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RNI No. UPENG/1986/49939 Vol. 15 · No. 6

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna









BJP sweeps Capital BJP scores big win in U.P.'s Milkipur bypoll

BJP bags 48 seats, set to return to power in Delhi after two decades

Jaideep Deo Bhanj

he Bharatiya Janata

Party, winning 48

seats in the As-

sembly election, has re-

turned to power in the na-

tional capital after a gap of

over 26 years, scuttling the

Aam Aadmi Party's bid for

a fourth straight term. The

AAP won 22 seats. The Del-

hi Assembly election was

tion declared on Saturday

delivered a jolt to AAP with

party national convener

Arvind Kejriwal and form-

er Deputy Chief Minister

Manish Sisodia losing their

seats. Atishi, who had ta-

ken over as Chief Minister

from Mr. Kejriwal, man-

aged to retain her Kalkaji

win a single seat for the

third time in a row, with a

majority of its candidates

While the BJP increased

ts tally from eight to 48,

there was only a 2% diffe-

rence in the vote share of

BJP offices as trends

showed that the party

would sail past the majori-

Mr. Kejriwal was defeat-

ed by Parvesh Sahib Singh

(New Delhi Assembly con-

stituency) and Mr. Sisodia

by Tarvinder Singh Mar-

rious over her BIP rival, Ra-

resigned as Chief Minister

in September last year af-

ter he walked out of prison

on bail, had said he was

mesh Bidhuri, in Kalkaji.

Atishi emerged victo-

Mr. Keiriwal, who had

Celebrations erupted in

losing their deposit.

AAP and the BJP.

ty mark of 36.

wah (Jangpura).

The Congress failed to

Assembly seat.

The results of the elec-

held on February 5.

Satvika Mahajan

NEW DELHI

AAP wins only 22 seats; Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia lose

Congress fails to win any seat for the third consecutive time

Return after a long gap

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured a majority in the 2025 Delhi Assembly election, bagging

■ The incumbent Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) lost vote shares across all regions, winning only 22 seats

48 out of 70 seats

■ The Congress once again failed to win any seats despite a slight increase in vote share (+2%)

Party	Seats won	Vote share (%)
BJP*	48	47.2
AAP	22	43.6
Cong.	0	6.3
Others	0	2.9

52.6%

the BJP in the "richest" constituencies in 2025, its strongest performance among all classes

45.6% The BJP's vote share in 2025, its highest since 1993, the year when Delhi's Legislative Assembly was revived

Saturday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

-12.3% points -8.2% points compared with 2020, in compared with 2020, in seats with over 25% Muslim seats with a relatively voters — a key support base in previous polls

Victory lap: BJP workers celebrate the party's victory in Delhi on

higher concentration of the city's 'poorest' residents

* BJP's allies Janata Dal (United) and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) did not win any seats

seeking a "certificate of honesty from the Delhi voters". He had announced that he would not sit on the Chief Minister's chair until the public delivered an electoral verdict.

'Constructive Oppn.'

Mr. Kejriwal said AAP's political journey had never been about power but about public service. "Now that the people have given their verdict, we will not only play the role of a constructive Opposition but also continue serving society," he said.

Training its eyes on a "double-engine" government for the benefit of the Capital, the BJP had appealed to voters through roadshows, rallies, and jan sabhas, in which it promised to continue all welfare schemes in the Capital such as free electricity and water, even promising to make them better.

The party had hit out at AAP for not delivering on its promises, corruption investigation against its top leaders and the alleged extravagant spending on the renovation of the house allotted to Mr. Kejriwal when he was Chief Minister.

The BJP did not announce a Chief Minister face during its election campaign and asked for votes in the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The party will now have to pick a Chief Minister to deliver on its promises.

FULL COVERAGE » PAGES 2, 8 & 9

PM promises to make Delhi a 'modern city

Satvika Mahajan NEW DELHI

Celebrating the Bharatiya Ianata Party's thumping victory in the Delhi Assembly election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday addressed the

party's senior leadership and workers at the BJP's national headquarters here.

