



WEDNESDAY  
12 FEBRUARY 2025

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KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR

# The Statesman

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PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

'WILL LEVERAGE  
AI TO TACKLE  
MULE ACCOUNTS'



UNRESOLVED CRISIS

P5



ALLAHBADIA, SANMAY  
SUMMONED BY NCW

P6



THIRD ODI: INDIA EYE  
SERIES WHITEWASH  
AGAINST ENGLAND

BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 77.15 ▲ 1.28

P8

P12

SENSEX 76,293.60 ▼ 1,018.20

NIFTY 23,071.80 ▼ 309.80

₹ vs \$ 86.82

GOLD 87,985.00

SILVER 1,07,000

## WEATHER

SMOG/MIST LIKELY IN THE MORNING.  
MAINLY CLEAR SKY, OCCASIONAL STRONG  
SURFACE WINDS(SPEED 20-30 KMPH) LIKELY  
DURING THE DAY. THE MAXIMUM AND  
MINIMUM TEMPERATURES WOULD BE  
AROUND 27 AND 11 DEGREES CELSIUS  
RESPECTIVELY.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 97% Min: 30%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 29.7°C (+6.3) Min: 09.8°C (-0.4)

SUN RISES

7:01 hrs SUN SETS

18:09 hrs MOON RISES

18:00 hrs MOON SETS

07:31 hrs

## THUMBNAILS



A serene view of houseboats anchored in the Dal Lake in Srinagar on Tuesday. ■ ANI

Two soldiers killed in IED blast along India-Pakistan border in Akhnoor Sector: Two soldiers of the Indian Army were on Tuesday killed in an IED blast along the border fence on the India-Pakistan border, in the Akhnoor area of the Jammu district. "White Knight Corps salutes and pays tribute to the supreme sacrifice of two gallant soldiers", the Army said. It is yet to be confirmed whether the IED was planted by terrorists or by Pakistani agencies. (P3)



## Furore in Rajya Sabha over original pics missing in newer editions of Constitution

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

The Rajya Sabha witnessed a furore on Tuesday over new editions of the Constitution of India being published without 22 illustrations found in the original edition. However, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar assured the members of the Upper House that if any change has to be made in the Indian Constitution, it could come only from Parliament with President's assent.

He said: "I am categorical that the Constitution signed by the Founding Fathers, carrying 22 miniatures, is the only authentic one and it can include amendments by Parliament. If there is any change effected by the judiciary or any institution, it is not acceptable to this House."

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, BJP Member Radha Mohan Das Agrawal demanded the inclusion of 22 original illustrations, including those of Lord Ram, Lord

Krishna, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, and King Vikramaditya in new editions of the Constitution.

He said important portions of the Constitution were removed from the new editions in an unconstitutional manner.

The illustrations referred to, implemented by artist Nandal Bose and his team from Santiniketan, appear in the original editions of the Constitution kept in Parliament, but many versions of the Constitution are sold with only the text, minus the illustrations and the signatures of the framers.

Chairman Dhankhar

appealed to the leader of the House to ensure that only the authentic version of the Indian Constitution was published.

"I will appeal to the leader of the House to ensure that in the country only the authentic version of the Indian Constitution be promulgated. Any violation of this should be taken quite seriously by the government and severe action taken," he added.

"I have no doubt and I am categorical. The Constitution signed by the founding fathers of the Constitution carrying 22 miniatures is the only authentic one and can include amendments by Parliament," he said.

Mr Agarwal later said the copies of the Constitution on MPs' computers had been updated with the illustrations he had mentioned earlier that sparked a row. He thanked the government, after which Rajya Sabha Chairman Dhankhar told him that he had done the work.

## Suspense over new CM of Delhi persists

NIKHIL VYAS  
NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

The suspense over the chief ministerial pick in Delhi persisted on Tuesday. 10 newly-elected BJP MLAs met party's National President JP Nadda.

The BJP MLAs, including Anil Sharma, Shikha Roy, Satish Upadhyay, Arvinder Singh Lovely, Vijender Gupta, Ajay Mahawat, Rekha Gupta, Kapil Mishra, Kulwant Rana, and Dr. Anil Goyal paid a courtesy call to the BJP president in Parliament.

The BJP secured a landslide victory in the Delhi assembly elections on 8 February, winning a two-thirds majority by bagging 48 seats in the 70-member assembly. However, the party is yet to announce the chief ministerial face for the national capital. The swearing-in ceremony of the new chief minister is likely to be held after 13 February.

## India invites global partners to join in co-development and co-production of advanced defence systems

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has urged the global community to partner with India in the co-development and co-production of advanced defence systems, stressing that the current global security landscape demands innovative solutions and stronger international partnerships.

Speaking at the Defence Ministers' Conclave titled 'Building Resilience through International Defence and Global Engagement (BRIDGE)', held during the 15th Aero India in Bengaluru, Mr Singh emphasised the need for resilience in response to emerging global challenges.

The conclave saw participation from over 162 delegates from 81 countries, including 15 Defence Minis-

ters, 11 Deputy Defence Ministers, 15 Permanent Secretaries, and 17 Service Chiefs. The defence minister highlighted the evolving security threats, including hybrid warfare, disruptive technologies, and the increasing role of non-state actors, which have led to a more fragile global order.

He pointed out that technologies like AI, quantum computing, hypersonic weapons, and directed energy are transforming warfare, creating new vulnerabilities that require an urgent reassessment of military capabilities.

Explaining India's vision of a peaceful, secure, and

prosperous world, guided by the dynamic principles of "Samman" (Respect), "Samvaad" (Dialogue), "Sahyog" (Cooperation), "Shanti" (Peace), and "Samridhi" (Prosperity), Mr Singh said that these principles serve as the foundation for India's global engagements, focusing on mutual trust, equality, and adherence to international law.

He also elaborated on India's "Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)" vision for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), highlighting India's commitment to fostering partnerships that promote maritime security, economic development, and a sustainable blue economy. India's approach, he said, is rooted in building equitable partnerships based on mutual capacity-building, rather than transactional relationships or imposing solutions.



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## THUMBNAILS

**Assailants caught for stabbing teenager to death in northeast Delhi:** Police have apprehended two juveniles for allegedly stabbing a minor to death in Seemepuri, an area in North-East Delhi, officials said on Tuesday. According to the officials, during the interrogation it has been revealed that the deceased was from the same locality and used to allegedly bully the two assailants, demanding for money from them which they weren't able to pay, which led the assailants to take this extreme step. Earlier, the body of a minor stabbed to death was found by the residents of Gautampuri area in North-East Delhi, on Sunday, at around 9:45 PM. According to the Police, after receiving a PCR call a team of local police rushed to the crime scene later that night. On reaching, the cops found the body of a teenager aged around 17-18 years, lying in a pool of blood. The Crime and Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team immediately arrived there. After thorough inspection, the cops got their hands on the assailants. A knife, a weapon of offence, was also recovered from their possession.

**MCD extends financial assistance to sanitation worker injured in workplace accident:** The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has initiated a drive for voluntary contribution to support the family of an injured safai karamchari (sanitation worker). Shish Pal met with a tragic workplace accident at the Tughlakabad compost plant, resulting in the amputation of both his legs. The MCD said the contribution would be facilitated through a voluntary deduction from the salary bill of February. "Employees who do not wish to contribute may submit an exemption request to their respective Drawing & Disbursing Officers (DDOs) by February 15, 2025. In the absence of such a request, the default deduction will be applied. A consolidated cheque of the total contributions will be handed over to the family," the civic body said. The MCD said it has also decided that Pal will continue to get his salary as long as he remains in the hospital, and further assistance such workman compensation will be determined based on his medical condition. The civic body said it would also provide employment to a family member of Pal on compassionate grounds, on his consent, ensuring financial stability for his household.

**Organ & body donation awareness drive organised:** In a collaborative effort to promote the noble cause of organ and body donation, Amrita Hospital, in association with Rotary Club District 3011, organised an organ & body donation awareness drive at Amrita Hospital, Faridabad. The event, themed 'celebrating the gift of life,' educated and inspired individuals to pledge their organs, reinforcing the power of saving lives even beyond one's lifetime. With the growing demand for organ transplants and the increasing gap between availability and need, this awareness initiative aimed to bridge misconceptions, provide accurate information, and encourage more people to become organ donors.

**Delhi court acquits 7 women accused of obscene dance at bar:** Delhi's Tis Hazari Court has recently acquitted seven women accused of obscene dance wearing short clothes at a bar in Pahar Ganj. The court said that wearing short clothes is not a crime. The court has also acquitted the manager of the bar. It was alleged that accused persons were dancing obscenely at bar which caused annoyance to the persons present at bar. A case was registered at police station Pahar Ganj in 2024. Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Neetu Sharma acquitted seven women and the manager after considering the evidence placed on record. "It is clear that the prosecution has failed to prove that any offence was committed or that the accused were involved in any offence as projected by the prosecution in this case. Accordingly, accused persons are acquitted of offences in the present case," CJM Sharma held in February 4 Judgement. The court said that neither wearing small clothes is a crime nor dancing on songs can be punished irrespective of whether such dance is done in public. It is only when the dance becomes annoying to other than the dancer can be punished.

## LG Saxena inaugurates Tulip Festival

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena along with Ambassador of Netherlands to India, Marisa Gerards, inaugurated the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Tulip Festival-2025 here on Tuesday.

Saxena and Gerards also visited Tulip exhibition organised at Shanti Path, Chanakyapuri, in presence of NDMC Chairperson Keshav Chandra and Vice Chairman Kuljeet Singh Chahal.

Speaking on the occasion, he lauded the civic body for its effort and the gardeners who have nurtured the flowers with hard work.

Informing that this year 3.25 lakh tulips have been planted, he said, "Some tulips have also been planted in 20 parks of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) this time. As many as 15,000 tulips produced in Palanpur at Himachal Pradesh, are also planted in New Delhi. Our aim is to minimize the dependence on imports in the next four years."

"We have to make Delhi more beautiful, for which such efforts will continue. The



PHOTO BY~ SUBRATA DUTTA

friendship that has been formed with the Netherlands due to this cooperation, a tulip plant has been named 'Maitri,'" the LG said.

In her address, Gerards said, "We are planting the tulips to celebrate the friendship between our two countries. We could see that the city of Delhi was doing so well by growing the tulips. But, of course, there is much more

that binds our two countries together than just tulips."

"We share a strong and friendly relationship that goes back a long way. We collaborate in many important sectors, such as agriculture, health, water management, and innovation. We are very strong partners in these areas," she added.

It may be mentioned that NDMC began planting its tulip

bulbs in 2017-18 as a trial to assess the seasonal suitability.

Starting with 17,000 bulbs of tulip, this initiative has since grown significantly, becoming an annual tradition of floral beautification of New Delhi.

This initiative has also proved a great success, making NDMC the first civic body in the country to plant these precious flowers in public space.

India leading the world in healthcare & production of medicines in Unani system, says President Murmu

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said that India is leading the world in terms of education, research, healthcare, and the production of medicines in the Unani system.

Murmu, who inaugurated the two-day International conference on 'Innovation in Unani Medicine for Integrative Health Solutions - A Way Forward' at Vigyan Bhawan here on Unani Day, said, "Our country has adopted a holistic approach towards health."

The President said it is an occasion to remember Hakim Ajmal Khan, in whose honour, this day has been celebrated as Unani Day since 2016.

She said Hakim Ajmal Khan spread the Unani system of medicine in India. Murmu presented many examples of innovation.

Due to his efforts, the Unani system of medicine was widely adopted in India.

The President was happy to note that researchers and

practitioners associated with the Unani system are adopting useful aspects of modern methods and technology.

She expressed confidence that this conference will discuss contemporary topics like Evidence-based Recent Research Trends in Unani Medicine and Harnessing Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning for Ayush/Traditional Medicine: Prospects and Challenges.

The President said efforts are being made to empower various medical systems by giving them due respect. According to the National Health Policy 2017, special emphasis is being laid on bringing AYUSH medical sys-

Kejriwal dreaming of becoming Punjab CM: BJP MLA Sirsa

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA from Rajouri Garden Manjinder Singh Sirsa claimed on Tuesday that AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal is dreaming of becoming the chief minister of Punjab.

He cited the meeting of Punjab legislators in Delhi to substantiate his claim.

Sirsa wrote in a post on X, "Kejriwal has become intoxicated with power and after losing Delhi, he is now dreaming of becoming the Chief Minister of Punjab. To fulfill this dream, he has prepared to blame Bhagwant Mann for the incompetence of the party government in the last three years." Let Kejriwal try as much as he can, his dream of becoming the chief minister of Punjab will never be fulfilled, he added.

The BJP MLA further said that the nervousness reflecting from the body language of Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann after today's meeting supports

the theory that Kejriwal wants to remove him from the post of CM.

However, after Kejriwal's meeting with the Punjab MLAs, Mann said, "AAP's Punjab team worked tirelessly in the streets of Delhi, for this, AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia expressed their gratitude to everyone."

He said the AAP government in Punjab is working for the benefit of public with electricity, education, health-care, and infrastructure.

"In Delhi, over the past ten years, our government has carried out unprecedented work, so much so that people still say they had never seen or heard of such progress before the AAP came to power," he said.

"Winning and losses are part of the game. But we will replicate Delhi's experience in Punjab. We have already established over 850 Mohalla Clinics, revamped hospitals, and launched schools of eminence, where students are excelling in competitive exams," Mann said.

## Kejriwal meets Punjab MLAs after poor show in Delhi polls

While rumours of internal discord continue to circulate, Mann dismisses any such claims, asserting that the meeting at Kapurthala House was to collect feedback from party leaders



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

Following defeat in the Delhi Assembly elections, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal convened a meeting on Tuesday with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and party MLAs from the state who had been campaigning across various constituencies in the national capital.

The meeting comes amid intense speculation about an internal rift within the AAP following its electoral debacle.

The party saw a drastic reduction in its tally, winning just 22 seats—down from 62 in 2020—while the BJP stormed back to power after 27 years, securing

48 seats.

While rumours of internal

discord continue to circulate, talking to reporters after the meet, the Punjab CM dismissed any such claims, asserting that the meeting at Kapurthala House was to collect feedback from party leaders, while Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia thanked the legislators for their hard work and support in

Delhi elections.

Mann also dismissed

rumours doing rounds that he may switch the party.

Mann also mentioned

that the MLAs from Punjab

were appreciated for their intensive campaign in Delhi

where they took to the

streets, and established

person-to-person contact,

and put in a lot of hard

work.

The Punjab CM said

the AAP government is implementing the Delhi model in Punjab as well, and Aam Aadmi clinics are being built like Mohalla clinics, and Schools of Eminence have been built in line with the national cap-

ital.

A day after polling in Delhi, the AAP had accused the BJP of allegedly orchestrating an "Operation Lotus" to lure its leaders to switch parties.

While the BJP dismissed

the allegations, the AAP

claimed that its leaders were offered Rs 15 crore

to join the saffron outfit.

Notably, following AAP's

defeat in Delhi, Punjab

remains the only state

where the party is in power.

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# Lottery distributors not liable to pay service tax to Centre: SC



PARMOD KUMAR  
NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

**T**he ruling of the Supreme Court on Tuesday states that the lottery distributors are not liable to pay service tax to the Central government and it is the state government alone which can impose taxes on the lotteries and not the centre.

Dismissing the Central government's appeal against the Sikkim High Court judgement, Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Nongmeikap

Kotiswar Singh in a ruling today said, "The detailed analysis of the relevant provisions of the Finance Act, 1994, and amendments made (2012, 2015 & 2016) thereto in light of the clauses of the Constitution and therefore, on the very same activity of betting and gambling, service tax cannot be levied. Noting that 2012, 2015 and 2015 amendments to the 1994 Finance Act to impose service tax on the sole distributors of the lotteries by the central government were unsuccessful, Justice Nagarathna speaking for the bench said, "In the circumstances, we

which had held that the conducting of lotteries falls within the scope and ambit of betting and gambling as per Entry 62 - List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution and therefore, on the very same activity of betting and gambling, service tax cannot be levied. Noting that 2012, 2015 and 2015 amendments to the 1994 Finance Act to impose service tax on the sole distributors of the lotteries by the central government were unsuccessful, Justice Nagarathna speaking for the bench said, "In the circumstances, we

find that at each stage, the amendments made to the Finance Act, 1994, in order to impose service tax on the sole distributor/purchaser of the lottery tickets (respondents-assessee herein - (Future Gaming Solutions Pvt. Ltd. and others),) have been unsuccessful."

Justice Nagarathna further said, "We have reasoned that the amendment to the said definition would in no way detract from the substance of the relationship between the State Government and the sole distributor or purchaser of the lottery

tickets which is one of principal to principal and not of principal-agent."

Having spelt out the nature of relationship between the Sikkim government and the sole distributors, the top court in its judgment said, "There being no agency and no service rendered by the respondents-assessee herein as an agent to the Government of Sikkim, service tax is not leviable on the transactions between the purchaser of the lottery tickets (respondents-assessee herein) and the Government of Sikkim."

## Sukhu stresses on skill devp to boost employment for youth

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, 11 FEBRUARY

The Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu emphasized the need for skill development to enhance employment and self-employment opportunities for the youth of the state.

While chairing a meeting of the Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam (HPKVN), he directed it to plan and implement training programmes aligned with market demand to improve employability and support small-scale business start-ups.

The Chief Minister said that the state government will allocate Rs. 25 crore to HPKVN to complete the ongoing construction of eight buildings, with a target for completion

by June 2025. He emphasized the need for their optimum utilization and directed that nearby HPKVN buildings be handed over to the technical education department for training of the youth.

HPKVN has funded the upgradation of equipments across 67 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the state, benefiting students, said Sukhu, adding that from January 1, 2023 to date, 38,713 youth have been enrolled in various HPKVN schemes and projects. Of these, 38,572 have received training certificates and 8,630 have secured placements, he added. To enhance efficiency, he directed officers to explore the possibility of transferring HPKVN's administrative control to the Director of Technical Education.

## Captain, soldier killed in IED blast near Jammu border

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 11 FEBRUARY

A Captain of the Indian Army was among two soldiers killed on Tuesday in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast along the border fence on the India-Pakistan border, in Akhnoor area of Jammu district.

The Northern Command of the Army identified the martyrs as Captain Karamjit Singh Bakshi and Naik Mukesh. The White Knight Corps of the Army stated on X that the IED exploded in the Laleali area of the Akhnoor Sector during a routine fence patrol, resulting in the two fatalities. The troops are maintaining control over the area, and search operations are underway.

"White Knight Corps salutes and pays tribute to the supreme sacrifice of two gallant soldiers," the Army stated.

It is yet to be determined whether the IED was planted by terrorists or by a Pakistani agency on the patrol track.

