrant has been returned writing upon that the said accused **Prakash** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Prakash** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Prakash** accused **FIR No. 314/2017, U/s 356/379/411 IPC**, registered at P.S.: North Rohini, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **03.05.2025**.

By Order  
**Ebbani Aggarwal**  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03  
Room No. 107, 1st Floor  
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/3706/RD/2025  
(Court Matter)

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Unit - 2 : Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04332 - 261600.

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
242513 006854	Procurement of Narrow Parallel Beam & Channel (RSPS#2) for Unit-I.	15.04.2025
242513 007433	Bleached Softwood Kraft Pulp for Unit-I.	07.04.2025
242513 007432	Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp Hardwood 80 (BCTMP HW 80) for Unit-I.	07.04.2025
242523 004440	Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp Softwood 70 (Double washed) for Unit-II.	09.04.2025
242513 007459	Supply of 11kV HT Cables for RSPS - 2 in TNPL Unit-I.	18.04.2025
242513 007460	Procurement of Sodium Hydrosulphite for Unit - I.	11.04.2025
242523 004365	Supply of SS Pipes for Tissue Machine#5 at TNPL Unit-II.	18.04.2025
242523 004375	Supply of Centrifugal Air Compressor for Tissue Machine#5 TNPL Unit-II.	28.04.2025
242523 004415	Supply of 415V AC VFD Panels for TM#5 in TNPL Unit-II.	17.04.2025
242523 004487	Procurement of Sodium bicarbonate (Food Grade) for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II.	12.04.2025
242513 007453	Design, Manufacture and Supply of Manual Gate Valves (Non-IBR) for RSPS#2 Project at TNPL Unit-I.	28.04.2025
242523 004470	Design, Manufacture and Supply Roll Handling and Axial Stretch Film Wrapping system along with auxiliaries, spares, supervision of erection, Start-up & Commissioning for TM#5 of TNPL Unit-II.	28.04.2025

Email: 242513006854 - purchase.civil@tnpl.co.in, 242513007433 : 242513007432 : 242523004440 - purchase.pulp@tnpl.co.in, 242513007459 : 242523004415 - pmd1@tnpl.co.in, 242523007460 - purchase.rawmat@tnpl.co.in, 242523004365 : 4375 - pmd2@tnpl.co.in, 242523004487 - purchaserm.u2@tnpl.co.in, 242513007453 - pmd8@tnpl.co.in, 242523004470 - pmd5@tnpl.co.in

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com) / <https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

DIPR/1201/Tender/2025 **TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person Namely **Sandeep S/o Om Kumar R/o H. No. A-253, Pana Buchan Village Bajitpur Thakran Bawana Delhi** in has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 27/19 U/s 279/337 PS: Bawana, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sandeep**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sandeep**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sandeep**, accused of **FIR No. 27/19 U/s 279/337 PS: Bawana, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **30.04.2025**.

By Order  
**Sh. Sarthak Panwar**  
JMFC-05, Room No. 114, 1st Floor  
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/3871/ON/2025  
(Court Matter)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**(See Section 82 Cr.PC)**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Dev Nath Yadav S/o Jaddu Yadav R/o A-315, Jaitpur, Ekta Vihar, Badarpur, Delhi, Also at, H.No. 57, Gali No. 2, Mandawali, Near Talab Chowk, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No.91/2013 u/s 279 IPC & 3/181 MV Act, P.S. Kotwali, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Dev Nath Yadav** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Dev Nath Yadav** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Dev Nath Yadav** of **FIR No.91/2013 u/s 279 IPC & 3/181 MV Act, P.S. Kotwali, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **30.04.2025**.

By Order  
**Ms. Sayesha Chadha**  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-08, Central District  
DP/3123/N/2025 Room No.272, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Sandeep @ Gollu S/o Ramesh R/o Near Harijan Chaupal, Lamba Panna, Village Qutubgarh, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence Case FIR No. 442/2019 u/s 354/506/509 IPC at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Sandeep @ Gollu** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sandeep @ Gollu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sandeep @ Gollu** accused of case committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence Case FIR No. 442/2019 u/s 354/506/509 IPC at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on **07.05.2025**.

