



TUESDAY  
11 FEBRUARY 2025

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KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR

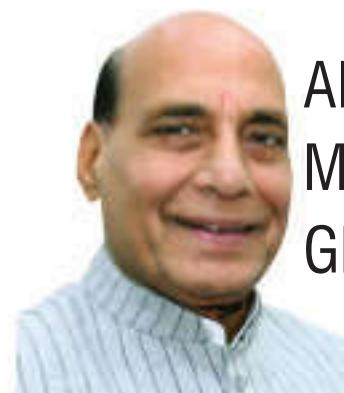
# The Statesman

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AERO INDIA: DEFENCE  
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FOR CRUDE REMARKS

P8



'WILL ANNOUNCE  
25 PC TARIFFS ON  
STEEL & ALUMINUM'

P5



BCCI EXPECTED TO  
TAKE A CALL ON  
BUMRAH BY TUESDAY

P9

SENSEX 77,311.80 ▼ 548.39

NIFTY 23,381.60 ▼ 178.35

₹ vs \$ 87.46

GOLD 88,245.00

SILVER 99,500

BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 75.70

## WEATHER

SMOG/SHALLOW FOG LIKELY IN THE MORNING. MAINLY CLEAR SKY. SMOG/MIST LIKELY IN THE NIGHT. THE MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TEMPERATURES WOULD BE AROUND 28 AND 11 DEGREES CELSIUS RESPECTIVELY.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max. 97 % Min. 27 %

TEMPERATURE

Max: 28.0 °C (+4.6) Min: 09.7°C (-0.5)  
SUN RISES SUN SETS  
07:02 hrs 18:08 hrs  
MOON RISES MOON SETS  
17:00 hrs 06:58 hrs

## THUMBNAILS



A hawker walks past the blooming Tulips at Shantipath lawns in New Delhi on Monday. ■ ANI

Rising gold reserves not intended to replace any international currency: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday clarified in the LS that India's rising gold reserves, including those held by the RBI, is not intended to replace any international currency. "Gold is also kept in the Reserve Bank and gold is also being bought by the Reserve Bank. But beyond that, as regards an international currency or potential currency, there is not much for me to comment at this stage," the Minister said.

## Looking forward to meet my friend Trump, says PM

Modi will be amongst the first few leaders to visit the US following Trump's inauguration for a 2nd term

ASHOK TUTEJA  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said he is looking forward to his meeting with "my friend" US President Donald Trump in Washington later this week.

"We will work together for the mutual benefit of the people of our two countries and shape a better future for the world," he said in a statement ahead of his departure on a five-day visit to France and the United States.

Mr Modi said that although this will be their first meeting following President Trump's historic electoral victory and inauguration in January, he has a very warm recollection of working with the American leader during the latter's first term in building a Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership between India and the US.

He said the visit to the US on February 12-13 will be an opportunity to build upon the successes of their collaboration in President Trump's first term and develop an agenda to further elevate and deepen the bilateral partnership, including in the areas of technology, trade, defence, energy,



and supply chain resilience.

The PM will be amongst the first few world leaders to visit the US following President's Trump inauguration for a second term.

President Trump spoke with Mr Modi on January 27 when he discussed immigration and stressed on the importance of India buying more American-made security equipment and fair bilateral trading ties.

On his visit to France from February 10-12, the PM said he

looks forward to co-chairing the AI Action Summit, a gathering of the world leaders and global tech CEOs, where there will be exchange of views on collaborative approach to AI technology for innovation and larger public good in an inclusive, secure and trustworthy manner.

The bilateral segment of his visit, Mr Modi said, will provide an opportunity to review the progress on the 2047 Horizon Roadmap for India-France strategic partnership along with "my

PM Modi reaches  
France to co-chair  
AI Action Summit

NIKHIL VYAS  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday arrived in France to co-chair the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit.

Modi is on a three-day France visit from February 10 at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron.

He will co-chair the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit with Macron on February 11.

Modi will be co-chairing the AI Action Summit, a gathering of the world leaders and global tech CEOs, to exchange views on collaborative approach to AI technology for innovation and larger public good.

After the AI summit on February 11, there will be a bilateral component to the visit and PM Modi and President Macron will address the India-France CEOs forum.

"friend" French President Emmanuel Macron.

## Buzz over Delhi CM pick intensifies in BJP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

the New Delhi constituency, is also being seen as a strong contender for the top post.

Meanwhile, BJP's winning candidate from Moti Nagar, Harish Khurana, said the selection of Delhi's Chief Minister is the responsibility of the top leadership and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while his priority remains serving the people of his constituency and addressing its issues.

"The selection of the Chief Minister is the responsibility of the top leadership and the Prime Minister, so let them handle it," he told a news agency.

A crucial meeting was held here at the residence of the Union Home Minister on Sunday, where discussions were held regarding the government formation in Delhi.

The high-level meeting at Shah's residence also discussed who will be the next Chief Minister of Delhi, sources said.

Meanwhile, according to the sources, the swearing-in ceremony of the new Delhi Chief Minister is likely to be held after February 13. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi returns from the United States.

## DSPL-383



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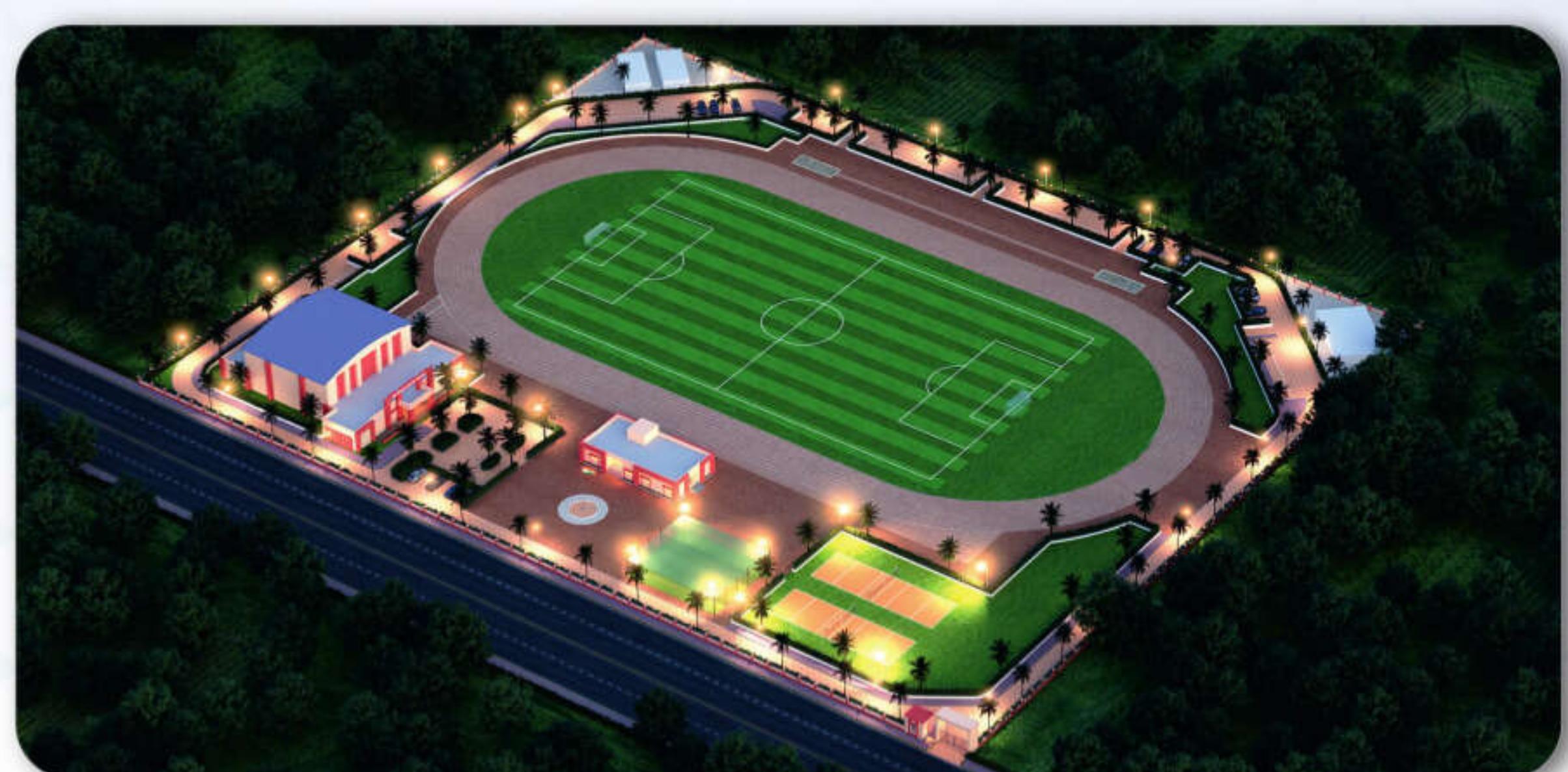
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- Common Facility Centre



Shri Mohan Charan Majhi  
Chief Minister, Odisha

## THUMBNAILS



Tulips in full bloom near Le-Meridien roundabout at Janpath Road in the Capital on Monday.

Subrat Dutta

**Two minors apprehended for alleged involvement in cow slaughter:** The Delhi Police on Monday claimed to have apprehended two minors for their alleged involvement in cow slaughter near signature bridge in the New Usmanpur area of north east Delhi. According to police, on Monday morning at around 8:20 am, a PCR call was received wherein the caller alleged that some people were involved in slaughtering cows near Signature Bridge. On reaching the spot, the police found two minors, involved in the slaughtering, who were later apprehended; an official said, adding that carcasses of two dead cows, slaughtering tools, injections, medicines meant for animals and a car used for the transportation of beef were recovered from the spot.

**Teenage boy stabbed to death by unidentified assailants in NE Delhi:** A teenager was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants in the Gautampuri area of North East Delhi, the police said on Monday. According to the police, after receiving a PCR call about the body of a boy lying on a street in the Gautampuri area at the Seelampur police station at 9:45 pm last night, a team of local police rushed to the spot. On reaching the spot, they found the teenager lying in a pool of blood with multiple stab injuries. An official said the victim was rushed to the GTB Hospital where the doctors declared him dead. Later, the body was handed over to the family of the deceased after a postmortem was carried out at the hospital.

**Youth held for smuggling of e-cigarettes in northeast Delhi:** The Delhi Police claimed to have apprehended a 26-year-old youth for smuggling of e-cigarettes near the Dilshad Garden Metro Station in North East Delhi on Monday. The arrest led to the seizure of three bags, each containing 20 packets of E-cigarettes, making it a total of 600 pieces of narco substance, a police official said. The official mentioned that the offender, identified as Mayank Giri Goswami, a BBA passed out, indulged in smuggling for easy money to lead a luxurious life as he was unemployed. The cops have registered a case in this regard under the relevant sections of BNS.

**Bharat Lok Shiksha Parishad's 'Silver Jubilee Year' celebration:** To mark its 'Silver Jubilee Year' celebration, Bharat Lok Shiksha Parishad will organise 'Ek Shri Ram Katha' from 29 March to 6 April by Katha Vyas Ramesh Bhai Ojha at Punjabi Bagh Stadium in Delhi. Bharat Lok Shiksha Parishad is strengthening the 'Ek Abhiyan', one of the leading social organisations in the country, dedicated to the educational and social empowerment of crores of poor villagers. The 'Ek Abhiyan' started with 60 schools in Jharkhand in 1989 and today has more than 1 lakh. It has reached out to the schools through which about 30 lakh children are being educated through education.

**Lord Krishna's statue unveiled at Yamuna Expressway:** One of the tallest 108-foot statues of Lord Krishna along with Shri Krishna temple, was unveiled at Gaur Yamuna City, Sector 19, Yamuna Expressway. MP Hema Malini and UP Tourism Minister Jaivir Singh attended the ceremony. Singer Kailash Kher was also present on the occasion. "The statue and temple will enhance regional tourism and economy and it will become a landmark of faith, attracting pilgrims and tourists en route to Krishna Janmabhoomi, Mathura. It reaffirms our commitment to preserving and promoting the country's religious heritage," said Manoj Gaur, CMD, Gaur Group.

## Prez to inaugurate global conference on Unani medicine today

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the two-day International Conference on Integrative Health Solutions in Delhi on the occasion of Unani Day on Tuesday at Vigyan Bhawan here.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, and Prataprao Jadhav, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare will also be present on the occasion.

Every year, the 11th of February, the birth anniversary of eminent Unani physician, educator, and freedom fighter Hakim Ajmal Khan, is commemorated as Unani Day.

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), a premier research council under the Ministry of Ayush, government of India, is hosting the distinguished International Conference on "Innovations in Unani Medi-



cine for Integrative Health Solutions – A Way Forward" from February 11-12, 2025, at Vigyan Bhawan here.

While highlighting the growth of the Unani system of medicine and the focus of the government on integration of Ayush systems in mainstream healthcare, Prataprao Jadhav said, "I am proud to witness the growing integration of Unani medicine into the global healthcare framework. By fostering innovation and collaboration, we aim to bring forward comprehensive healthcare solutions that honour our traditional practices while addressing

modern health challenges. The Government of India remains committed to advancing the development of Unani medicine, ensuring that it contributes meaningfully to public welfare and the overall health of the global community."

Underlining the focus of the government to boost scientific research activity in Ayush systems, Vaidya Rajesh Kotekar, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, said, "The establishment of research centres in the Ayush sector, the inclusion of Ayush in mainstream health policies, and integration of traditional systems into

the broader health framework reflects India's commitment to preserving and promoting our cultural heritage. This international conference aims to highlight the latest advances in Unani Medicine and their utility in holistic health systems."

The International Conference offers a dynamic platform for dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange, aiming to highlight the pivotal role of Unani Medicine in the promotion of global health and well-being. Key objectives of the Conference include Fostering Innovation: Exploring new frontiers in Unani medicine for integrative healthcare solutions; Global Collaboration: Facilitating knowledge sharing among national and international experts in traditional and integrative medicine; Showcasing Achievements: Highlighting the latest research and advancements in Unani medicine by CCRUM.

The key highlights of the event include Scientific Ses-

sions:

Expert-led keynote addresses and discussions on integrating Unani medicine into modern healthcare; Exhibition: Vibrant display of innovations in Unani and herbal pharmaceuticals, educational institutions, research organisations, and service providers; Global Participation: Delegates from countries including the USA, South Africa, Iran, Malaysia, UAE, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh will contribute to insightful deliberations.

On this occasion, several publications by CCRUM will be released, including the Souvenir of the International Conference. Additionally, NABL and NABH certificates will be awarded to CCRUM institutions. A short video showcasing the Council's recent initiatives will also be launched. Furthermore, Certificates of Appreciation will be awarded for the best research papers, outstanding contributions to Unani medicine, and the best-performing institutions.

## Jitendra Singh launches Srjanam at AIIMS

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

Union Minister for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh on Monday launched the 'Srjanam' biomedical waste conversion rig at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, marking a significant milestone in the management of biomedical waste.

Srjanam is a waste management system developed by CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram, offering a cost effective, greener alternative to existing technologies for biomedical waste disposal, including incineration. The fully automated system dissects and nullifies all hazardous biomedical wastes like blood, urine, and sputum, as well as laboratory disposables, without the use of costliest and energy-intensive incinerators, making the disposal of waste easy and economical.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasised the

role of innovation in addressing environmental issues:

"This development marks a key milestone towards sustainable waste management in healthcare. Srjanam promises a low-cost solution that is scalable and could be adopted by healthcare institutions across the country," said Singh.

Dr VK Paul, Member of NITI Aayog said, "The Srjanam technology is a huge leap towards allowing safe and sustainable management of biomedical waste. It tends to lessen the environmental burden significantly while increasing safety for health workers and citizens."

"It speaks volumes about the scientific collaborative strength in addressing the problem of biomedical waste disposal. It also shows the commitment of AIIMS, New Delhi in adopting things that are beneficial for both health care and the environment," said M Srinivas, Director, AIIMS, Delhi.

## MLA Amantullah booked for obstruction of probe

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

The Delhi Police on Monday registered an FIR against AAP MLA from Okhla constituency Amanullah Khan for allegedly obstructing police probe, a police official said.

According to the official, the case was registered at Jamia Nagar Police station in South East Delhi under relevant sections of BNS including Obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions, following his intervention and questioning the legitimacy of the arrest of an individual by the Crime Branch team. As per the cops, a team of Crime Branch



had gone to Jamia Nagar to detain Shahbaz Khan, who was facing an attempt-to-murder charge. After the police successfully detained him, the AAP legislator intervened and this soon escalated into a heated exchange between

them.

Meanwhile the detained suspect fled from the spot while the MLA along with his supporters was engaged in a heated argument with the cops. This led the crime branch team to take a legal action

against the representative from Okhla.

Earlier on February 5, Khan was booked by Delhi Police for violating the Model Code of Conduct that was enforced in view of the Assembly elections.

The action against Khan was taken after a video of him surfaced where the AAP leader was allegedly seen roaming in his constituency (Okhla) along with his supporters after the campaigning period ended. The DCP South East Delhi on the official handle on X had posted, "In this matter, FIR under section 223 (3,5) of BNS and 126 RP Act against Amanullah has been registered at Police Station Jamia Nagar for violating MCC."

resident of Nigeria; Ekwbile Victor, 39, resident of Nigeria; Jonathan Egbunike Okoye, son of Okoye, 34, from Nigeria; Stanley Chialuka Mbamara, 22, from Nigeria; Alfred Sackey from Nigeria; Guliston Matyukobova, 39, from Uzbekistan; Fatoumata Kaba, 32, from Guinea.