In another incident, an Army soldier was injured in a suspected sniper attack along the Line of Control in Nowshera Sector of Rajouri district last evening. The soldier sustained a shoulder injury and is reported to be in stable condition. Separately, a soldier stationed at Badami Bagh Cantonment in Srinagar allegedly died by suicide using his service rifle. The deceased, identified as Satyajeet Kandhol from Panipat, Haryana, was serving with the 20 Rashtriya Rifles (RR).

## Punjab to host Patiala Heritage Festival from February 13-16

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, 11 FEBRUARY

As Punjab steps further into 2025, its fairs and festivals are set to be celebrated on a grander scale, drawing tourists from across the globe. The year began with vibrant events such as the Basant Mela in Ferozepur and the iconic Rural Olympics in Kila Raipur. Up next, the Patiala Heritage Festival, scheduled from February 13 to February 16, will add to the festive fervour.

The Patiala district administration, in collaboration with the Tourism Department, has curated an exciting lineup of events, including heritage walks, a food festival, music evenings, an aero show, a nature walk, a flower show, and even a fashion walk.

has brought forth a series of transformative initiatives that showcase Punjab's deep-rooted history, vibrant culture, and spiritual legacy.

The investment in 2024 has already yielded remarkable results, breathing new life into historical landmarks such as the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Museum at Khatar Kalan and the Saragarhi Museum in Ferozepur.

The Sarai Lashkari Khan in Khanna has also undergone extensive renovation.

Adding to Punjab's cultural splendor, the Bhagwan Valmiki Ji Panorama was inaugurated with grandeur, while the permanent light and sound show at Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Summer Palace in Amritsar became a breathtaking highlight of the Rangla Punjab Festival.

The state government has also taken a crucial step in preserving Sikh heritage by initiating the restoration of Jahaz Haveli, the historic residence of Dewan Todar Mall in Fatehgarh Sahib.

"Dewan Todar Mall holds immense significance in Sikh history, and it is our collective duty to safeguard his legacy," Sond remarked.

Punjab's dedication to cultural and rural tourism has not gone unnoticed on the national stage.

In a testament to its efforts, Navanpind Sardaran in Gurdaspur was crowned India's Best Tourism Village (2023), while Hansali Farmstay in Fatehgarh Sahib secured top honours in the Agri-Tourism category in 2024.

The Minister emphasised that under CM Mann's dynamic leadership, Punjab is reclaiming its stature as a premier travel hotspot.

The government's commitment to heritage restoration and tourism expansion

**माघमासमिन्द्र पूर्ण्य द्वाप्रव्यहं देव गाधतः**

**Mahakumbh 2025 Prayagraj**

# Maghi Purnima Holy Dip

12<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

**Message of Mahakumbh**  
**One Nation, Stronger Together**

**Mahakumbh 2025 Prayagraj**

13 January - 26 February

QR codes for various services:

- Emergency Assistance
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**Upcoming Snan Date** Maha Shivaratri - 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

**Mahakumbh Helplines**

1920 Mahakumbh Mela Helpline	112 Emergency Service	1010 Food and Civil Supplies Helpline	102, 108 Ambulance Service	18004199139 Railway Helpline
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# Lifelong VVIPs are spreading misinfo on Mahakumbh: Yogi

UP CM accuses opposition of engaging in negative politics, misleading propaganda

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

LUCKNOW, 11 FEBRUARY

**O**n the death anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid floral tributes to the founding member of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and the architect of Antyodaya and Integral Humanism.

He also criticised the opposition, accusing them of engaging in negative politics and misleading propaganda in Mahakumbh.

Calling them lifelong VVIPs, CM Adityanath accused the opposition leaders of spreading false narratives about Mahakumbh. He said that the event is being held with unmatched grandeur and devotion, showcasing India's cultural heritage.

Remembering Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya's ideals, CM Yogi emphasised that he envisioned the welfare and uplift of the most marginalised sections of society. "Today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP's double-engine government is turning that vision into reality," he added.

The CM emphasised that



Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya believed a nation's progress is defined not by the wealth of the privileged but by the well-being of its most disadvantaged. Inspired by this philosophy, PM Modi introduced the vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas,' ensuring inclusive development for all, he remarked.

Criticising the past governments for their empty slogans on poverty eradication, CM Adityanath pointed out that despite grand promises, poverty only increased under their rule.

"In contrast, the Modi government, over the last 11 years, has empowered the poor through transformative initiatives such

as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, toilet construction, Jal Jeevan Mission, and Ayushman Bharat. A total of 4 crore poor families have been provided homes, 12 crore toilets have been built, 10 crore families have received free gas connections, and 80 crore people are receiving free ration," he asserted.

These schemes are a testament to the realization of Antyodaya—uplifting the last person among the deprived, he pointed out. Chief Minister Adityanath strongly countered the opposition's misinformation regarding the Mahakumbh, emphasising that in just 29 days, a historic 45 crore devotees have taken a holy dip at the Sangam in Prayagraj. He highlighted that, except for India and China, no other country has a population of 45 crores, making this gathering an unparalleled spiritual event. Dismissing claims of Mahakumbh being linked to VIP privileges, the CM emphasised that it is a grand confluence of faith and harmony, where devotees transcend caste, religion, language, and regional differences to unite in devotion.

## Govt aims to extend Nari Adalat on a nationwide basis

PARWINDER SANDHU

NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

Following the success of its pilot project, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has taken a significant step towards expanding the Nari Adalat initiative, a key component under Mission Shakti. The government has now invited states and Union Territories to send

proposals for setting up Nari Adalats in their respective regions. Initially launched in Assam and Jammu & Kashmir as part of the first phase, the Nari Adalat aims to provide an alternative mechanism for resolving minor disputes among women at the local level.

This initiative has been commended for its focus on offering women a platform to resolve their disputes in a gender-sensitive manner. The Ministry has already received proposals from Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, and Jammu & Kashmir to extend the program further. In a letter to all states and UTs, the Ministry has requested that Nari Adalats be established on a pilot basis in at least 10 Gram Panchayats in each state and at five Gram Panchayats in each UT.

Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Anupurba Devi, emphasised that the Nari Adalat is a women-only court that forms a critical part of Mission Shakti. It aims to strengthen women's safety, security, and empowerment by providing an accessible dispute resolution option that is more attuned to the needs of women in rural areas.

## LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF ASSISTANT COLLECTOR FIRST GRADE : INDRI, DISTT. NUH

Order 5 of CPC

Information to the Defendants by Publication

Case No. 123/NT

Date of Institution : 16.03.2022

Date of Hearing : 17.02.2025

Mauza : Hilipur

Smt. Savitri Devi W/o Sh.

Ajit Singh R/o Village Hilipur,

Tehsil & District Nuh at present residing at Sh. Colony Baluda

Road Sohna, Tehsil Sohna,

District Gurugram.

-Plaintiff

Versus

1. Farrukh Khan 2. Taswar Hussain 3. Asaf Khan 4. Wasim Khan Sons of Kamaludeen S/o Sultan, all R/o Rahuka,

Tehsil Indri, District Nuh. 5. M/s S.R. Developers Green City India Pvt. Ltd., Gurugram 6. Sweta W/o Ramkumar 7. Jai Shankar Rai S/o Laxmi Kant 8. Raj Kumar S/o Sh. Ram Saggar, 9. Rajesh Kumar Rai S/o Sh. Upinder Rai 10. Meena Devi W/o Sh. Chander Bhan 11. Suman Devi W/o Sh. Daryab Singh 12. Rita Devi W/o Punni Lal 13. Geeta W/o Naresh Kumar 14. Omwati W/o Girja Kishor 15. Baby Chaudhary W/o Girraj Chaudhary 16. Kiran Gupta W/o La Bahadur 17. Ahilya Devi W/o Radheysham Sharma 18. Tulsi Devi W/o Ganesh Kumar 19. Sadanand Mandal S/o Satish Mandal 20. Dalit Maurya S/o Ramdhani Maurya 21. Hari Prasad R/o Ram Kumar Gupta 22. Mukesh Pandit S/o Hukam Chand Pandit 23. Indrasani W/o Suresh Singh 24. Nandaramya W/o Vishnu Bahadur 25. Sunita W/o Pramod Bhagat 26. Lalati Devi W/o Manoj Bhagat 27. Rani Devi W/o Suresh Dass 28. Kamkeshra Rajbarh Kumar 29. Rabjala Niqam W/o Lajpat Nigam 30. Renu Devi W/o Rupesh Kumar 31. Sunita W/o Patti Lal 32. Kalawati Devi W/o Ranjit Kumar 33. Manju Devi W/o Raj Kumar 34. Omkar D. Shiv S/o Sidhnath Mishri 35. Jaijal Singh S/o Virender Singh 36. Puran Singh S/o Banwari Lal 37. Upender Sahi S/o Homu Sahu 38. Pawan Kumar S/o Tetar Sahi 39. Sanjeev Kumar Yadav 40. Dinesh S/o Jagmal Singh 41. Sukumar Mukhiya S/o Bhuneshwar Mukhiya 42. Vinod Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 43. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 44. Amrit Singh S/o Jagmal Singh 45. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 46. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 47. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 48. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 49. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 50. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 51. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 52. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 53. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 54. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 55. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 56. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 57. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 58. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 59. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 60. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 61. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 62. Arun Kumar S/o Jagmal Singh 63. Geeta Devi W/o Nadhuni

Nath Sharma S/o Ram Avtar Sharma 145. Bhagwati W/o Jagdish 146. Sohan Kumar Yadav 147. Anita Devi W/o Santosh Kumar 148. Kedar Singh S/o Bahori Singh 149. Manjoli D/o Shrawan S/o Sh. Satyabhawan Sehwari 150. Satish Kumar D/o Shailesh 151. Tejpal Singh 152. Lalita Devi W/o Ramesh S/o Suresh Modt 7. Anupika M/o Phargender Kumar 7. Kumar 153. Soni Kumar Rai W/o Sushikumar 154. Vijay Kumar Rai W/o Radha Achha Gupta 155. Mamta W/o Ramesh 156. Radhika Yadav 76. Surya Narayan Chaudhary S/o Satya Narayan Chaudhary 77. Neetu Kumari Parveen 78. Arena Parveen S/o Sh. Rakesh Singh 79. Geeta W/o Mukesh Singh 80. Mohit Sabir S/o Sabir 81. Manish W/o Roshan S/o Arun Kumar 82. Disha Devi W/o Deenayal 83. Anupika Singh 84. Vandana W/o Vinod 85. Rajneesh Kumar S/o Namrata Singh 86. Anjali Devi W/o Phurbash Singh 87. Manmohan Chauhan W/o Manmohan Singh 88. Mohit Sabir S/o Sabir 89. Shanti W/o Arun Kumar 89. Shanti W/o Arun Kumar 90. Rama Devi W/o Gajender Singh 91. Ranju Devi W/o Kallash Saffi 92. Nisha W/o Raj Kumar 93. Minakshi Mallik W/o Saurabh 94. Rekha Rani W/o Soni 95. Shanti W/o Jai Narayan 96. Sudha W/o Amit Kumar Prajapati 97. Bishambhar Singh Jai 98. Ravinder Singh 99. Disha Devi W/o Sharwan Kumar 100. Parmanu Chauhan W/o Manmohan Singh 101. Poonam Kumar W/o Santosh Kumar Prajapati 102. Nitai Bairam S/o Mandhali Bairam 103. Ramdev Kumar Rai S/o Jeetu Rai 104. Umesh Kumar Singh 105. Hanif Khan S/o Prema Chandra 106. Ram Singh S/o Bilat Singh 106. Jahranil W/o Ismail 107. Bindu Devi W/o Kaneyha Lal 108. Rakesh Pal S/o Lakshman 109. Bharti W/o Lallan 110. Rashi Jain W/o Dally Jain 112. Parimal Devi W/o Manager Pathak 113. Noshad S/o Sharwanji 114. Rakesh Pal S/o Banwari Lal 115. Bharti W/o Lallan 116. Rashi Jain W/o Dally Jain 117. Parimal Devi W/o Manager Pathak 118. Noshad S/o Sharwanji 119. Rakesh Pal S/o Banwari Lal 120. Rashi Jain W/o Dally Jain 121. Parimal Devi W/o Manager Pathak 122. Rakesh Pal S/o Banwari Lal 123. Rekha Devi W/o Ajay Kumar Singh 124. Sumantala Singh 125. Pushyanti Kanti Saini 123. Amren Devi W/o Kanti Singh 126. Sunita Sharma W/o Sunil Sharma 128. Malu Devi W/o Lalu Kumar Bhagat 129. Sunita Devi W/o Jitender Bhagat 130. Chandan Kumar S/o Pawan Kumar 123. Munna Gupta S/o Devki Sun 240. Rekha Devi W/o Vijay Kumar 241. Phoolwati W/o Pappu 242. Moni W/o Gagil Rag 243. Parmod Kumar S/o Shiv Shankar 244. Neelam Kujur S/o Dalip Kumar 245. M.D. Parimal Devi W/o Harinder Pandit 250. Bindu Devi W/o Kaneyha Lal 251. Rakesh Pal S/o Lakshmi Kanti Singh 252. Meera Devi W/o Rakesh Kumar 253. Meera Devi W/o Rakesh Kumar 254. Pramila Devi W/o Kishor Pandey 255. Chandan Kumar S/o Pawan Kumar 256. Arun Oja S/o Rajender Oja 257. Mohd. Kudus S/o Meer Salim 258. Chinta Devi W/o Virji Thakur 259. Nathuni Kapoor S/o Mohan Kapoor 260. Madhubala Mandar S/o Sagar Mandar 261. Munni Thakur S/o Sukhdev Thakur 262. Devki Devi W/o Sachinand 263. Ramesh S/o Babu Lal 264. Sunita Devi W/o Dalip Kumar 265. Jolina Khatton W/o Azad Ansari 266. Gajender Devi W/o Kuldeep Lavanji 272. Indrawati W/o Phool Chandi 273. Gulfsa Khatton W/o Saheeda Raja 274. Jahnara Sakh W/o Mostkemeen Singh 275. Lalita Devi W/o Beechan Devi 276. Sunita Devi W/o Ram Avtar 277. Nandini Sood W/o Vivek Kumar Sood 278. Bichuya Devi W/o Karim Mukhya 279. Bawaa S/o Nafisa 280. Radha Devi W/o Devender Paswan 281. Ashok Kumar S/o S. Virender 282. Samsa Begam W/o Raju Ali 283. Vijay Kumar Bedi S/o Kedar Nath 284. Sunita Devi W/o Ram Babu 285. Madhuri Kashyap 286. Shobha D/o Kular Bahadur 287. Satyavati S/o Moti Lal Mehta 288. Karketa S/o Devnis Karketa 200. M.D. Farukh 201. Raja Kumar Rawal S/o Shiv Ram 202. Poonam Devi W/o Pankaj Thappa 203. Arban Nisha W/o Jhadeeb Anarsi 204. Mayya Thappa W/o Pankaj Thappa 205. Santosh Kumar Mehta 206. Krishnadev Mahto sons of Chandeshwar Mehta 207. Rakesh Kumar S/o Mahender Singh 208. Rekha D/o Babu Ram 209. Asgar Ali S/o Saadroll 210. Sandhya Pandey 211. Akhilesh Kumar S/o Bhai Lal 212. Akhilesh Kumar S/o Bhai Lal 213. Purnima Devi W/o Kali Charan 213. Poornam Devi W/o Jitender Bharti 214. Bindu Devi W/o Sikender Bharti 215. Savita Devi W/o Manish Parasad 216. Deheraj Kumar Shree Vasat S/o Jayoti Bhushan Shree Vasat 217. Shobha D/o Kular Bahadur 218. Vinod Kumar S/o Om Chand 219. Rani Devi W/o Kular Bahadur 220. Pankaj Kumar S/o Baleshwar Kanta 221. Santosh Kumar S/o Sita 222. Rampsanti Devi W/o Upender Yadav 223. Savindra Ansari 223. Geeta D/o Purnima S/o Ram Pash Maurya 144. Mukti Mishra 145. Rakesh Patel 146. Juhi Begam W/o Aneesah Ahmad 147. Anil Kumar S/o Chandrika Prasad 148. Kusma 149. Meena Devi W/o Anil Kumar 150. Meena Devi W/o Gauri Shankar 151. Rani Begum 152. Babbu Devi W/o Sanjeet 153. Rani Begum 154. Rani Begum 155. Rani Begum 156. Rani Begum 157. Rani Begum 158. Rani Begum 159. Rani Begum 160. Rani Begum 161. Rani Begum 162. Rani Begum 163. Rani Begum 164. Rani Begum 165. Rani Begum 166. Rani Begum 167. Rani Begum 168. Rani Begum 169. Rani Begum 170. Rani Begum 171. Rani Begum 172. 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Krishnadev Mahto sons of Chandeshwar Mehta 207. Rakesh Kumar S/o Mahender Singh 208. Rekha D/o Babu Ram 209. Asgar Ali S/o Saadroll 210. Sandhya Pandey 211. Akhilesh Kumar S/o Bhai Lal 212. Akhilesh Kumar S/o Bhai Lal 213. Purnima Devi W/o Kali Charan 213. Poornam Devi W/o Jitender Bharti 214. Bindu Devi W/o Sikender Bharti 215. Savita Devi W/o Manish Parasad 216. Deheraj Kumar Shree Vasat S/o Jayoti Bhushan Shree Vasat 217. Shobha D/o Kular Bahadur 218. Vinod Kumar S/o Om Chand 219. Rani Devi W/o Kular Bahadur 220. Pankaj Kumar S/o Baleshwar Kanta 221. Santosh Kumar S/o Sita 222. Rampsanti Devi W/o Upender Yadav 223. Savindra Ansari 223. Geeta D/o Purnima S/o Ram Pash Maurya 144. Mukti Mishra 145. Rakesh Patel 146. Juhi Begam W/o Aneesah Ahmad 147. Anil Kumar S/o Chandrika Prasad 148. Kusma 149. Meena Devi W/o Anil Kumar 150. Meena Devi W/o Gauri Shankar 151. Rani Begum 152. Babbu Devi W/o Sanjeet 153. Rani Begum 154. Rani Begum 155. Rani Begum 156. Rani Begum 157. Rani Begum 158. 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Odil Karketa S/o Devnis Karketa 200. M.D. Farukh 201. Raja Kumar Rawal S/o Shiv Ram 202. Poonam Devi W/o Pankaj Thappa 203. Arban Nisha W/o Jhadeeb Anarsi 204. Mayya Thappa W/o Pankaj Thappa 205. Santosh Kumar Mehta 206. Krishnadev Mahto sons of Chandeshwar Mehta 207. Rakesh Kumar S/o Mahender Singh 208. Rekha D/o Babu Ram 209. Asgar Ali S/o Saadroll 210. Sandhya Pandey 211. Akhilesh Kumar S/o Bhai Lal 212. Akhilesh Kumar S/o Bhai Lal 213. Purnima Devi W/o Kali Charan 213. Poornam Devi W/o Jitender Bharti 214. Bindu Devi W/o Sikender Bharti 215. Savita Devi W/o Manish Parasad 216. Deheraj Kumar Shree Vasat S/o Jayoti Bhushan Shree Vasat 217. Shobha D/o Kular Bahadur 218. Vinod Kumar S/o Om Chand 219. Rani Devi W/o Kular Bahadur 220. Pankaj Kumar S/o Baleshwar Kanta 221. Santosh Kumar S/o Sita 222. Rampsanti Devi W/o Upender Yadav 223. Savindra Ansari 223. Geeta D/o Purnima S/o Ram Pash Maurya 144. Mukti Mishra 145. Rakesh Patel 146. Juhi Begam W/o Aneesah Ahmad 147. 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# Will leverage AI to tackle mule accounts: Amit Shah

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY



**U**nion Home Minister Amit Shah has said that in recent years, there has been an expansion of digital infrastructure in the country, leading to an increase in the number of cyberattacks, with cybercrimes erasing geographical boundaries.