By Order: **Ms. Aishwarya Sharma**,  
Judicial Magistrate First Class (Mahila Court)-01  
Room No. 106, 1st Floor,  
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/3692/RD/2025

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Person namely **Sanjeev@Lambu S/o Shivji, R/o: Jhuggi No. A-109, Sarai Pipal Thala, Delhi** (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 41/2019, U/s 33/38 Delhi Ex. Act**, registered at P.S.: Mahendra Park, Delhi and the warrant has been returned writing upon that the said accused **Sanjeev@Lambu** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sanjeev@Lambu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sanjeev@Lambu** accused **FIR No. 41/2019, U/s 33/38 Delhi Ex. Act**, registered at P.S.: Mahendra Park, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **03.06.2025**.

By Order  
**Ms. Niharika Kumar Sharma, LD.**  
ACJM (N), Room No.-117,  
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/3456/NW/2025  
(Court Matter)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 Cr. P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Avinash @ Avtar Singh, S/o. Bilal Singh, R/o. H-1/35, Sharma Colony, Budh Vihar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to has committed) the offence in a case vide **FIR No.247/2017 U/S 392/411/34 IPC** registered at **P.S Paschim Vihar East, Delhi** and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said accused **Avinash @ Avtar Singh** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Avinash @ Avtar Singh** is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Avinash @ Avtar Singh**, accused of **FIR No.247/2017 U/S 392/411/34 IPC, P.S Paschim Vihar East, Delhi** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **13.05.2025**.

By Order **Dr. Ameeza Bishnoi**  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-07 (West)  
Room No. 289, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/3827/OD/2025  
(Court Matter)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 CrPC**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Amar Kumar S/o Sh. Ram Sanjog Sahani R/o E-12/20, Shahbad Dairy, Bawana, Delhi-39** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 379/2013, U/S 279/337/338 IPC, P.S. North Rohini, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Amar Kumar**, can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Amar Kumar**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Amar Kumar**, of **FIR No. 379/2013, U/S 279/337/338 IPC, P.S. North Rohini, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **21.05.2025**.

By Order:  
**Ms. Ebbani Aggarwal**  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03  
North-West, Court No. 107, 1st Floor  
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/3721/RD/2025 (Court Matter)



# Gloveman Dhoni proves again that lightning stumping remains his forte

**SRIRAM VEERA**  
MUMBAI, MARCH 27

THERE ARE two true originals in the game of cricket these days: Steve Smith and MS Dhoni. No one else can bat like Smith, no one else can bat and keep wickets like Dhoni.

Dhoni doesn't flick; he drags. He doesn't drive; he shoves. He doesn't cut; he chops. He doesn't lean forward; he lunges. He doesn't defend; he stabs. He doesn't uppercut; he carves.

But all that to an extent is still apeable, but no one has come close to copying his wicketkeeping skill, in particular his way to stump batsmen.

He doesn't collect the ball; he snatches it. He doesn't 'give', that cushioning that wicketkeepers tend to deploy; he pounces on the ball even as he moves his hands forward towards the stumps.

It's a remarkable visual. So much so that in real-time view, it's a magnificent blur. It used to be said of Gary Sobers's reflexes in close-in positions that he used to catch blurs; Dhoni's gathering of the ball itself a blur. In the words of former fielding coach of India R Sridhar: "It often looks like Dhoni can stop time while executing a stumping".

The other night Suryakumar Yadav caught that blur.

## Death rattle

Once he missed the ball, he had heard the death rattle almost immediately; so quick was Dhoni that it almost seems that the batsman is out bowled and not stumped. In real-time, it seems as if Suryakumar had tried to press his back foot back inside the crease and turn back his head also — but replays reveal all that is a posthumous event. The bat hasn't even finished its full arc in follow-through in that attempted inside-out cover drive, the foot is still outside the crease, when the bails have come off.

Dhoni's art can be traced back to him being original.

A few years ago, on a stage show, he had opened up on his wicketkeeping method. "My technique is different. I am not copy-book. *Pachas saal sey wahi karte aa rahe hai* (They have been doing the same thing for decades). They say an, 'give' you are supposed to receive the ball. I thought why should you receive the ball? These days our wicket keeping gloves have rubber and it has cotton - it's already very soft," before he finished off with this clincher: "you can actually snatch the ball".