The officials said that the people were found overstaying in India without a valid Visa. They were produced before Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRRO) who ordered for their deportation.

Accordingly, they were sent to a Detention Centre.

Earlier on February 7, Mumbai's RCF police arrested seven Bangladeshi citizens who were allegedly living illegally in Chembur's Mahal village for the last five years.

## MCD to hold meeting on budget estimate's revision



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NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

the Corporation for the year 2025-26, it added.

Due to the implementation of Model Code of Conduct of the civic house faced a delay.

Following the revocation of MCC, Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Kumar was recently granted permission to present the budget in the House.

He will present the revised budget estimates for the financial year 2024-25 and the budget estimates for 2025-26 in the House meeting on February 13 by exercising the powers of the Standing Committee.

## Congress gave good fight but couldn't convert it into seats: Devender Yadav

SANTU DAS  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY



Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav on Monday said the grand old party gave a good fight in the recent assembly elections as its vote share has increased as compared to last polls, but failed to convert into seats.

He vowed to strengthen the party in the national capital.

Talking to The Statesman, Yadav referring to the outcome of the Delhi Assembly polls, said, "We gave a very good fight though we were not able to convert it into seats. But I am happy that we were able to give the people the hope of change in the government in the national capital."

"I am happy that our cadre really worked hard. Our cadre was on the ground. This was the reason that throughout the elections, we were seen as a strong contender. There

was a perception of a triangular fight. We will get this benefit in future. In this poll, we got a two percent benefit. Our vote share has increased," he said.

In the recent assembly polls, the Congress's vote share was registered at 6.34 per cent, while in 2020 elections, it was 4.26 per cent.

"I won't say it is a dismal performance, but I will agree we were not able to convince the Dalit and minority voters that we are forming the government. So, in that case to

stop the BJP, they stayed with the AAP, which actually hurt us. But, in the coming days I am confident that we will win over these segments of society. We hope for a better performance of the Congress in the coming days," Yadav said.

Reiterating that the Congress had taken an opposite decision not to forge an alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the polls, the Delhi Congress chief said the AAP had a strong "anti-incumbency" against it.

"AAP had a huge anti-incumbency against it. This we have experienced in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as well in Delhi," Yadav said.

Notably, the Congress and AAP, which are part of the INDIA bloc, had contested the Lok Sabha elections 2024 together in Delhi. In the general elections, out of the seven parliamentary seats, the party drew a blank.

The Election Commission of India on Monday lifted the Model Code of Conduct with immediate effect following the results of the Delhi legislative assembly polls and also the by-elections in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

The concerned official of the poll panel on Monday sent a communication to the Cabinet Secretary, Government of India, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi, Chief Secretaries of Delhi, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh and the concerned Chief Electoral Officers in this regard.

The ECI mentioned that the provisions of MCC are enforced from the date of announcement of election schedule, and remain in operation till the completion of election process.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

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# Turn failures into lessons, says PM to students at Pariksha Pe Charcha

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the 8th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha held on Monday, offered advice to students, encouraging them to see failure not as a setback but as an opportunity for growth. Speaking to the students at the Sunder Nursery here, PM Modi urged them to view their mistakes as lessons that could guide them toward success.

"A student's life does not stop if they fail an exam. One must decide whether they want to succeed in life or in books," said PM Modi. "You should turn your failures into your teachers. You are fortunate to live in an era rich with technological advances, and our focus should be on understanding and optimally utilizing technology," he added.

The Prime Minister high-



lighted the importance of holistic development, stressing that students cannot grow if they are confined solely to textbooks. "Students are not robots. We study for holistic development. You need to engage in activities you love. Only then can you perform well in exams," PM Modi

emphasised. He encouraged students to develop a broader outlook, not seeing exams as the ultimate goal, but as one part of a larger educational journey.

PM Modi also focused on allowing children the freedom to explore their passions. "Kids should not be confined. They

need the freedom to explore their passions. Knowledge and exams are two different things," he stated, reinforcing the idea that personal growth and exploration are essential for a well-rounded life.

Time management was another crucial topic discussed. PM Modi suggested students remain focused on the present moment. "One should think about how they can utilise their time the most. A student should focus on the present," he advised. He also highlighted the importance of sharing thoughts with others to avoid mental stress, adding that family is like a university in itself, providing support and wisdom.

The Prime Minister encouraged students to cultivate the habit of writing, saying it could help enhance focus and clarity. "Write about the positive qualities of your friends or the people you meet. This habit

will help you reflect on your thoughts," he recommended.

On the issue of managing societal pressures, particularly from parents, PM Modi shared advice with a student from West Bengal. "Parents should not showcase their child as a model for others. Accept the uniqueness of your child," he urged. He further warned against forcing children into careers they are not passionate about, noting that such pressure often leads to lifelong stress.

"If a child wants to be an artist but is forced to become an engineer or doctor, it leads to dissatisfaction and anxiety. Parents should support their children's interests," he emphasized.

Leadership also came up as an important theme during the session. PM Modi explained that true leaders lead by example. "A leader becomes a leader when he practices what he

preaches and understands the issues of the people. Respect cannot be demanded; you must earn it by changing yourself. People will accept your actions, not just your words," he said, urging students to embrace teamwork and patience as essential leadership traits.

PM Modi also touched on the importance of nutrition in a student's life. "Your growth depends on what, when, how, and why you eat," he stated, advising students to take time for morning sunbaths to boost their health.

On handling exam pressure, the Prime Minister emphasized the need to focus on one's duties, much like a cricketer ignoring the crowd's noise and focusing on the ball. "You may have pressure, but you must prepare without worrying about it. Focus on the task at hand, and you will overcome stress," PM Modi advised.

## Sonia demands population census, says 14 cr deprived of food security benefits



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

that the government prioritises the completion of the census as soon as possible and ensures that all the deserving individuals receive the benefits guaranteed to them under the NFSA. Food security is not a privilege, it's a fundamental right," she said.

She underscored the importance of the NFSA, enacted by the UPA government in 2013 to ensure food and nutritional security for India's population.

"The National Food Security Act (NFSA) introduced by the UPA government in September 2013 was a landmark initiative aimed at ensuring food and nutritional security to the country's 140 crore population. This legislation plays a crucial role in protecting millions of vulnerable households, particularly during the Covid-19 crisis. It is this Act that provides the basis for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana," the Congress leader asserted.

Ms Gandhi said the NFSA mandates that up to 75 per cent of the rural and 50 per cent of the urban population receive subsidised food grains but the beneficiary quota is still determined based on the outdated 2011 Census. Currently, eligible individuals receive 5 kg of free food grains per month under this framework. She urged the Centre to prioritise the completion of the census to ensure that deserving individuals receive their rightful benefits.

## Haryana CM encourages students to embrace challenges with confidence & determination

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, 10 FEBRUARY

Haryana's Chief Minister Navab Singh Saini on Monday addressed students at the state-level event of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha-2025', encouraging them to embrace challenges with confidence and determination.

Speaking at the event held at Shaheed Major Anuj Rajput Government Model Sanskriti Senior Secondary School at Sector 20, Panchkula, he emphasised on the fact that overcoming challenges leads to greater success and personal fulfillment.

The Chief Minister also shared his own experiences, highlighting that greater the challenge, the more fulfilling is the journey to overcome it. He also shared key success focussed.

mantras with students, encouraging them to embrace challenges rather than fear them.

During the event, the Chief Minister, along with students of Class 10 and 12 from various schools in the district, watched the live telecast of Prime Minister's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha-2025' programme from Delhi. BJP State President, Mohan Lal Badoli was also present on this occasion. The Prime Minister interacted with students from various parts of the country and shared valuable insights on how to remain stress-free and perform their best during exams. He also addressed their queries and concerns related to examinations and emphasised that students could face any challenge in life by remaining

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stress-free and perform their best during exams. He also addressed their queries and concerns related to examinations and emphasised that students could face any challenge in life by remaining

### 'PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA-2025'

The Chief Minister voiced that the Prime Minister interacts directly with students every year before their exams, encouraging them to give exams without stress. Along with students, the Prime Minister also guides their parents and teachers to help maintain the students' confidence during exam time, said Saini.

The Chief Minister urged students to watch the 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme with their parents, as it would help reduce exam-related pressure.

He expressed confidence that students would embrace the key mantras given by the Prime Minister and move forward successfully in their lives.

Recalling the pre-2014 system, Saini said that back then,

their government was not only emphasising on providing quality education but also focusing on skill development for the youth. He said that today, Haryana's youth were becoming self-reliant by pursuing education alongside startup ventures.

During the discussion, some of these youth shared their experiences, revealing how they built multi-crore businesses from zero investment. Their success stories reflect the hard work and dedication of Haryana's young generation," said Saini.

The Chief Minister said that ahead of the upcoming budget, he held pre-budget discussions with various stakeholders to incorporate valuable suggestions. As part of that process, he recently interacted with

young entrepreneurs who have successfully launched startups while continuing their studies.

The Chief Minister also urged the youth to focus on their studies with hard work and dedication while avoiding bad company. He emphasised that taking the wrong path not only darkens their future but also brings immense suffering to their parents. He called upon the youth to take a pledge today to stay away from drugs and lead a responsible life.

Prior to the programme, the Chief Minister paid floral tributes to the statue of Martyr Major Anuj Rajput in the school premises. On this occasion, the martyr's father, Sh. Kulvansh, and mother, Smt. Usha Rohilla, were also present.

## Himachal BJP unit to propagate Union Budget



Calling the Union Budget a historic one, the Himachal Pradesh BJP General Secretary Bihar Lal Sharma (in photo) said that the Central government has taken care of all sections of the society.

In a statement issued here on Monday, he said BJP will be propagating the budget from state to district and mandal level in the upcoming days.

"Party leaders from centre will be attending various programmes, where they will also be addressing press conferences regarding the Union Budget. Naresh Bansal, MP, will be present in Dharamshala. Similarly BJP national General Secretary Tarun Chug will be present in Mandi and Minister of State, Ravneet Singh Bittu, will be in Shimla for the coming programme on Union Budget, he said, adding that district level press conference and programmes will also be held at district headquarters."

Sharma said, "The budget identifies four key pillars to drive the nation's economic momentum—agriculture, MSMEs, investment, and exports. These sectors will act as growth engines, fueled by targeted reforms and strategic government interventions."

A new scheme targeting 500,000 first-time entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women will provide term loans of up to Rs 20 million over the next 5 years, he said. Additionally, the National Manufacturing Mission will drive the 'Make in India' initiative by integrating small, medium, and large industries into the global value chain, with a special focus on making India a global hub for toy manufacturing, he said.

The mission also has a mandate to focus on clean tech manufacturing for climate-ready development and facilitating a future-ready workforce for in-demand jobs, he said.

"Focussed on the theme of 'Sabka Vikas,' the Union Budget 2025-26 emphasizes the importance of investment in people, economy, and innovation as a significant engine on the journey to reach the goal of 'Viksit Bharat.'

Accordingly, to minimize the skill gap in the country by making quality education accessible, the Ministry of Education has been allocated Rs 1,28,650 crore, 6.22 per cent more than the budget estimate of 2024-25," said he.

## Barnala tops in Punjab in issuing UDID cards to the specially abled

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, 10 FEBRUARY

In providing the facility of UDID (Unique Disability ID) cards for Divyang persons to access government services, Barnala district in Punjab has secured the top position in the state.

Sharing this information, state's Social Security, Women, and Child Development Minister, Dr Baljit Kaur, stated that through the joint efforts of her own ministry's departments and that of the Health

Department, over 70 per cent of Divyang persons in Barnala district, totaling 9,766, have been issued UDID cards.

She explained that the UDID is generated to provide Divyang persons access to all schemes and services of the Central and Punjab govern-

ments through a single card. She emphasized that the UDID card is not only an identification document for Divyang persons but is also essential for availing benefits under various government schemes such as pensions, training, employment and medical assistance.

This card facilitates easier access to government services for Divyang persons.

The minister said that apart from this, the Punjab government has formed a disability cell for the divyang persons.

## Lawyers demand CBI probe into 'custodial death' in J&K's Kathua

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 10 FEBRUARY

Jammu lawyers led by former advocate general Mohammad Aslam Goni on Monday demanded registration of an FIR and independent enquiry by CBI into the alleged custodial death of Makhan Din who was interrogated by the police in connection with a terrorist attack in Billawar where four soldiers were killed.

Talking to media, the lawyer expressed deep anguish and concern over the dying declaration of the 26-year-old tribal boy, who in a mosque after taking Holy Quran on his head, denied his links with subversive

activities as alleged by the police and blamed the police of third-degree torture and expressed his innocence in a video before ending his life.

Goni vehemently urged that the video footage of the deceased

was sufficient for registration of a criminal case against those who inflicted third-degree torture to the deceased Makhan Din, but as a cover-up exercise, the district administration of

Kathua has ordered a magisterial probe to be conducted by the naib-tehsildar and besides this a departmental enquiry has been ordered to be conducted by DIG of the range.

The Former Advocate General while questioning the credibility of in-house enquiries branded the same as an eye-wash and an attempt to shield the culprits so that truth becomes a casualty.

While referring to several judgments of the Supreme Court on custodial torture, the senior counsel stated that only impartial and independent probe will unmask the larger gamut of the game and termed the magisterial probe as a farce.

US deportation of Indians: Punjab Police SIT registers 8 FIRs against travel agents

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, 10 FEBRUARY

In a major crackdown on fraudulent immigration consultants exploiting innocent individuals, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Punjab Police has taken strict action to dismantle the multinational human trafficking nexus operating in the region.

This action pertains to the Indian citizens who had been deported from the United States of America and had landed in Amritsar. Punjab Police has recorded statements against travel agents who defrauded them with false promises of illegal entry into the United States.

Acting on Complaints from victims, Punjab Police has registered a total of eight first information reports (FIRs) including two in district police and six in the NRI Affairs Wing of the Punjab Police, against travel agents based on the statements of deportees.

The SIT being headed by ADGP NRI Affairs Praveen Sinha, and consisting of ADGP Internal Security Shive Kumar Verma, IGP Provisioning Dr S Boopathi and DIG Border Range Range Satinder Singh, is closely monitoring the investigation and ensuring that all actions are carried out effectively and with due diligence.

Senior police officials have personally met the returnees to address their grievances and assure them of due process of law.

Commissioners of Police (CPs) and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) from various districts and commissionates are working tirelessly in coordination with the SIT to bring these offenders to justice.

DGP Gaurav Yadav reaffirmed the Punjab Police's commitment to act against the chain of fraudulent immigration networks and end the exploitation of vulnerable individuals.

## Punjab Labour Dept goes digital

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, 10 FEBRUARY

Guided by the vision and leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Punjab's Labour Department has fully digitized all services and industrial schemes provided under various Acts. Now, these services and schemes can be accessed with just one click.

Labour Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond on Monday stated that several key services, including the approval of building plans, acceptance of stability certificates, factory registration, grant and renewal of licenses, license amendments, permission to employ women in night shifts, registration of principal employers, and the issuance of licenses to contractors are now available online. These services can be accessed through the official website: <https://plblabour.gov.in>.

He further stated that various services, including the payment of the welfare fund, claims for benefits under the Punjab Labour Welfare Board, registration of construction sites and trade unions, submission of annual returns under labour laws, claims for benefits under the Punjab Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, and registration of shops and commercial establishments, can now be accessed online through the department's website.

He also mentioned that the Punjab Building and Other Construction



Workers Welfare Board has simplified the terms and conditions of various welfare schemes, including the Stipend Scheme, LTC Scheme, and Shagun Scheme.

Sond said the state Government has abolished two year service condition of labourers under stipend schemes for their children.

The Minister pointed out that labourers could get the benefit of stipend scheme from the day of making contributions. He also stated that the condition of registered marriage certificate had also been done away with to get the benefit of Shagun Scheme.

According to him, now labourers could avail the benefit of Shagun Scheme by submitting photographs of religious place and religious personalities, who got the marriages solemnised.

## 2 PSOs of Iltija Mufti suspended

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 10 FEBRUARY

PDP leader Iltija Mufti (in photo) said on Monday that her two personal security officers have been placed under suspension for letting her travel to Billawar in the Kathua district where a young man, Makhan Din, had committed suicide after alleged torture by the police.

Iltija told media persons here that there was no fault of these SPOs and that she had traveled to Billawar at about 6 am. Their suspension orders came after she returned from Billawar.

She hit out at Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for feasting with his friends in New Delhi while two innocent people in Billawar and Baramulla had lost their lives.

She said two of her SPOs, who have the responsibility for her security, have been suspended but the state government is not suspending the SHO in the Kathua district who is blamed of torturing Makhan Din.

It is not the priority of the state or Central government to think about the safety of people in J&K.

National Conference chief

Faroq Abdullah should tell us what the priorities of his son CM Omar Abdullah are.

Meanwhile, former chief minister and PDP President Mehbooba Mufti criticised the government for suspending the PSO of her party leader and daughter Iltija Mufti.