Shah chaired a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi on the topic of 'Cyber Security and Cyber Crime.' He observed that 'cybercrime' is a 'borderless' and 'formless' crime, with no limits or fixed form.

He pointed that when looked at from a different perspective, cyberspace constitutes a complex network of 'software,' 'services,' and 'users' and he opines that unless controlling cyber fraud through these factors, it will not be possible to resolve

the issues related to the cyberspace.

Shah further mentioned that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, MHA had taken several significant steps towards making India a cyber-safe nation,

adding that efforts were underway to use Artificial Intelligence for identifying mule accounts, in coordination with the Reserve Bank and all other banks, to establish a system for their detection.

He mentioned that the government would ensure the closure of mule accounts before they were even operational. Shah further informed that a total of 1 lakh 43 thousand FIRs had been registered on the I4C portal, and over 19 crore people had used the portal.

From him we come to know that for national security reasons, 805 apps and 3,266 website links have been blocked based on I4C's recommendations, and additionally, 399 banks and financial intermediaries have come on board.

"Over 6 lakh suspicious data points have been shared, more than 19 lakh mule accounts have been caught, and suspicious transactions worth Rs 2,038 crore have been prevented," the HM added.

The Home Minister mentioned that the country had witnessed a 'digital revolution' over the past decade, and without understanding the

size and scale of this, one cannot face the challenges in the cyber domain.

To tackle the challenges of cybercrime, Shah said that the government had adopted four types of strategies, which include Convergence, Coordination, Communication, and Capacity, and all of these are being implemented with clear objectives and a strategic approach.

He mentioned that inter-ministerial and inter-departmental coordination within the Ministry of Home Affairs had been strengthened, ensuring seamless communication and smooth flow of information.

Shah also said that Cyber Crime Forensic Training Labs were established in 33 states and union territories.

On the 'CyTrain' platform, a "Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)" platform, 101,561 police officers have registered, and over 78,000 certificates have been issued, HM added.

## Modi & Shah to attend Global Investors Summit in Bhopal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHOPL, 11 FEBRUARY

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav announced on Tuesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has confirmed his participation in the inaugural session of the Global Investors Summit at Bhopal on 24 February, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah will attend the summit's closing session on 25 February.

Addressing the ministers of the state before the cabinet meeting in Bhopal, the MP CM said that Prime Minister Modi would perform the groundbreaking ceremony for a cancer hospital in Chhatarpur on 23 February and inaugurate the Global Investors Summit on 24 February.

He said that a special meeting would be held in New Delhi on 12 February to ensure better coordination with foreign industry and business groups and embassies from various countries attending the Summit.

Regarding the influx of people arriving at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, the MP CM noted that the traffic congestion has comparatively decreased due to measures such as vehicle parking management, highway patrolling by police and deployment of executive magistrates.

The Chief Minister further mentioned that considering the large numbers of travellers to and from Prayagraj, routes are being planned with coordination with the Prayagraj administration, and arrangements are being made based on estimates of pilgrim turnout.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI  
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

T.A. No. 2888/2022

UNION BANK OF INDIA

Vs

MIS MAHASKTI INTERNATIONAL PVT. LTD.

To,

1. Mis Mahashakti International Pvt Ltd.,

10/3, Second Floor, Subhash Nagar New

Delhi-110027

Whereas the above named applicant has

instituted a case for recovery of Rs.

58,43,909.50 (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakh

Forty Three Thousand Nine Hundred

Nine and Paisa Fifty only) against you and

whereas it has been shown to the

satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not

possible to serve you in ordinary way.

Therefore, this notice is given by

advertisement directing you to make

appearance before Ld. Registrar on

19-02-2025 at 10:30 A.M. (for further

details kindly visit DRT website

[www.tribunal.gov.in](http://www.tribunal.gov.in) Phone No. 011-23748473).

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

All the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/Software;

(ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Register/Recovery Officer-I and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. <https://drt.gov.in> under the Public Notice Head.

(iii) In any exigency qua that the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748473.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this 16th Oct. 2024.

By order of this Tribunal

Respondent may contact under mention phone number for further enquiry.

Ld. Registrar DRT-I, Ph. No: 011-23748473

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI  
4TH FLOOR JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

NOTICES UNDER SECTION 19(4) OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBT DUE TO BANK AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT 1993 NEED WITHIN RULE 12 & 13 OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE RULE) 1993 IN THE MATTER OF

SA NO 14719 | DATE: 27.01.2025

MIS CAPPRO FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS LTD. ...Applicant

Vs

HOB FINANCIAL SERVICES AND ORS ...Respondent

To: Defendant

D2. MIS S S FABRICS, D-55-56 OLD DOUBLE STOREY

MKT LAPJAT NAGAR-4 NEW DELHI - 24

D3. MR. SANDEEP GOSSWAMI, D-55-56 OLD DOUBLE

STOREY MKT LAPJAT NAGAR-4 NEW DELHI - 24

DM. MS DIVYA GOSSWAMI, 132 3RD FLOOR CHITRA

Vihar Delhi - 92

ALSO AT: D-55-56 OLD DOUBLE STOREY MKT

LAPJAT NAGAR-4 NEW DELHI - 24

Whereas the above named defendant (s) has / have

instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 2,11,39,038/-RUPEE

TWO CRORE THIRTEEN LAKH THIRTY NINE

THOUSAND THIRTY NINE ONLY) against you and where

as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not

possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore,

this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make

appearance before Ld. Registrar on 30.04.2025 at 11:00 A.M.

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

All the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco

Webex" application/Software;

(ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua

cases to be taken by Register/Recovery Officer-I and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one

day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. <https://drt.gov.in> under the Public Notice Head.

(iii) In any exigency qua that the Advocates/Litigants can

contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748473.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this 27th

day of Jan. 2025.

By ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL

District Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

TA 474/2023

PUNJAB AND SIND BANK VS ANIL KUMAR & ORS

To,

(1) ANIL KUMAR S/O SH. HARBEER SINGH,

1/76, FLAT NO G2, DLF DILSHAD EXTN, GHAZIABAD UP 200105

(2) MR KRISHAN KUMARS/O AJAY PAL SINGH,

R/O C-34/G-1, DLF DILSHAD EXTN, GHAZIABAD UP- 200105

Whereas the above-named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of RS. 29,77,992/-

(RUPEES TWENTY NINE LAKH SEVENTY SEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY TWO ONLY) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not

possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing

you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on 24.04.2025 at 10:30 A.M. (for further details kindly visit DRT website [www.tribunal.gov.in](http://www.tribunal.gov.in) Phone Number : 011-23748473). Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video

Conferencing and for that purpose:-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco

Webex" application/Software;

(ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua

cases to be taken by Register/Recovery Officer-I and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one

day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. <https://drt.gov.in> under the Public Notice Head.

(iii) In any exigency qua that the Advocates/Litigants can

contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748473.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this 07th Jan. 2025.

By order of this Tribunal

Respondent may contact under mention Phone number for further enquiry.

Ld. Registrar DRT-I, New Delhi, Phone No: 011-23748473

JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA

(A Central University by an Act of Parliament)

(Accredited grade 'A++' by NAAC)

Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar Marg,

New Delhi-110025

Advt. No. 01/2024-25 (T) Dated 07.02.2025

Online applications are invited from Indian Nationals (including OCI Cardholders) for filling-up the faculty positions in JMI through CU Chayan portal i.e. <https://curec.samarth.ac.in>. Detailed advertisement is available on University's website i.e. <https://jmi.ac.in>. Last date for submission of application form is 07.03.2025.

Dated: 07.02.2025

Registar

cbc: 21246/12/0004/2425

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

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## Dealing with Trump

**A**s India prepares to cut tariffs ahead of a crucial meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump, the move signals a calculated attempt to maintain trade stability while avoiding retaliatory measures. With the US administration pushing for reciprocal tariffs and considering steep duties on steel and aluminium imports, India's pre-emptive tariff reductions in select sectors could be a strategic manoeuvre to keep economic ties intact. However, the broader implications of such concessions need closer scrutiny. India's economic policies have traditionally aimed at balancing domestic industry protection with global trade integration. The tariff reductions - targeting electronics, medical and surgical equipment, and chemicals - suggest a willingness to accommodate US demands while aligning with India's own production and consumption patterns. This approach may seem pragmatic, given the rising tensions in global trade, but the risk of over-accommodation remains. Concessions on items where India has strong domestic producers or potential for self-sufficiency could undermine long-term industrial growth. One of the key concerns is the impact on India's steel and aluminium exports. The Trump administration's move to impose a 25 per cent tariff on these metals could significantly affect Indian engineering goods, a sector that contributes substantially to overall exports. While India's diplomatic engagement may help mitigate some of the harshest trade measures, there is no guarantee of exemption.

The tariff cuts appear to be a goodwill gesture aimed at securing a better negotiating position, but whether they yield reciprocal benefits remains uncertain. Beyond trade, the meeting also carries geopolitical weight. The US has increasingly positioned India as a counterbalance to China's influence in the Indo-Pacific, although for now the Americans seem to be more concerned with trade than on strategic matters. Strengthening economic ties serves this larger objective. The discussions will likely extend beyond tariffs to include defence cooperation, technology partnerships, and supply chain resilience. However, the recent deportation of Indian nationals from the US could cast a shadow over the talks, necessitating a delicate diplomatic approach. A potential "mini trade deal" has been hinted at, but its contours remain unclear. If structured well, such an agreement could bring immediate relief to specific sectors without locking India into long-term disadvantages. However, India must ensure that any deal it negotiates is not one-sided. Past experience with trade negotiations suggests that hurried concessions can sometimes lead to imbalances that are difficult to rectify later. Ultimately, India's tariff reductions ahead of the visit are a short-term tactical move aimed at preventing a trade standoff. Whether they translate into tangible benefits will depend on how effectively India leverages its position during negotiations. The challenge lies in striking a balance - offering enough to keep trade relations steady without compromising domestic economic interests. The outcome of this meeting will not only shape immediate trade policies but also set the tone for India's broader engagement with the US in the coming years.

## Unresolved crisis

**T**he resignation of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh is not merely a leadership change; it is a reflection of the deep political and ethnic turmoil that has gripped the state for nearly two years. The internal revolt within the ruling BJP, driven by growing disenchantment among its own legislators, was the immediate trigger. However, the larger crisis lies in the breakdown of governance, the failure to contain ethnic violence, and the erosion of public confidence in the administration. Since May 2023, Manipur has been in a state of persistent unrest, with ethnic divisions between the Meitei and Kuki communities fuelling violent confrontations. The state has witnessed targeted attacks, displacement of thousands, and a law-and-order situation that remains fragile. In such a volatile atmosphere, the BJP government struggled to project control. The central leadership, despite being aware of the deteriorating situation, hesitated to take corrective action. But when BJP MLAs themselves threatened to align with the opposition's no-confidence motion, the leadership had no choice but to remove Mr Singh to prevent a political disaster. The political turmoil in Manipur is not an isolated event; it highlights the challenges of governance in states with complex ethnic dynamics. The failure to address grievances, restore law and order, and ensure inclusivity in decision-making has only widened the divisions. The ruling party's internal strife demonstrates a larger issue: the disconnect between the leadership and ground realities.

Mr Biren Singh's fall also raises questions about the BJP's approach to conflict resolution in the North-east. While electoral success has been a priority, long-term stability in conflict-prone states requires more than just political manoeuvring. The inability to prevent armed groups from operating freely, the lack of decisive intervention to halt violence, and the failure to foster trust among different communities have left Manipur on edge. The situation has been further complicated by differing narratives from various stakeholders, making it difficult to reach a consensus on the path forward. Another significant factor in Mr Singh's removal was the growing discontent among BJP legislators, who saw their political futures at risk. With assembly elections scheduled for 2027, MLAs were confronted with voters who blamed the government for the state's instability. The fear of electoral backlash forced them to act, as continued association with an unpopular administration could cost them their seats. The resignation, therefore, is not just a political reshuffle but an attempt to salvage the party's prospects in the state. However, replacing the chief minister alone will not solve Manipur's deeper problems. The new leadership, once appointed, will have to rebuild trust, restore normalcy, and implement a governance model that prioritises reconciliation over political expediency. The central government must also reassess its approach to the region, ensuring that stability and development take precedence over short-term political calculations. Without a clear and inclusive strategy, Manipur's crisis may only deepen, regardless of who occupies the chief minister's chair.

# Swadeshi roots

**Ideas and ideologies being the lifeblood of movements, swadeshi and its leadership were inspired by Swami Dayanand Saraswati in north India and Bankim Chandra and Swami Vivekananda in Bengal. By 1905, the swadeshi movement built the platform for a broad political movement on novel lines, with writings and speeches of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai and Aurobindo Ghosh setting the political stage on fire**

**B**oundary disputes, border sealing, deportation of immigrants, trade-and-tariff wars are paradoxes in our age of interdependent globalized economies; paradoxes which are creating confusion, discord and divisiveness within and between nations. With financial capital and information technologies flowing freely across geographical boundaries, it is a continuing challenge for nations to build themselves, retain and regain national identities while emerging from the shadows of social-cultural and economic domination. In 2025, there is much to gain from the 'gospels of 'Atmasakti' or 'Constructive swadeshi' of 1905 when the British imperial decisions of Viceroy Lord Curzon to partition Bengal generated an unparalleled upsurge, an explosion of ideas, ideologies, programmes and movements which had been building up since the 1880s.

At the heart of the swadeshi movement, which gathered strength in Maharashtra, Punjab and Bengal, was a two-fold critique of the Congress. "The basic technique of appealing to British public opinion was condemned as 'mendicancy', futile in its effects and derogatory to national honour; the Congress was attacked for representing the English-educated elite alienated from the common people," wrote Prof Sumit Sarkar in 'The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal 1903-1908'.

Instead of prayers and petitions, self-reliance and constructive work became the new slogans universal in their appeal then and, to think of it, equally relevant today. Bengal witnessed the start of swadeshi enterprises and stores, organisation of education on autonomous and indigenous lines, and the emphasis on concrete work at the village level. Such efforts at self-help, together with the use of the vernacular and utilisation of traditional popular customs and institutions (like the mela or fair), were felt to be the best methods for drawing the masses into the national movement, explained Prof Sarkar.

Ideas and ideologies being the lifeblood of movements, swadeshi and its leadership were inspired by Swami Dayanand Saraswati in north India and Bankim Chandra and Swami Vivekananda in Bengal. By 1905, the swadeshi movement built the platform for a broad political movement on novel lines, with writings and speeches of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai and Aurobindo Ghosh setting the political stage on fire. Tilak, through the mid-1890s, organized Ganapati and Shivaji festivals, and worked among peasants during the 1896 famine. He organized non-rent campaigns, a boycott movement in protest against the new excise duty on Indian cotton, and the agitation against the plague regulations in 1897 - a microcosm of anti-British campaigns which would come to dominate the freedom struggle in the decades ahead.

When in 1901 Lala Lajpat Rai advocated not just technical



education and industrial self-help, he also ridiculed the "fatuous annual festival of English-educated Indians which went by the name of the Congress" in his writings in 'Kavaytha Samachar'. He argued, "the Congress should openly and boldly base itself on the Hindus alone, since unity with Muslims was a chimera". Arya Samaj leaders from Punjab came to influence

Bengal more powerfully in 1905 when preachers like Tahal Ram Ganga Ram gave fiery lectures at College Square calling for boycott and swadeshi. He created a sensation in Calcutta in the early months of 1905.

Eight years before Lala Lajpat Rai, Aurobindo Ghosh in a famous series of articles 'New Lamps for Old' (1893-94) provided the classic criticism of Congress, hammering on three main points: the English model of gradual constitutional progress admired by the moderates and its serious limitations; Congress was attacked for its talk on the blessings of British rule; and finally striking a remarkably modern class-conscious tone, the issue of bridging the gulf between 'the burgess or the middle class', which Congress represented and the 'proletariat . . . the real key of the situation'.

In sharp contrast to the flamboyant personality of Aurobindo was the quiet school-teacher of Barisal, Aswinikumar Dutta, who through a life-time of patient social work in his district built up a mass following unequalled by any other leader in Bengal. "The only person, who has a large and devoted following among the masses" as Pal described him in 1909. Aswinikumar organised students of his Brojomohan Vidyalaya into several volunteer bands on a permanent basis, sent up a petition to the Commons demanding elective legislatures with 40,000 signatures in 1887 and converted Barisal into a real fort of the swadeshi movement

after 1905, when the Swadeshi Bandhab Samiti with its 159 branches penetrated deep into the district.

But it is from the writings of Rabindranath Tagore that "we get the clearest - as well as of course the most memorable evidence of the growth of a new spirit in Bengal," noted Prof Sarkar. The plea for self-reliance or 'atmasakti' as opposed to the degenerating mendicancy of Congress politicians can be dated back to the 1880s when Rabindranath, through his song at the 1886 Congress, said "Ask not for a song from me..." Now, there was a definite call to turn away from conventional old-style politics to build up "our own strength through constructive

economic and educational work - Swadeshi and national education. A third important theme is to bridge the gulf between the educated and the masses through use of the mother-tongue as medium of instruction and in political meetings, utilising traditional folk institutions like the mela."

By 1904, Rabindranath was urging to turn away from old-style politics. "Let volunteers go to the villages instead, spreading social and political enlightenment in the melas and through magiclantern lectures; and, above all, let us try to revive our traditional samaj, channeling all constructive work through it once again". The bond of unity with the country was being sought explicitly now through the Hindu religion and samaj. He questioned: "Will not Hinduism be able to bring every one of us day by day into bonds of affinity and devotion to this Bharatvarsha of ours - the abode of our gods, the hermitage of our rishis, the land of our forefathers?" To avoid dissensions, Tagore wanted the appointment of a single leader or 'samajpati'.