**MS Dhoni moves his hands towards the ball even before it crosses the stumps, one of the reasons he is super quick with stumpings.** *Screengrab*

It's not a copybook but there is a definite method that's worth watching in slow-motion. Take the Suryakumar dismissal. For starters, Dhoni's gloved hands are very

close to the stumps, further than many other wicketkeepers. Time saved already.

Secondly, and this is quite difficult even to do with an imaginary ball, Dhoni was ac-

## REETIKA WINS SILVER

India's Reetika Hooda blew away a 6-2 lead, conceding four points in the last 10 seconds of the women's 76kg final, to settle for a silver medal at the Asian Championship, while Mansi Lather and Muskan won bronze, in Amman on Thursday. **PTI**

**The side-on view is quite telling. As soon as Suryakumar fails to connect and the ball slides past the bat, Dhoni has begun moving his hands ahead. There is a jerky movement as the ball goes into the gloves.**

tually moving towards his left side but his cupped hands remain almost absolutely still. The body is moving, and the natural reaction is to jerk the hands up a touch. Not him, though. The hands stay almost relaxed in that position in front of him. The left leg finishes dangling outside the leg stump in fact but the hands stay just outside off. Needless to state, the head too is in great position of balance.

Remarkably, he has begun to move his hands towards the ball even before it has crossed the stumps.

The side-on view is quite telling. As soon as Suryakumar fails to connect and the ball slides past the bat, Dhoni has begun moving his hands ahead. There is a jerky movement as the ball goes into the gloves.

# Rachin shows signs of improved spin game

**VENKATA KRISHNA B**  
CHENNAI, MARCH 27

RACHIN RAVINDRA knows the privilege of being the overseas opener in Chennai Super Kings ranks. He also knows how it feels to be dropped mid-season from CSK.

He considers it an honour to play the role once aced by Matthew Hayden, Mike Hussey, Brendon McCullum, Shane Watson and more recently Faf du Plessis. It is a slot that Chennai usually reserves for at least one overseas player and last season when they acquired Rachin Ravindra for just Rs 1.8 crore on the back of an exceptional World Cup in Indian conditions, it appeared a steal.

But something unusual happened mid-way through the tournament. For a team that is known to give long rope even for overseas players, they dropped Rachin mid-way through the season before he made a comeback towards the end of the season. "Last season probably didn't go as well as I would have wanted at the end," Rachin admitted.

After spending a couple of months at home after the tournament, Rachin returned to Chennai last September where apart from focussing on his red-ball game for the series in Sri Lanka and India, he also got the opportunity to fine tune his white-ball skills. In 40 degree Celsius, on gravel surfaces, he underwent extensive sessions on how to go against spinners. While Rachin reaped rewards with the Test team, it transformed his white-ball game as well as he was the top run-getter in the Champions Trophy.

This IPL, despite Chennai having a crowded top-order which includes three other openers – Ruturaj Gaikwad, Rahul Tripathi and Devon Conway, Rachin has rightfully earned his spot back. That he had already won over the confidence of Chennai was evident at the auction table, when they used the RTM option to fend off interest from Ricky Ponting's Punjab Kings.

"His game against spin has always been very good. I think his development over the 12 months has been excellent. His last game against RCB, ironically, was one of his best innings. Since then, he has contributed a number of runs for New Zealand in a really classy way. I thought his effort the other night was superb in terms of controlling the tempo of the game. He has got power and he has got street smarts. So, it's a nice combination," Chennai's head coach Stephen Fleming said.

It is his struggles to control the tempo which became his biggest undoing last season. Though he managed to get quick starts for Chennai in the first two matches, he struggled to find the tempo thereafter.

He either batted in top gear or found himself in a shell, struggling to break open the game. But towards the end of the campaign, after prolonged sessions with batting coach Hussey, he appeared to find a way out.

In their opening match against Mumbai Indians this season, despite struggling initially, he found ways to keep the score moving. When the spinners were beginning to seize control, it was Rachin who put the pressure back on Mumbai before finishing with a strong unbeaten 65 off 45 deliveries.