Taking a jibe at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), said, he "AAP came with promise to usher in politics of change but turned out to be the most dishonest

26 years

The BJP broke its

26-year jinx by

1993, when they

they won 49 seats

one more than

The Prime Minister said. "For the first time since Independence, the BJP will now have governments in Delhi and all adjoining

> States." Mr. Modi said with the BJP in power, "Delhi will be transformed into a modern city".

DISHONEST

Mayank Kumar LUCKNOW

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the high-stakes Milkipur Assembly byelection in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, with party candi-Chandrabhanu Paswan defeating Samajwadi Party's (SP) Ajit Prasad by an impressive margin of 61,710 votes.

While the BJP celebrated the win as a victory for its 'double-engine' government, the SP called it a "false victory", repeating the allegations of largescale electoral fraud that it had raised on polling day. Milkipur is a seat re-

served for Scheduled Caste (SC) candidates and lies in the Ayodhya district. It witnessed a no-holds barred campaign, with the

BJP aggressively pushing its Hindutva plank while the SP countered it with its PDA narrative, which stands for Pichda, Dalit, and Alpasankhyak or the backward class, and minority communities.

ELECTORAL FRAUD, SAYS SP » PAGE 9

Fadnavis, Dy. CMs have defrauded

women: Patole

MUMBAI

After the Maharashtra government declared five lakh women ineligible for the Ladki Bahin Yojana, State Congress chief Nana Patole on Saturday said the "three brothers" (referring to CM Devendra Fadnavis and his deputies) had defrauded women. » Page 7

DMK romps home in Erode (East) bypoll

The Hindu Bureau **ERODE**

The ruling DMK won the byelection in the Erode (East) Assembly constituency in Tamil Nadu with a massive lead on Saturday.

Its candidate, V.C. Chandhirakumar, won by a margin of over 90,000 votes. His closest rival was Naam Tamilar Katchi's

secured 15.59% of the votes. A total of 6,109 votes went to NOTA.

The counting went off without any major incident in the constituency.

M.K. Seethalakshmi, who

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said the victory was people's recognition for the welfare measures and progressive schemes of the DMK government.

NAAC debars varsity in A.P.

for five years

BENGALURU

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council on Saturday announced that it has decided to cancel the accreditation process of KLEF in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, and also debar its university for five years from applying for accreditation. » Page 4

MAGAZINE >> 8 PAGES **CLASSIFIEDS** » PAGE 5 & 6

Reserve Bank in sync with govt. on growth focus: FM

Vikas Dhoot NEW DELHI

With the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) following up the Budget's demand stimulus for the slowing economy with a long-awaited interest rate cut, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday that fiscal and monetary policy working in harmony to spur growth impulses, should yield a bigger boost to the economy.

The Minister was speaking to the media after addressing the RBI's Central Board in the Capital.

The government expected India's tepid private investment trends to reverse, Ms. Sitharaman indicated, citing anecdotal inputs from industry lead-



Malhotra and Directors at a meeting in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

ers after the Budget that unveiled income tax breaks worth ₹1 lakh crore to jump-start urban demand. Industry was clearly showing signs of a consumption recovery, she said. "Whether it is inflation or growth, monetary policy and fiscal policy moving in tandem, like the

two wheels of a car, will definitely provide more benefit to our economy and people. With the RBI's decision, I am sure that together, things can move in the required direction that we need," she said. **TO REVIVE DEMAND**

» PAGE 10

U.S. judge blocks data access to Musk's team

Agence France-Presse WASHINGTON

A U.S. judge issued an emergency order early Saturday blocking Elon Musk's government reform team from accessing personal and financial data stored at the Treasury Department.

U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer's order restricts giving access to Treasury Department payment systems and other data to "all political appointees, special government employees, and government employees detailed from an agency outside the Treasury Department".

Mr. Musk, who heads Tesla, SpaceX, and X, is leading President Donald Trump's federal cost-cutting efforts under the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). U.S. media had earlier reported that Mr. Musk had been registered as a "special government employee".