Well before 1905, the spirit of self-help had started expressing itself through numerous ef-

orts to promote swadeshi sales through exhibitions and shops like Rabindranath's Swadeshi Bhandar in 1897, Jyotishchandra Chaudhuri's Indian Stores in 1901 and Sarala Debi's Laksminir Bhandar in 1903. Bengal Chemicals was established in 1893, and a company to exploit the Rajmahal kaolin deposits for porcelain manufacture was floated in 1901. The message of self-help in industry and education was spread among the Calcutta student elite by Satischandra Mukherji through his journal Dawn (started in 1897) and his Dawn Society (1902-7).

The Bhagavat Chatuspathi (1895) connected with Satischandra Mukherji, the Dawn Society's weekly classes and seminar, the Saraswat Ayatan of Brahmobandhab Upadhyay (August 1902), and Tagore's ashram near Bolpur (started in December 1901, with Upadhyay as the main adviser) marked the beginnings of a national education movement. The enthusiastic response to Jagendra Chandra Ghosh's proposal (March 1904) for an association to raise funds for students going abroad for technical training was symptomatic of the new atmosphere in Bengal.

Finally, the call for a break with the traditional type of agitation was raised from the presidential chair at the Burdwan Provincial Conference of June 1904 when Asutosh Chaudhuri declared: "A subject nation has no politics". His plea for constructive self-help in place of mendicancy was lauded, and Tagore welcomed it in his Swadeshi Samaj address.

From July 1905, as Prof Sarkar detailed the time-line, reliance on self-help or 'atmasakti' had become the creed of the whole of Bengal. The air was full of swadeshi schemes - textile mills and improved handlooms, river transport concerns, match and soap factories, earthenware and tanneries - the Prabasi of Kartik 1313 (1906) gives a fairly comprehensive list of the first fruits of this upsurge. National education was becoming a reality through mufassil schools, the Bengal National College and School (August 1906), and Taraknath Palit's Society for the Promotion of Technical Education. The Swadeshi Bandhab Samiti of Barisal claimed to have settled 523 disputes through 89 arbitration committees by August 1906.

In retrospect, it is Rabindranath Tagore rather than the politicians who stands out as the most vivid and remarkable personality of those stirring 1905 days - participating in the rough and tumble of politics as never before and after, suggesting far-reaching schemes of autonomous rural development on the model of Armenian nationalists in Russia. Tagore's prolific writings and his vision as a poet bestowed a rare beauty and imaginative appeal to the whole movement. His compositions of a magnificent series of patriotic songs - Amar Sonar Bangla and Bangla mati Banglar jal - will surely endure even if everything else about the swadeshi movement is forgotten.

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ASIAN VOICES

Blue marine economy growth creates momentum for Viet Nam's sustainable development

We are proud that Viet Nam is a country with the potential to develop the marine economy. Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Lê Minh Hoan once said: "Marine farming is not only about fish, shrimp and squid farming.

Marine farming is about raising marine ecosystems and the value of marine resources, including tangible and intangible value from the ocean. With our intelligence and knowledge, we can enrich the sea so that the sea can enrich us.

Viet Nam is located in a region with fairly high biodiversity, ranking 16th among the countries with the highest biodiversity in the world.

The country has about 6,000 species of benthic animals, 2,038 species of fish, 225 species of sea shrimp, 15 species of sea snakes, 12 species of marine mammals, five species of sea turtles and 43 species of water birds, 653 species of seaweed, 657 species of zooplankton, 94 species of mangrove plants, 14 species of seagrass, and more than 400 species of corals.

These species live in more than 20 ecosystems and have high biological productivity, helping determine the primary productivity of the entire ocean. They also create diversity in natural landscapes and ecology and provide aquatic resources for fishing

**Viet Nam News**

and seed sources for aquaculture, medicine, functional foods, science, education, ocean health and tourism, contributing to the development of the local marine economy.

We have clearly recognised that Viet Nam is a coastal country with large marine areas and continental shelves, containing rich and diverse marine resources, marine ecosystems and natural resources.

Our country's seas and islands are not only potential economic development areas where vital sea traffic routes are located, and home to rich resources - they also act as important combat environments in the strategy of protecting the Fatherland.

Viet Nam's marine area is also important for the country's economic development. Currently, over 31 percent of the country's population lives in 28 coastal provinces and cities. Most cities and towns are located along rivers, not far from the sea, especially cities and towns in the central region. The coastal area is also home to major industrial centres and many important airports, seaports, naval bases, warehouses and other economic and defence projects.

Coastal provinces and cities have developed fisheries, aquaculture, fishing ports, ship repair and building facilities, seafood processing facilities and salt production, attracting more than 13 million workers, creating jobs and stabilising the economic, political, social and security-defence situation.

Resolution No. 36-NQ/TW on the strategy for sustainable development of Viet Nam's marine economy to 2030 was issued at the eighth conference of the seventh Party Central Committee in October 2018.

It stressed that sustainable development of the marine economy is the responsibility of the entire political system, the right and obligation of all organisations, enterprises and people in Viet Nam.

**PERSONAL**

THANK You Infant Jesus, Mother Mary & St. Jude for hearing my prayer for a safe delivery of Niku's baby girl on 11-01-2025.— Denise.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

editor@thestatesman.com

## City's heritage

**SIR**, West Bengal's business scene appears to be buzzing like never before, attracting record private and institutional investment. The 8th Bengal Business Summit was hailed as an extraordinary success with investment proposals reaching an unprecedented aggregate of Rs 4,40,595 crores. This can only be good news for Kolkata, the political capital of West Bengal and the

cultural capital of India.

I am new to this magical city and only just getting acquainted with its beauty and splendour. London, in comparison, seems lifeless and lacking in charm. Kolkata reminds me of my first visit to Venice 30 years ago. Both are rich in culture and their architectural heritage is without rival. On this point, I hope you will forgive me for offering some constructive criticism.

Considering the inflow of substantial financial resources, I

am saddened to see so many magnificent heritage buildings in a state of severe disrepair, some of them beyond rescue. Kolkata deserves better and the business community has a moral obligation to make a contribution. It would also reap the benefits from increased tourism and related factors in the long-term. Prioritising sustainability and responsibility over short-term gains would be a clear win-win!

Yours, etc., Angus Neill,

London/Kolkata, 10 February

## EYE-OPENER

**SIR**, I profusely thank Dr. Shamim Haque Mondal for his enlightening and insightful article entitled, "Bose: Physicist with a passion for chemistry", published in the Perspective column of your paper on 9 February. The fact that

the world-renowned physicist Prof. Satyendranath Bose also worked in the field of chemistry was a revelation to me and possibly many other readers.

I am also delighted to learn from this piece that Dr. P.K. Dutta was a doctoral student of Prof. Bose at Dhaka University. Those who studied science in English medium in their higher secondary years (Class IX to Class XI) in the sixties and seventies must be

familiar with the seminal textbook on chemistry written by Dr. Dutta. It was a hardbound voluminous book which terrified me in the beginning.

But I soon started to appreciate its contents and became enamored with chemistry. I don't know whether this awesome book is still in print or not.

Yours, etc., P.S. Ghoshdastidar, Kolkata, 9 February

## SLIP SHOWS

**SIR**, The Statesman dated February 8, page 2, carried the sub-head... "Health dept advises aspirin dose for pregnant women". Instead of the word "advices" it should have read "advises". The wrong usage of the words "advice/advise" is a common mistake. Most people, especially students, read The Statesman for its good English.

Yours, etc., Anne Pybus, Kolkata, 9 February.



## Mein Kampf is 100; still inspires hate

SANTHOSH MATHEW

**A** hundred years ago, Adolf Hitler penned *Mein Kampf* while imprisoned after his failed Beer Hall Putsch of 1923. What started as a bitter and self-justifying political tract went on to shape one of the most catastrophic ideologies in human history.

As the world marks the centenary of its publication, the book remains an unsettling reminder of how extremist thought can take root and flourish. More disturbingly, the resurgence of neo-Nazi sentiments across the world raises questions about the durability of such ideologies and their insidious influence on contemporary politics.

*Mein Kampf*, first published in 1925, was largely ignored in its early years. However, once Hitler rose to power in 1933, it became a cornerstone of Nazi propaganda, with millions of copies distributed across Germany. By 1939, it had sold 5.2 million copies and had been translated into 11 languages.

The book detailed Hitler's vision of Aryan supremacy, anti-Semitic beliefs, and expansionist ambitions, laying the groundwork for the horrors of the Holocaust and World War II. So deeply embedded was it in Nazi Germany that newlywed couples were gifted a copy as a state wedding present, ensuring that its venomous ideology seeped into the private lives of ordinary Germans.

In the aftermath of World War II, Germany took extensive measures to curb the book's influence. The state of Bavaria, which held the copyright, refused to allow its publication, and stringent laws were enacted to prevent the glorification of Nazi ideology. However, this did little to stop international publishers from reproducing it.

When the copyright expired in 2016, *Mein Kampf* entered the public domain, allowing for new editions and extensive academic commentary

to be published. The Munich-based Institute for Contemporary History released an annotated edition that meticulously dissected Hitler's rhetoric and exposed its inherent fallacies.

Despite these efforts, the toxic ideology of *Mein Kampf* continues to find resonance in different parts of the world. Neo-Nazi groups, far-right extremists, and white supremacists have not only revived Hitler's ideas but have also adapted them to contemporary political contexts.

The internet, once hailed as a tool for democratic discourse, has become a breeding ground for such movements. Online forums, encrypted messaging apps, and social media platforms have allowed these groups to network, radicalize, and recruit followers across national borders.

From the rise of far-right parties in Europe to the resurgence of white supremacist movements in the United States, the echoes of *Mein Kampf* are unmistakable. In Germany, the Alternative for Germany (AfD) has gained traction by capitalizing on nationalist rhetoric and anti-immigrant sentiment. In the United States, groups like the Proud Boys and other white nationalist factions have drawn inspiration from Nazi ideology, often blending it with conspiracy theories and populist anger.

Even in countries like Brazil, Ukraine, and Russia, neo-Nazi factions have emerged, demonstrating how extremist narratives remain alarmingly adaptable. One of the most unsettling developments has been the mainstreaming of far-right ideas in political discourse.

Where once explicit Nazi symbolism was confined to underground movements, today, elements of that ideology have crept into mainstream politics through dog-whistle rhetoric, xenophobic policies, and historical revisionism. Leaders and political figures have increasingly used language that aligns with the grievances outlined in *Mein Kampf*, blaming minorities, immigrants, and global institutions for economic and social woes.

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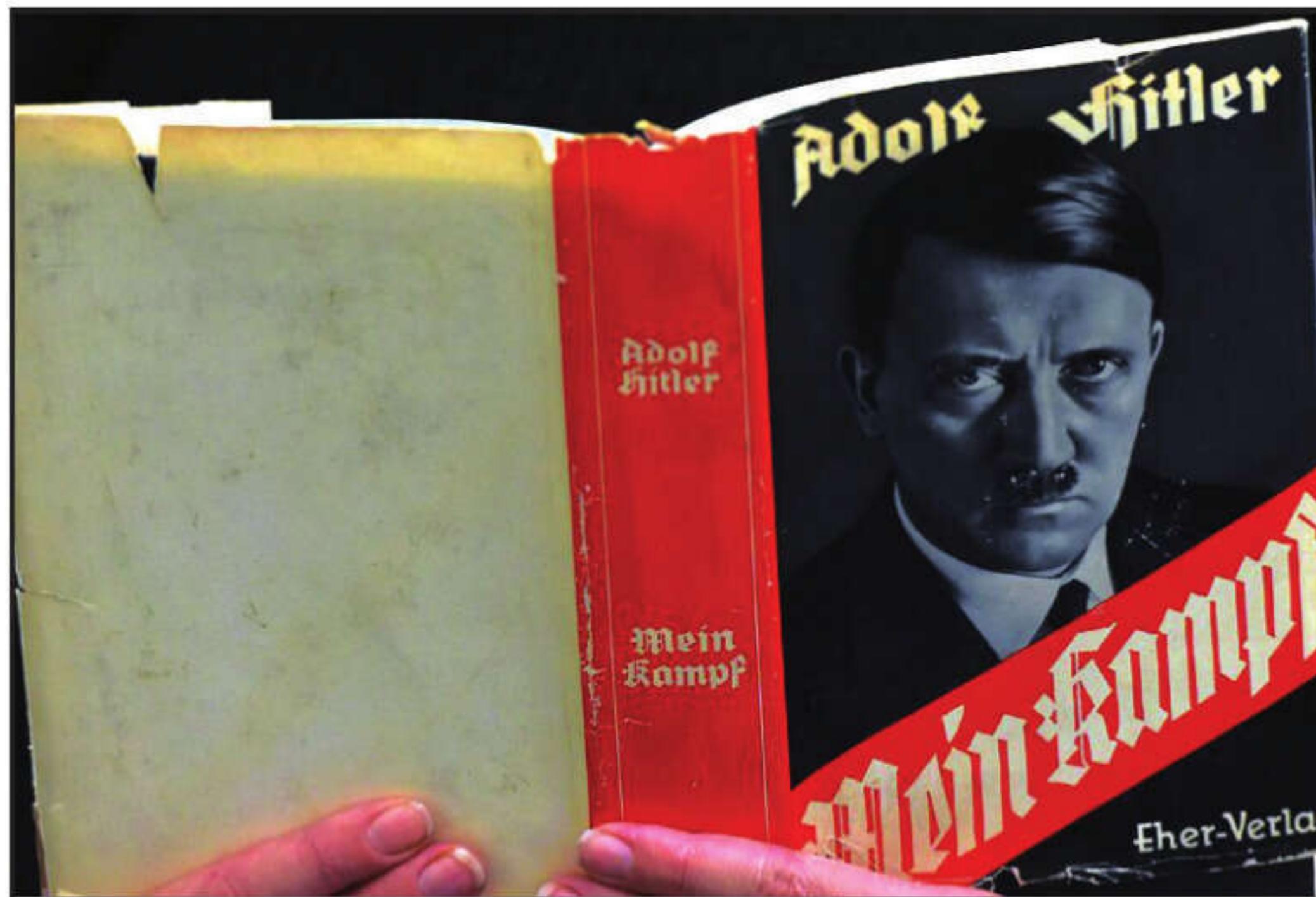
The persistence of such ideologies underscores the need for renewed vigilance. While democratic institutions remain resilient, the rise of digital propaganda has made it easier than ever for extremist ideas to reach new audiences. Countries that once prided themselves on stamping out fascist ideology now grapple with a new wave of radicalization, cultural anxieties, and economic uncertainty.

A hundred years after *Mein Kampf* was first published, its legacy is a grim testament to the power of

hate-driven ideology. The book itself may be confined to history, but its core tenets continue to find willing adherents in modern societies. The lessons of the past remain crucial: extremism, if left unchecked, can quickly escalate from rhetoric to action.

The challenge before democratic societies today is not merely to remember history but to actively counter the forces that seek to revive its darkest chapters.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Centre For South Asian Studies, Pondicherry Central University.)



## Battle of survival for Pakistan's judiciary

SULTAN MEHMOD

**A**s letters of a few courageous judges highlight, Pakistan's Supreme Court is fighting a battle of survival, with some judges refusing to go down without a fight, striving to prevent complete capitulation.

The on-going struggle over the judiciary's independence, with most judges remaining passive spectators, echoes the lawyers' movement in Pakistan — a pivotal moment when one chief justice, despite his shortcomings, dared to confront the most powerful people in Pakistan.

The lawyers' movement, a mass mobilisation of lawyers and civil society, catalysed the country's most significant democratic reforms in decades.

By confronting Gen Musharraf's authoritarian interference in the judiciary, the movement spurred not just the restoration of the judiciary but facilitated constitutional milestones like the 18th and 19th Amendments, strengthening judicial independence by taking appointments away from the government and giving them to a panel of senior judges and lawyers.

Ultimately, the movement catalysed the downfall of Gen Musharraf's military regime, paving the way for a democratic transition in Pakistan. These changes promised a judiciary that could serve as a genuine check on executive power — a judiciary with the teeth to enforce constitutional rights, protect civil liberties, and hold the state and the politically powerful military accountable.

Yet, the history of Pakistan's judiciary tells a more nuanced story, tempered by a commitment to fairness and shaped by assertive, independent rulings.

While moments of subjugation, such as the tragic validation of martial laws or the 1979 execution of Zulfikar

Ali Bhutto, cast long shadows, the judiciary's defiance in the face of authoritarianism has ignited a legacy of resilience, with judges and lawyers repeatedly challenging authoritarian overreach. This legacy of resistance keeps the embers of justice alive.

Since the 1990s at least, Pakistan's judiciary has made significant progress, weathering unrelenting pressure — from generals seeking compliance, civilian leaders disrupting court proceedings by sending armed goons to the court, and local interest groups undermining its autonomy. Despite these challenges, it has often pushed back, reinterpreting constitutional provisions to maintain influence over judicial appointments and issuing landmark rulings that uphold democratic principles.

The Darshan Masih vs The State case exemplifies the judiciary's evolving role: in response to a desperate telegram from bonded labourers under the custody of a feudal landowner and collusion of police with him, the court defied entrenched Anglo-Saxon traditions of "judicial restraint" to confront modern-day slavery head-on, taking unprecedented action to hear their plea. This bold move not only affirmed fundamental rights but also signalled the judiciary's willingness to challenge entrenched power structures and ensure justice for the most marginalised.

Despite political pressures, Pakistan's judiciary showed it could stand as a bulwark for the marginalised. Landmark rulings have redefined the legal landscape, from recognising environmental protection as a constitutional right to declaring civilian trials by military courts unconstitutional. The echoes of past defiance still shape the fight for justice today, with six judges' letter serving as a striking reminder of this tradition.

The post-2007 spirit of defiance re-emerged in the 2024 letter authored by six Islamabad High Court judges, addressed to the Supreme Judicial Council. In a rare public confrontation, these judges exposed the alleged interference of Pakistan's unchecked intelligence agencies in judicial affairs.



authorised by six Islamabad High Court judges, addressed to the Supreme Judicial Council. In a rare public confrontation, these judges exposed the alleged interference of Pakistan's unchecked intelligence agencies in judicial affairs.

Their claims of pressure, surveillance, and threats to their families underscored the growing institutional challenges to judicial independence. The letter, described as the judiciary's boldest act of defiance since the lawyers' movement, highlighted the extent to which the judiciary must still fight to uphold its autonomy.