Mehbooba wrote on X: "Ironical and unfair that Iltija's two SPOs have been suspended for no fault of their own. They were punished simply because Iltija managed to reach Kathua despite being confined to her home like a criminal. Meanwhile, there has

# BJP high command meeting to decide on next Manipur CM

The resignation has plunged Manipur into political uncertainty

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

IMPHAL, 10 FEBRUARY

**T**he Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) high command is set to convene a crucial meeting in New Delhi on February 12 to take a decision on the next chief minister of Manipur following the resignation of N Biren Singh.

All BJP legislators from the northeastern state have been summoned for deliberations and reports suggest that ten Kuki MLAs may also join the discussions.

On February 9, N Biren Singh stepped down as chief minister, submitting his resignation to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Raj Bhawan around 5.20 pm.

His departure followed intense speculation about an impending no-confidence motion against his leadership. Singh's resignation came hours after a high-level meet-

ing with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, underscoring the urgency of the political crisis.

In his resignation letter, Singh emphasised several key concerns for Manipur, including safeguarding the state's territorial integrity, addressing border infiltration, combating drug trafficking, and bolstering border security.

Additionally, sources suggest he proposed suspending the Manipur Legislative Assembly though details surrounding this recommendation remain unclear.

The resignation has plunged Manipur into political uncertainty.

Earlier this week, three senior ministers—Govindas Konthoujam, Thongam Biswajit, and L Susindra Meitei—along with four BJP MLAs, traveled to Delhi on a chartered flight, signaling escalating tensions within the party.



BJP MP Sambit Patra and other senior state officials were present at the Raj Bhawan during Singh's resignation, further highlighting the gravity of the situation.

Biren Singh's tenure as chief minister has been marked by prolonged ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities, which erupted in May 2023. The conflict has resulted in over 200 deaths and the displacement of thou-

sands, deepening divisions in the state. His leadership faced significant criticism over the handling of the crisis, with allegations of bias from various quarters. Despite repeated interventions by the Central government, peace remained elusive.

Against this backdrop, the demand for a separate administration for Kuki-Zo-dominated areas has further complicated the political land-

**All BJP legislators from the northeastern state have been summoned for deliberations and reports suggest that ten Kuki MLAs may also join the discussions.**

scape.

The BJP's decision to include Kuki MLAs in the upcoming leadership discussions suggests an attempt to bridge the widening divide and stabilise governance. As the party's leadership gears up to select a new chief minister, multiple factions within the state unit are vying for influence.

The party's final decision will not only shape the future of Manipur's governance but also determine the BJP's prospects in the volatile region ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

**Biren Singh's ouster: A BJP strategy to contain rebellion and ethnic unrest in Manipur**



ABHIJIT DEB

IMPHAL, 10 FEBRUARY

within the BJP.

His tenure had been marred by the ethnic conflict between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities, which erupted on May 3, 2023, leaving over 200 people dead and thousands displaced.

Kuki-Zo groups and 10 MLAs from the community—seven of them from the BJP, including two ministers—blamed Singh for mis-handling the crisis.

Meanwhile, resentment among Meitei BJP MLAs in the Imphal Valley was also growing, with many making repeated appeals to the central leadership to replace him.

In October 2024, a delegation of BJP legislators even approached the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), urging intervention. Despite this, the BJP high command continued to back Singh, wary of destabilizing the government amid ethnic turmoil.

The breaking point appeared to be the Budget session of the Manipur Assembly, set to begin on Monday. Frustrated with inaction from the central leadership, dissident BJP MLAs considered taking an unprecedented step—aligning with the Opposition to support a no-confidence motion against Singh's government.

As tensions escalated, Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata Singh, a known critic of Biren Singh, visited New Delhi last week and briefed BJP president J P Nadda about the brewing rebellion.

When asked if the no-confidence motion could be blocked, the Speaker reportedly stated that he could not prevent it.

## Classified

### LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF  
Ms. Richa Gusal Solanki,  
District Judge-02, South-  
West, Room No. 605, 6th  
Floor, District Court Com-  
plex Dwarika, New Delhi  
PC NO. 9/2025  
DOH : 18-03-2025  
AVINASH PANDEY

Vs

STATE AND ORS

CITATION UNDER INDIAN

SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

Whereas Petition U/S 242

of Indian Succession Act, 1925

for Grant of Letter of Adminis-

tration in respect, estate left by deceased Late Ray

Uttam Pandey W/o Late Hari

Kumar Pandey R/o Flat No.

56, Netaji Subhash Apartment

Phase-2, Pocket-1, Sector-13,

Dwarika, New Delhi-110075.

Died on 28-07-2024 Petition

has been filed by the Petitioner

Avinash Pandey S/o Late Hari

Kumar Pandey, R/o C-51,

Qutub Vihar Phase-1, Goyal

Dairy, New Delhi-110071 in

respect of the immovable /

movable properties mentioned

below.

Residential Flat No. 56, Netaji

Subhash Apartment, Phase-

2, Pocket-1, Sector-13, Dwarika,

New Delhi-110075.

Bank Locker No. 0323 in

Bank of Baroda, Branch at

Gopinath Bazar, Delhi Cantt.

Bank A/c No.

89800100002892, Bank of Baroda,

Branch at Gopinath Bazar,

Delhi Cantt.

Whereas the case has been

fixed for hearing on 18-03-

2025 Notice is hereby given

that any person having any

interest in the Administration

of the Estate of the said

deceased may, if he/she

wishes to appear in this court

on the said date and see the

proceedings before the

Grant of Probate (or for Letter

of Administration).

Given under my hand and

the seal of this Court on this

01-02-2025.

District Judge-02, South-

West, District Court Com-

plex Dwarika, New Delhi

Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF  
Ms. Upasana Satija,  
Senior Civil Judge cum Rent  
Controller, Central,  
Room No. 231,  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

SUMMONS FOR U/S 14 (1)

(e) R/W 25 (B) DRC ACT OF

DELHI RENT CONTROL ACT,

1958

RC/ARC/542/2024

SHOURYA BUILDWELL PVT.

LTD.

Vs

STATE & ORS.

CITATION UNDER SECTION

283(2) OF SUCCESSION ACT

1925

Whereas the aforesaid

petitioner has filed an

application (a copy of which

is annexed) for your evic-

tion from the TENANTED PREMISES

(mentioned in copy attached)

on the ground specified in

clause (e) of the proviso to

sub-Section (1) of Section 14.

You are hereby summoned

to appear before the Controller

and to obtain the order of

the Controller to con-

test the application for evic-

tion from the said Premises

on the ground aforesaid in

default whereof, the applican-

t will be entitled at any time

after the expiry of the said

period of fifteen days to obtain

an order for your eviction

from the said premises.

Leave to appear and contest

the application may be

obtained on an application to

the controller supported by

an affidavit as referred to in

sub-Section (5) of Section 25(B).

Given under my hand and

seal of the court, this on

18-02-2025.

District Judge-02, South-

West, District Court Com-

plex Dwarika, New Delhi

Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF  
Ms. Richa Gusal Solanki,  
District Judge-02, South-  
West, Room No. 605, 6th  
Floor, District Court Com-  
plex Dwarika, New Delhi  
PC NO. 7/2025  
DOH : 27-02-2025  
V. KARTHIK

Vs

STATE AND ORS

CITATION UNDER INDIAN

SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

Whereas Petition U/S 242

of Indian Succession Act, 1925

for Grant of Letter of Adminis-

tration in respect, estate left by deceased Late

Vijaylakshmi Viswanathan

W/o Late B Viswanathan R/o

Whereas the case has been

fixed for hearing on 18-03-

2025 Notice is hereby given

that any person having any

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tion of the Estate of the said

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wishes to appear in this court

on the said date and see the

proceedings before the

Grant of Probate (or for Letter

of Administration).

Given under my hand and

the seal of the court, this on

01-02-2025.

District Judge-02, South-

West, District Court Com-

plex Dwarika, New Delhi

Seal of the Court

# Maharashtra CM Fadnavis and Congress criticise YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia for crude remarks

Everyone has freedom of speech but this freedom ends when we encroach upon others' freedom: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis

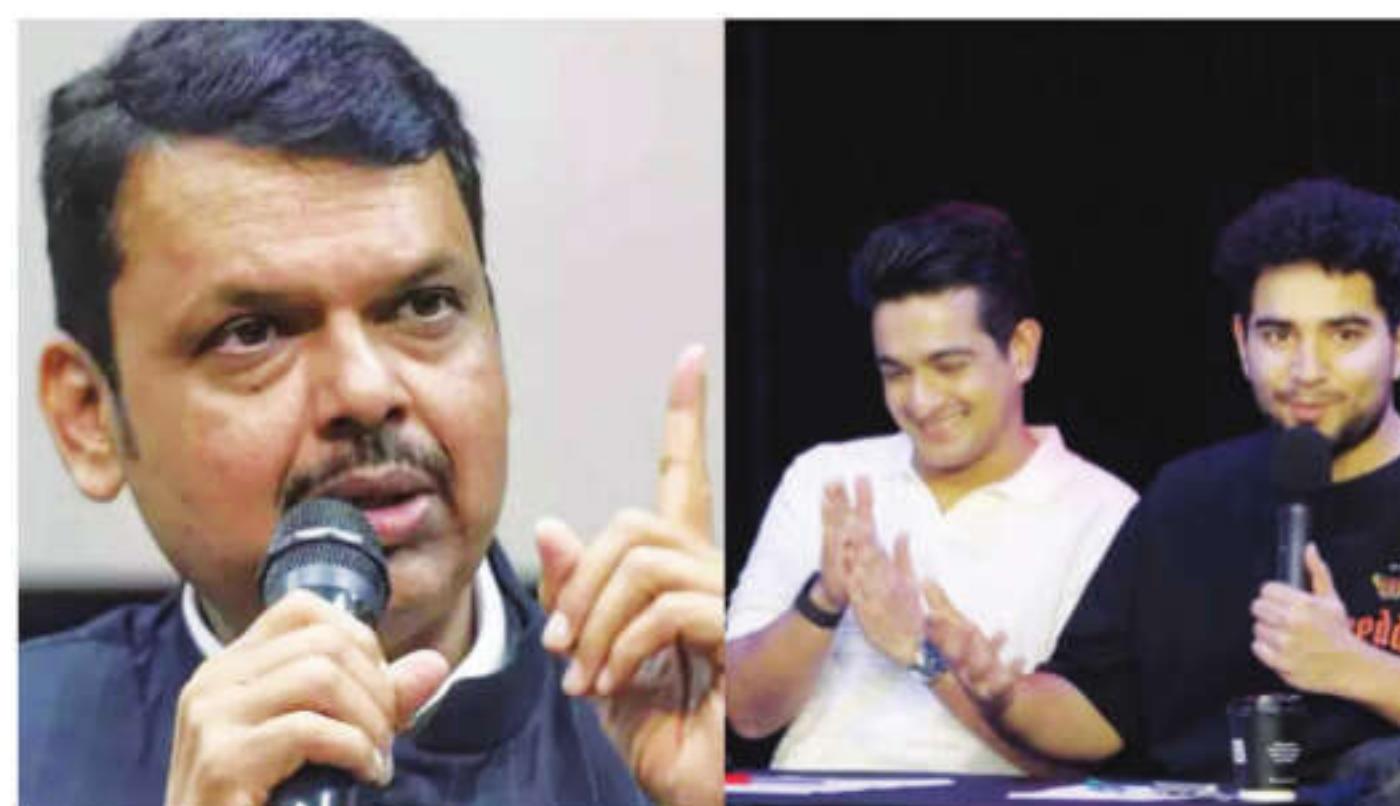
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, 10 FEBRUARY

**M**aharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis criticised YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia and said in Mumbai on Monday that anyone who crosses the limits of decency will face action.

"I have been informed about this, though I have not watched it yet. I came to know that it was very vulgar and this was wrong. Everyone has freedom of speech but this freedom ends when we encroach upon others' freedom. Everyone has limits, if anyone crosses them, action will be taken," Chief Minister Fadnavis said.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said the fact that such comments draw applause must worry us. "This isn't creative. It's perverted and we can't normalise such perverse behaviour as cool. The fact that this sick comment met loud



applause must worry us all," Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said.

Meanwhile, two Mumbai lawyers Ashish Rai and Pankaj Mishra, have filed a police complaint against Allahbadia, who is known as the Beer-Biceps Guy on YouTube. They have written to Mumbai Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar and the Maha-

rashta State Women's Commission seeking an FIR against Allahbadia and other comedians including Samay Raina and Apoorva Makhija, about crude remarks made on the 'India's Got Latent' YouTube show. They said that the remark disrespected women and must hence attract action.

Earlier, Allahbadia's

remarks triggered outrage

on social media, with many claiming vulgarity was being passed off as comedy in shows such as 'India's Got Latent'. Lyricist Neelesh Misra shared a video clip of Allahbadia's remark and said that the comedians have "zero sense of responsibility".

"I am also not surprised

at all that four people at the

## National Human Rights Commission asks YouTube to remove objectionable episode of 'India's Got Latent'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

NHRC member Priyank Kanoongo on Monday asked YouTube to remove an episode/videos of the show titled "India's Got Latent" from its platform for alleged objectionable, inappropriate, and obscene remarks towards women and children.

In a letter addressed to Mira Chatt, Head Public Policy, YouTube, he 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

desk - and lots in the audience - celebrated this and had a great laugh. You, the audience, normalised and celebrated this and people like these," Mishra said in a post tweeted on X.

"Decency is not incen-

tised in India by platforms or audiences. So creators are stooping lower and lower for audience reach and revenue. Banal, crass, insensitive words are only for boring uncool people. These creators

can say anything in the name

society.

"The complaint highlights concerns regarding the show's propagation of negativity, discriminatory perspectives, religious and cultural intolerance, and disrespectful and obscene ideologies, particularly towards women and children. It is further alleged that, under the guise of freedom of speech, the show disseminates obscene and vulgar content along with misleading messages, thereby fostering a corrupt mindset in society," he said. Furthermore, it is alleged

of freedom of speech and get away with it," Misra said.

Allahbadia has apologised for his comments and said "comedy is not my forte" and that "it wasn't cool". He tweeted an apology message on X with the caption, "I

shouldn't have said what I said on India's Got Latent. I'm sorry." In the video message, he said, "My comment wasn't just inappropriate, it was not even funny. Comedy is not my forte, I am just here to say sorry".

Reacting to this, MNS spokesperson Sandeep Deshpande hit out at Raut and said: "What does Raut do when he goes to the house of Sharad Pawar? Does he sweep the house?"

However, political circles view the meeting between Fadnavis and Raj Thackeray as a strategic move to expand the BJP's reach and influence in the state.

Meanwhile, the meeting is also being viewed against the background of reports that Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is disappointed with the Mahayati, because the BJP is pushing hard for a 100% victory in the forthcoming BMC elections. It is being speculated that the BJP is sending signals to smaller

parties like the MNS for a potential alliance to win the forthcoming BMC election.

## Nadda calls for eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis from India by 2027

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

On Monday, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, JP Nadda called for the implementation of a five-pronged strategy to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) from India by 2027.

Launching the annual nationwide mass drug administration (MDA) campaign for LF Elimination through video-conferencing, he said: "An LF-free India is our commitment, and achieving this goal requires the participation of every citizen and with active community involvement. With a shared sense of responsibility, we can eliminate LF, ensuring protection for crores of people."

Nadda said that under the leadership of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, this campaign would be driven by the spirit of 'Jan Bhagidari', turning it into a 'Jan Andolan' and with active community participation and a sense of collective ownership, India could eliminate LF, ensuring that millions are protected from this disease."

Noting that LF incapacitates people and deteriorates their quality of life, the Minister called for the implementation of a five-pronged strategy to ensure that the disease is eliminated much ahead of the Sustainable Development Goal of 2030.

Emphasising the importance of ensuring that no one is left out during the MDA campaign which takes place twice a year in 111 districts in 13 states of India, the Minister said: "From February

10 onward, medicines will be made available free of cost to a population of over 17.5 crore across endemic districts. It is imperative that residents in these areas consume the medicines, protecting themselves and their families from this debilitating disease."

Highlighting the importance of achieving high coverage, Nadda said the endemic districts must ensure that over 90 percent of the eligible population consume anti-filaria medicines.

He urged the states/UTs to monitor the campaign at a state/UT level to ensure early diagnosis of affected people. He also called for the personal involvement of the political and administrative leadership at the identified state/district levels for the same.

## Fadnavis' meet with Raj Thackeray sparks rumours about BMC election tie-up

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, 10 FEBRUARY



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis drove down to the Dadar West 'Shivirth' residence of Maharashtra NavNirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray and spoke to him for a few hours on Monday.

After the meeting Fadnavis

said that no political meaning should be read into it though the meeting took place before the forthcoming municipal and local civic body elections to be held in Maharashtra.

Raj Thackeray too did not comment on what was discussed at the meeting.

Speculation is rife that due to its focus on winning elections to the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the BJP might enter into a pre-poll tie up with the MNS.

As part of the pre-poll

electoral understanding for BMC elections, the BJP is likely to offer the Raj Thackeray's son Amit Thackeray, a berth in the Maharashtra Legislative Council.