The judge's temporary restrictive order will be in effect until a February 14 hearing.

The case was brought against Mr. Trump, the Department of Treasury, and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Friday by attorneys-general from 19 States. They alleged the administration violated the law by expanding access to sensitive Treasury Department data to staff from Mr. Musk's DOGE.

» PAGE 14

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Who said what

I believe politics is the only way to improve the education system in the country. I have dedicated my life to education and will continue to work in this sector in the future MANISH SISODIA

The result is a clear indicator that the people of Delhi have rejected Arvind Kejriwal's politics of lies and deceit. Congress workers gave their best, but the results weren't

in our favour

DEVENDER YADAV

It's a historic moment and a clear message that PM Narendra Modi resides in the heart of Delhiites. What's clear from the results is that Delhi doesn't need a party that makes false promises J.P. NADDA

The people of Delhi have completely rejected the corrupt and incompetent rule of AAP and Arvind Kejriwal while expressing their faith in the BJP by giving it a decisive majority VIRENDRA SACHDEVA

I thank the people of Delhi and our party workers who stood strong. The war against BJP's dictatorship and hooliganism will continue. This is a setback, but AAP's fight for the rights of people will go on ATISHI Outgoing Delhi CM

DOUBLE ENGINE ROLLS INTO DELHI

This time, BJP changed its strategy as it targeted the AAP leadership over governance, excise policy, and CM's house renovation instead of the party's welfare schemes like free power and electricity

Satvika Mahajan **NEW DELHI**

t was not just the antiincumbency but consistently cornering the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) over corruption charges, civic issues and infrastructure, micromanaging the election campaign through hundreds of grassroots meetings, and targeting women, Purvanchali and JJ cluster vote banks through poll promises that led the BIP to break its 28-year-old jinx in the Capital and trounce AAP by bagging a whopping 48 of 70 seats.

Learning from its mistake of targeting AAP over free electricity, power, and bus tickets, which it had termed "free ki revdi" (freebies), the BJP changed its strategy, a party leader said. In its manifesto, it too promised several schemes, including direct transfer to women.

Along with the traditional methods of campaigning, local party leaders focused micromanagement and

held over 5,000 meetings. However, a key message



Moment of glory: BJP workers celebrating outside the party's office in New Delhi on Saturday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

that worked in the BJP's favour was its relentless attacks on AAP over corrupcharges, slowly eroding the party and its chief Arvind Kejriwal's "honest image" over the alleged excise policy scam and "irregularities" in the renovation of the CM's resi-

"sheesh mahal". BJP Delhi election incharge and MP Baijayant Panda told The Hindu that to make the battle tough

dence, that it dubbed as

for AAP, the party fielded heavyweights like Parvesh Sahib Singh against Mr. Kejriwal, and it brought the desired results.

To gain the confidence of slum dwellers, BJP leaders spent nights with them as part of the campaign.

A source said the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh carried out backdoor campaign and helped in bringing the Bangladeshi and Rohingya migrant issue into the poll narrative.

Modi holds meet to pick next CM, discuss govt. formation

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday night held a closed-door meeting with senior BJP leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah and party general secretary B.L. Santosh, to finalise the name of the next Chief Minister and discuss details of government formation.

A party leader said Mr. Shah and BJP national president J.P. Nadda also held parallel meetings with all seven Lok Sabha members from Delhi. Unlike AAP, the BJP went into the election without a CM face.

Mood downbeat at AAP office as hopes of a comeback slip away

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

As the counting of votes started on Saturday, a few hundred feet from where AAP leaders were expected to stand on stage for victory celebrations outside their headquarters at 1, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla Lane, party workers sat excitedly.

They began their morning with gusto amid AAP's blue and yellow buntings and a tower of sweets stacked up to be distributed later in the day to celebrate a fourth term in the Delhi Assembly. However, after the first round of counting, the collective change in mood was obvious.