The independence of Pakistan's judiciary, once a hard-won triumph of public protest and constitutional reform, is now under siege. The 26th Constitutional Amendment, passed in November 2024, pushed through under murky circumstances and amidst allegations of coercion and abduction of opposition lawmakers, fundamentally alters the judiciary's structure.

By reducing the share of judges making judicial appointments, increasing political appointees, and enabling direct ministerial involvement in bench composition and selection of judges, the amendment effectively shifts control from the courts to the government. This structural shift not only weakens the judiciary's ability to appoint judges independently but also undermines its role as a check on state overreach.

What was once a symbol of institutional resilience is now threatened by a measure that cloaks the centralisation of power in the language of

reform. Under the guise of reform, the delicate equilibrium established by the 18th and 19th Amendments has been upended.

More troubling are the speed and opacity with which these changes were enacted. Passed in an overnight session with little public debate, the 26th Amendment represents a deliberate shift in how power operates in Pakistan's constitutional framework. While it maintains the veneer of democratic procedure, the substance is unmistakably autocratic.

The lesson is clear: democratic backsliding does not always arrive with the sound of tanks or the thunder of guns. In Pakistan, it is unfolding behind closed doors, codified in legislative text, and sold to the public as necessary reform. The same judiciary that once defied a dictator is now being systematically undermined, and its independence curtailed.

Dawn/ANN.

### 100 YEARS AGO

### OCCASIONAL NOTE

WE publish to-day a letter signed by some well-known names appealing for support for a building fund for a school in connection with the educational colonies movement. We should like to have a good deal more evidence than has yet been offered to the public of the success of this scheme, and confess to a large amount of scepticism about all schemes of the kind. The opening sentence of the letter is contrary to facts. There is no "general consensus of opinion that the one hopeful solution for the problem of unemployment is on the lines of what is called the educational colony." Things are not so simple as that. A recent article in the Times' educational supplement leaves one in a complete fog as to the practical value of the movement. The only definite statement is that a large number of pupils have been through the Cossimbazar Polytechnic in the last eight years. We should like to know exactly what the figures are and how these pupils are getting on in life at present. If they are all supporting themselves comfortably without spoon-feeding that is a strong argument which ought to be set forth with detailed figures. We are indeed told that for the past two years every boy sent up from the Polytechnic has matriculated, but it will be news to most that matriculation is still regarded as a safe road to employment.

### NEWS ITEMS

### AIR SERVICE TO INDIA

### SPECIAL MACHINES EARMARKED

LONDON, FEB. 11.

THE type of special aeroplane earmarked by the Air Ministry for the Indian service is, according to the Daily Express, constructed entirely of steel, with 2,000 h.p. and a minimum cruising speed of 100 miles.

It will carry a crew of four and 24 passengers. It is equipped with chairs and electric cooking apparatus.

### CROYDON CRASH

### NO BLAME ATTACHED TO PILOT

LONDON, FEB. 10.

THE report of the Air Ministry court of investigation into the Croydon aero-plane disaster of December 24 says that no Air Ministry or Imperial Airways official was in any way negligent. No blame was to be attributed to the pilot, Stewart, whose dive towards the earth was due to loss of control combined with stall while the pilot was trying to make a forced landing under the most difficult circumstances.

Some defect seems to have developed, but there was nothing to show whether the defect was in the engine or not. This was not the primary cause of the accident, but may have been contributory to it.

The court was of opinion that the Air Ministry should consider whether a limit should be fixed for the "angle of climb and stalling speed." The court rejected the theory of the failure of the petrol supply due to an obstruction of the petrol pipe as a possible cause.

### HOBBS CASE SEQUEL

### CONTUMPT OF COURT CHARGE FAILS

LONDON, FEB. 10.

IN the King's Bench to-day the Lord Chief Justice and Justices Salter and Fraser discharged the rule granted on February 6 calling upon the Editor and publishers of the Evening News to show cause why they should not be committed for contempt of court for reporting the Recorder's comments to the Grand Jury in the Hobbs case.

The Lord Chief Justice said that it was too late in the day to argue that newspapers were not entitled to report charges to grand juries. It was a serious misfortune that such a charge was delivered. It was long indeed since a judge had prematurely expressed the opinion that the ultimate verdict of a jury should be of a particular kind. Newspapers should not be punished for publishing an Agency report which was on the whole accurate and fair. He made no order with regard to costs.

### CLYDEBANK EVICTIONS

### LIVELY SCENE IN THE COMMONS

(SPECIAL CABLE.), LONDON, FEB. 10

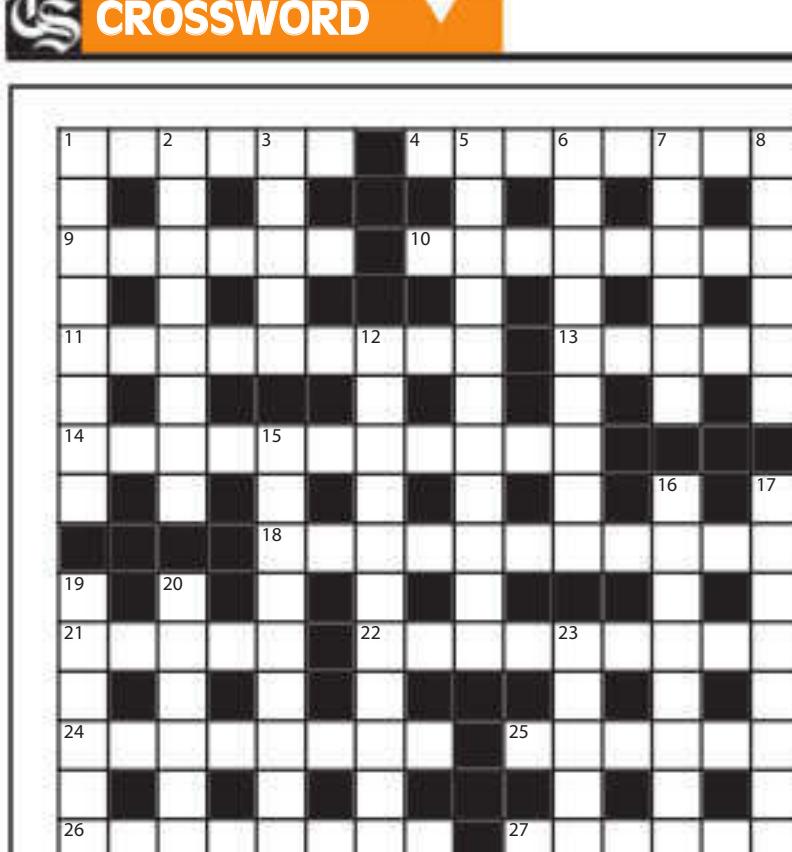
In the House of Commons to-day the Clydebank evictions led to some liveliness. The Scottish Labour members put a number of questions on the subject. Mr. Kirkwood created some excitement by persisting in addressing the House while the Speaker was standing, whereupon there were loud cries of "Order, order".

Mr. Kirkwood shouted:—"It is all right for you, who are well fed and clothed, but I am defending my people."

The Speaker restored order, but subsequently Mr. Kirkwood attempted to put further questions and shouted:—"This is class war."

The Speaker said that if Mr. Kirkwood would observe the rules of the House he would see that he received equal treatment with other members, but he must only put questions at question time.

### CROSSWORD



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS		DOWN	
1 Explorer appreciated source of medicine in medical facility (6)	13 Time taken by a number to comprehend good Latin American dance (5)	24 One doing twist in flexible roles, nothing less (8)	2 Team supported by country lacking a finesse with the ball? (8)
4 Prominently publish odds on disgraced Swiss official losing face (8)	14 Liar's outfit is shoddy — typical of one making advances? (11)	25 Position adopted among hardest ancestors (6)	3 A place selling cheese in turn got in a bad way (5)
9 Treatment for one largely dull, small swelling (6)	18 Difficult American turncoat with no independent source of pictures? (11)	26 Legal authority in New York worked on treaty (8)	5 Play opens dourly in a laboured style (11)
10 Instant record of events showing offhand heavy drinker grabbing husband (8)	21 Thing used by jewellers to examine ring, we hear (5)	27 Excessive amount found by academic about The Origin of Species? That's probable (4-2)	6 A mixture of peas and tripe for an early dish? (9)
11 With no end of hoo-ha, suspect decrease in digs, say (9)	22 Only depot sadly with nothing for new miniature dog (3,6)	7 Money required around a hotel on island for Middle East dish (6)	8 Restrict the supply of liquid in rota (6)

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

## THUMBNAILS

45-year-old man killed in wild elephant attack in Wayanad: One more death was reported from tusker attack in Kerala when a 45-year old man was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Noolpuza of Wayanad district on Monday night. The deceased has been identified as Manu (45) of Kappad Tribal Settlement in Chettyalathur ward in Noolpuza panchayat.

CRI, Bal Raksha Bharat sign MoU: To bolster road safety measures for children across India, the CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CRI) and Bal Raksha Bharat have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The five-year partnership, effective from 1 February 2025 to 31 January 2030, marks a significant commitment to leveraging scientific research and child protection expertise.

'Breaking Barriers' webinar series hosted: The Centre for Civil Society (CCS), in collaboration with the P&G Betiyan Scholarship Programme, hosted the 'Breaking Barriers' webinar series on 11 February. This interactive session brought together aspiring women in STEM from various technical institutes to engage with industry leaders and gain insights into career development, financial independence, and self-advocacy.

# Allahbadia, Sanmay and others summoned by NCW

The commission has summoned them to appear before it on 17 February



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

**T**aking note of derogatory remarks made on a show titled *India's Got Latent*, the National Commission for Women (NCW) on Tuesday asked Ranveer Allahabadia, Samay Raina, Apoorva Makija, Jaspreet Singh, and Ashish Chanchlani, as well as the show's producers, Tushar Poojari and Saurabh Bothra. These comments, which have sparked widespread outrage, violate the dignity and respect owed to every

In a statement, it said it has expressed strong concern over the derogatory and racist

comments reportedly made by the YouTubers on *India's Got Latent*.

The Commission has taken serious note of the vulgar and offensive remarks made by content creators such as Ranveer Allahabadia, Samay Raina, Apoorva Makija, Jaspreet Singh, and Ashish Chanchlani, as well as the show's producers, Tushar Poojari and Saurabh Bothra. These comments, which have sparked widespread outrage, violate the dignity and respect owed to every

individual, particularly in a society that upholds equality and mutual respect," it said.

The NCW informed that under the instructions of its Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar, a hearing has been scheduled to address the controversial remarks made by these content creators.

"Ranveer Allahabadia, Samay Raina, Apoorva Makija, Jaspreet Singh, Ashish Chanchlani, Tushar Poojari and Saurabh Bothra are required to appear in person before the Com-

mission. The hearing will take place on February 17 at 12 pm at the NCW office in New Delhi," the statement said.

Notably, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday asked YouTube to remove an episode/video of the above-mentioned show from its platform.

In a letter addressed to Mira Chattha, Head Public Policy, YouTube, Kaningo said the Commission has received a complaint wherein it was alleged that a YouTube show titled *India's Got Latent*, hosted by Samay Raina, contains highly objectionable, inappropriate, and obscene remarks against the society.

He said the content in question prima facie appears to be in violation of various legal provisions under Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Information Technology (IT) Act, and other applicable laws.

It may be mentioned that Mumbai Police registered a complaint against Allahbadia aka 'BeerBiceps', Makija who goes by the name 'Rebel Kid', and Raina over offensive language in *India's Got Latent*. The Indian Commerce Minister also said India and Israel's

# Piyush Goyal says Israel has several areas to invest in India; calls countries 'natural allies'



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal on Tuesday called India and Israel as 'natural allies', and noted that due to India's large demand growth Israel has several key areas from technology to applications to invest in.

He also stressed on the demand potential of India that has shown rapid growth and is set to increase every year. Piyush Goyal was speaking during his address at the India-Israel Business Forum organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in New Delhi.

The Indian Commerce Minister also said India and Israel's common enemy is terrorism and Prime Ministers of both nations work with a shared purpose to eliminate it.

In a bid to prepare the nation to leverage the opportunities, Minister Goyal spoke of 10Ds - Democracy, Demographic Dividend, Digitalisation of the economy, Decarbonisation, Determination, Dependability of India, Decisive Leadership, Diversity, Development and Demand.

In the last decade, Goyal noted, the government has focused on strengthening the macroeconomic fundamentals of the country with a strong emphasis on improving the infrastructure to take economic prosperity to every corner of the country.

He also pointed out the Centre's efforts to provide public welfare over the years.

"Today the efforts have given rich dividends. The nation is standing on strong macroeconomic fundamentals with ability to withstand Covid, war and amidst turbulent geopolitical times," he said.

Piyush Goyal said India has a strong judiciary to fall back on, and that the young demographic will provide a strong workforce for the future decades to come.

Minister Goyal emphasised on India being a dependable partner to Israel as the country is known to keep every commitment it makes.

The India-Israel Business Forum brought together top business leaders, policymakers, and industry stakeholders from both countries to explore new avenues of economic cooperation, technological collaboration, and investment opportunities.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, and the Embassy of Israel, in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), organised the India-Israel Business Forum.

## Rahul's Warangal visit cancelled; BRS attributes it to discontent among locals



in view of the ongoing Parliament session.

However, soon after Gandhi's programme was shelved, the BRS leaders started criticising the Congress leader for cancelling his visit. They claimed that the programme was cancelled because the Congress was apprehensive about the response of the people. Former MLA Sudarshan Reddy and former MP Maloth

Kavitha castigated the Congress for its failure to implement poll promises, particularly those made to the farmers of the state. They said the visit was cancelled by the party anticipating a backlash from them.

They said the Congress leaders were scared of visiting Telangana as the government failed to deliver on the party's promises. The BRS also trolled its dissident MLAs who joined the Congress, saying their days were numbered and by-polls in these constituencies were imminent as the case is being heard in the Supreme Court.

They are hopeful of a verdict in favour of the BRS ensuring the disqualification of turncoat MLAs. The matter will be heard on 18 February.

## Kerala Cabinet okays draft bill for setting up private varsities

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
11 FEBRUARY

The LDF government in Kerala on Monday approved a draft bill for the establishment and management of private universities in the state called Kerala State Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Draft Bill, 2025. The draft bill is expected to be tabled in the current session of the Assembly.

According to the draft bill cleared by state Cabinet today, the university must own land as per the guidelines set by regulatory bodies and deposit Rs.25 crore corpus fund in the state treasury. If it is a multi-campus university, the main campus must cover at least 10 acres.

The university must also follow UGC and state government guidelines regarding faculty appointments, the selection of the Vice-Chancellor, and overall administration. The bill mandates

that 40 per cent of seats in each course must be reserved for students from Kerala, following the state's existing reservation policy.

At least 40 per cent of seats in each course will be reserved for students who are permanent residents of the state, following the existing reservation system. Fee waivers/scholarships for students from Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes should be maintained.

To apply, an institution must submit a detailed project report with information on land and financial resources, the bill stated. An expert committee will review the application. The committee will include a government-nominated academician as chairperson, vice-chancellor, the higher education secretary, a nominee from the Kerala State Education Council, a nominee from the Planning Board, and the district collector. State Higher Education Secretary

and another secretary nominated by the state government will be part of the university's governing bodies to ensure proper regulation.

The state government will have one nominee in the executive council and three nominees

in the academic council of the private university. The democratic rights of students, teachers, and staff will be protected, and grievance redressal systems will be in place. Additionally, employee benefits, including provident fund (PF), must be guaranteed. The Cabinet also approved amendments to university laws, removing the provision that allowed universities to set up study centres outside the state and abroad.

## INS Sujata, INS Shardul and ICGS Veer visit Singapore to strengthen maritime cooperation

ration in training and operations.

Dr. Shilpk Ambule, the High Commissioner of India to Singapore, also visited the ships and highlighted the Indian Navy's role in "building bridges of friendship" between the two nations. A solemn wreath laying ceremony was held to pay tribute to the fallen soldiers at the Kranji War Memorial.

To further strengthen people-to-people connections, Indian and Singapore Navy trainees participated in friendly sports fixtures.

Indian naval trainees visited the Information Fusion Center (IFC), the Changi Regional Humanitarian Assistance, and Disaster Relief Coordination Center (RHCC), enhancing their understanding of regional maritime security issues.

Additionally, they toured the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) Museum, gaining valuable insights into Singapore's maritime history.

Schoolchildren from Yuva Bharti and Delhi Public School, Singapore, also visited the ships, fostering engagement with the local community.

## TPWODL

**TP WESTERN ODISHA DISTRIBUTION LIMITED**  
(A Joint Venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha)  
Corporate Office : Bura, Dist.-Sambalpur (Odisha)-768017

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited, invites tender quotations (In 2part bidding) from eligible vendors for the following packages:

- TPWODL/SA/O/SU/34: Purchase order for supply of GI Channel & angle.**
- TPWODL/SA/O/SU/35: Rate Contract for supply of DO fuse and DD fuse link.**
- TPWODL/MK/O/SU/36: Rate Contract for supply of B&S type Hardware fittings.**

Interested bidders to submit Tender Participation Fee and Authorization Letter through email on or before **20<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2025, 15:00Hrs** (for Srl No.18.3) & **21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 2025, 15:00Hrs**, (for Srl No.2) respectively, after which link from e-Tender system shall be shared.

For detailed tender documents of the above-mentioned tender, please visit Tender section on website [www.tpwesteriodistribution.com](http://www.tpwesteriodistribution.com). Further details for participating in tender is given in the tender document.

All future correspondence regarding the tender, bid submission, date extension etc. will happen with participating bidders only through E-Tender system.

Sd/- Head-Contracts and Procurement

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

### E-AUCTION NOTICE

No. 3PUB/ATM/DLI-DIV/E-auction/2022 Dated: 02.02.2025 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (<http://ireps.gov.in/>) for the allotment of Automated Teller Machine/Digital Banking Unit/Banking e-Lobby Contracts, at following Railway stations/locations:-

E-Catalogue No.	Date & Time of bidding	Railway Stations/Locations/Sites
DLI-ATM-03-2025	28.02.2025 at 11.00 Hrs	Vivek Vihar (VVB)-1, Anand Vilas (ANVT)-1, Nizamuddin (NZM)-1, Karainagar (KHN)-1, Delhi Shahdara (DSA)-3, Tilak Bridge (TKJ) - 2 Sites, Shivaji Bridge (CSB) - 2 Sites, Samar Gopalpur (SMF)-1, Kinana (KIU)-1, Juliana (JNA)-1, Nilokheri (NLKR)-1

Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen <https://ireps.gov.in/>

All bidders who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:

- 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.