When asked about the

berth for Amit Thackeray,

Fadnavis said, "There is no politics involved in it. After the Vidhan Sabha polls, Raj Thackeray congratulated me. He had invited me to his residence. I returned to his residence by coming to his house. It was only a personal meeting.

There were no political discussions".

Commenting on the development, Thackeray-led Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut said, "Raj Thackeray has opened a cafe in Dadar. People come and go".

Reacting to this, MNS spokesperson Sandeep Deshpande hit out at Raut and said: "What does Raut do when he goes to the house of Sharad Pawar? Does he sweep the house?"

However, political circles view the meeting between Fadnavis and Raj Thackeray as a strategic move to expand the BJP's reach and influence in the state.

Meanwhile, the meeting is also being viewed against the background of reports that Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is disappointed with the Mahayati, because the BJP is pushing hard for a 100% victory in the forthcoming BMC elections. It is being speculated that the BJP is sending signals to smaller

parties like the MNS for a potential alliance to win the forthcoming BMC election.

## Congress MP seeks party's clarification on alliance in Bihar post-Delhi elections

IMRAN MOJIB

PATNA, 10 FEBRUARY

Following the Delhi assembly elections, the alliance of the Congress party with Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) came into sharp focus in Bihar at a time when the assembly elections in the state are due and expected to be held in October-November.

Political circles are abuzz with speculations – whether the two parties will follow the 'coalition dharma' or engage in the politics of supremacy.

The Katihar MP said, "Congress needs to clarify its political strategy. They have to decide whether they will do coalition politics or go it alone. Besides,

it has also become necessary to make fundamental changes in the organisation of the party."

His statement reflects the ground realities in Bihar. He has raised questions that every party worker wanted to

pose to the Central leadership. The party workers expressed apprehensions that the leadership might decide to go it alone in Bihar too as it did in Haryana and Delhi, despite the fact that the decision failed to achieve the desired results.

Party insiders said coalition politics is the only way out in Bihar but the top leaders might not be ready for it. Congress is never seen on the ground. There was no campaign to substantially increase the party's strength on the ground by adding new people to the party.

Wherever you go, there is

no connection between Congress's top leadership and local leadership.

## Emergency call boxes: Ranchi's new guardian of safety

SHASHI SINGH  
RANCHI, 10 FEBRUARY

Ranchi has introduced a new security system: emergency call boxes placed at key intersections to provide instant help in case of emergency.

Following the directives of Chief Minister Hemant Soren, the Ranchi Smart City Corporation has installed 50 bright yellow call boxes across the city.

With just the press of a button, immediate assistance will be dispatched to the caller's location.

Imagine walking down a street at night and witnessing an accident. In such a situation, this small yellow box can become a person's biggest support. The moment the red button is pressed, the command control centre will

respond, allowing the person to communicate his emergency directly to the authorities. Immediately after, police, fire services, ambulances, or other necessary responders will be sent to the scene.

These call boxes can be used to report road accidents, chain snatching, shootings, assaults, harassment, or any other criminal incident. The best part? Not just the victim, but even a witness can use this facility to seek help.

According to an official statement from the Chief Minister's Secretariat, these emergency call boxes have been installed at 50 strategic locations, including Main Road Overbridge, Kanke Ring Road, Sahajanand Chowk, Shani Mandir Chowk, Harmi Chowk, Agora Chowk, Satellite Chowk, Kanke Road, Birsa

Chowk, Mecon Chowk, Sujata Chowk, and Kokar Chowk. At certain locations, the boxes have been temporarily removed due to flyover construction and road expansion projects but will be reinstated soon.

The most remarkable aspect of this initiative is that no mobile phone or helpline number is needed. In any roadside emergency, the person can simply approach the yellow box, press the red button, and get instant assistance.

The Ranchi Smart City Corporation and the police administration believe that this new system will not only help prevent crimes but also instill a renewed sense of security among citizens. For Ranchi residents, this facility is nothing short of a lifeline



because now, safety is just a button away!

## Congress must lead and coordinate, not just demand seats, says Sanjay Raut

AGENCIES

MUMBAI, 10 FEBRUARY

together across states, but its strategies failed in the assembly elections, delivering a setback. Does this mean we should cede state elections to the BJP? The INDIA bloc is visible only in Parliament right now, but it must unite and take a strong stand on critical issues."

Taking a jibe at the Congress, Raut remarked, "When elections come, we don't need a 'Big Brother' just for seat-sharing. A leader's job is to coordinate, not just secure a larger share of seats. We have seen this in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra during the Lok Sabha elections.

As the main national party, we expect Congress to take the initiative in all matters -- not just when distributing seats.

Alliances should not be reduced to mere bargaining over numbers."

When asked whether INDIA bloc partners would remain united in the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, Raut



expressed optimism, stating that Rashtriya Janata Dal leaders Lalu Prasad and Tejashwi Yadav, as well as Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, were committed to the alliance. "Other parties like us also have an important role. We proved

in the Lok Sabha elections that by standing together, we could challenge and counter the BJP in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. When united, we can effectively take on the BJP," he said.

In an editorial published

why have an alliance at all? After Maharashtra, if no lessons are learned from the Delhi results, then those responsible should accept that they contributed to strengthening the BJP. No purification in the Ganges will absolve them of that," the Saamana editorial remarked.

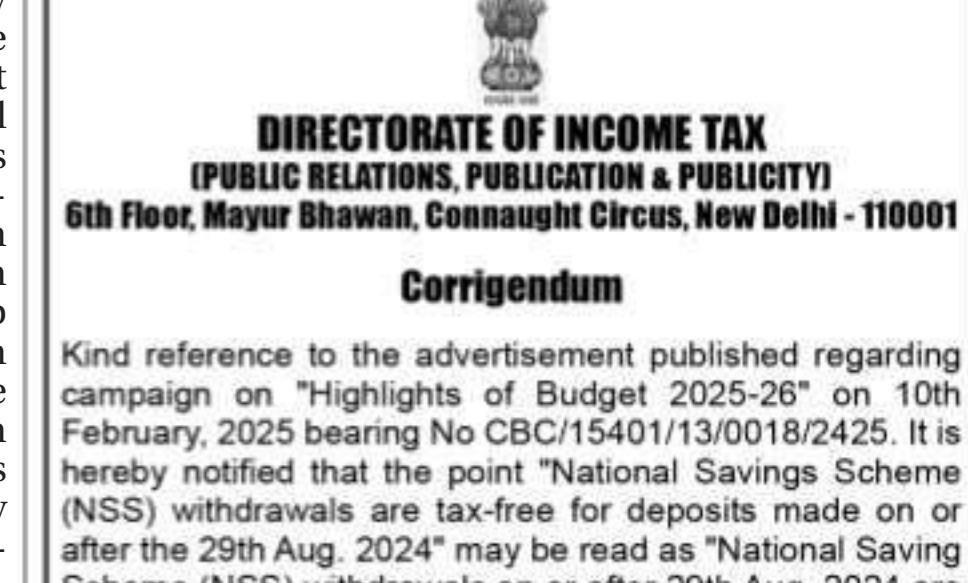
The editorial questioned Congress' gains from its rivalry with AAP, asking, "Are there forces within Congress that deliberately undermine Rahul Gandhi? If Congress leaders claim it is not their responsibility to help AAP win, then that is arrogance. Is it then their responsibility to help the BJP tighten its grip on power? The Delhi results are a setback for democracy. In Maharashtra, too, Congress leaders created unnecessary tensions, leading to last-minute chaos."

Saamana also scrutinized Anna Hazare's recent com-

ments against Arvind Kejriwal. The editorial recalled how the anti-corruption movement at Jantar Mantar and Ramlila Maidan had shaken the Congress-led UPA government and played a role in bringing the BJP to power. However, it questioned whether the BJP ever upheld Hazare's

ideals. "Which of Anna's principles has BJP carried forward, despite his recent criticism of Kejriwal?"

The editorial pointed to two notable reactions to the Delhi results -- one from Jammu and Kashmir leader Omar Abdullah and the other from Anna Hazare.



DIRECTORATE OF INCOME TAX  
(PUBLIC RELATIONS, PUBLICATION & PUBLICITY)  
6th Floor, Mayur Bhawan, Connaught Circus, New Delhi - 110001

Corrigendum

Kind reference to the advertisement published regarding

campaign on "Highlights of Budget 2025-26" on 10th

February, 2025 bearing No CBC/15401/13/0018/2425. It is

hereby notified that the point "National Savings Scheme (NSS) withdrawals are tax-free for deposits made on or

after the 29th Aug. 2024" may be read as "National Saving Scheme (NSS) withdrawals on or after 29th Aug. 2024 are tax free".

CBC 15401/11/0019/242

## Unchecked Power

Entrepreneur and billionaire Elon Musk's rapid rise as a central figure in the Trump Administration is both a testament to his influence and a reflection of the American public's demand for sweeping government reform. The November election delivered a clear mandate for dismantling bureaucracy and streamlining federal operations. Mr Musk, with his reputation for efficiency and disruption, is now executing that vision with characteristic speed and force. His leadership at the newly created Department of Government Efficiency (Doge) has already led to dramatic restructuring efforts. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), once a pillar of American foreign aid, has been particularly affected. Critics argue that Mr Musk's move to freeze its operations and sideline its leadership amounts to political retribution rather than reform. But supporters see it as a long-overdue correction to a bloated agency, often criticized for inefficiency and misallocation of funds. The divide reflects a deeper debate over whether radical change is necessary to break Washington's inertia or whether it risks undermining vital institutions. Mr Musk's approach mirrors his corporate playbook - swift overhauls, aggressive cost-cutting, and a belief in decisive leadership over bureaucratic consensus. At Tesla, SpaceX, and Twitter, this strategy produced remarkable innovation, though often at the cost of stability. Whether that model translates to governance is uncertain. Government agencies are designed to serve public interests within a framework of oversight and legal constraints. A private-sector mindset, focused on disruption, could lead to unintended consequences when applied to institutions responsible for public welfare and global diplomacy. Mr Trump's close alignment with Mr Musk raises broader questions about the role of unelected power in policy making. The President has made it clear that Mr Musk is an essential figure in his administration, praising his ability to bypass red tape. But such concentrated influence also warrants scrutiny. Government is not a corporation, and while efficiency is valuable, democratic institutions function on checks and balances, not executive fiat. The risk is that reforms pursued with too much force, too quickly, could weaken accountability rather than improve governance.

A more measured approach would be for Mr Musk and the administration to work with Congress to implement their agenda. The flurry of executive orders in the first weeks of Mr Trump's second term has signalled an aggressive approach, but Congress remains a critical player in determining the scope of these reforms. In December, lawmakers approved government funding through March 14, preserving USAID and the broader federal bureaucracy. If the administration truly seeks lasting change, it would be more effective to secure Congressional approval for deep funding cuts to USAID and other federal programmes when the next funding bill is debated. Yet, dismissing Mr Musk's role outright would ignore the frustration that fuelled his rise. Many Americans believe the federal government has grown unresponsive, inefficient, and resistant to change. Mr Musk represents a radical alternative to politics as usual, and his efforts reflect the will of those who voted for disruption.

## Uncharted Warming

The earth has just witnessed its hottest January on record, defying expectations and leaving climate scientists scrambling for answers. This is not just another milestone in the well-documented warming trend caused by greenhouse gas emissions. What makes this event particularly troubling is that it occurred despite the shift from an El Niño to a developing La Niña - historically associated with cooling. The fact that the expected dip in temperatures did not materialise raises urgent questions about whether climate change is accelerating in ways we do not yet fully understand. For decades, climate models have predicted a steady rise in global temperatures, primarily driven by carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases. However, the scale of warming over the past two years - exceeding projections by 0.2°C - suggests that additional, poorly understood factors may be at play. One theory is that the previous La Niña period, which lasted from 2020 to 2023, had suppressed warming by storing heat in the deep ocean, only for El Niño to release it rapidly. If true, this means the world may have been underestimating how much heat was accumulating beneath the surface all along. Another concerning possibility is the role of aerosols - tiny atmospheric particles that have historically provided a cooling effect by reflecting sunlight. Efforts to reduce air pollution, particularly from shipping and industrial emissions, have led to fewer aerosols in the atmosphere. While this is beneficial for human health, it may also mean that a hidden buffer against warming has been removed, exposing the full force of greenhouse gases. If climate models have underestimated the cooling impact of aerosols, then we may be in for a harsher reality than previously thought. Perhaps most unsettling is the potential feedback effect from cloud cover changes. Some researchers fear that warming oceans could be reducing the formation of reflective low-level clouds, which in turn allows more solar radiation to reach the Earth's surface, intensifying warming further. If this hypothesis holds, it could mean that the planet is entering a phase of self-reinforcing temperature rise that may be difficult to slow down.

Despite the uncertainty surrounding these theories, one thing remains indisputable - global temperatures are rising, and records will continue to be broken unless urgent action is taken. The expectation that 2025 would be cooler than recent years has already been called into question, making it clear that we are in uncharted territory. If the current trends persist, what seems extreme today may soon become the new normal. The urgency of reducing greenhouse gas emissions has never been greater. Every fraction of a degree matters, and failure to act decisively could push the planet into irreversible climate shifts. Scientists are still working to determine why recent warming has been so intense, but the message is clear: the time for half-measures is over. The world must treat this as a warning - and respond accordingly.

# Relations reset ~ II

**The most significant takeaway of Prabowo's visit was Indonesia's interest in acquiring the BrahMos missile system from India. Both sides reached a broad understanding on the pricing of the deal, expected to be worth around \$450 million. As a goodwill gesture, India briefed a top-level Indonesian team about the missile when it visited the BrahMos Aerospace headquarters and was briefed on its capabilities. If the deal goes ahead, Indonesia will become the second foreign buyer of the missile after the Philippines. In January 2022, India signed a deal worth almost \$375 million to equip the Philippine Marines with three batteries of the missiles**



When Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto joined as the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebration on 26 January 2025, it became his first trip to India as head of state. He was the fourth Indonesian leader to be chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations.

For the record, President Suharto was the chief guest at the first Republic Day in 1950, the others being Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (2011) and Joko Widodo (2018) along with other Asean leaders.

The two leaders - Prabowo and Prime Minister Narendra Modi - used the opportunity to discuss bilateral issues to deepen the relationship. Issues such as security, energy security, defence and security cooperation dominated the discussion.

Other issues included trade and investment, healthcare and digital technologies. Several MoUs and announcements were finalised. Prabowo participated in a forum as part of an effort to enhance trade and investment.

During the discussion, India pledged to support the Southeast Asian nation's defence modernisation programme through experience and expertise sharing, besides taking steps to resolve outstanding tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade.

Other areas covered in the discussion were counter terrorism, health and pharmaceuticals, food security, infrastructure and connectivity, science and technology, space cooperation, education and skill development, climate change and disaster resilience and Indo-Pacific initiatives.

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As a goodwill gesture, India

briefed a top-level Indonesian team about the missile when it visited the BrahMos Aerospace headquarters and was briefed on the capabilities of the supersonic cruise missile.

The delegation was led by Navy chief Admiral Muhammad Ali. During the visit, he interacted with Dr. Jaiteerth R. Joshi and senior officials from the JV enterprise. The delegation was informed about the supersonic BrahMos weapon system and its formidable capabilities.

The BrahMos missile is an Indo-Russian joint venture. If the deal goes ahead, Indonesia will become the second foreign buyer of the missile after the Philippines. In January 2022, India signed a deal worth almost \$375 million to equip the Philippine Marines with three batteries of the missiles.

The development came at a time when Indonesia was engaged in negotiations with India to acquire the missile system. The weapons showcased during the ceremonial parade witnessed by Prabowo included the BrahMos missiles.

The parade included a 160-member Indonesian military marching contingent and 190-member band contingent from that country. With its conventional precision-strike capabilities, the BrahMos missile has become the mainstay of the Indian armed forces.

Defence cooperation is being expanded as both India and Indonesia find synergy in the wake of the need to establish peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

A high-level delegation from Indonesia is likely to visit India soon to fast-track defence collaboration following the rat-

ification of a bilateral defence cooperation agreement. The Indian Prime Minister assured the visiting Indonesian leader that the two countries shall work together in defence manufacturing and supply chains.

In April 2024, India delivered the first batch of BrahMos missiles and launchers to the Philippines. BrahMos is the fastest cruise missile in the world with a speed of Mach 2.8, nearly three times the speed of sound. BrahMos variants can be launched from land, air and sea, and all three variants are in service with the Indian armed forces.

The ones being exported to the Philippines can strike targets at a distance of 290 km, though India has also developed another variant with a range of almost 500 km. Amid tensions in South China Sea, Modi and Prabowo reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, freedom of navigation and over-flight in the region and other lawful uses of the sea, including unimpeded lawful maritime commerce.

In a joint statement issued a day after the bilateral meeting, they also sought peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

They supported the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of the Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety and look forward to the early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct that is in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNC-

LOS. Both Modi and Prabowo agreed to continue their combined efforts for the safety of navigation in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore through existing mechanisms to enable unhindered economic growth of the region.

Defence cooperation also embraced manufacturing, opening the path for further expansion in the defence sector. Both leaders agreed that the defence ministers of the two countries shall have a meeting soon to discuss implementation of cooperation in the field of Defence agreement (DCA).

India agreed to support the on-going defence modernisation programmes of Indonesia through experience and expertise sharing.