Here is where his tearing-the-copybook way gets more interesting. Sridhar had once told this newspaper about that exact moment. "While others use their hands to produce that give, he uses his wrists. While his hands are going towards the stumps, there's a slight flick of the wrists in the backward direction. In my opinion, it's not safe hands but strong hands that allow him to do that. That's also the reason you will rarely see him collecting the ball to his side like other keepers. He doesn't need to," Sridhar had said. "He uses his peripheral vision more than anybody else. While he's looking at the ball, his corner of the eye has already gauged where the stumps are and where the batsman's foot is."

Somehow, even as the peripheral vision is working and he is moving his hands rapidly towards the ball, he keeps them soft and pliable - even if he is technically 'snatching' in his own words, to gather the ball.

The whole need for cushioning, the 'give' is for that softness, so that you don't snatch at the ball and the ball doesn't pop out.

Dhoni shreds all that wisdom as piffle, trusts his gloves, his hands, and his instincts to become the fastest hands in the East or West. He doesn't 'give'; he just takes them down. A true original.



**CSK's Rachin Ravindra put the pressure back on the MI's spinners enroute to an unbeaten 65 off 45 balls.** *Sportspics/BCCI*

Though he is predominantly a front-foot player, against spinners Rachin prefers to play off the back-foot, thereby creating new angles. Though he may not necessarily use his feet to come down the pitch, he has an effective slog-sweep to counter the spinners.

"The beautiful areas are his cover driving," Hayden said of Rachin's strengths. "He gets himself into incredible positions. He's a very front foot player but he's also able to rock back, use his height as an advantage and play square of the wicket. He rotates the strike well and he's got a good sweep shot and a good down-the-ground shot; he is the complete package in terms of strike-rate and scoring rate. He's a player of the ages," Hayden told the broadcasters.

With Chepauk pitches once again showing signs of aiding spinners, Rachin's importance at the top becomes even more vital for Chennai. Against pacers he has shown the game to take them head on with his cross-batted shots. In the practice sessions here, he has time and again altered between facing seamers and spinners, and also simulated the scenarios he is expected to face in the middle.

"(Last season) I slowly started to find a wee bit of a tempo in that last game against (Royal Challengers) Bengaluru. We know T20 is a fickle game, and results go up and down. But hopefully I can bat the way I want to and it results in wins for our CSK," Rachin said.

After getting off to a winning start against Mumbai, on Friday, Chennai take on Royal Challengers Bengaluru, which is searching for its first win at MA Chidambaram Stadium since the inaugural edition.

Having chosen to go back to the spin formula, Chennai need batsmen who are equipped for the conditions and in top of the list is Rachin, a batsman who could well determine how far they go.

**CSK vs RCB:** Chennai, 7:30 pm  
**Live on** JioHotstar, Star Sports network

## Injured Pathirana to miss RCB game

*New Delhi:* After missing out on Chennai Super Kings' inaugural match of the Indian Premier League 2025 against Mumbai Indians, Sri Lankan pacer Matheesha Pathirana has also been ruled out of CSK's encounter against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, head coach Stephen Fleming confirmed on Thursday. CSK will take on arch-rivals RCB at their home ground at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Friday for a high-octane clash.

"He is recovering," said Fleming on the eve of the CSK vs RCB match. While the details of his injury are yet to be known, Suresh Raina did mention to the official

broadcasters during Chennai's match against Mumbai that the Sri Lankan had sustained an injury.

Pathirana was impressive for Chennai last season before he was ruled out mid-way through the IPL 2024 due to a hamstring injury. However, the franchise showed faith in him and retained him ahead of the IPL mega-auction last year.

Skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad went with Australian quick Nathan Ellis alongside the spin trio of Noor Ahmad, Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin. Khaleel Ahmed was the Indian pace option, while all-rounder Sam Curran was also in the mix against Mumbai. **ENS**



**Nicholas Pooran's 70 off just 26 deliveries, a knock that comprised six fours and six sixes, eased the pressure during LSG's chase of 191.** *Sportspics/BCCI*

**Synopsis:** SRH's batting stutters to put on a mediocre score on a belter and Pooran powers LSG to a comfortable win.

**TANISHQ VADDI**  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

LUCKNOW SUPER Giants breached Sunrisers Hyderabad's fortress on Thursday as their bowling plans worked to curtail the power-packed SRH batting order. SRH's bowling issues, which surfaced last season, continued to persist.