- 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: [plg.delhidivision@gmail.com](mailto:plg.delhidivision@gmail.com), Tel: 011-23743084

No.: 23AC/393/E-Auction/Pkg/2025 Dated: 11.02.2025

## TENDER

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### (E-Auction Notice)

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (<http://ireps.gov.in/>) for the allotment of under mention contracts at following Railway stations/locations:

E-Catalogue No.	Date & Time of bidding	Railway Stations/Locations/Lots
Parking-05-2025	27.02.2025 at 11.00 Hrs.	Delhi Shadara (Saboli Halt) = Total 01 Site

Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen <https://ireps.gov.in/>

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:

- 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

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Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query : Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055. Email: [plg.delhidivision@gmail.com](mailto:plg.delhidivision@gmail.com), Tel: 011-23743084

No.: 23AC/393/E-Auction/Pkg/2025 Dated: 11.02.2025

## SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER BANGANA DIVISION HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT BANGANA

#### e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Bangana Division Distt Una H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids for item rate, in electronic tendering in 2 Cover System for the below mentioned works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	

# Hamas delays hostage release; jolt to Gaza ceasefire feared

Already, there had been concerns that the war would resume at the end of the first phase in early March

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

JERUSALEM, 11 FEBRUARY

**H**amas' threat to delay the next planned release of Israeli hostages from the Gaza Strip has jolted a fragile ceasefire that's seen as having the potential to wind down the war.

It has brought new dismay for Israelis who watched the latest Hamas handover of hostages in growing horror over the weekend as the three emaciated men came into sight. Of the 17 hostages yet to be released from Gaza under this phase of the ceasefire, Israel has said eight are dead.

The next handover of three hostages had been scheduled for Saturday, and families say time is running out for those still alive. Israel now

awaits what comes from a security Cabinet meeting Tuesday morning, moved up in response to Monday's Hamas announcement.

The developments also have led to new fear in Gaza, where hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians have surged to what remains of their homes in the territory's north after fleeing in the war's earliest weeks.

The uncertainty, just over halfway into the ceasefire's six-week first phase, complicates talks on the far more difficult phase. It also jeopardizes the pause in the devastating fighting and the increase in humanitarian aid for Gaza that it has made possible.

Already, there had been concerns that the war would resume at the end of the first phase in early March.



intends to live up to its end of the deal.

A later Hamas statement called the postponement a "warning signal" to Israel and noted that five days remained for mediators — the United States, Qatar and Egypt — to pressure Israel to act. "The door remains open for the exchange to proceed as planned if Israel abides by its obligations," it said.

There was no immediate public reaction from mediators.

The Hamas announcement came as U.S. President Donald Trump pressed further on his stunning proposal to remove the Palestinian population from devastated Gaza and have the U.S. take "ownership" of the territory. He told *Fox News* on Sunday that the Palestinians would not have the right to return.

Hamas accused Israel of not holding up its end of the deal by initially delaying the return of Palestinians to northern Gaza over an earlier dispute, carrying out strikes across the territory and hindering the entry of humanitarian aid.

The militant group, which quickly reasserted control over Gaza when the ceasefire began on 19 January, said the next hostage release would be delayed "until further notice."

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz called the delay "a complete violation" of the ceasefire agreement, and he instructed the military to be on highest alert. The prime minister's coordinator for hostages said the government

## EU vows tough countermeasures to US tariffs

**ACENIES**

BRUSSELS, 11 FEBRUARY

European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen vowed on Tuesday that U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum "will not go unanswered," adding that they will trigger tough countermeasures from the 27-nation bloc.

"The EU will act to safeguard its economic interests," von der Leyen said in a statement in reaction to U.S. President Donald Trump's imposition of tariffs on steel and aluminum the previous day.

"Tariffs are taxes — bad for business, worse for consumers," von der Leyen said. "Unjustified tariffs on the EU will not go unanswered — they will trigger firm and

proportionate countermeasures."

In Germany, home to the EU's largest economy, Chancellor Olaf Scholz told parliament that "if the U.S. leaves us no other choice, then the European Union will react united," adding that "ultimately, trade wars always cost both sides prosperity."

Trump is hitting foreign steel and aluminum with a 25 per cent tax in the hope that they will give local producers relief from intense global competition, allowing them to charge higher prices.

After Trump imposed steel tariffs in 2018, the EU imposed counter-tariffs on U.S.-made motorcycles, bourbon, peanut butter and jeans, among other items.

EU Commission vice-president Maroš Šefčovič said Tuesday that the tariffs are "economically counterproductive, especially given the deeply integrated production chains established through our extensive transatlantic trade and investment ties."

## White House officials ready to meet with Zelenskyy in Munich for talks on Russia's war on Ukraine

**ACENIES**

PARIS, 11 FEBRUARY

President Donald Trump's senior advisers are expected to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy this week on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference to discuss the path toward ending Russia's nearly three-year war in Ukraine.

Retired Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, Trump's special envoy to Ukraine and Russia, told *The Associated Press* that the White House is ironing out details of the highly anticipated talks established through our extensive transatlantic trade and investment ties.

Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Kellogg are among the Trump administration officials traveling to Germany for the summit, and all could be involved in the critical talks with Zelenskyy and his team on the sidelines of the event.

"Knowing how the process works, it would probably be better for Zelenskyy if we all met together and talked through it as a group," Kellogg said in an interview.

Trump on Monday said he'd "probably" speak with Zelenskyy this week.

## UK touts a clampdown on illegal working as it seeks to look tough on immigration

**ACENIES**

LONDON, 11 FEBRUARY

The British government on Monday touted its success in raiding businesses that employ unauthorised workers and deporting thousands of migrants with no right to stay in the U.K., as it moved to strengthen law-enforcement powers against people-smuggling gangs.

What's billed as a "blitz on illegal working" is part of a pledge by the center-left Labour government to reduce immigration — a priority for many voters — and stop the growing popularity of the hard-right party Reform U.K.

But for migrants' groups, and some Labour Party mem-

bers, the images uncomfortably recall a previous Conservative government's pledge to make Britain a "hostile environment" for illegal migration. That led to thousands of long-term legal residents being denied housing, jobs or medical treatment because they could not prove their status. Dozens were detained or deported to countries they had not visited for decades.

The government said Monday that immigration enforcement teams have carried out more than 5,000 raids since Labour was elected in July on businesses including nail bars, convenience stores, vape shops, restaurants and car washes, and made almost 4,000 arrests. The figures are significantly

higher than the previous year, when the Conservatives were in power.

Britain also has deported almost 19,000 people in the same period, the government said. On Monday the government released video footage of migrants being deported, a PR move that has been criticised

as crass and insensitive. Home Office Minister Angela Eagle defended the tough approach.

"We have to have a system where the rules are respected and enforced," she told the BBC. "It's important that we show what we are doing and it's important that we send

messages to people who may have been sold lies about what will await them in the U.K. if they get themselves smuggled in."

The government says the perception that it's easy to find work in Britain is a "dangerous draw" for migrants who try to cross the English Channel on small boats. Authorities in the U.K. and France have struggled for years to stop the dangerous crossings, which brought more than 38,000 people to Britain in 2024. More than 70 people perished in the attempts.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer has said the crime gangs are a threat to global security and should be treated like terror networks.

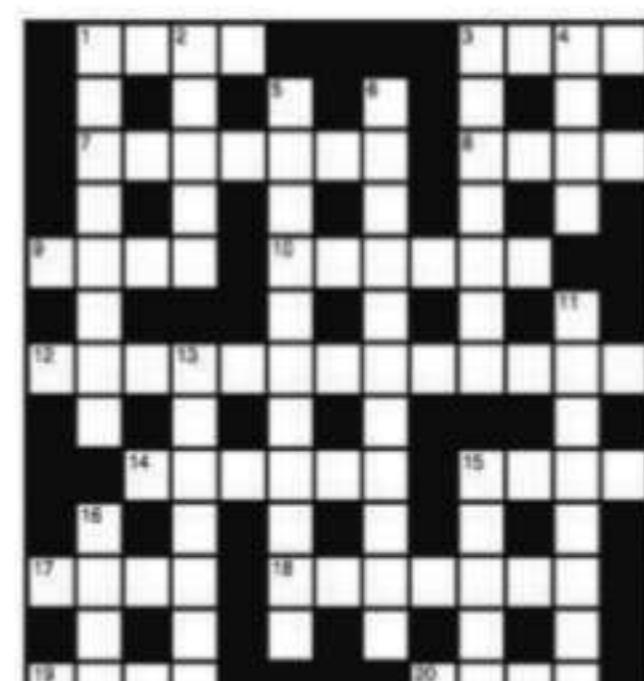


as crass and insensitive. Home Office Minister Angela Eagle defended the tough approach.

"We have to have a system where the rules are respected and enforced," she told the BBC. "It's important that we show what we are doing and it's important that we send

## LEISURE

### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**  
1 Lacking feeling (4)  
3 Avian creature (4)  
7 Threadlike leaf (?)  
8 Headland (4)  
9 Couple (4)  
10 Almost (6)  
12 Inclined to have mishaps (8-5)  
14 Woman's top (6)  
15 Part of the hand (4)  
17 Chesspiece (4)  
18 Bright red (?)  
19 Young horse (4)  
20 Ursine creature (4)  
  
**DOWN**  
1 Small songbird (8)  
2 Lesser (5)  
3 Small round shield (7)  
4 Thick cord (4)  
5 Fruit drink (6,5)  
6 Define a tense situation (5,3,3)  
7 Short joke (3-5)  
11 Unlawful (7)  
15 Ski run (5)  
16 Grain store (4)

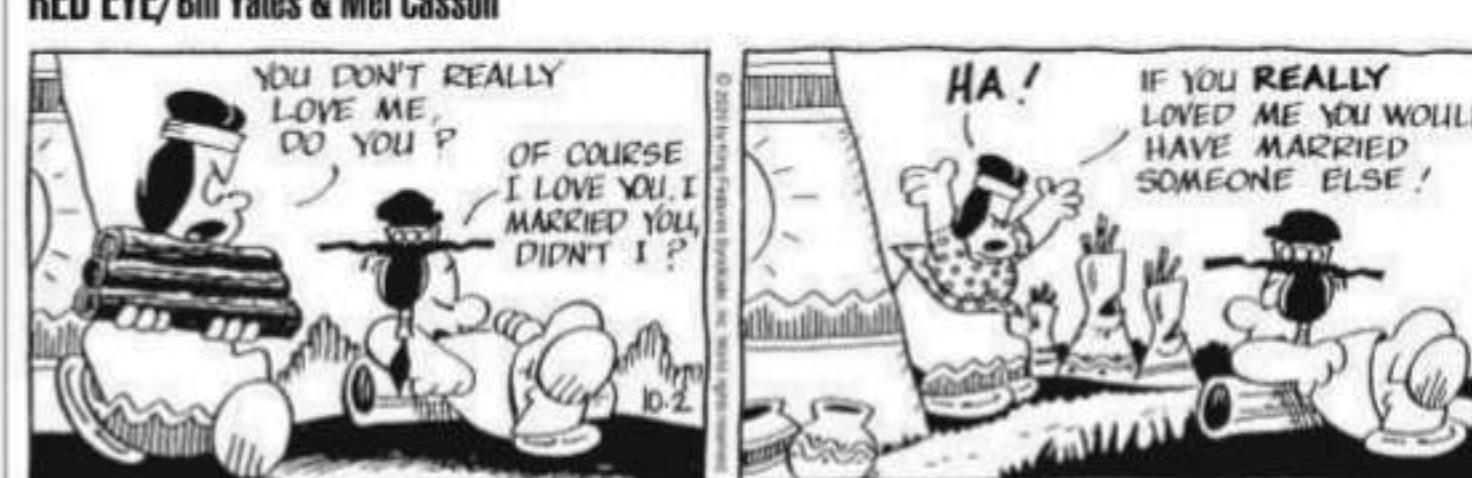
**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD**  
ACROSS  
1 Mill, 3 Inner, 5 Gentle, 8 Raderie, 12 Baseball cap, 13 Entomol., 14 Warrice, 15 Stumps, 17 Ensue, 18 Grin, 19 Epic.  
3 Inner, 5 Gentle, 7 Giant, 9 Large, 10 Poser, 12 Creel, 13 Alight, 14 Canteen, 15 Clad, 17 Iridium, 18 Grin, 19 Epic.  
10 Oiled, 11 Alight, 23 Less.

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

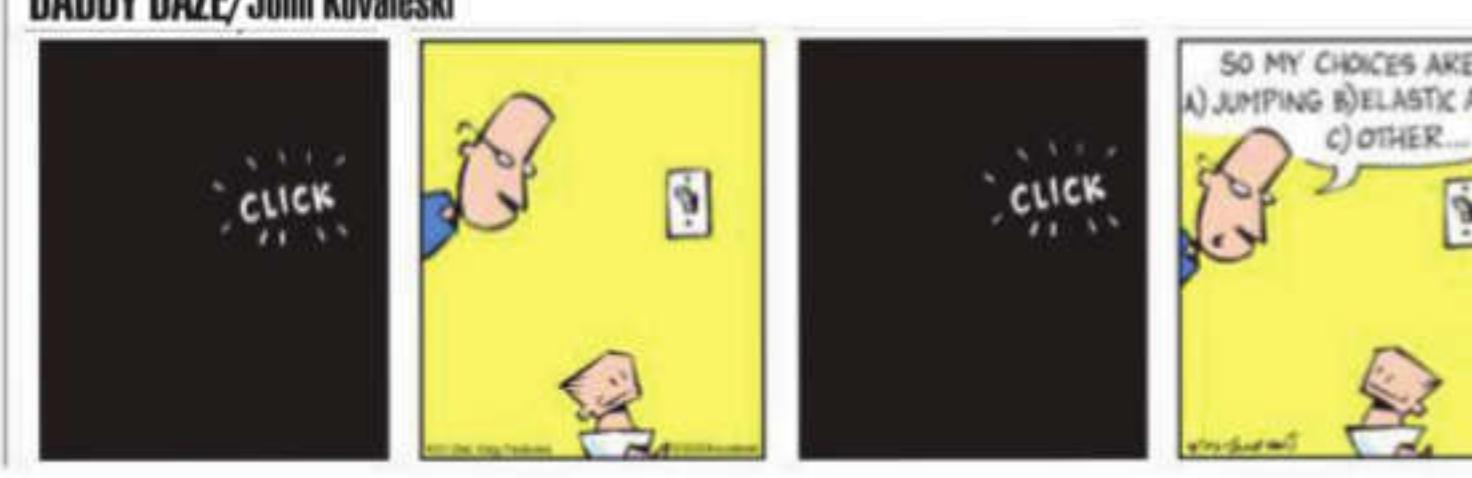
### BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



### RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



### DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



### NEED TO KNOW

#### HOSPITALS

=AIMS 26588500, 26588900  
=Moolchand Medical (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447

=Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304

=Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747

=Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403

=Guru Tegh Bahadur

#### RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

+Toll Free Nos. 1800112511

+SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886,

54959, 5676747

=IBST (General Inquiry):

23868836, 23865181

=Haryana Roadways 23861262

=Himachal Roadways 23717473, 23325320

=Punjab Roadways 23867842,

23860626

=Rajasthan Roadways 23864470

=U.P. Roadways 23868709

=AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407

=INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383838,

18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline

=JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 39841111

=EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33773377

=Air Canada Flight Inquiry 25656421/25656431 Reservation 41528181

=Air France Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City)

25652294 (Airport)

=Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

=PUNJAB ROADWAYS 23867842, Port 011-25671580; Terminal I-B 25671576, Palam Road 25671579, 18001803838

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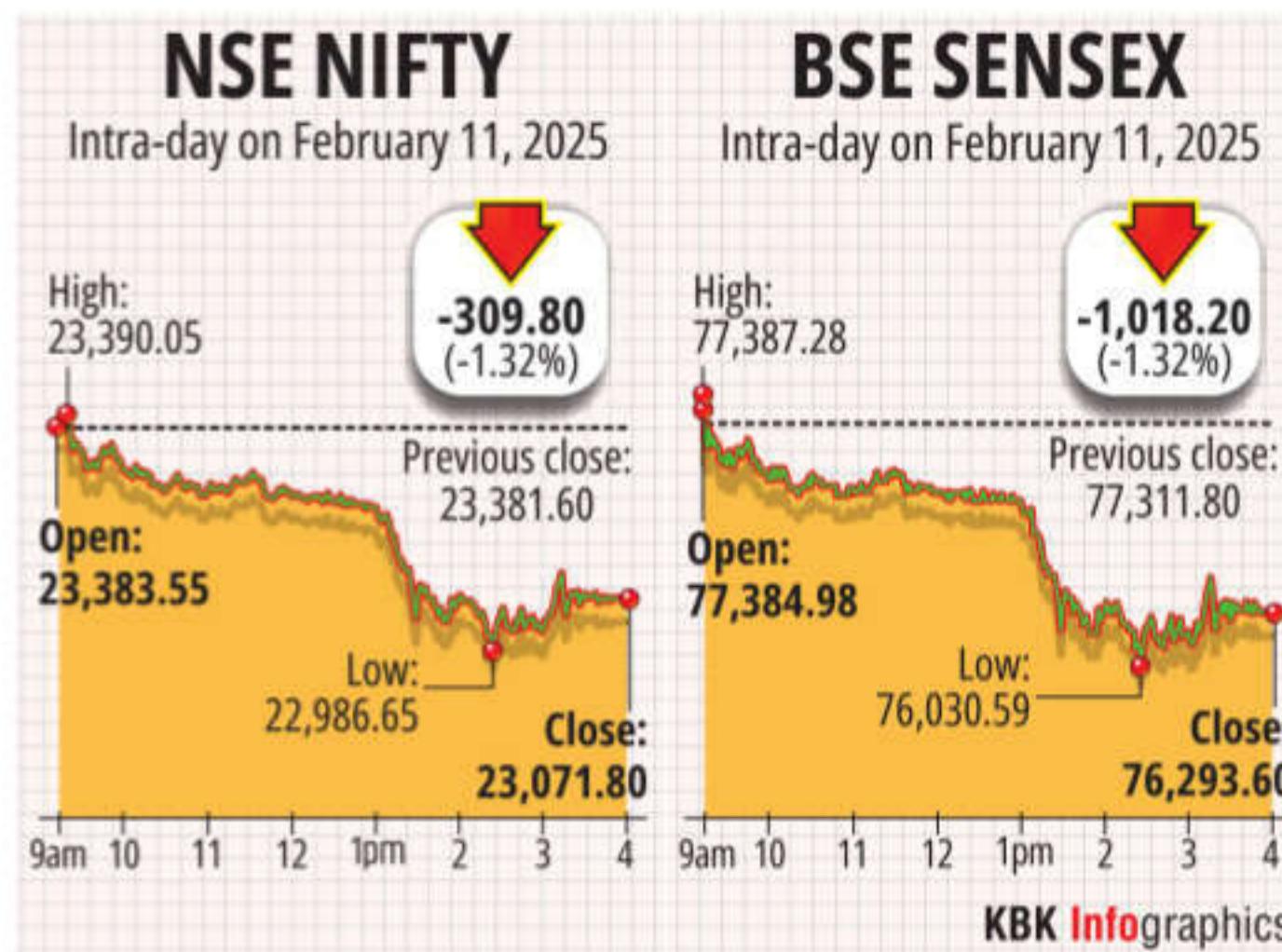
## THUMBNAILS

Western Carriers secures Rs 1,089 crore order: Western Carriers (India) Ltd (WCIL) has secured Rs 1,089 crore order from Vedanta Limited. This makes it one of the largest orders in the Indian multi-modal logistics industry, reinforcing WCIL's position as a trusted partner for large-scale, multi-modal supply chain solutions. The four-year contract until 2028 covers the transportation of aluminium ingots, billets, wire rods, pig iron, and EXIM shipments for export. The order includes various multi-modal logistics solutions, including moving goods from Vedanta's plants in Jharsuguda (Odisha) to key export ports.