Both also strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation in combating this threat through bilateral and multilateral initiatives.

Both leaders also underscored the importance of strengthening global efforts to combat terrorism, including eliminating terror financing and preventing recruitment of terrorists, without any double standards.

Both emphasised the need for all countries to work collectively to deny safe havens and support network terrorist groups, in accordance with international obligations and commitments.

Recognising the evolving nature of security challenges, the two leaders agreed to work together in preventing the spread of online radicalisation and strengthening mechanisms to counter extremist ideologies.

It was heartening that Prabowo sought Indian participation in Indonesian projects ranging from the setting up of tertiary and specialist hospitals to the development of Sabang port in Aceh province.

(Concluded)

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ASIAN VOICES

RX for PhilHealth:  
A new chief

It just might be the shot in the arm that the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) needs to regain consciousness on the proper and efficient handling of funds from the premium payments of its 62.24 million members. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. named Dr. Edwin Mercado president and chief executive officer of the state health insurance firm that, in recent months, has descended into chaos following several budget controversies among them the zero subsidy from the government, and the transfer of P60 billion of its unused funds to the national treasury. In October 2024, the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order to stop the finance department from further impounding P29.9 billion of PhilHealth's money amid claims that the agency has at least P500 billion in reserve funds.

Mercado replaced Emmanuel Ledesma Jr., whose six-year term as PhilHealth chief started in July 2023 and marred by a string of controversies. Mercado's appointment was announced just as the high court was hearing oral arguments on the pending transfer of more PhilHealth funds to state coffers that petitioners have described as "unconstitutional" and a "murder" of universal health care (UHC) as embodied in Republic Act No. 11223.

"The murder of universal health care is happening before the eyes of the Filipino people, orchestrated and executed by the very government that should be safeguarding their right to health," said former undersecretary for

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Population and Development Dr. Juan Antonio Perez III, one of the petitioners. The petitioners also argued that the impounded P60 billion in PhilHealth funds could have gone to UHC programs to benefit more indigent Filipinos. Lawmakers have meanwhile asked why, with such huge reserves of funds, is PhilHealth providing skimpy health benefits to its members, while failing to address its outstanding financial obligations to health-care workers, hospitals, and other institutions?

Hopefully, the change in PhilHealth leadership would provide answers, said several senators who warmly welcomed Mercado's appointment. Mercado "can breathe new life into the state health insurer that needs healing itself," noted Sen. Grace Poe.

Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada even expressed relief that the new PhilHealth chief is "not a politician," who'd make decisions based on political accommodation and exigencies. Mercado, an orthopaedic surgeon trained in the United States, has been vice chair of the Ayala-owned Mercado General Hospital Inc. since 2021. The health care firm behind the Qualimed Health Network has national chain of medical facilities that include four general hospitals, six multispecialty clinics, two surgery centers, 150 primary care corporate clinics, and a 400-strong team of practicing physicians.

While that reflects a laudable record of sustained profitability, Mercado's particular challenge here is to prove himself above possible conflict of interest. He should sever his ties with his former bosses in the private sector, while still maintaining a well-run professional relationship with them. The medicine graduate of both the University of the Philippines (UP) and Harvard Medical School also has an executive master's in health-care administration from the University of North Carolina. This mix of medical background and management skills could significantly help run an agency notorious for making dubious deals with allied health-care facilities while Welching on the verified claims of its hospital members.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## Foundation of lies

SIR, The result of Delhi elections is in front of everyone. The fortress of the one who showed a rosy picture of so-called alternative politics collapsed because it was built on a foundation of lies.

Arvind Kejriwal, who talked about eliminating high command culture, monarchy and autocracy from politics, himself became the most cruel king as soon as he sat on the throne. He threw out all his old colleagues, associates and those who laid the foundation of the party.

Arvind Kejriwal was the biggest Sanghi and BJP supporter. The world's biggest political conspiracy, which is known as the 'Anna Movement' between 2012 and 2013, was actually the biggest lie in Indian history. Many of them were a part of that lie.

The first person, Vinod Rai, claimed the so-called spectrum scam of Rs 1.76 lakh crore. The second person Anna Hazare protested against this scam by gathering a huge crowd at Ramlila Maidan.

The third person Kiran Bedi actively participated in this protest. The fourth person Arvind Kejriwal hijacked this protest. The fifth person Ramdev added the angle of black money and made this protest bigger.

The sixth person Subramanian Swamy took this protest to the Supreme Court. The seventh person Narendra Modi took advantage of the atmosphere created on the basis of this protest and gained power in the country.

In 2017, the country's Supreme Court while giving its ver-

dict said that there was no scam in the 2G case and everyone was acquitted. The people of Delhi have taught a perfect lesson to the perpetrator of this mega scam. The Aam Aadmi Party will cease to exist in the next two to three years.

Yours, etc.,  
Jang Bahadur Singh,  
Jamshedpur, 10 February.

OVERDUE  
SIR, Apropos the report "Manipur CM Biren Singh resigns, 21 months after ethnic violence began" (February 10), I must say that the decision ought to have been taken much earlier.

There is perhaps no single instance in Indian politics where MLAs threatened a revolt forcing the CM to resign.

The people of Manipur have the right to know why PM Modi

## A NEW WORLD

SIR, Apropos "Brute power of an imperial presidency", published today, the US having sub-contracted a demolisher with free supply of detonators, has managed to turn Gaza into rubble. No wonder Trump, after absolute take over of the firm, finds great potential in Gaza being transformed into the Riviera of the Middle East. He has certainly lived up to his reputation as a dyed-in-the-wool real estate developer. With a Trumpian world view, the US could have made Hiroshima and Nagasaki into great habitats instead of the Japanese doing it by themselves. After all, is not America supreme? We may well see Greenland developed into a great attraction. Canada too could be in for some makeover. Perhaps Iraq had no potential and Vietnam proved a sink hole.

Developer philanthropist supremo Trump, could be the Avatar preaching the tenet that prosperity ushers peace and not the other way round. And for this people, domestic or foreign, must be sacrifices at the high altar. Corporate Social Responsibility is an archaic notion.

Yours, etc., R. Narayanan, Navi Mumbai, 6 February.

and Union Home Minister Amit Shah chose to maintain a stoic silence so long allowing the state to suffer both pecuniary

loss as well as loss of so many human lives.  
Yours, etc., Arun Gupta, Kolkata, 10 February.

## Can India deal with a bullying Trump?

HARSHA KAKAR

**D**onald Trump, following his election, has been pushing his agenda based on his election manifesto of MAGA (Make America Great Again). While every national leader is primarily interested in the well-being of his people, yet carries allies along on occasions ignoring their shortcomings, even if they appear inimical. India continues to support Maldives and Bangladesh, despite their pronounced anti-India sentiments.

Trump, on the other hand, believes that he can bulldoze his way as the US needs none while the world needs it. This flows from his presumption that Washington dominates the world, militarily and economically, and that all states must submit to it. His ego gets a boost when global leaders call and accept conditions he lays down.

He began his current term by sending a message that the world is 'ripping off the US' and he is the 'messiah' to put a stop to it. On internal matters he conveyed that all existing institutions are flawed, exploited by the powerful, and need to be restructured and realigned. The message that Trump is sending is that he is in a rush to fulfil his poll promise of MAGA. How it impacts America's soft power and global standing in the long term is immaterial.

Relationships and alliances built over decades are being dumped on the sidewalk, solely because of Trump's preconceived beliefs. A few of his recent actions highlight this. Accusing his neighbours of encouraging illegal immigrants and drugs to cross into the US, Trump imposed high tariffs on Canada and Mexico.

Instead of imposing caution by dialogue, he used a hammer threatening to crush their economy. Justin Trudeau, whom he anyway disliked, was compelled to resign in a few days.

Canada lamely attempted to place counter tariffs, aware that it was just a face saver. Trump brought both nations to heel, solely because their economies were dependent on the US. It was outright bullying.

Trudeau commented after a one-sided conversation with Trump, "Canada is implementing our \$1.3 billion border plans — reinforcing the border with new choppers, technology and personnel, enhanced coordination with our American partners, and increased resources to stop the flow of fentanyl. Nearly 10,000 front-line personnel are and will be working on protecting the border."

The Mexican President, Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo, tweeted in a near surrendering fashion, "Mexico will immediately reinforce the northern border with 10,000 members of the National Guard to prevent drug trafficking from Mexico to the United States, particularly fentanyl. The United States is committed to working to prevent the trafficking of high-powered weapons to Mexico. They are pausing tariffs for one month from now." The submission of both nations massaged Trump's ego.

After success against Mexico and Canada, Trump began switching attention to the European Union (EU). He mentioned that tariffs 'will definitely happen with the EU,' and could come 'pretty soon.' The EU had been anticipating it and had even formed a supposed 'Trump Task Force,' once Trump's victory was announced. While Europe for the past couple of years was working to stem a possible Russia threat, it is now compelled to counter Trump's trade war as also his threat to take over Greenland.

Smaller and weaker nations are being bullied unashamedly. Trump threatened to occupy the Panama Canal if the Chinese continue to run it, leading to Panama's President, José Raúl Mulino, submitting that Panama will withdraw from the Chinese Belt



Road Initiative (BRI). This angered the Chinese whose foreign ministry summoned Panama's Ambassador and also criticized Trump for his actions.

Venezuela released six US citizens after a meeting between the country's president, Nicolas Maduro, and Trump's envoy for special missions Richard Grenell. Colombia and Ecuador crumbled under US pressure and accepted illegal immigrants, after initially refusing. El Salvador, apart from accepting illegal immigrants, offered to incarcerate deportees from the US of any nationality including their own criminals for a fee.

To display his dislike for global institutions, which he believes do not accord priority to US views, despite its funding, Trump pulled the US out of multiple global bodies, and promised to leave even more, throwing UN run institutions into chaos.

Displaying arrogance and believing that the US can act at will, Trump, after his meeting with Israeli PM, Benjamin Netanyahu mentioned, "The US will take over the Gaza Strip and

we will do a job with it, too. We'll own it." He announced his intent of permanently shifting Gazans into neighbouring countries. For Netanyahu, this is music to the ears, while for Arabs it was a sign of American arrogance, which they rejected. How this plays out is to be seen.

While most nations capitulated, China stood firm on countering tariffs imposed by Trump. China is not solely dependent on the US for trade. It has options. Hence, Beijing refused to bend or crawl. It imposed limited tariffs on select imports from the US, effective a week later, opening doors for Trump to negotiate a solution.

Beijing is aware that the tariff battle has just commenced, hence has kept a few aces up its sleeve. Standing up to the bully worked. Trump announced he would soon be speaking to Chinese President Xi Jinping. Beijing has stood its ground primarily because it was not in the same boat as Canada and Mexico.

Internally, Trump has caused immense upheaval. Shutting down

institutions, including USAID, has resulted in thousands of staffers and contractors being laid off or locked out of their offices. A collection of programmes in third world countries have come to a standstill. It is not that US institutions were not being misused; they were and that is well known. However, many of his internal decisions are being challenged in courts, some even being stalled.

India changed its import policies to meet Trump's insistence on fair trade, accepted its illegal immigrants. The PM will be visiting the White House this week. Just prior to the visit of PM Modi, Trump in an executive order removed all waivers on Iran's Chabahar port being built by India, impacting India's trade with Afghanistan and central Asia. How the India-US relationship transcends the bullying Trump is to be seen.

One aspect is certain. The world will witness far more bullying and blackmail during Trump's tenure.

(The writer is a retired Major-General of the Indian Army.)

### 100 YEARS AGO OCCASIONAL NOTE

WHILE Lord Lytton was justified in telling the League of Women Workers that there was an almost complete lack of social service organizations in Bengal, it is not necessary to infer that there is a lack of social service. On the contrary, the young men of Bengal are only too ready to help in any good cause when the need is brought home to them and someone whom they know well calls on them to help. The history of floods, village epidemics, and other emergencies gives ample illustration of this, but the work is usually spasmodic and temporary, taken up from time to time as the need is felt. There are, however, instances of something like permanent organizations in the arrangements made to help pilgrims at melas and other festivals; while not a little work is carried on quietly season after season by college students anxious to help the less fortunate in education and other ways. Little of this comes under official notice, and if it were more advertised it would probably lose much of its value. The essence of social service is that the worker chooses the work that appeals to him, and not what a wider experience may regard as more useful. The villages of Bengal are deplorably backward in many ways, but the young bhadralok are doing much more for them than others who might be regarded as having obligations in this direction. Further, local bodies, school committees and the like might fairly be called a net-work of very valuable social service.

### NEWS ITEMS

#### "WE WILL CONTINUE"

#### CONFIDENCE OF VISCOUNT CECIL

LONDON, FEB. 7.

HOWEVER dramatic the withdrawal of the Chinese delegation from the Opium Conference might have been, it has caused no surprise.

Dr. Sze was apparently embarrassed at Viscount Cecil's appeal to China yesterday, which is considered one reason for China's withdrawal, inasmuch as it would have been difficult for Dr. Sze to respond to it.

The Conference in the morning noted the American memorandum and the letter of the President in reply to it, in which he paid a tribute, to the active co-operation of the American delegation.

Outspoken criticism of the American attitude was, however, made by M. Ludon, the Netherlands delegate, who remarked that the Conference pre-supposed mutual concessions and good-will and added that Mr. Porter had not replied to any of the arguments which the other side had advanced, and that further concessions to the Americans would have harmed the League. He declared that Mr. Porter had entirely ignored the Indian reservation and had never explained his own point of view.

Viscount Cecil, regretting the American withdrawal before the announcement of the decision of the Conference, alluded to the great assistance that the Americans had given in the earlier proceedings. He complained against a statement in the American memorandum which implied that the Conference was called to give effect to the principles cited therein, and said it required modification. He concluded that the League of Nations would have been stronger with the continuance of the American Commission, "but without them we will still continue, confident that in the end right will triumph." (Applause).

#### HOME CABINET'S PROGRAMME

#### PARLIAMENT'S BUSY SESSION

(BRITISH OFFICIAL WIRELESS.)  
LEAFIELD (OXFORD), FEB. 9.

PARLIAMENT re-assembles to-morrow. The meeting does not mark the opening of a new session, but merely the continuation of the session which was begun before Christmas. There is no occasion, therefore, for the King to visit Westminster, and there will be no King's speech.

It is probable that much of the time of Parliament during the session, which continues until late in the summer, will be devoted to the questions of finance, housing, unemployment, agriculture and trade development. Consideration of the supplementary estimates for next year and other financial business will engage the attention of the House of Commons to the exclusion of most other subjects until Easter.

The estimates for next year are still under examination. Their consideration in Parliament provides an opportunity for debates which invariably cover a wide field. The Budget will not be introduced until after the Easter recess.

### NAVAL CONSPIRACY

#### TWO IRISHMEN SENT TO PRISON

ON conclusion of what was known as the naval conspiracy case O'Leary was sentenced to 18 months' and McGough to 15 months' imprisonment under the Official Secrets Act.

## Asia can restart global growth

KAUSHIK BASU

**A**s 2025 dawns, the world seems to be entering an age of anxiety, reminiscent of one hundred years ago, the period between the two World Wars. That period saw the German hyper-inflation of 1923, the rise of Hitler, and the Great Depression that caused jobs to vanish and incomes to plunge.

Now, the world's politics is polarized, democracy is witnessing a setback in many places, the share of income of workers in the GDP of most countries is falling, and economic inequality is at an intolerable high. All this is not a natural calamity about which we humans can do little. To turn the world around from the brink of this existential risk will not be easy but is not impossible.

In this fractious world, Asia has a special responsibility. In continental comparisons, Asia's economy stands out. There are richer nations in North America and Europe, but Asia has the lead in growth rates. The continent's growth performance over the last fifty years has been remarkable, like Europe after the Industrial Revolution. Go back to 1970. Barring the notable exception of Japan, Asian countries had per capita incomes well below \$1,000. By 2023, per capita income (all in US dollar) was: India 2,485, Indonesia 4,941, China 12,614, S. Korea 33,121, Japan 33,766, and Singapore 84,734.

More importantly, much of Asia seems poised for another growth sprint. Given the global situation, nations around the world are facing challenges right now, and Asia is no exception. Nevertheless, they are in better shape than most other parts of the globe. Most Asian countries are doing well on savings and investment rates. In particular, China has made

large investments in electric vehicles (EVs) and other environment-friendly goods and services. This will help China be a major player in the world that is evolving.

Just as the Industrial Revolution changed the character and content of GDP, I believe the world will see a major shift caused by the digital revolution. Two sectors which are bound to be in the lead in the new world will be health and education. India is well-poised on the first, with one of the world's largest pharmaceutical industries. In education, South Korea is a global leader. If we look at the intellectual patents being granted by all countries, four Asian countries appear among the top five: South Korea, Japan, China and India, with United States the only non-Asian country.

Despite these economic advantages, Asia has one handicap compared to America and Europe. It is politically much more heterogeneous. One reason why North America and Western Europe could work together, for instance, during the Bretton Woods conference in 1944, to help create a uniform financial architecture for the world, and set up the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, was because of their shared political ideals.