## Pooran's fast hands

"You have a great bat speed; is it natural or you worked on it?" Nicolas Pooran's answer to the commentator WV Raman's query was quite something. "I have never worked on my bat speed, just a natural incredible talent!" He said with the same nonchalance with which he pummelled the SRH bowling. The left-hander is in Don Bradmanesque form in the T20 format. Regardless of the league he plays for, he has been piling runs at an unrealistic strike rate.

With his ability to stay still and by virtue of his fast hand-speed he got into positions as late as possible, making a mockery of the SRH bowling attack.

Out of his 70 runs, 60 came in boundaries with six fours and six gigantic sixes. His knock at a strike rate of 269.23 made the 191-run target easily attainable for the rest of the batting order.

Mitchell Marsh who slammed 72 in the game against Delhi Capitals played second fiddle to Pooran as he strolled to his half-century. Pat Cummins picked up both Pooran and Marsh in consecutive overs in the middle-passage but it was too late by then. Though LSG's middle order lost a few more wickets down the line, the former SRH player Abdul Samad smashed a 8-ball 22 to ensure Delhi won with 23 balls to spare.



**Shardul Thakur was the pick of the bowlers for Lucknow Super Giants with 4 for 34.** *Sportspics/BCCI*

## Shardul's redemption

SRH didn't get a flying start, which they are accustomed to at the Uppal stadium. Shardul Thakur, who went unpicked in the auction and was drafted in late by Lucknow Super Giants, grabbed a four-wicket haul and the Purple Cap. First, it was a well-disguised short ball from Shardul which Abhishek Sharma pulled straight to Nicholas Pooran at square-leg, placed there for exactly that shot. Next ball, Shardul got a bit lucky when Ishan Kishan – fresh from a hundred in the last game – was caught down the legside. He returned in the final overs to take the wickets of Abhinav Manohar and Mohammed Shami to reach 100 IPL wickets.

## Got a call from Zaheer: Shardul

*New Delhi:* After not finding any takers during the mega auction, Shardul Thakur has not just found a new home for IPL 2025 but made a rousing start to the campaign. After a couple of wickets in the opening game against Delhi Capitals, he picked up four against the high-flying Sunrisers Hyderabad batting lineup in Hyderabad. Speaking after his player of the match performance, Thakur said he got a call from Lucknow Super Giants' mentor Zaheer Khan during the Ranji Trophy recently, asking to be ready for a call-up. "I had signed up for County Cricket if I wasn't picked for IPL. But while playing Ranji knock-outs, I got a call from Zaheer that they are looking at me as a potential replacement, so don't switch yourself off. If we get you in as a replacement, we'll need you to start. That was the day I got back in the IPL zone."

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

Thakur would not bowl two similar deliveries consecutively, keeping the big-hitting SRH batters guessing. He mixed up his lengths and lines brilliantly, targeting the wide line cleverly whenever batters looked for a release shot. The other bowlers too didn't risk bowling full and into the hitting arc of SRH batters. They struck to hard lengths and the full ball was used as a variation.

Once LSG did their job in the Powerplay, Prince Yadav put the breaks in the middle overs with immaculate execution of deliveries to the field set. His spell ensured SRH didn't accelerate after a 62-run Powerplay. He bowled one fast and straight to get rid of Travis Head, and also played a key role in Heinrich Klaasen's unfortunate runout at the

non-striker end. Nitish Kumar Reddy smacked one straight back at Prince, who attempted to take the catch but the ball ricocheted off his hands and hit the stumps at the bowler's end with the South African out of the crease.

## Starts but no conversions

Music director S Thaman set the mood at the stadium with his thunderous beats ahead of the game but Sunrisers Hyderabad struggled to put in a similar performance with the bat. It was not a complete combustion from the SRH batting order.

The all-guns blazing approach of SRH was there to see but it was one of those nights when cameos didn't go on to become scores of substance, as they fell short of a par score at the batting-friendly venue. Abhishek and Ishan fell quite early but Head and Nitish held the fort for a bit. Head's play through the covers was majestic on the night. An inside-out six over cover off Avesh Khan was a particular highlight. Nitish, who started his boundary count with an exquisite cover drive, struggled to maintain the same fluency as the innings progressed as he had to build some partnerships, and eventually perished for a 28-ball 32.