**BoB customer meet:** Bank of Baroda's Bhubaneswar Region initiated and carried out customer meet and outreach program in 4 branches today spanning two districts. Amongst the branches were Chhatrapur and Gopalpur branch of Ganjam district & Jatani and Argul branch of Khordha district. The meeting was presided by Shri VMNS Saibaba, Dy. General Manager & Regional Head, Bhubaneswar Region and senior executives & staff members from Regional Office.

# Market closes 1.3 pc lower

Over the past five sessions, the 30-share Sensex has plunged 2,290 points



**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

**B**enchmark indices closed 1.3 per cent lower on Tuesday mirroring weakness in global equities.

At the close, Sensex dropped 1.3 per cent, shedding 1,018 points to settle at 76,293.60, while the Nifty declined 1.32 per cent, losing 309.8 points to end at 23,071.80. Fresh tariff devel-

opments have fueled caution among investors.

Notably, over the past five sessions, the 30-share Sensex has plunged 2,290 points, and the Nifty 50 has shed 667 points, marking a 2.8 per cent decline.

BSE MidCap index fell 2.9 per cent and the BSE SmallCap index plunging 3.4 per cent.

The total market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies has slipped to approximately 408.5 lakh crore

from 425.5 lakh crore.

The market remained volatile as the volatility index, India VIX, rose 2.94 per cent to 14.87.

On Nifty, the top gainers included Adani Enterprises (1.35 per cent), Grasim Industries (0.74 per cent), Trent (0.61 per cent), and Bharti Airtel (0.22 per cent). While on the losing side were Eicher Motors (6.80 per cent), Apollo Hospitals Enterprise (6.57 per cent), Shriram Finance (3.97 per cent), Coal

India (3.10 per cent), and Bharat Electronics (3.07 per cent). Bank Nifty concluded the day at 49,981.0, with an intraday high of 49,906.75 and a low of 49,177.4.

"Technically, the market breached the 20-day SMA (Simple Moving Average) or 23,300/77000 support level, and post-breakdown selling pressure intensified. It also formed a long bearish candle on daily charts, which supports further weakness from current levels," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head Equity Research, Kotak Securities.

We believe that the current market texture is weak but oversold; hence, level-based trading would be the ideal strategy for day traders, he added.

Among the sector, all ended in the red. Nifty PSU Bank, Auto, Healthcare, Reality, and Media indices ended with losses extending up to 3.28 per cent whereas Nifty IT, FMCG, and Consumer Durables indices ended down by over 1 per cent each.

Among the individual performers, shares of Info Edge India slipped over 3 per cent after the value of the company's investments in Policybazaar parent--PB Fintech and food delivery aggregator-Zomato, took a sharp hit.

# Under GST, taxes have not gone up even on a single item, says FM



**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

Finance Minister clarified that the rates are not decided solely by the central government. It is not a singular decision of the Government of India; it has to be a decision of the Council, she said.

Finance Ministers from all states are fully empowered to discuss and propose changes in GST rates based on the needs of their respective states. These discussions are then taken up for consideration in the GST Council meetings, Sitharaman said.

She said if any state wants any changes in GST rates of any item they should approach the GST council through their finance minister.

Further, the Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Choudhary, also said that the GST Council, established under Article 279A of the Constitution, is a strong example of cooperative federalism. He stressed that all GST-related decisions are taken by the GST council which is represented by finance ministers of all states.

A Group of Ministers (GoM) was formed following the 45th GST Council meeting to rationalise GST rates. The GoM, chaired by the finance minister from Karnataka, was tasked with reviewing and suggesting changes to simplify the GST rate structure, Choudhary said.

the government planned to simplify the GST structure by reducing the number of tax slabs, similar to the reforms made in income tax.

Highlighting the reduction in GST rates over time, the Finance Minister said "Earlier the tax levied on everyday item 15.8 per cent tax could have been levied without additionally burdening the buyer, consumer. If that was the rate at which the GST rates were brought in today, the rate has come down to 11.3 per cent. That is the level of reduction of rates which have happened in the GST Council".

She said under GST, taxes have not gone up even on a single item but it has reduced on many items.

Speaking further, the

## Minister urges cycle manufacturers to offer incentives to encourage cycling



**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday urged cycle manufacturers to offer incentives to encourage cycling across all age groups.

"We need to attach cycling with tangible benefits—such as carbon credits for riders, free helmets, or exclusive membership perks for regular cyclists. Incentives will naturally drive people towards cycling," he emphasised.

He was meeting leading cycle manufacturers here to discuss strategies for promoting cycling nationwide. The meeting focused on incentivizing cycling and further boosting the momentum of the Fit India Sundays on Cycle initiative.

"I used to cycle regularly to Parliament because of my passion for cycling. Cycling

is the solution to multiple issues, including obesity and pollution. We need to make cycling fashionable, link it to health benefits, and market it effectively," Dr. Mandaviya told the cycle manufacturers.

He also highlighted the potential for a growing demand for cycles to drive infrastructure

development. "We need to work together to build a cycling culture, not just sell cycles. Cycling can significantly reduce our carbon footprint, and we should explore options like carbon credits. We must engage school children, office goers, and the masses by offering incentives like free helmets or rewards for regular cycling," he added.

The minister had launched the cycling drive at Major Dhyani Stadium in the national capital on December 17, 2023, to encourage cycling as a sustainable, healthy, and environment-friendly mode of transportation.

Over the past nine weeks, Sundays on Cycle has been organised at more than 3,500 locations across the country, witnessing the participation of over 2 lakh riders from Jammu and Kashmir to Tamil Nadu and from Kolkata to Aurangabad.

Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director of Knight Frank India said: "New Delhi's strong growth in luxury home prices mirrors the broader trend seen across

India's capital city, New Delhi, has emerged as a top contender in the global luxury real estate market. According to the latest Prime Global Cities Index Q4 2024 by real estate consultant Knight Frank, New Delhi secured the 6th position among 44 cities worldwide for the highest price appreciation of luxury homes.

New Delhi saw a 6.7 per cent increase in luxury home prices during the December 2024 quarter, reflecting a growing demand for high-end properties in India's capital, the report said.

Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director of Knight Frank India said: "New Delhi's strong growth in luxury home prices mirrors the broader trend seen across

India, where demand for high-end residential properties has been surging." The demand is being driven by a growing preference for lifestyle upgrades, supported by India's stable economic outlook and a buoyant market sentiment. As we move forward, we expect this segment to continue its upward trajectory."

The report said that the rise in demand for luxury homes in New Delhi can be attributed to several factors,

including increased affluence, a growing number of high-net-worth individuals, and the capital's appeal as a business and political hub.

Additionally, the Indian luxury market is benefitting from economic stability and a positive outlook, encouraging affluent buyers to seek out lifestyle upgrades in the form of spacious, sophisticated homes.

Alongside New Delhi, other Indian cities like Mumbai

(ranked 7th with a 6.1 per cent increase) and Bengaluru (ranked 13th with a 4.1 per cent increase) have also experienced notable price hikes in their luxury segments, further solidifying India's position as an emerging powerhouse in the global real estate market.

Globally, the luxury home market remains strong, despite ongoing challenges such as

inflationary pressures and the complexities of economic policy.

Seoul topped the list with a remarkable 18.4 per cent surge, followed by Manila (17.9 per cent), Dubai (16.9 per cent), Tokyo (12.7 per cent), and Nairobi (8.3 per cent). New Delhi's rise marks it as a key player in the global luxury market.

## New Delhi secures 6th position for highest price appreciation of luxury homes: Report

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, 9 FEBRUARY



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Alongside New Delhi, other Indian cities like Mumbai

## Adani Group partners with Mayo clinic to invest ₹6,000 crore in hospitals

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**

MUMBAI, 11 FEBRUARY

cation at an investment of Rs 6000 crore.

"The initiative will begin with the establishment of two 1,000-bed hospitals and medical colleges in Ahmedabad as well as Mumbai. These state-of-the-art facilities will provide cutting-edge medical innovation while ensuring affordability and

accessibility for millions of Indians. By integrating global expertise with local healthcare needs, Adani Health City seeks to create a robust and transformative healthcare ecosystem across the nation," Adani mentioned in a tweet on his X handle. Under the partnership, Mayo Clinic will lend its expertise to Adani

Health City campuses, aligning their clinical practices with Mayo Clinic's global standards. The Mumbai campus, located in Kandivali, will be the largest private hospital in Mumbai. Each hospital campus will feature a medical college accommodating at least 150 undergraduate students, more than

80 residents, and 40 fellows. Additionally, these campuses will include transitional care facilities, along with advanced research centres.

The Adani Group plans to build more such campuses in cities and towns across

India. It will provide affordable, world-class medical care and medical education. The initiative will be implemented through the conglomerate's not-for-profit healthcare arm, according to a company release.

It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 201025/CE-ICT/51 dated 31.08.2016

(1) Rs. 2,08,800.00 (2) Rs. 19,00,000.00 (3) Rs. 1,27,100.00 (4) Rs. 1,30,200.00 (5) Rs. 56,500.00 (6) Rs. 2,09,200.00

Completion Period of Work (1) 12 Months (2) 06 Months (3) 12 Months (4) 06 Months (5) 06 Months (6) 06 Months

Date and Time for Submission Upto 15:00 hrs. on 06.03.2025 Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs. on 06.03.2025

Website particulars notice board location complete Above tender valid from where the tender form can be purchased etc. on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No. 128-W/280/CE/2024-25/W-V/INIT-35-A, 48, 49, 50, 51, & 52 - 2024-25-W-V Date: 11.02.2025 479/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Railway Recruitment Cell(RRC),  
Lajpat Nagar-1, New Delhi-110024  
**INDICATIVE NOTICE**  
Employment Notice No. RRC/NR-01/2025/GR-D

Online Applications are invited from Eligible Indian Sports Persons as per the detailed notification of eligibility conditions like Sports Qualification, Educational Qualifications, Age, Examination Fee and General Instructions etc. available on RRC website [www.rrcnr.org](http://www.rrcnr.org) and also in the coming edition of National and regional Newspapers for 38 vacancies for the post of Level-1 of 7th CPC.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Date of publishing of Notification 06/02/2025

Date of Opening of Online Registration and filling of Application 09/02/2025 at 17:00 Hrs.

Date of Closing of Online registration and filling of Application 09/03/2025 at 16:00 Hrs.

Expected date of Trials 45/7/2025 From 17/03/2025 to 29/03/2025

Approx. Cost of Work 45/7/2025 CHAIRPERSON/RRC SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T No. 35-A, 48, 49, 50, 51 & 52 - 2024-25-W-V

S.N. P-Way work in connection with Provision of EI in lieu of mechanical Cabins of TKD (D&F) cabin in the section of SSE/P/Way/TKD under ADEN/HNZM & DEE.

1 Similar nature of work :- The tenderer must have carried out the work of In-situ OR manufacturing & supply of glued insulated rail joints and shall be borne on the approved list of RDSO manufacture and supply of glued Insulated joints.

Through Fitting Renewal (TFR 60kg) 23,764 Km on NDLS-PWL section & Through Fitting Renewal (TFR 60kg) 3.53 Km North Line on DLJ-RU section in the section of SSE/P/Way/HNZM &

# ISL: Struggling FC Goa hope to turn the tide against Mumbai City FC

Both teams will aim to cement their places in the top six as the playoff stage approaches

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, 11 FEBRUARY

**F**C Goa will hope to reduce the gap with league leaders and defending champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant while Mumbai City FC will aim to cement their place in the top six when the two teams meet in an Indian Super League (ISL) encounter at the Mumbai Football Arena here on Wednesday.

They come from the same region and have a strong rivalry but FC Goa have struggled to win against Mumbai City FC and have a lot to prove as they are winless in last 13 matches. Thus, FC Goa will be looking to turn the tide when they meet Mumbai City FC once again in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 at the Mumbai Football Arena here on Wednesday.

Despite being one of the most consistent teams in the league, FC Goa, who are currently placed second in the standings behind Mohun Bagan Super Giant, have often struggled in their rivalry against Mumbai City, winning just seven of their 27 encounters so far.

Their recent meetings paint a similar picture. Mumbai City have had the upper hand, winning most of their clashes in the past few seasons. FC Goa have not defeated the Islanders since 2019 and are winless in their last 13 games against their west-coast rivals, suffering eight defeats in the process.

But this time around, FC Goa look like a different beast and there are strong reasons to believe they can flip the script. Their last encounter in October ended in a 2-1



defeat at home, but since that result, Manolo Marquez's men have turned into an unstoppable force. FC Goa have lost just one of their last 14 games, winning nine along the way. That has included a win over leaders Mohun Bagan Super Giant, and they have emerged as a genuine contender in the League Shield race. They currently sit second, 10 points behind Mohun Bagan SG, with a game in hand.

Meanwhile, the fifth-placed Mumbai City FC have had a mixed run, winning just seven of their 15 matches since that victory over FC Goa. However, they have found form at the right time heading into this clash, going unbeaten in their last four

games. But this FC Goa side is different from the ones that struggled against MCFC in recent seasons. This season, Marquez's side has been one of the most potent attacking teams in the league, netting 36 goals. Their scoring burden hasn't rested on just one or two stars either, with 12 different players contributing goals.

While striker Armando Sadik continues to lead the charts for them with nine goals, the biggest revelation has been midfielder Brison Fernandes, who has stepped up in recent months. His ability to create and convert chances has been a game-changer for the Gaurs.

The youngster has bagged seven goals, more than the combined tally of Mumbai City's Indian attacking trio of Lallianzuala Chhangte, Bipin Singh, and Vikram Singh.

On the flip side, Mumbai City FC haven't been as ruthless in front of goal. Their tally of 24 goals is the lowest among the teams in the top six. However, they have been a tough side to break down, conceding just 22 times, which is the second-best defensive record in the top six after Mohun Bagan SG.

That defensive resilience will be crucial as they look to continue their strong record against FC Goa. The partnership of Mehtab Singh and Tiri has been rock-solid at the back, making Mumbai City FC a difficult side to

breach.

Despite their issues in attack, Mumbai City FC have often found ways to grind out results in recent times. Their ability to frustrate opponents, stay organised, and punish mistakes from the opposition has made them a formidable unit. They have kept three clean sheets in their last four games while conceding just once.

As they are set to face-off again, the question doing the round is: Can FC Goa finally break their Mumbai City FC hoodoo? The signs are promising. They are in much better form and are in a stronger position than the Islanders. Their attack is firing on all cylinders and they will be itching to set the record

straight.

But Mumbai City FC have proved they are no pushovers despite a campaign that has fallen short of expectations. They know how to grind out results and have shown time and again that they can find ways to frustrate FC Goa.

One thing is for sure is that this will feel like more than just a regular league fixture. If FC Goa aim to strengthen the belief that they can win silverware this season, beating Mumbai City FC would be the perfect state-

ment. And if Mumbai City FC wish to continue its climb up the table, there's no better way than by reminding everyone why they have historically had the upper hand in this rivalry.

The 29-year-old Norrie notched a 7-5, 6-4 win over Svajda in his first appearance in Delray Beach since winning the title in 2022. Norrie battled through a contest that swung from one side to another like a pendulum, featuring eight breaks of serve, to eventually seal an 88-minute victory in windy conditions in Florida.

In other first round matches in the event, American sixth seed Brandon Nakashima defeated qualifier James Trotter 7-6(2), 6-1 in 98 minutes, while seventh-seed Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia beat Borna Gojo of Croatia 6-4, 6-4 in another Round of 32 match. The 25-year-old Serb, who reached the Delray Beach final in 2023, won 86 percent

(32/27) of first-serve points, according to Infosys ATP Stats.

American Ethan Quinn suffered the disappointment of falling in the final round of qualifying on Sunday. But after getting into the main draw as a lucky loser, the 20-year-old took full advantage of his opportunity.

The 2023 NCAA singles champion battled past American qualifier Tristan Boyer 6-2, 6-7(5), 7-6(2) in three hours and 12 minutes. Quinn saved 12 of the 14 break points he faced to set a showdown with fifth seed Marcos Giron.

Fellow American Michael Minoah also advanced by beating Alexander Shevchenko of Kazakhstan 7-5, 7-6(5) in a clash that lasted nearly two hours.

But the focus was on Norrie as he returned to the ATP 250 event after a couple of years.

"I'm very satisfied, it was my first match outdoors in a while," said Norrie, who improved to 9-3 in Delray Beach.