Ranging from one-party Communism in China and Vietnam, though military authoritarianism in Myanmar, to electoral democracy in Japan and Korea, Asia is a potpourri of political systems. We all have our preferences for the ideal political system. However, to wait for that to happen is a recipe for inaction. What Asia needs now is to create a "salad bowl" forum of nations for cooperation. Like in a bowl of salad, there will be distinctly different elements, but nevertheless there will also be a unity of purpose.

There are examples of multilateral initiatives with global vision from Asia. One of the most prominent was the Bandung Conference of 1955. Led by Indonesia's President Suharto and India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, the Bandung conference was organized by a group of heterogeneous Asian countries with representations from different parts of the world. Its main focus was political, mainly to nurture the non-aligned movement among nations that had newly broken from colonial rule, but it also had ambitions of nurturing economic cooperation among these nations.

Asia is in a position to restart such an initiative, where countries respect the differences in their internal political institutions (or at least are reconciled to these differences for now) but have a common aim - for peace and for a world economy that is growing, sustainable and equitable.

One key reason for much of our troubles today is inequality. Extreme inequality is bad enough, but in today's digital world, where one can use one's wealth to capture the platforms of information and influence, the rise of inequality goes hand in hand with the trampling of democracy and voice. As few people become wealthy beyond imagination, the masses not only lose in terms of their relative wealth, they lose their voice and become cogs in the wheel.

Oxfam's report, "Takers not makers," released on 20 January 2025, draws attention to the stark unfairness of the today's economy. The report calculates that 60 per cent of the wealth of billionaires comes from inheritance, cronyism and capitalist capture. Hence, "most billionaires wealth is taken not earned." The problem is getting worse. Another Oxfam report shows that just eight men own half the wealth of the world.

I am sure a time will come, when our descendants, looking back at today's world, will be shocked that we tolerated so much inequality, in the same way that we get shocked by our ancestors who tolerated slavery and forced labour.

The trouble is that there are limits to what any nation can do individually. Excessive action can lead to the flight of capital. Each nation should do more, but what is really needed is a collective, multi-country effort to coordinate fiscal policies and taxation to create a more equitable world, where a few people do not capture the world's wealth.

Hope comes from the fact that nowadays we are hearing calls for redistribution of income from rich people who are likely to themselves lose out by such initiatives. As Abigail Disney, Emmy Award-winning filmmaker said, "It's hard to be optimistic

about what lies ahead ... but if officials want to do something to ensure the stability of our democracies, they need only find the political resolve to once and for all tax wealthy people like me."

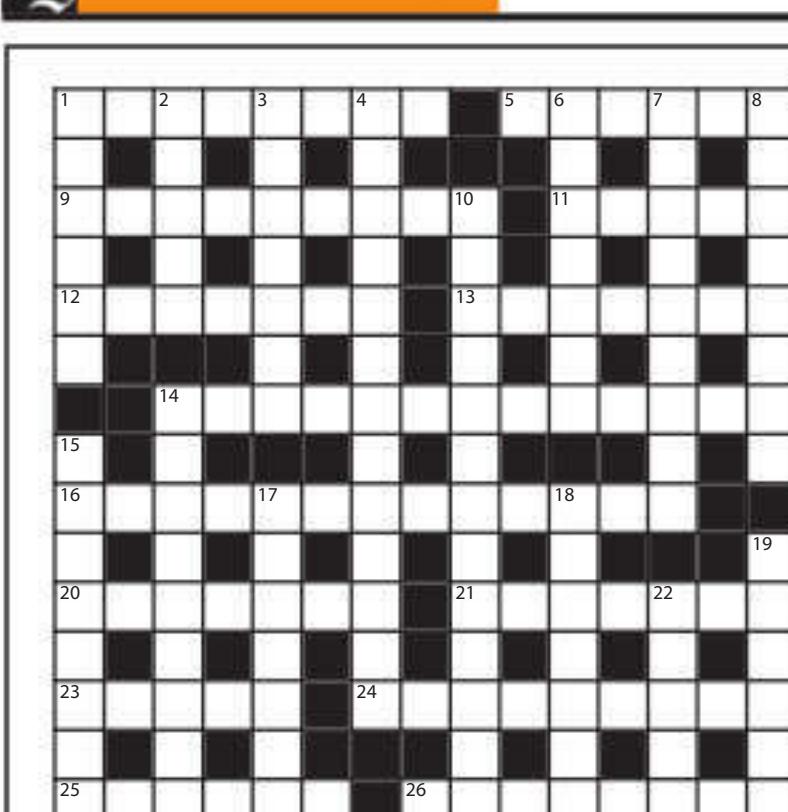
Asian countries are in a position to take the lead on multilateral initiative to restart the engine of global economic growth. With their recent success in scientific research, STEM education and EVs they can contribute to sustainable development. And with a little bit of resolve, they can also take on the challenge of inequality and work towards coordinated policy to make sure that no individual is rich enough to capture government and muzzle the voice of ordinary people.

(The writer is Professor of Economics and the Carl Marks Professor of International Studies at Cornell University. Views expressed are personal.)

The Korea Herald/ANN.



### CROSSWORD



#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

T	O	L	E	R	A	B	L	E	P	Y	G	M	Y
E	I	F	A	R	O	I	S	L	A	M	E	E	
E	M	L	T	S	D	E							
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A	D	A	T	A	B	E	P	A	T	I	O	O	
A	T	E	E	V	E	A	T	C	E	E			
C	H	I	N	A	S	E	R	E	N	G	E	T	
O	R	O	O	N	B	S							
T	U	N	I	S	N	A	N	N	Y	G	O	A	

#### ACROSS

- 1 Time limit is reason you can't phone? (8)
- 5 Examiner is more irritable without one (6)
- 9 Pirate gets a bit of a shock, finding gun (9)
- 11 Primarily Christmas air, Noel regularly featured? (5)
- 12 Not all respect a large naval officer (7)
- 13 Fighting half-heartedly, being merciful (7)
- 14 When out, English batsman feels humiliation (4-9)
- 16 Bird, back by river, tucked into fish little bits at a time (5,3,5)
- 20 He scored 100 batting in international trophy, making comeback (7)
- 21 Secured by advance payment, I start to make a living (7)
- 23 Expression tense for Mike and Wally (5)

#### DOWN

- 24 Cast get a car to Petersham? (9)
- 25 Rev returned to fetch something small and valuable (6)
- 26 Knowing about April being stormy as spring proceeds? (8)
- 27 Secured by advance payment, I start to make a living (7)
- 28 Man wants a vote on principle (5)
- 3 A £50 rate, working on the side (7)
- 4 Unattractive and plain, I go into salon finally for makeover (2,3,8)
- 6 Isolated area in French grotto containing lake (7)
- 7 On retirement, I blast head for unpunctuality (9)
- 8 At the end, demote member in rank? (8)
- 10 Fool around in class, needing slap to restore peace? (4,3,4,2)
- 14 Long to have smart clothing? Sewing is required (9)
- 15 Approval of choice of commercial? (8)
- 17 Saliva test involved with lip (7)
- 18 One who flies from Scandinavia to Russia (7)
- 19 Posh folk gradually changing sides (6)
- 22 Bikini for one adult comes with cost (5)

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

# Defence Minister inaugurates India, iDEX, & Karnataka Pavilions at Aero India 2025

Rajnath Singh invites global OEMs to leverage India's growing defence ecosystem at Aero India 2025

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

In his address at the CEOs Roundtable during Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh called on global Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to seize the opportunities offered by India's expanding defence ecosystem and collaborate on innovative solutions to address the evolving security challenges posed by a volatile global geopolitical landscape.

He highlighted the complex and fragile global security situation, where traditional rules-based orders are being challenged and technology is rapidly evolv-



ing, creating new opportunities as well as vulnerabilities.

"In today's world, the communication and data sharing involved in military operations have become far more complex. The use of space-based navigation,

surveillance systems, and drones in modern conflicts means that defence strategies must integrate manned, unmanned, and autonomous systems," said Singh. He stressed that India's defence manufacturing must focus on countering these emerging challenges to ensure preparedness for future warfare.

Drawing inspiration from the great Indian strategist Kautilya, he emphasized the moral responsibility to protect the nation's people and territory in an increasingly hostile environment. He reassured global OEMs that the Indian government is taking all necessary steps to equip the Armed Forces and promote self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

"We are creating a robust, efficient, and future-ready defence industrial ecosystem to safeguard our national security," he added.

The CEOs Roundtable focused on 'Enabling Defence Cooperation through Global Engagement (EDGE)' and featured participation from leading international OEMs such as Airbus (France), Ultra Maritime (USA), Rafael Advanced Defence Systems (Israel), Mitsubishi (Japan), and others. It also saw contributions from Indian giants like Bharat Forge Ltd, Mahindra Defence Systems Ltd, and BrahMos Aerospace, who shared their future plans for collaborations, joint ventures, and R&D in India.

## HAL's HJT-36 Jet Trainer renamed 'Yashas' with advanced modifications



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) unveiled the new name for its flagship jet training aircraft, the HJT-36 during the ongoing Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru. The aircraft, previously known as HJT-36,

the training effectiveness and operational efficiency of the aircraft. The modifications also include a reduction in weight and the replacement of imported equipment with Indian-made Line Replaceable Units (LRUs), ensuring a more self-reliant and sustainable system.

Yashas is designed to be a versatile platform capable of Stage II pilot training, counterinsurgency and counter-force operations, armament training, and aerobatics. It is powered by the FADEC-controlled AL551 jet engine, which offers an impressive thrust-to-weight ratio, optimized thrust management, and high reliability.

One of the notable design features of the Yashas is its stepped-up rear cockpit with a drooped nose, providing excellent all-around visibility and enhanced situational awareness. The advanced glass cockpit, equipped with Multi-Function Displays (MFDs) and a Head-Up Display (HUD), further improves the pilot's operational capacity.

The capabilities of Yashas extend beyond basic training. It is capable of performing aerobatic maneuvers, carrying armament up to 1,000 kg, and is equipped with single-point ground refueling and in-flight refueling capabilities, making it a comprehensive training platform for future military aviators.

## TN: Chandhirakumar takes oath after landslide victory in Erode East by-polls

AGENCIES  
CHENNAI, 10 FEBRUARY

Senior DMK leader V.C. Chandhirakumar, who won the Erode East by-election by a massive margin of 90,629 votes, took the oath of office as a legislator on Monday.

Tamil Nadu Assembly speaker M. Appavu administered the oath in his chamber at the Assembly secretariat.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, State Irrigation Minister Duraimurugan, Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, VCK leader and Member of Parliament from Chidambaram (SC) constituency Thol. Thirumavalavan and Tamil Nadu Congress Committee President K. Selvarunthangai were among the leaders present at the ceremony.



by-election following the untimely demise of his son, Thirumanan Everaa, due to a heart attack on January 4, 2023.

In the 2023 by-election, Elango secured a landslide victory with a margin of 66,233 votes, defeating AIADMK's K.S. Thenarassu. At that time, NTK's candidate, Menaka Navaneethan, secured 10,827 votes. The overall voter turnout for that election stood at 65 percent, according to the Election Commission.

Notably, the AIADMK, BJP, DMDK, and Tamil superstar Vijay's newly formed political party, TVK, did not participate in this election. NTK, led by Seeman, based its campaign on harsh criticisms of Dravidar Kazhagam founder E.V. Ramasamy Periyar while also

attacking the DMK government.

In contrast, the DMK's campaign focused on showcasing the state government's achievements. Although the election process remained largely peaceful, tensions escalated between NTK and Thanthai Periyar Dravidar Kazhagam (TPDK).

This by-election came at a crucial time for the DMK government, which has been facing scrutiny over recent controversies, including the Anna University sexual assault case and growing concerns about law and order in Tamil Nadu.

Determined to use this election to reinforce public support, the DMK took the contest seriously, despite the absence of AIADMK and BJP candidates.

## Actor Vijay & Prashant Kishore discuss 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly poll strategy

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHENNAI, 10 FEBRUARY

With the 2026 assembly election a little more than a year away, Tamilaga Veerai Kazhagam (TVK) president and actor Vijay had a discussion with poll strategist and Jan Suraksha Party (JSP) president Prashant Kishore at the former's residence in suburban Chennai on Monday, sparking speculation in political circles.

Interestingly, the meeting comes amidst reports of the fledgling TVK holding informal parleys with the principal opposition, AIADMK, for a tie-up for the assembly poll.

TVK senior functionaries were present during the meeting, which lasted for about two and half hours at the Neelankarai residence of the actor-neta.

Vijay, engaged in the process of appointing district 120 secretaries for the 234



been inducted into the TVK and appointed as General Secretary, entrusted with the party's election campaign.

Though the TVK had tried to engage Kishor even before the party organised its first state conference in October last year, the meeting could take place only now. The acclaimed poll strategist, who has taken the plunge in Bihar politics, is not new to Tamil Nadu as he had worked for the DMK in the past.

According to sources, it was Aadhar Arjuna, who runs an election strategy firm, Voice of Common, who had played a key role in bringing Kishor to meet Vijay. Only the other day, the TVK reiterated its position that the party was open to an alliance with parties which accepted the leadership of Vijay as the Chief Ministerial candidate.

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## Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department

E-Procurement Notice  
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Haroli Distt. Una H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids of percentage rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 cover system for the under mentioned works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimate Cost	EMD Through Online	Time limit	Cost of tender Through Online	Eligible class of contractor
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1.	C/o link rod Dalit Basti to War No.4 Kad Tehsil Haorli Distt Una Km 0/00 to 1/00 (SH: P/L paver block RD 0/500 to 0/700 & C/o drain) under SCDP (MMSY)	9,80,065/-	19,600	Two months	350/-	Class-D & C
2.	C/o link road Hirangan Degran Tobba to main road Dulehra via Ravi Das Mandir Dulehra Uppera Una Km 0/0 to 2/00 (SH: P/L GSB, WMM, BC RD 0/500 to 0/950) under SCDP	20,44,646/-	38,300	Two months	500/-	Class-D & C
3.	C/o link road Harjan Basti to Ward No.1 via Bhatti Sahib Panjawar Km 0/0 to 2/00 (SH: C/o CC pavement RD 0/773 to 1/030) under SCDP	28,10,226/-	49,700/-	Three months	1500/-	Class-C & B
4.	C/o link road to Harjan Basti Kuthar Beet Km 0/0 to 2/500 (SH: C/o R/wall at RD 1/800 & C/o V-shape drain with breast wall RD 2/300 to 2/500) under SCDP	8,48,698/-	17,000/-	Two months	350/-	Class-D & C
5.	C/o link road to Harjan Basti Polian Km 0/0 to 1/500 (SH: C/o R/wall 0/750 & C/o drain RD 1/100 to 1/140) under SCDP	9,42,840/-	18,800/-	Two months	350/-	Class-D & C
6.	C/o link road Sehnot Bagh Khad Harjan Basti to National Highway Pandoga Km 0/0 to 2/500 (SH: C/o CC pavement RD 0/664 to 1/00) under DTMPN	23,46,848/-	42,700/-	Two month	500/-	Class-D & C
7.	A/R & M/O on Ajoudi Santokhgarh Polian Latton road Km 0/0 to 17/400 (SH: Protection work to Swan bridge at RD 0/780)	9,76,848/-	19,500/-	One month	350/-	Class-D & C

Date of release of invitation for bids through e-procurement: 17.02.2025.

Cost of bid form: As per detail in Column No.6 in form through online in favor of Executive Engineer, HPPWD Haroli Distt. Una (HP) payable at Haroli.

Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid Document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <http://htenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register on the website which is free of cost.

For submission of bid, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the same from the website <http://htenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use same in this tender.

Key Dates:

1.	Date of online Publication	17.02.2025 (10.00 AM)
2.	Document Download Start and End Date	17.02.2025 (10.30 AM up to 24.02.2025 (11.00 AM)
3.	Bid Submission Start and End Date	17.02.2025 (10.30 AM up to 24.02.2025 (11.00 AM)
4.	Date of technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	24.02.2025 (12.30 PM)

TENDER DETAILS:-

The Tender Document Shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:

a. Cover 1 shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Document /Eligibility Information".

b. Cover2 shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will Quote his offer for each item.

c. Submission of Original Document: The bidders are required to submit required Technical Document in Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Haroli Distt. Una (HP) as specified in key dates Sr. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

d. BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on 24.02.2025 at 12.30 PM in the Office of Executive Engineer Division, HPPWD Division Haroli Distt. Una(HP) by the authorized officer. In their interest the tenderer is advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the Office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The date for opening of financial bids will be intimated separately after evaluation of technical bids.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 75 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

e. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even through the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates. The Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

f. NOTE:- The bidders are requested to submit their bid as per notification issued by the Principal Secretary (PW) to the Govt. of H.P. Note No. PBW(BJA) (3)/2020 dated 22.07.2020 & Govt. of HP vide PBW(BJA) (3)/2020 dated 07.10.2021 & E-in-C HPPWD Shimla-2 letter No.PW/CTR/32-20 -Genl. Inst. CPWD/2020-37996-38095 dated 13.03.2023.The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the departmental website: [www.htenders.gov.in](http://htenders.gov.in)

Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Haroli Distt. Una (HP) Pin Code-177220 Telephone: 01975-294822 Email Id: ee-haroli-hppwd.gov.in

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

## GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited

Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Palgh Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad- 500003, Telangana, India CIN: U40109TG1997PLC028483

(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL) (A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

Dept-HOD, HR & Admin GATPL, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of:

1. Tender Enquiry No. 012/GATPL/HRADMIN/50007162 dated 10/02/2025 "TENDER FOR GVKPSL EMPLOYEES INSURANCE" at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant(GATPL), Goindwal Sahib, Distt: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications.