Klaasen, too, blitzed for a while before getting out in an unfortunate manner.

When it seemed that SRH's power-hitting was done for the night, young Aniket Sharma stepped up with a 13-ball 36 to provide that thunderous kick the innings lacked. He hit five sixes and though it was just a cameo, it gave a glimpse of another talented power-hitting prospect SRH have in their hands for the remainder of the season.

Skipper Pat Cummins hit three sixes off the first three balls he faced, but once he got out on the fourth, Sunrisers fell short of the tall total they are accustomed to on their home turf.

**BRIEF SCORES: Sunrisers Hyderabad** 190/9 in 20 overs (Travis Head 47, Ankit Verma 36; Shardul Thakur 4/34) lost to **Lucknow Super Giants:** 193/5 in 16.1 overs (Nicholas Pooran 70, Mitchell Marsh 51; Pat Cummins 2/29).



# ‘With the kind of ideas & people around, I feel very, very scared’

Former captain Bhutia urges the AIFF to walk to the talk else ‘Vision 2047’ would turn into ‘Vision 3047’, he warns

MIHIR VASAVDA  
MUMBAI, MARCH 27

ONE OF India's greatest players, **Bhaichung Bhutia** ran – unsuccessfully – against Kalyan Chaubey in the All India Football Federation presidential elections. He is now an Executive Committee member. Witnessing the inner workings has left him ‘very, very scared’ about the direction the sport is taking in the country.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, Bhutia opened up about the goal-scoring problems plaguing the national team, the over-reliance on Sunil Chhetri (“By the time he gets to his second retirement, he might have a head haemorrhage!”) and why the AIFF’s Vision 2047 – to be among top four in Asia and have at least one male and one female international star, among other ideas – could turn into ‘Vision 3047’.

Excerpts:

**What are your thoughts after India’s goalless draw against Bangladesh?**

Overall, it wasn’t a dominant performance. Especially if you’re playing at home against Bangladesh; Bangladesh’s ranking means you have to dominate and you need to get three points. For the whole game, we lacked a lot of options in terms of attack. We were only relying on... it was a very predictable kind of attack, where you go past the wing and dribble, pass, cross,

and expect Sunil to just head the ball and score.

Everybody can pass, dribble, cross, kick... It is important to gel, to understand what kind of runs (need to be made). There was so much gap between the midfield and the strikers... The entire team movement was lacking a bit. It’s not that it can’t be worked out. We need a bit more time together. It’s a bit unfair again; we’re not a Premier League or a Spanish League or any big league where you can have 3, 4 days, 5 days of players coming together and then building up. Coach Manolo Marquez also requires at least a year to get his system right.

**Goal-scoring has been an issue. Why hasn’t India been able to produce a good striker?**

It’s not the striker. Everybody tries to focus on the striker issue but I think football has changed so much now; a lot of teams in the world don’t even play with a striker. The maximum they play is one striker, so I don’t think they’re not producing. A lot of the goals in today’s football are scored by attacking midfielders; they are the ones who are always difficult to track for defenders because they’re running from behind. If you look at the ISL, a lot of Indian players in that position get an equal number of chances. When you play 4-3-3 or 4-2-3-1, your three attacking midfielders are the ones who are supposed to be very effective and dangerous and score more goals.

That’s why I don’t think we should say that strikers are not getting chances. That’s a rubbish argument.



India have struggled to win a match over the last year. PTI

**Even using that logic, the goals aren’t coming. So where is Indian football going wrong in terms of producing a goal-scorer, be it an out-and-out striker or an attacking midfielder?**

Till the ages of 12, 13, 14, you play a lot of football, a lot of street football, 5-a-side, 7, 11-a-side. You play plenty, train, work, get those basics, technical things right. But after a certain age, with our system and academies, we’re not really training a lot of the guys to get into position, making those perfect runs, defending in perfect lines, maintaining that shape. Those are technical things that a lot of us in all the academies and grassroots are missing quite a bit.

**When you were playing...**

We’ve also not gone through... I’ve never learned that.