**Delray Beach Open: Former champ Norrie sails into Round 2**



AGENCIES

DELRAY BEACH, 11 FEBRUARY

## Serie A: Sweet revenge for Inter Milan against Fiorentina

AGENCIES

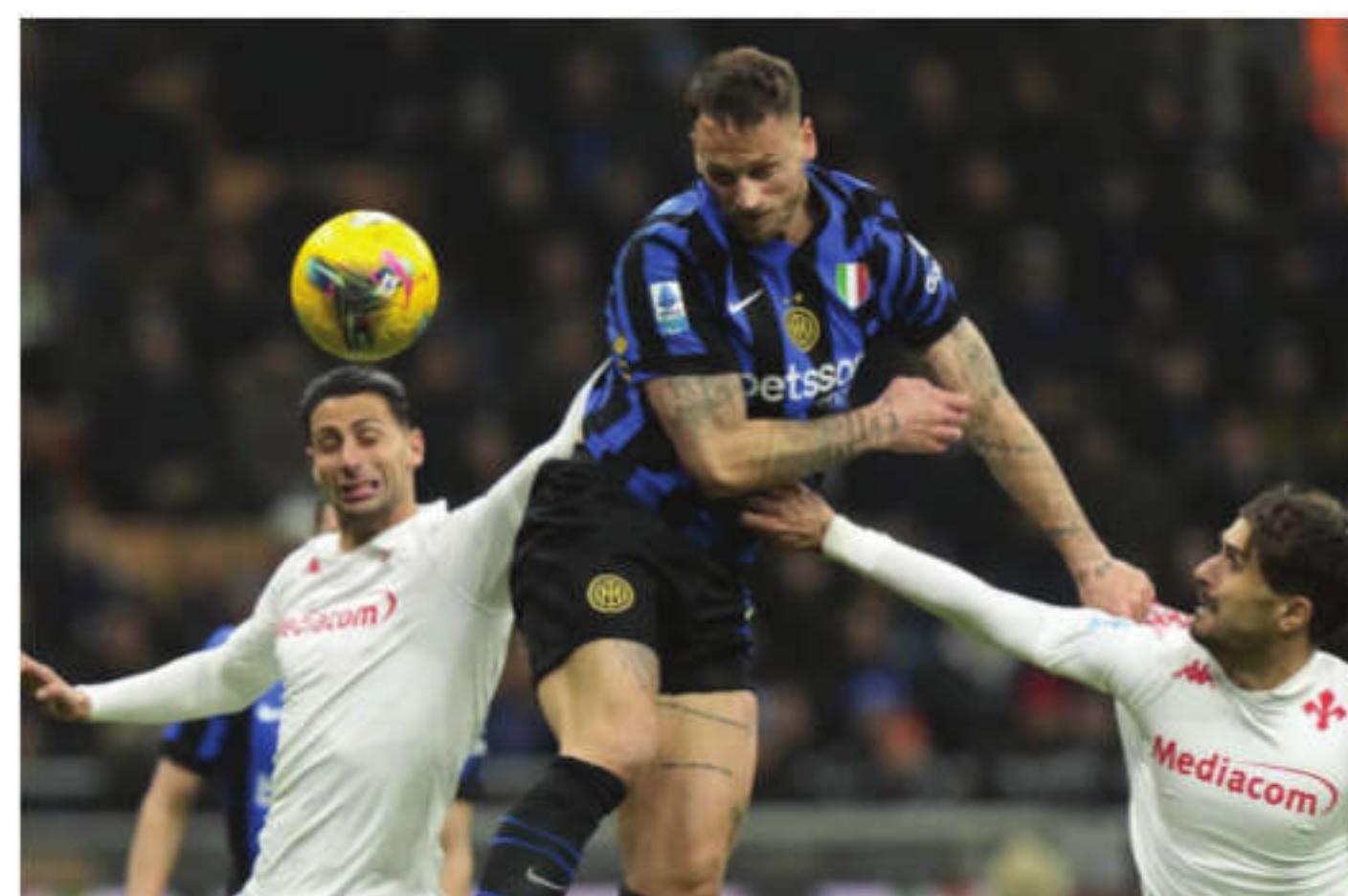
ROME, 11 FEBRUARY

Inter Milan took revenge on Fiorentina in Serie A, beating the Viola 2-1 at San Siro. It was the two sides' second consecutive meeting in four days, as Fiorentina had enjoyed a 3-0 home victory on Thursday in a rescheduled fixture.

Marko Arnautovic's first league goal of the season gave Inter Milan a 2-1 win over Fiorentina and lifted them back into second place in Serie A on Tuesday (IST).

The win was revenge for Fiorentina's 3-0 win in last week's rescheduled league game and moved Inter to within one point of leader Napoli. More than 67,000 fans at the San Siro saw Arnautovic glance home the winner with his head, seven minutes into the second half.

Inter played aggressively from the outset and went ahead with a stroke of luck in the 28th minute when Hakan Calhanoglu's corner was redirected into the net by Fiorentina's defender



Marin Pongracic. Martinez's header took a deflection on the way in and was given as an own goal by Marin Pongracic. The away side got back on level terms before half-time, being awarded a penalty after Matteo Darmian but awarded a spot kick after

dragora stepped up to convert the spot-kick. Fiorentina will thank the video referee whose help enabled them to equalise a minute before halftime.

The match referee initially waved away shouts of a handball by Matteo Darmian but awarded a spot kick after

"I really wanted it. We're all pleased with the goal and the win. It's been a difficult period because I haven't been scoring. I missed a lot of chances. Finally, the goal has come, thanks to Carlos' assist. I'm really happy because it's a really important goal," Arnautovic said.

With the win, Inter still ranks second on 54 points, but moves within one point of leader Napoli, who had a 1-1 draw with Udinese on Sunday, while Fiorentina drops to sixth with 42 points.

"It's an important win. All together as a team, and with our fans who supported us throughout this tricky game. I'm really pleased. The boys showed the right attitude. It was a well-worked win. We approached the game well in both halves. The boys kept their cool and looked good technically. Arnie was brilliant. He's such an important player for us on and off the pitch and I'm pleased that he got his goal because he deserves it," said Inter coach Simone Inzaghi.

## Shillong to host Asian Cup qualifier against Bangladesh in March

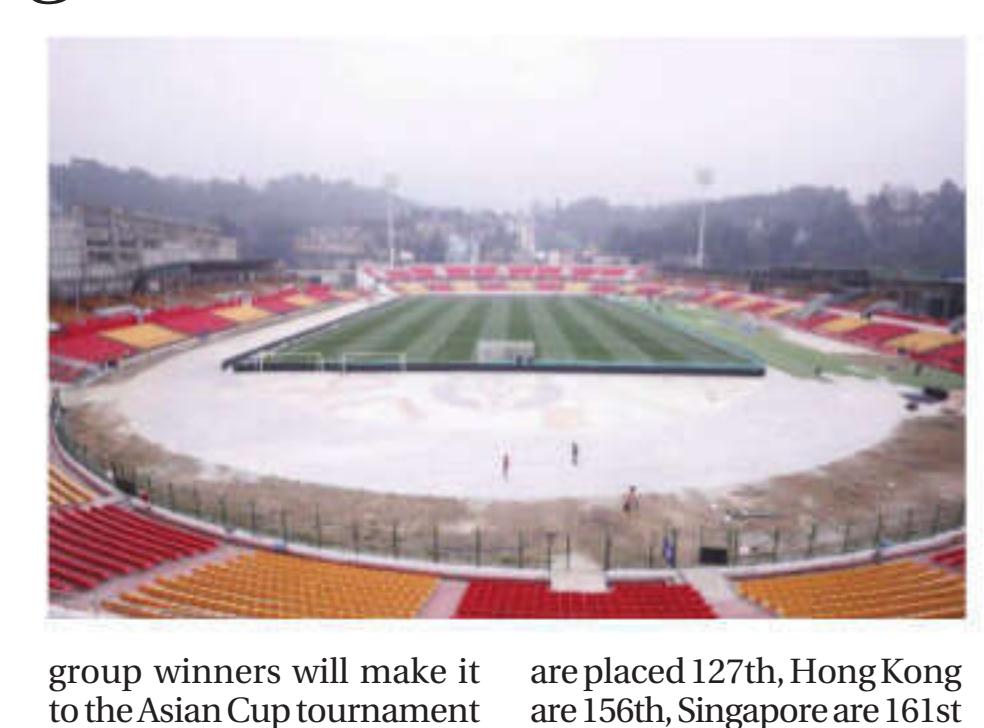
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong, Meghalaya, will host the India senior men's national football team in the two matches that they will play during the March FIFA International Window, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said on Tuesday.

India begin their AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 qualifiers final round campaign against Bangladesh on 25 March, and will play an international friendly against the Maldives on 19 March as part of their preparation at the JLN Stadium in Shillong.

India have been drawn in Group C of the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Qualifiers Final Round, alongside Hong Kong, Singapore, and Bangladesh. The teams will play each other twice in a home-and-away round-robin format till March 2026. The



group winners will make it to the Asian Cup tournament proper.

India have faced all three opponents in the recent past. They last faced Bangladesh in the 2021 SAFF Championship, Hong Kong in the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers in Kolkata in June 2022, and Singapore in the Heng Thong Friendly Tournament in Vietnam in September 2022.

As per the FIFA Rankings released in November, India are placed 127th, Hong Kong are 156th, Singapore are 161st and Bangladesh are 185th.

This is the first time that JLN Shillong will host senior men's international matches after the stadium was refurbished last year.

The 15,100-seater arena has hosted matches in domestic tournaments and leagues, like the Durand Cup, Indian Super League, I-League, I-League 2nd Division among others.

## Our aim is to qualify for the Women's Asian Cup on merit, says Indian star Crispin Chettri

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

The Indian senior women's football team has kicked off its first national camp under new head coach Crispin Chettri in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, as they prepare for the Pink Ladies Cup, a friendly tournament to be held from 20-26 February in Sharjah, UAE.

The tournament will serve as an important test for the squad ahead of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers, India's biggest challenge this year. A former youth international, Crispin brings four years of experience of coaching women's football, honing some of the country's best players and winning silverware. The 50-year-old's key achievements include leading Odisha FC, his current club, to their first Indian Women's League and the Odisha Women's League title, winning the National Games Gold Medal with Odisha, as well as finishing runners-up in the IWL with Sethu FC.

With the Juggernauts, Crispin

made history by qualifying for the group stage of the AFC Women's Champions League earlier this season, the first for an Indian club. "It's a pinnacle moment for me as a coach. Being head coach of the national team is something we all work towards. I'm thrilled to be part of this journey and see Indian women's football grow," Chettri told AIFF.com.

Chettri is optimistic about the camp's composition, which includes a mix of experienced veterans and promising young players. For the national team jersey, I think every woman player, whoever is playing all over India, even if it's the college level, deserves a chance. It's not necessary that the IWL players are good enough. There are talents everywhere. In the Women's National Team, I want to give opportunity to all the players who are giving their hearts out for the love of the game. So I want to try them out. This time, I have invited two, three players from Tamil Nadu, Assam and Uttarakhand, who have been scouted by our



federation scouts. I'm in close contact with the scouts," Chettri said.

Chettri's familiarity with Indian women's football is proving invaluable. Having coached stars like Balaji Devi, Indumathi Kathiresan, Ashala Devi, and Aditi Chauhan, he understands the transition phase Indian football is undergoing. "I think now it's the time for me as a coach to suffer, we as a federation to suffer, as a football-loving nation to suffer because we have to have a transition period right now. Because if you want to go to the highest level and play regularly in the Asian Cup or be part of the World Cup in the future, we have to have a transition phase where not many people are going to like me or

the federation. But we have to have those tough decisions," he remarked.

The current squad boasts experienced names like Sweety Devi, Sanju, Panthoi Chanu, and Shreya Hooda, alongside emerging talents such as Lynda Kom, Thoibisana Chanu, Kajol Dsouza, and Babina Devi.

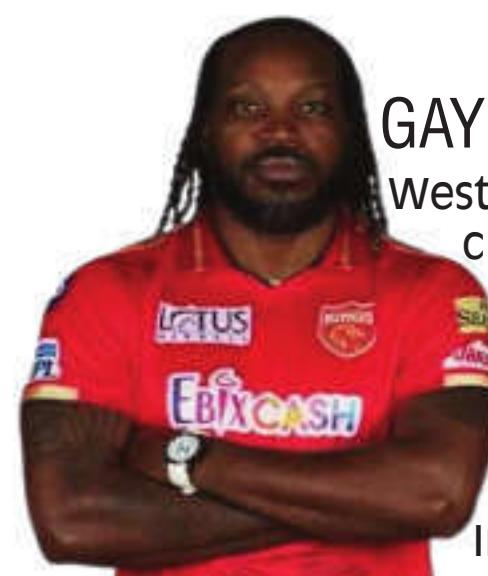
India's first assignment under Chettri will be the Pink

Ladies Cup, where they will face Jordan, Russia, and Korea Republic. These matches will be crucial in assessing India's readiness for the AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers later this year. "To be the best, you have to play with the best. You have to understand how the best people work, how professional they are. Just for context, I (Odisha FC) played against

Urawa Red Diamonds (Japan) in the AFC Women's Champions League this season. I got to know what football is about. They are so professional, not only on the field, but off the field also. The attitude of the players. So there was a lot of learning for me there. And now when we are playing teams like Korea and Russia, we'll get game time against some of the best," he remarked.

India's opening match against Jordan is important, as they have previously beaten the West Asian side. Chettri sees this as a golden opportunity to set the tone for the tournament. "Jordan are a team that you can beat if you have a good day. But they can also beat us if they have a good day. We can show a lot of quality in these kinds of matches. We are preparing for Jordan already. I know how they play. We shouldn't look at the FIFA Rankings. There isn't much difference in quality and we can beat them with the right mindset. "We have to build that winning culture, that mentality. That's my priority right now. We have to give our 100 per cent on the field in every situation. Even when we lose the ball or concede the goal, we need to keep a positive attitude," he said.

The AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers will follow a centralised format, meaning all matches will be played in one location. Chettri believes the Pink Ladies Cup will be invaluable preparation for this challenge. "A centralised venue has both advantages and disadvantages. Advantage in a sense is that you don't have to travel too much. You get acclimated to the environment quickly. But also, you hardly get time to prepare for the next match because the schedule is tight. So whatever preparation time we have in advance is the only time where we can get ready for these three or four matches. If we have a longer camp, we can prepare in advance. As such, this is an important tournament to test ourselves against top level teams," he said.



## GAYLE BACKS 'WORLD-CLASS' ROHIT

West Indies legend Chris Gayle has backed "world-class" batter India skipper Rohit Sharma to score big runs for his side in the upcoming Champions Trophy 2025, to be held later this month in Pakistan and Dubai. Rohit, who was struggling to score runs in Test series against New Zealand and Australia, returned to form with a ton in India's four-wicket win in the 2nd ODI vs England

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

## THUMBNAILS

Legends League cricket Ten tournament to begin in Lucknow tomorrow: Chris Gayle, the legendary cricketer from Jamaica, will be the patron of Baidyanath Bundelkhand blasters team at the Legends League cricket Ten (LLC10) tournament to begin in Lucknow from 13 February, 2024. About 12 teams from various districts of Uttar Pradesh, with players across India will be taking part in the soft ball Ten over tournament to be played in Lucknow. "Softball Tournaments like LLC10 are welcome as they will help bring new tournaments. We all have played and started our careers with local street soft ball cricket. My advice to the players is that they should play cricket seriously as a game which could later become a livelihood" said Chris Gayle, I con cricketers speaking at launch of Baidyanath Bundelkhand Blasters team today. He praised Rohit Sharma for going past his record in ODI cricket. "Chris Gayle is not just an icon in Jamaica; he is also widely known, respected, and adored here in India for his cricketing prowess. Our Bundelkhand team under his patronage will be able to reach the finals of the LLC10 tournament to be played on 22 February hopefully. Bundelkhand, Jhansi is known for major sports icons including Major Dhyan Chand, the legendary Hockey player" said Anurag Sharma, a Member of Parliament from Jhansi and Managing Director Baidyanath.

## Third ODI: Upbeat India eye series whitewash against insipid England

Having won the first two matches in convincing fashion, the hosts are raring for another good show

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, 11 FEBRUARY

**T**eam India will aim to pull off a series whitewash when they take on a struggling England in the third and final One-Day International (ODI) at the Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

Rohit Sharma-led Team India have taken an unassailable 2-0 lead with identical four-wicket wins in each of the first two ODIs.

Both India and England will be looking to find form and stability ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, which is scheduled to start on 19 February.

The second ODI offered heartening news for Indian fans as Rohit Sharma roared back to form in impressive fashion after scoring a blistering century. The Indian team management will be hoping that star batter Virat Kohli will also be able to return to form before the squad flies off to Dubai for their Champions Trophy campaign.

On the other hand, Jos Buttler-led England have struggled with their form and consistency during the series. Their current limited-overs tour of India has raised more questions than their team management



would have expected.

The England batting line-up has collapsed repeatedly in both the T20I and ODI series. Although the England opening duo of Phil Salt and Ben Duckett have been in impressive form, their efforts have gone to waste as the rest of the English top order have failed to rise to the occasion.

England skipper Jos Buttler

had repeatedly maintained that his team remains a work in progress as they head into the Champions Trophy. However, the exit of Jacob Bethell due to a hamstring injury has been a big blow for England and has added to their ongoing problems.

Harry Brook has been rather inconsistent at the top of the batting order and the excellent form with the bat shown by Joe Root has not been backed in adequate fashion by the other English batters.

For Indian fans as well as the team management, the form of former skipper and star batter Virat Kohli will one of the main points of focus in Ahmedabad.

Although Virat Kohli has not looked completely out of touch, the former Team India skipper has not managed to stay at the crease long enough to give himself a chance to produce a big knock.

If Virat Kohli manages to find his form during the third ODI, he will have a chance to create another record. The star batter is 89 runs short of becoming only the third batter in history to score 14,000 runs in the ODI format.

Warrican, Beth Mooney bag ICC Players of the Month for January

AGENCIES  
DUBAI, 11 FEBRUARY

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday unveiled the Men's and Women's Players of the Month for January 2025. They are West Indies spinner Jomel Warrican and Australia batter Beth Mooney.

Warrican, with his left-arm spin, inspired the Caribbean team to their first Test win in Pakistan since 1990. On the other hand, Mooney was at her scintillating best as Australia convincingly outclassed England in the Ashes.

With his memorable performance in the sub-continent, Warrican won his maiden ICC Men's Player of the Month award by fending off tough competition from two stand-out spinners, Pakistan's seasoned ball tweaker Noman Ali and India's mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy. The 32-year-old's scythed 19 wickets in two Test matches in January at an average of just 9.00.

Despite Pakistan winning the series opener, Warrican returned with ten wickets in Multan's spin-friendly conditions. In the first innings, he registered figures of 3/69 which was preceded by his career-best spell of 7/32 in the second. He continued to outshine everyone with his brilliance in the second Test, not only with the ball but also with the bat in hand. He arrived at the crease when the West Indies were tottering at 95/9 in the first innings,

and lifted the spirits with his unbeaten 36. His exploits with Kemar Roach foiled the Pakistan onslaught and propelled the tourists to a respectable total of 163.

With contributions of 4/43 and 5/27, his all-round heroics heralded a historic 120-run victory. He was crowned with the Player of the Series accolade, a recognition for his sensational performance.

Warrican becomes the first West Indian to win the award since his compatriot spinner Gudakesh Motie achieved the feat back in May 2024.

"It's an honour to win this award. One of my goals for this year was my first five-for in Test cricket, but I did not think that it would be this grand! I see this as one small step in my cricketing career, and I look forward to many more. I promised my captain something special in this series, especially when my father, my biggest supporter, predicted a phenomenal performance for me," Warrican said as quoted from ICC.

"Multan has a special place in my heart; not only because of the historic win for the West Indies, beating Pakistan away from home but also by earning this prestigious award," he added.

In the women's category, Mooney exhibited her trademark firepower in statement performances across ODI and T20I encounters. After a subdued start to the series, the opener dug deep with a batting half-century in the third ODI in Hobart.

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