For detailed NIT & tender , specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 10/02/2025 from 17:00 Hrs onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> GATPL-04/25

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-procurement system)

Sr.DMM, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the president of India invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items.

S. No. Tender No. Brief Description Qty. Closing Date

1. 93247480 Supply of 24 Fiber armoured Optic Fiber cable as per RDSO SPEC.NO. RDSO/SPN/TCI 110/2020 and with latest amendment/revision till the date of opening of tender.

NOTE-1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for details. 2. No manual offer will be entertained.

Sr. DMM/NS/LP/B/3247480/2024 Date: 07.02.2025

SERVING



## THUMBNAILS

LIC reports 8.27% PAT growth for 9 months FY25: The Board of Directors of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) approved and adopted the standalone and consolidated financial results for nine months ending 31 December, 2024. Below are the key highlights of our standalone results. The Profit after Tax (PAT) for the nine months ended December 31, 2024 was Rs 29,138 crore as compared to Rs. 26,913 crore for the nine months ended December 31, 2023, registering a growth of 8.27%. In terms of market share measured by First Year Premium Income (FYPI) (as per IRDAI), LIC continues to be the market leader in Indian life insurance business with overall market share of 57.42% for nine months ended December 31st, 2024 as compared to 58.90% for nine months ended December 31, 2023.

**Healthians witnesses 23 pc increase in tests:** Healthians, one of the leading diagnostic companies providing doorstep health test services, has witnessed a 23 per cent increase in the number of tests conducted within the first 15 days of January 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. The rise in lifestyle diseases such as high blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, thyroid disorders and hypertension has led to a growing awareness of well-being among individuals, with more people choosing to focus on preventive healthcare. The rise in the number of health tests highlights that with the growing awareness, individuals are going a little extra mile to monitor their health proactively and to lead healthy lives.

**'Navneet AI' launched:** Navneet Education Limited announced the launch of 'Navneet AI', an innovative platform designed to empower teachers with easy access to knowledge and resources. Leveraging Navneet's extensive catalogue of educational materials, Navneet AI's tools will help teachers deliver lessons more effectively by offering an interactive, user-friendly platform to create quizzes, homework, PPTs, flashcards, summaries, and more. Navneet Education aims to bridge traditional educational resources with modern technology.

# Market declines as investors remain cautious amid Trump's tariff commitment

At close, Sensex dropped 0.7 per cent, or 548 points, settling at 77,311.80, while the Nifty50 index declined by 0.76 per cent, or 178.35 points, to 23,381.60

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

**S**tock market witnessed a sharp decline on Monday, shedding over 0.7 per cent as investors' sentiment remained cautious following US President Donald Trump's tariff commitment. The response was in line with losses across most Asian markets amid Trump's commitment to imposing tariffs on imports, raising concerns over potential disruptions in global supply chains.

Benchmark indices dropped for the fourth straight session. At close, Sensex dropped 0.7 per cent, or 548

points, settling at 77,311.80, while the Nifty50 index declined by 0.76 per cent, or 178.35 points, to 23,381.60.

Throughout the day, Nifty reached a high of 23,568.6 and a low of 23,316.3 while, the Sensex fluctuated between 77,849.58 and 77,106.89.

All the sectoral indices ended in the red with metal, media, pharma, consumer durables, energy, realty down 2 per cent each.

Nifty Metal, Realty, Healthcare, Consumer Durables, Media, and select Consumer Durables indices sold off with losses of over 2 per cent each.

Nifty Midcap 50 closed down by 2.26 per cent while the small-cap stocks lagged

behind with Nifty Small Cap 100 ended at 17,006.85, down by 358.15 points, reflecting a decrease of 2.11 per cent.

On Nifty 50, the gainers were Kotak Mahindra Bank (1.60 per cent), Bharti Airtel (0.97 per cent), Britannia Industries (0.80 per cent), Tata Consumer (0.62 per cent), and HCL Technologies (0.48 per cent).

The top losers were Trent (4.72 per cent), Power Grid Corporation of India (3.40 per cent), Tata Steel (3.09 per cent), Titan Company (2.84 per cent), and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (2.59 per cent).

Bank Nifty concluded at 50,158.85, with an intraday

high of 50,155.65 and a low of 49,703.1.

Indian rupee touched a new record low on February 10 at 87.9563 against the US dollar due to introduction of new tariff plans of U.S. President Donald.

19 out of 20 constituents of the Nifty Pharma index declined, with Alkem Laboratories and Ipcia Laboratories emerging as the top losers. Nifty Pharma index ended January with a 9 per cent decline. Among the individual performers, shares of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders rose 9.4 per cent to Rs 2,440 for the second consecutive trading session.

Bharat Electronics Ltd

reflected gains close to a percent after bagging various orders.

Shares of Mahindra & Mahindra gained about 2 per cent, trading at Rs 3,244.10 after it delivered strong Q3 earnings that stood as the primary reason behind the share gains.

Swiggy was down by over 5 per cent, extending its decline to over 18 per cent since it declared its Q3FY25 earnings.

US tariff threats continued to impact the market sentiment while on the earnings front, the companies are facing downgrades in estimates due to a weak demand environment.



## 54.58 cr Jan Dhan accounts opened till 15 Jan'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

A total of 54.58 crore JanDhan accounts have been opened till January 15, 2025, of which 30.37 crore (55.7 per cent) belong to women, said Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on Monday.

The Minister further said that to ensure accessibility

of these schemes to women, rural population, marginalised groups and underprivileged communities in the country, various steps are being taken.

These include allocation of targets to all banks under each scheme; organisation of various camps and specialised campaigns to promote awareness; periodic review of performance of banks etc.

All Banks, including private banks, participate in these

activities to ensure effectiveness of these schemes and make them accessible to all stakeholders, she said.

The Union Government has initiated the National Mission for Financial Inclusion (NMFI), namely the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) in August, 2014 to provide universal banking services for every unbanked household with a strong focus on women.

## European businesses to invest \$100 bn in India, create 1 million jobs in 15 to 20 yrs

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) States took a significant step towards deepening their economic engagement with the launch of the EFTA Desk by Invest India on Monday.

This dedicated resource is designed to help companies from the EFTA States prepare for the opportunities unlocked by the EFTA-India Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).

Further this week, over a hundred EFTA businesses will visit India to explore its opportunities, EFTA said in a statement.

This rich interest by EFTA businesses aligns with the



shared goals in the TEPA of investing USD 100 billion and creating 1 million jobs in India over the course of the next 15-20 years, it added.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, said, "With this USD 100 billion FDI, I personally believe that we could be catalysing overall investments of maybe USD 400 or USD 500 billion in the Indian ecosystem."

"In all the four countries, significant steps have been

taken to ratify the TEPA, and we hope to operationalise the agreement in the later part of this year," Goyal said.

He also mentioned that one million direct jobs could lead to 5-6 million more jobs, both directly and indirectly.

The EFTA comprises Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

The Desk will serve as a central point of contact for EFTA businesses looking to expand into India, addressing investor concerns and resolving issues that they may face, including providing support and guidance on expansions into new markets and maintaining a comprehensive database of investment opportunities, the EFTA said in a statement.

## Tata Group's IHCL to invest ₹2,500 cr to construct a hotel in Mumbai

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, 10 FEBRUARY

The Tata Group-run Indian Hotels Company (IHCL) Ltd has announced in Mumbai on Monday that it will invest Rs 2,500-crore to construct a new 330-room hotel called Taj Bandstand, in Bandra West.

Construction of Taj Bandstand will begin this year and it is expected to take more four years to complete, according to IHCL Managing Director and Chief Executive Puneet Chhatwal on Monday.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new hotel was held on Monday in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran.

"IHCL opened its first hotel

- The Taj Mahal Palace, in Bombay in 1903 and has for over a century woven itself into the cultural fabric of the city. Taj Bandstand, a testament to this legacy, will be the torchbearer of the iconic brand Taj for the next century. Envisioned to be a defining edifice of Mumbai's skyline,

this landmark development is a tribute to Mumbai's spirit, its people, and its growing global prominence. We have received key pre-construction approvals including IOD and provisional fire no objection certificate. After receiving all approvals, IHCL will commence construction in 2025 and complete the project over the next four years," IHCL MD & CEO Puneet Chhatwal on Monday.

Speaking at the ground

need to resolve, and we want to put up a hotel which will not just be a hotel, but it will be the pride of Mumbai. I am happy when I look at the entire planning and design of this hotel. It is going to change the skyline of Mumbai. I think all of us know that of late Mumbai has regained its position as the convention capital of India".

The hotel project will also include development and maintenance of surrounding areas with landscaped gardens, sporting and recreation activities as well as entertainment facilities.

After the addition of Hotel Bandstand, IHCL will end up running 17 hotels in Mumbai, including five which are under development.

## TENDER

### NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-II, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:

1. NIT - Name of work: Providing portable train detection system and alarm system (POTS) on Bridge No. 36 DN on GZB-MTC section of SR. DEN-II/DLI. Approx. cost of work: As per NIT on IREPS. Earnest Money to be deposited: As per NIT on IREPS

2. Date & Time of opening of tender: 07.03.2025 15:00 Hrs.

3. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

• The tenderer's must be registered on the Indian Railway E- Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system.

• For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.

• No manual offers are acceptable.

• Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT-62-24-25-W-II Dated: 10.02.2025 454/2025

### SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD)

No.2023/RS(E)/TM/2 New Delhi, Dated 10.02.2025

### CORRIGENDUM NO.-1

Sub: E-Open Indigenous Tender No: 2025-TM-1 closing on 14.02.2025 for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Testing & Commissioning of 101 Nos. of 'on track Utility Track Vehicles (8-Wheeler) for B.G. (1676 mm)' along with Training of Indian Railway personnel and 3 years post warranty AMC.

1. The due date of closing of the subject tender has been changed from 14.02.2025 (Friday) to 25.03.2025 (Tuesday).

2. All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain the same.

Director, Railway Stores (F) (Railway Board)

### SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location : 30-Elect-37-T-R-24-25-E3 Electrical work in connection with repairing of ductable AC plant microwave V-SAT hub TH. Road New Delhi. Replacement of Cassette AC and other Allied work related to safety of water coolers with name of AC Units Window/Split, AC Plant Installed over Delhi Division (Under SSE/ACSP-NDLs, DLI, Baroda House, Rail Bhawan & SSE/PS/NCRH).

Approx cost of the work in : ₹ 256.38 lacs

Address of the Office : Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

Bid Security : Rs. 278200.00

Date & time of submission of tender : 05.03.2025, 12:00 Hrs

Opening of tender : 05.03.2025, 12:00 Hrs

Website & notice board : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

442/2025

### Serving Customers With A Smile

### NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2024-25-35-RT. The details are as under:

Name of Work : Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for 36 (thirty six) months of EOT Cranes with stand by spare installed in Electric Loco Shed, Ghaziabad.

Approx. Cost of work : Rs. 51,31,201.00

Earnest Money to be Deposit : Rs. 1,02,600.00

Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender : 03.03.2025 (11:00 Hrs.)

Date & Time of opening of tender document : 03.03.2025 (After 11:00 Hrs.)

Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

• The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system.

• For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.

• No manual offers are acceptable.

• Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. 230-TRS-GZB-2024-25-35-RT Dated : 01.02.2025 455/2025

### Serving Customers With A Smile

### INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD)

No. RS(POL)/58/0509/2024 Sub: Publication of E-Tender Notice against Ministry of Railways (Railway Board)'s E-Tender No. RB/2024/Parcel Scanner for Hiring / Rental of 5 Nos. of Dual View Cargo X-Ray Parcel Inspection System

Director, Railway Stores(M), Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), Government of India, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender as per details given hereunder:-

1. E-Tender No. : RB/2024/Parcel Scanner



APARNA HANUMANTU

In India, career guidance has evolved significantly over the past five years, influenced by technological advancements, changing job markets, and a growing focus on skills development. Traditionally, career counselling in India was largely a subjective process, relying heavily on face-to-face interactions with school counsellors, parents, and teachers.

In fact, in smaller towns and rural areas, the concept of career guidance was practically nonexistent. As a result, most students in India were expected to follow paths like engineering or medicine, regardless of their interests, leaving them feeling uncertain and pressured to conform to societal expectations.

With such limited guidance, and with career counseling largely dependent on recommendations based on academic performance, students were often unaware of emerging career fields beyond conventional options. Moreover, this approach was static, lacked real-time insights into students' skills, strengths, and interests, and ultimately, left students unprepared to

handle the fast-evolving landscape of industry and technology.

Over the past five years, the analytics industry has evolved significantly. Before 2020, it mainly focused on basic data analysis, with AI tools still in early development. By 2025, AI and machine learning have become key drivers, providing more accurate, real-time insights.

The rapid advancement of AI and data analytics has reshaped nearly every industry, including career counselling, making data collection and interpretation faster and more efficient while offering actionable recommendations that help individuals make decisions based on their skills, strengths, and job market trends. These tools have also become more user-friendly, making insights easily accessible to a wider audience and democratising data-driven decision-making across multiple sectors.

Today, predictive analytics is empowering students to make data-driven decisions about their careers. Traditional career counselling has often relied on subjective advice, influenced by personal opinions and limit-

ed data, whereas AI-powered platforms and online tools now provide personalised guidance by analysing a student's skills and interests against real-time job market data.

AI-powered tools process vast amounts of data from sources like job market trends, skills

such as upskilling in data science, cybersecurity, or healthcare, based on current job market demands.

Traditionally, curricula and syllabi in schools and universities were primarily shaped by government regulations and educational boards

that are demanded in the workforce.

Today, with the advent of AI and predictive analytics, educational institutions are leveraging these technologies to adapt curricula in real-time based on job market demands and personalise learning for students by offering valuable insights into industry trends, salary expectations, and essential skills

that are required to bridge the gap for succeeding in the job market. This allows students to be directed toward the right resources that best support their career trajectory.

In the future, students can leverage AI tools and resources to virtually 'mentor' themselves, analysing career trajectories, skills, and job transitions by accessing a wealth of data on successful professionals in their field. Career paths are likely to become more dynamic and nonlinear, with the continuous evolution of the job market.

AI-driven recommendations for upskilling will help individuals navigate career changes seamlessly. Through forecasting, AI will provide a clearer understanding of the opportunities on the horizon.

The writer is an AI and analytics leader

demand, academic performance, and personal interests to predict trends and match students with careers aligned with their skills and emerging market demands. By analysing historical trends, these tools highlight industries with high growth potential and recommend the skills students need to develop,

like CBSE, ICSE, and state boards, with little input from industrial requirements. As job requirements evolved, the curriculum remained exam-focused and teacher-driven, with limited connection to emerging industries. This led to a noticeable gap between what students learned through academics and the skills

## Financial and corporate literacy essential skills for students

ROUSHAN CHATTERJEE

**A**cademics have always been considered the most crucial foundation for a child's success and future endeavours. However, the question still arises if it is the only contributing factor to the child's growth or if there is something more. Various studies suggest that extra-curricular activities are equally important for the holistic development of a child. Shradhha Oza, the ECA Coordinator of the Ashok Hall Group of Schools shares insights on why extra-curricular activities are as significant as traditional academics.

"Academics will only let you know about the subject, but how to approach it, how to develop interpersonal skills, organisational skills, leadership, team management; all these come from extra-curricular activities," Oza emphasised. She further gave an example of preparing for a presentation. "If there's no teamwork, no communication skills, how will one put up a presentation? This is where recreational activities come into play."

According to Oza, these skills are not only vital in school but in the professional world as well. Whether one enters the corporate sector or starts their own business, one needs to learn how to delegate work, manage people and think critically - skills that are not solely learned from textbooks.

"When we were in school, we had a mandatory sports period. Playing sports is important as one can learn discipline and sportsmanship," said Oza recalling her school days. "Today's kids don't know how to fail. If they fail, they take it too much to

clarified. "Father can also take the responsibility. The initial years are crucial in developing a child's personality."

Considering the dynamic needs in today's world, Oza introduced new subjects in her school. "Most schools have dance, music, recitation, taekwondo; we added 'Financial Investment' and 'Corporate Communication' with it." Introduced for Class 11 and 12, these subjects aim to provide students with the practical knowledge to deal with real-life scenarios.

"Financial lit-

eracy is important, as many students graduate without the basic knowledge of banking and investment," Oza affirmed. According to Oza, financial investment emphasises how to save and invest money, understand stocks, and plan finances. On the other hand, by enriching students with knowledge on corporate communication, students learn how to write personal statements, apply to universities and handle inter-

views- skills necessary no matter where they study or apply for jobs. The other branches of the school offer subjects like content and blogging, to keep up with shifts in journalism and digital media; and entrepreneurship to teach students how to run business in the digital era.