"We couldn't believe our eyes and ears as the massive screen displayed live voting trends. From then on, it became a super stressful experience of



Remains of the day: Workers outside the AAP office at 1, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla Lane on Saturday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

watching the results arrive," said a party volunteer. With AAP starting to trail in the early trends, the crowd outside the office too began to thin out. The boxes of sweets had to be whisked out in a car.

Some of the party volunteers who came from Punjab said they felt shattered and started to leave around 2 p.m. Those left behind began to dismantle the stage staring at empty chairs.

While they reconciled with the reality, the top leaders of AAP chose to stay away from the office.

Low five as

a House of

few women

Ashna Butani

Delhi remains

Poll vault

Honours even in six north-east Delhi seats hit by riots in 2020



The BJP and AAP emerged victorious in three seats each of the six constituencies in north-east Delhi that were hit by riots in 2020. In Seelampur, AAP's Chaudhary Zubair Ahmad defeated the BJP's Anil Kumar Sharma by a margin of 42.477 votes. AAP was victorious in Babarpur with Minister Gopal Rai retaining the seat by a victory margin of 18,994 votes while AAP's Gokalpur candidate

Surendra Kumar defeated BJP's Praveen Nimesh by a margin 8,207 votes. Meanwhile, BJP's Mohan Singh Bisht registered a win in Mustafabad while AAP finished second and AIMIM settled for third spot. BJP has also came out with flying colours in the Karawal Nagar and Ghonda constituencies.

Also-ran? Not by any stretch as Owaisi's party rides 'third' wave



The All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) outperformed Congress in the Delhi Assembly poll. Contesting only two seats in Mustafabad and Okhla, AIMIM got 33,474 and 39,558 votes respectively. In Mustafabad, AIMIM candidate Mohd. Tahir Hussain, the Delhi riots accused who was allowed custody parole

for poll campaigning, fared better than the Congress candidate. Shifa Ur Rehman, also accused in the 2020 Delhi riots, pushed Congress to fourth place in the Okhla constituency as he got 39,558 votes while Congress's Ariba Khan came in fourth, securing 12,739 votes.

Firecracker ban up in smoke as supporters take to pyrotechnics



The BJP on Saturday celebrated its victory by bursting crackers outside the party neadquarters in Delhi and areas in the city.

These celebrations notably come after a round-the-year ban on all types of firecrackers in the national capital BJP workers holding party flags and shouting "Modi" and "Jai Shri Ram" burst firecrackers outside the party headquarters. A party leader said the BJP did not buy the firecrackers, supporters did. On December 19, 2024, the Delhi government imposed a ban on all forms of firecrackers throughout the year in the national capital.

Switch hit: party-hopping yields a winning return for candidates

Ishita Mishra

Most leaders who switched sides in the run-up to the Delhi Assembly election managed to secure victory.

Three-time Congress MLA Tarwinder Singh Marwah, who switched to the BJP in 2022, defeated former Deputy Chief Minister and senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia.

Kailash Gahlot, the Transport Minister in the AAP government, switched to the BJP in 2024 and won from Bijwasan.

Arvinder Singh Lovely, who too switched to the BIP from Congress in 2024, managed to win from Gandhi Nagar.

Zubair Ahmed, who left Congress for AAP, bagged



BJP's Kailash Gahlot, who was earlier with AAP, won Bijwasan seat. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

the Seelampur seat. In Patel Nagar, former AAP Minister Raaj Kumar Anand, who contested on a BJP ticket, lost to AAP's Pravesh Ratn. The two switched parties recently.

In a somewhat similar story, Kartar Singh Tanwar, who switched from AAP to BJP, won the Chhattarpur seat, which has always

been won by a 'Tanwar'. He defeated Brahm Singh Tanwar, who was formerly with the BIP but contested on an AAP ticket this time.

In Rajouri Garden, BJP's Manjinder Singh Sirsa defeated AAP's Dhanwati Chandela. Mr. Sirsa was formerly with Shiromani Akali Dal.