The only time when I learned most was in the last five years before my retirement under a wonderful coach, Bob Houghton. Before that, I had a lot of coaches, foreign and Indian. So, those things you tend to miss and those are the things which you need to start very early, at least in under-13, under-15 tournaments.

**Yet, so many different players could get into positions, create chances, score goals back then...**

But those days, again, defending was not like today. Those days, your defenders were also not trained to defend in a line, in a shape. You could score. Today’s football has become more of a complete system. It’s important to be smart in terms of passes, runs, positioning. Because your defenders are all trained to mark zonally or man-to-man, or position or

shape. It’s just not technical. It’s also about smart runs; the guy who’s going to release also should be smart enough with the timing of the pass. Look at the last match against Bangladesh. Not a single cross (by an Indian) from the wings landed between the goal-keeper and the defenders and you’re only depending on Sunil’s headers. By the time he gets to his second retirement, he might have a head haemorrhage! (laughs) For the club, for the country, everybody is only trying to cross (the ball) to his head.

**You went out of your comfort zone, played outside India and returned as a better player. Sunil did that. Gurpreet too.**

The players will have to go out

of India to play because it’s too comfortable here. The salaries are very good in comparison to a lot of other countries. But a lot of our players will have to go out, sacrifice their salaries, play in some leagues which are much higher (level), learn and come back. Especially the younger ones.

**What should be done so India can again get competitive, starting with South Asia?**

(AIFF President) Kalyan Chaubey just put on paper the (Vision) 2047. Until and unless he starts working on the grassroots properly, it’s just going to be 3047 rather than 2047. The federation

should not only talk, we need to start making sure that there is some implementation.

**Are you worried about the current state of Indian football?**

Definitely. I feel very, very sorry. I’m in the Executive Committee of the All India Football Federation right now, which is the highest body and the kind of ideas and people around, I feel very, very scared.

**What makes you feel that?**

We need really committed people to really take the sport forward. We do a lot of grassroots. I know how grassroots is done. There’s a pressure that you need to do grassroots. Then they

(states) do grassroots at under-13 and under-15 levels. It’s finished in 15 to 20 days. And then you will see in the group chats, that every state will say we had 2,500 people participating... and it’s over in 20 to 25 days at max. And then, the rest of the year, those kids, what are they doing? Nothing. So, for 11 months, they’re doing nothing. And here in the group, everybody goes, ‘Congratulations, congratulations!’ ‘1,000 participants, 2,000 participants!’ So all are patting their backs. Is that going to develop the kid? Is that a grassroots (programme)? They’re only ticking that box.

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## Anamika punches her way to consecutive titles

PRITISH RAJ  
GREATER NOIDA, MARCH 27

NIMBLE-FOOTED boxer **Anamika Hooda** was clear from the first bell



that she wanted to take down her opponent Tamanna in the 8th Women’s Nationals final on Thursday. Starting aggressively against her taller opponent, Anamika didn’t give an inch and landed clean punches to win the first round. In the second round, she continued to punch with intent as her opponent looked out of sorts. Eventually, she won the title with a 5-0 unanimous decision to clinch her second consecutive title at the nationals.

“This is my third national title, and I hope that I can replicate the same at the international level. I have been working on my technique for the past year and a lot has improved after I spent some time training in Uzbekistan,” Anamika told *The Indian Express*

after her triumph at the at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Indoor Sports Complex in Greater Noida.

The 25-year-old boxer is one of the most aggressive pugilists in Indian boxing, and her opponents are uncomfortable facing her, including two-time World Champion Nikhat Zareen, who wasn’t part of the event this year. Three-time National champion now, Anamika has been number two to World Champion Nikhat for the past three years.

Nikhat, who is a technically sound boxer, had issues facing the aggression of Anamika at the 2022 Nationals. The feisty boxer has grown in stature. “I know Nikhat didi plays in my category, and I have spent time with her in the National camp. We both have different styles of boxing, and I trust my hard work to push me through to the international level.”

Anamika has had sporadic chances at the international level, participating in tournaments like Elorda Cup. At that event in 2024, Anamika pushed World Champion Wu Yu to the brink in the final, but the Chinese eventually won.

MARUTI SUZUKI

NEXA

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