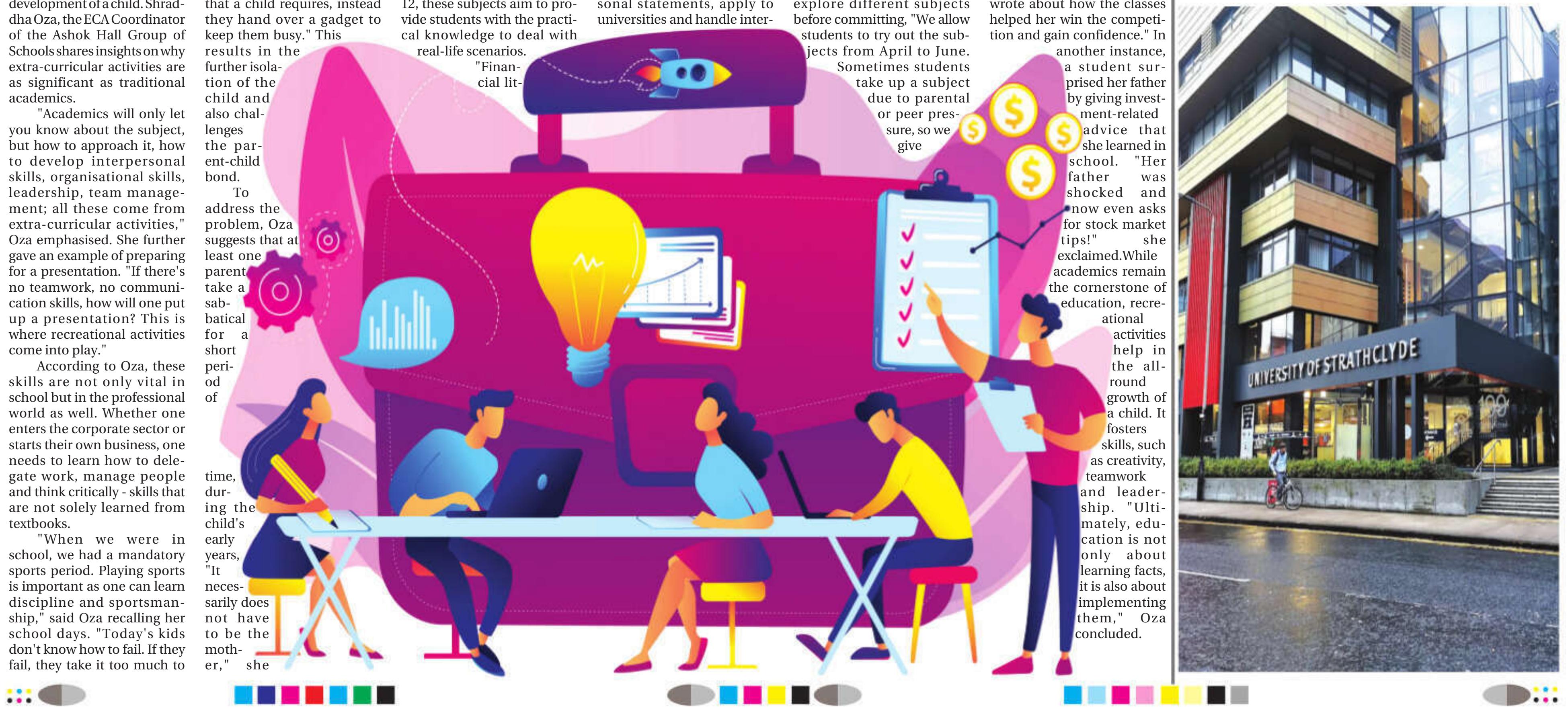
To ensure that students make the right choice, the school gives the flexibility to explore different subjects before committing. "We allow students to try out the subjects from April to June.

Sometimes students take up a subject due to parental or peer pressure, so we give

them time to discover what they truly enjoy," she claimed.

Oza shared how these subjects helped their students in a practical setting. "One of our students took part in a renowned school's competition on 'How to be a good manager?' and won the first position." She further added, "Later she wrote a letter thanking her corporate communication teacher. She wrote about how the classes helped her win the competition and gain confidence." In another instance, a student surprised her father by giving investment-related advice that she learned in school.

"Her father was shocked and now even asks for stock market tips!" she exclaimed. While academics remain the cornerstone of education, recreational activities help in the all-round growth of a child. It fosters skills, such as creativity, teamwork and leadership. "Ultimately, education is not only about learning facts, it is also about implementing them," Oza concluded.



## Byte-sized guidance: AI use in mapping emerging opportunities

### Students' Space

#### VIVACIOUS VOCABULARY

##### XYLOPHONE

Noun  
Pronunciation: Zai-luh- fone  
Meaning: A musical instrument consisting of rows of wooden bars that is struck with plastic beaters  
Example: She was an excellent xylophone player

##### YLEM

Noun  
Pronunciation: Ahy- luhm  
Meaning: Primordial hypothetical substance composed of neutrons at high temperature and density  
Example: It is said that we all originate from the same source: the ylem

##### ZEITGEIST

Noun  
Pronunciation: Zite- giset  
Meaning: Spirit of the time  
Example: His poems captured zeitgeist of 1960s Europe  
Synonym: Milieu, tenor of the time

If you are a school or college student who has a poem, essay or other fiction or nonfiction pieces which you would like to share with The Statesman's readers please write in with your submission to .

readers@thestatesmangroup.com.

Don't forget to mention your name, the name of your school, your class and your phone number.

Please write "C&C" in the subject field.

Publication is at the discretion of the editors.

### Faculty of Science undergraduate scholarships for international students

Scholarships of between £5,000 - £7,000 are available to new international students joining an undergraduate degree in the Faculty of Science at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow in the 2025/2026 academic year.

Scholarships will be awarded on a competitive basis to candidates who hold an offer of admission and demonstrate excellent academic performance (current and/or previously gained) and any relevant extra-curricular or professional experience.

Scholarships will be awarded on a rolling basis.

#### Key facts

**Number of scholarships:** Up to 25

**Value:** £5,000 - £7,000

**Deadline:** 31 July 2025

**Helps with:** Tuition fees

**Duration:** Per year of study

**Subject eligibility:** Chemistry, computer science, mathematics and statistics, pharmacy and biomedical sciences, physics, forensic science, biochemistry, biology and biological sciences, biomedical science, immunology, microbiology, pharmacology.

**Eligibility:** In order to be considered for a Faculty of Science Undergraduate International Scholarship, candidates must:

-Be a new, international fee-paying student holding an offer of admission for either year one, or year two entry, to a full-time undergraduate degree in the Faculty of Science for the 2025/2026 academic year.

Scholarships will be awarded on a competitive basis to candidates who hold an offer of admission and demonstrate excellent academic performance (current and/or previously gained) and any relevant extra-curricular or professional experience.

Scholarships will be awarded on a rolling basis.

#### Key facts

&lt;p



## MATT PRIOR SLAMS 'SLOPPY' ENGLAND

Former England wicketkeeper Matt Prior termed the Jos Buttler-led side as "sloppy" and "lacklustre" after suffering an ODI series defeat to India in Cuttack, adding that they needed to sharpen up in a number of areas ahead of the Champions Trophy. England had previously lost the T20I series 1-4 to India, and face the ignominy of a series sweep if India wins the dead rubber ODI on Wednesday

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

### THUMBNAILS

Pakistan have enough depth to be dangerous at home in CT, feels Shastri: Former India head coach Ravi Shastri feels Mohammad Rizwan-led Pakistan will have "enough depth to be dangerous in home conditions" in the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy. Pakistan have the benefit of playing at home conditions as the country is set to co-host a senior ICC event for the first time since the World Cup in 1996. "There's always pressure when you play at home in the sub-continent – whether it's India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, or Pakistan – the expectations are massive," Shastri remarked when speaking with host Sanjana Ganeshan on the latest episode of The ICC Review.

"But I think Pakistan are the kind of side that, with the exposure they've had in the last six to eight months in white-ball cricket, have put up some really strong performances, especially in South Africa." Despite the absence of talented young opener Saim Ayub, who is currently sidelined due to an ankle injury, Shastri backed the home side to qualify for the semis and could become a "very dangerous" opponent in the knockout stages. "They've missed Ayub at the top, and he's a crucial player. But Pakistan have enough depth to be dangerous, especially in home conditions. I would say they should qualify for the semi-finals and from there, it's anyone's game. Pakistan are still very, very dangerous."

## Champions Trophy: Rohit serves timely warning with long-due ton

Team India skipper signals return to form just ahead of the crucial ICC tournament

TRIDIB BAPARNASH  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

**P**utting an end to the lean patch that Rohit Sharma had endured in the past few months, especially in red-ball cricket, the India skipper served a timely warning for the opposition teams ahead of the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy by firing a destructive century to help India seal the three-match ODI series against England in the second one-day at Cuttack on Sunday.

Considered one of the best batters of the 50-over format, Rohit's cheap dismissal after a seven-ball 2 in the first ODI might have raised fears ahead of the Champions Trophy but his commanding innings of 119, that included seven sixes and 12 fours during his 90-ball stay, was enough to soothe some nerves in the build-up to the Champions Trophy, that returns after a seven-year gap.

Rohit led from the front, slamming his 32nd ODI century under the lights with a dominant performance. This was his first century since the 2023 World Cup, where he scored a magnificent 131 against Afghanistan.

With his timing and shot-making back in full flow, the India skipper has found much-needed form ahead of the Champions Trophy. During his knock, Rohit became the



second-highest run-scoring opener for India across formats, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar and slotting beneath Virender Sehwag.

Rohit's match-winning knock drew compliments from seasoned all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja at the completion of the match. "He's such a big player that he knows how to play his innings. It's just a matter of one innings. As you saw, it didn't feel like he hadn't scored runs in his previous innings. It was so smooth and

confident. All the shots were normal and smooth. So, sometimes it's just a matter of one or two innings," Jadeja said after the victory.

"It's a good thing that before the Champions Trophy, before an important tournament, 100 is a big innings. So, I think it's good for the team. And obviously, he knows what his game is. There's nothing to think about or discuss. If any batsman scores a hundred before such a tournament, it is good for the player and the team. If

the top-order score runs, it sets up a good platform for the rest of the batters," added Jadeja, who also played a crucial role and ended up with impressive figures of 3/35 off his 10 overs.

Meanwhile, decoding his innings, Rohit did admit that he "really enjoyed being out there, scoring some runs for the team."

"I really broke it down into pieces about how I wanted to bat. It's a 50-over format, a little longer than T20 format

and a little shorter than Test cricket obviously – a lot shorter than Test cricket – but obviously you still need to break it down and assess what you need to do at regular intervals and that is what I kept doing. It was important for a batter who gets set, needs to bat as deep as possible and that was my focus," Rohit said after collecting his Player-of-the-Match award.

In the past 12 months, Rohit's poor form has been talked about a lot. He has averaged 23.70 in Test cricket, and that slipped to 10.93 since September 2024. On Sunday, he was in his element, playing the sort of innings that has made him a giant in the format. "Looking at the pitch, when you play on black soil, (the ball) tends to skid on a bit, so it's important that you show the full face of the bat when you're batting initially," he said about his approach. "Once I got into my innings, I understood what they were trying to do: bowling into our body and trying to not give any room, keeping it on the stumps. And that's where I prepared my plan as well, what I wanted to do with those kind of deliveries, trying to access the gaps which were there. It's about understanding what you want to do as a batter and... obviously got very good support from Gill to start with and then Shreyas as well."

Playing domestic cricket helped maintain rhythm, says Jadeja



AGENCIES  
CUTTACK, 10 FEBRUARY 10

India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja opened up about his current form on Sunday and stated that playing domestic cricket for Saurashtra helped him maintain consistency during the ODI series against England.

He further noted that playing in the Ranji Trophy 2024-25 helped him maintain his rhythm. "I am feeling very good. I have played ODIs for almost two years since the World Cup 2023. One needs to adapt to this format quickly. I think playing domestic cricket has helped me because in that match I threw almost 30-ish overs. Because of that, the rhythm was consistent... So, I think playing the domestic cricket has benefited a lot to maintain the rhythm," Jadeja told reporters in Cuttack.

Rohit's century powered India to a four-wicket triumph over England in the second ODI match of the series at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack on Sunday. With this stunning victory, the Men in Blue clinched the ODI series against England 2-0.

Jadeja joined the ODI series against England after playing for Saurashtra in the Ranji Trophy. The 36-year-old took a remarkable 12 wickets, helping Saurashtra secure a 10-wicket win. His last match in the Ranji Trophy 2024-25 was against Assam, where the top Indian all-rounder did not bowl but batted in the first innings.

Summarising the match, England won the toss and decided to bat first. Joe Root (69 runs from 72 balls, 6 fours) and Ben Duckett (65 runs from 56 balls, 10 fours) delivered masterful knocks, powering England to 304 in their first innings. Liam Livingstone (41 runs from 32 balls, 2 fours, and 2 sixes) and Jos Buttler (34 runs from 35 balls, 2 fours) also contributed, helping England surpass the 300-run mark.

Ravindra Jadeja led the Indian bowling attack with a three-wicket haul in his 10-over spell.

## BCCI expected to decide on Bumrah's CT participation today



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY

The uncertainty over pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah's availability for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy, starting 19 February, could be over by Tuesday, as the BCCI is running against time to submit the final squad to the International Cricket Council by 11 February.

Bumrah, who was included in the provisional 15-man squad for the Champions Trophy, was expected to take part in the third and final ODI against England in Ahmedabad, as part of the lead-up to the mega tournament that returns after an eight-year hiatus.

However, the star pacer has travelled to Bengaluru instead. While announcing the provisional squad for the Champions Trophy on January 18, chief selector Ajit Agarkar had said that based on information provided by the BCCI medical staff at the time, Bumrah was not "likely to be fit for the first couple

of games" of the England ODI series.

Agarkar had said that Bumrah was "asked to offload for five weeks" from bowling, before undergoing fresh scans on his back in the first week of February.

Bumrah has not played a match since the second innings of the fifth and final Test against Australia in Sydney in early January. It is understood he had a stress reaction in his back, which required five weeks of rest.

It is understood that the BCCI is awaiting a call from the medical team on the star pacer's fitness, and if he is considered unlikely to play any part in the Champions Trophy, they could replace him with Harshit Rana, who played the first two ODIs against England.

But in case he's able to make it in the later stages of the tournament, India could keep him in the 15 and replace him later subject to ICC approvals. After February 11, any replacement needs the approval of the tournament's technical committee.

India are in Group A of the Champions Trophy along with hosts Pakistan, Bangladesh and New Zealand and will play all their matches in Dubai after the BCCI cited security concerns, and refused to send the team to Pakistan - the official host of the tournament.

The Rohit Sharma-led side will begin their campaign against Bangladesh on 20 February, before playing Pakistan on 23 February and New Zealand on 2 March.

Meanwhile, Team India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak failed to throw any light on Bumrah's fitness.

"That it is something the physio would know," Kotak had said on the eve of the second ODI between India and England.

**India's provisional squad:**  
Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill (VC), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (WK), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Yashavini Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant (WK), Ravindra Jadeja

## Champions Trophy: It's advantage India in Dubai, feels Harbhajan Singh

AGENCIES  
DUBAI, 10 FEBRUARY

Former Indian cricketer Harbhajan Singh believes India has an advantage in the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy, underlining that familiarity with Dubai's pitches will give them an edge over Pakistan in their much-anticipated clash.

Speaking to a news website, Singh said, "The hype is being created regarding the India-Pakistan match... the team that is going to adjust better with the pitch will get a better result... India has an advantage, it will play all its matches in Dubai so it will have an idea about the pitch and conditions. Overall I feel the Indian team is better than the Pakistan team and the result will be in favour of India..."

The former Team India star also stressed that while no one can replace Jasprit Bumrah, his absence provides an opportunity for others to showcase their abilities. Players like Arshdeep and Shami have



to step up, take responsibility and prove themselves.

Harbhajan Singh then backed Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma to prove their match-winning abilities in the Champions Trophy, despite recent criticism over their form.

"Virat and Rohit haven't scored as many runs as expected,

given their past performances. The expectations are high, and when they fall short, criticism is natural. However, with the Champions Trophy ahead, they have a great opportunity to showcase their abilities and prove how they can still win matches for India. If they don't succeed, naturally, the young

players waiting in the wings will start getting more opportunities. But I still believe both have plenty of cricket left in them – they are highly capable players who can still score runs," he said.

Former Indian cricketer Harbhajan Singh also praised the growth of domestic leagues around the world, while adding that the inclusion of Indian players would further enhance the league's appeal.

"In every country, we see domestic leagues emerging, and a similar movement has started here as well. With matches being held in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Sharjah, many local players are getting a chance to showcase their talent, which is a positive development. Any league takes time to grow, and now in its third year, this league looks much stronger compared to the first. The potential is immense, especially with a large Indian and Asian-origin population passionate about cricket but

lacking opportunities. If Indian players join, it will add to the league's appeal," he said.

"Right now, the presence of local players is limited, but if their participation increases from two to four or five, it will enhance the league's competitiveness. For that to happen, local players need to develop further, and with Indian players coming in, the excitement will only grow," he said.

The thrilling two-week competition will see the world's top eight teams put it all on the line in 15 intense matches across 19 days, with every match counting in the pursuit of the iconic white jackets.

Fans still have an opportunity to get their tickets for the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 by purchasing them online or visiting physical ticket providers in Pakistan. Tickets for the final, to be played on 9 March will be available for purchase following the conclusion of the first semi-final in Dubai, as per the ICC.

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