The exceptions

Fortune didn't work well for Jitender Singh Shunty, a former BJP MLA who made headlines for his social work during COVID-19. He recently switched to AAP and lost to BJP's Sanjay

Goel in Shahdara. Similarly, Kamal Arora, who had switched sides from Congress to AAP, faced defeat in the Gandhi

Movers and shockers



Parvesh Sahib Singh BJP **New Delh**

beat **Arvind** Kejriwal (AAP) by 4,089 votes



Gopal Rai

beat **Anil Kumar** Vashisht (BJP) by 18,994 votes



Kapil Mishra BJP







Amanatullah Khan AAP







overnight. Since many fi-

gures associated with the

party since its early days

have left over the years,

Mr. Kejriwal might now

find it challenging to retain

his senior leaders, some of

whom have also been ac-

cused in the Delhi excise

It is true that this is

AAP's worst performance

beat Shailendra

Kumar of JD(U) by

Satish Upadhyay

Five women candidates four from the BJP and one from AAP - emerged as winners in the election to the 70-member Delhi Assembly. In 2020, eight women were elected to the Assembly. The winners included

senior AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Atishi. who beat BJP's Ramesh Bidhuri by 3,521 votes from the Kalkaji Assembly constituency. Kalkaji also saw Congress's Alka Lamba contesting and coming in third with 4,392 votes. Percentage-wise, women's representation is at 7.14%, still a far cry from the 33% envisaged by the women's reservation Act of 2023.

In Shalimar Bagh, BJP's Rekha Gupta defeated AAP's Bandana Kumari, who had held the seat since 2013, by a significant margin of 29,595 votes. From Greater Kailash, BJP candidate Shikha Roy emerged victorious by beating senior AAP leader and Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj by 3,188 votes. In Najafgarh, BJP's Neelam Pahalwan defeated AAP's Tarun Kumar by 29,009 votes and in Wazirpur, Poonam Sharma of the BJP beat Rajesh Gupta of AAP by 11,425 votes.

Six of the nine candidates that AAP fielded in the last election had won, including Ms. Atishi, Sarita Singh (Rohtas Nagar), Rakhi Birla (Madipur), Ms. Kumari (Shalimar Bagh), Dhanwati Chandela (Rajouri Garden) and Pramila Tokas (R.K. Puram).

Over 71 lakh of Delhi's 1.55 crore voters are women. All the major parties announced schemes for women ahead of the poll.

A Delhi-sized question mark for Arvind Kejriwal

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nikhil M Babu **NEW DELHI**

As the dust settles after the election and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is left smarting from the results, the one question its rank and file will be left with would be – between losing power in Delhi and party chief Arvind Kejriwal's defeat from New Delhi seat, what hurt more?

For AAP, which has fought elections in other States, including Punjab in 2022, on its chief's "clean" image and the 'Delhi model' of governance, it will be hard to recover from the twin losses.

However, Mr. Kejriwal may have an even bigger problem at hand. The AAP national convener, who was arrested and jailed in



connection with the nowwithdrawn excise policy 2021-22, walked out on bail in September last year and resigned as the Delhi Chief Minister, stating that he would prove his innocence in "janata ki adaalat [people's court]".

He had said he would sit

on the CM's chair only after

being re-elected. The "peo-

in his favour, and with the court case unlikely to end soon, the former CM may find it tough to sell his "clean" image. On the setback, a senior party leader said, "We need to think about what went wrong in the campaign and within the party. We still can't fathom the loss of consti-

ple's court" has not ruled

and Greater Kailash (Saurabh Bharadwaj's seat)." Born out of the India Against Corruption movement in 2012, AAP project-

ed itself as an alternative to

tuencies like New Delhi

the "politics of scams". In the party's early days, Mr. Kejriwal would point out "corrupt" politicians while promising graft-free

Now, AAP itself may find it difficult to shake off the corruption allegations sur-Another question Mr.

Kejriwal will have to ask himself is whether he can retain his 22 MLAs in Delhi over the next five years. Unlike in other esta-

blished parties, where people spend years rising through the ranks to become MLAs or Ministers, many AAP leaders gained those privileges almost

in Delhi, with just 22 out of 70 seats (even lower than the 28 it had secured in its Assembly poll debut in 2013). But one must add that AAP's obituaries have been written several times before, and Mr. Kejriwal and his team have man-

policy case.

The silver lining for AAP is that despite its seats dropping drastically, its vote share is only 2% less than the BJP's and over 37% more than what the Congress was able to get.

aged to rebound each time.

THE HINDU

A neck-and-neck fight with little difference in vote share percentage

The election results threw up several surprises, including the nail-biting contest in Jangpura, where AAP's Sisodia lost by 675 votes to BJP's Marwah

Ashna Butani NEW DELHI

he BJP registered its first big victory in Delhi after 26 years, but the small difference in vote share percentage in several constituencies implies a stiff challenge given by AAP to its opponents in the Assembly poll. Although the BJP emerged victorious in 48 seats and AAP secured wins in 22 constituencies, the vote share percentage stood at 45.56% and 43.57% respectively.

One of the nail-biting contests was witnessed in Jangpura, where former **Education Minister Manish** Sisodia lost by 675 votes to Tarvinder Singh Marwah.

After the loss, Mr. Sisodia in a post on X said, "I thank the people of Delhi from the bottom of my heart for giving me the opportunity to serve them for 12 years and shape the future of children."

Among other Assembly

Maharashtra pattern

repeated in Delhi: Raut

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut on Saturday alleged

that the "Maharashtra pattern of voter list

fraud" has been repeated in the Assembly

election in Delhi, where the BJP has pulled

list fraud. The same has been applied in the Delhi Assembly election. Former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's government was not allowed to work. The L-G had all the powers, and all the prominent AAP leaders were put in jail," Mr. Raut said, adding that the BJP is trying to finish the regional par-

"This is the Maharashtra pattern of voter

Mr. Raut has been critical of the Election Commission after the Maharashtra Assembly election after his party, which was in an alliance with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar), won only 20 of the State's 288 Assembly seats. After the Delhi results, he doubled down on his criticism and claimed that the poll body had been turning a blind

eye to serious concerns. "The 39 lakh votes

that have increased in Maharashtra in five

months will now shift to Bihar... some went

RISE 07:04 SET 18:07

RISE 14:52 SET 04:42

RISE 07:03 SET 18:08

RISE 15:56 SET 05:35

RISE 07:03 SET 18:08

RISE 17:00 SET 06:20

23°C The weather will be dry Morning wil be slight cold with

mist and haze. Day will be pleasant. Night also will be

Delhi Palam Tomorrow

Dry weather to prevail.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2025

24°C Morning will be cold with

speed. Night also will be cold.

mist and haze. Day will be pleasant with increase in wind

max min

10

08

26 10

26

23

of 'voter list fraud'

The Hindu Bureau

off a victory after 26 years.

ties that are standing up to it.

to Delhi," he said.

DELHI

Timings

SUNDAY, FEB. 09

MONDAY, FEB. 10

TUESDAY, FEB. 11

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MUMBAI



Manish Sisodia.

seats that saw close contests were Malviya Nagar, Mehrauli, Sangam Vihar, and Rajinder Nagar. Satish Upadhyay, BJP candidate from Malviya Nagar, defeated AAP's Somnath Bharti by a margin of 2,131 votes, while AAP's Durgesh Pathak lost by a margin of 1,231 votes to BJP's Umang Bajaj in Rajinder Nagar.

Mr. Pathak, the sitting MLA who came to power after winning a byelection in 2022, thanked his supporters and party workers in a video statement. "I wanted to do good work in the two years while I was in office and I hope I have been able to do that," he

Sangam Vihar registered the lowest victory margin for the BJP - 344 votes – as Chandan Kumar Choudhary defeated Dinesh Mohaniya. In the Trilokpuri constituency, BJP's Ravi Kant beat Anjana Parcha by 392 votes. In Mehrauli and Timarpur, the margin by which the BJP candidate beat AAP stood at 1,782 and 1,168 respectively.

Highest victory margins Meanwhile, Rohini, a BJP stronghold, registered the highest margin of victory for the BJP as its candidate Vijender Gupta defeated AAP's Pardeep Mittal by 37,816 votes. In Bawana, BIP's Ravinder Indraj Singh beat Jai Bhagwan Upkar by a margin of 31,475.

However, in Matia Mahal and Ballimaran, AAP won by significant margins - 42,724 and 29,823 votes respectively.

Delhi debacle marks the start of AAP's downfall in Punjab: Oppn.

Press Trust of India CHANDIGARH

The Aam Aadmi Party's defeat in the Delhi Assembly poll has set the ball rolling for its downfall in Punjab too, Opposition leaders in the State said on Saturday.

Before the Delhi election, the entire Punjab unit of AAP, including Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Cabinet Ministers, MPs, and MLAs aggressively took part in campaigns in the national capital. Mr. Mann took out roadshows in Delhi and showcased his government's works.

The Opposition parties in Punjab on Saturday slammed AAP and said the people of Delhi "exposed the lies and deceit" of the Arvind Kejriwal-led outfit. They also lashed out at the Mann government, alleging "misgovernance" and "deceiving voters".

Punjab BJP general secretary Subhash Sharma said, "It is the defeat of Arvind Kejriwal's lies, deceit, and dishonesty."

Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa alleged that AAP would now "disintegrate" in Punjab.

As BJP surges, alliance partners fail to keep up

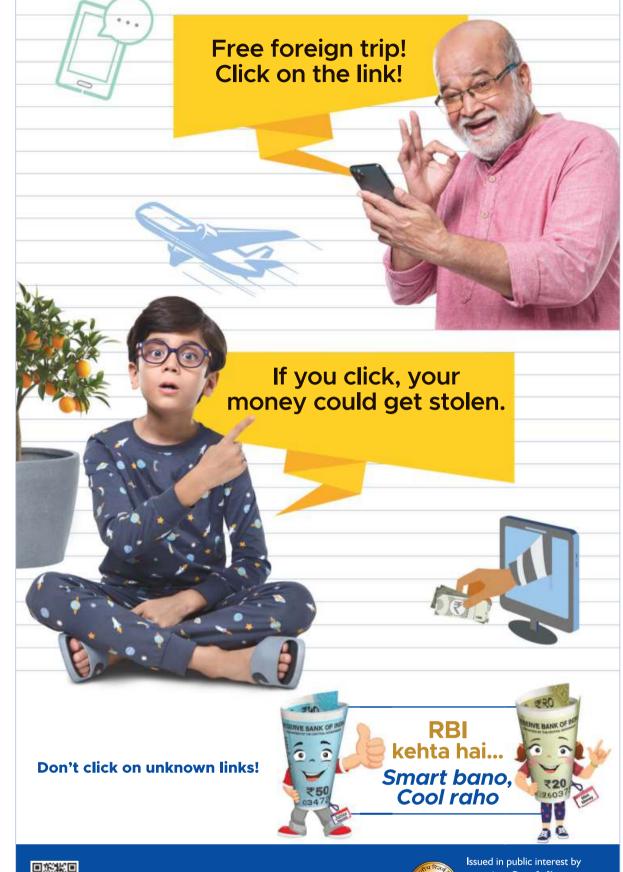
Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday secured a decisive victory in the Delhi Assembly elections, but its alliance partn-

ers – Janata Dal (United) and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) – failed to make a mark, losing both seats they contested.

The BJP contested 68 out of 70 seats, leaving Burari for JD(U)'s Shailendra Kumar and Deoli for LJP (RV)'s Deepak Tanwar. Both candidates lost to Aam Aadmi Party rivals. Mr. Kumar was defeated by AAP's sitting MLA Sanjeev Jha by a mar-

gin of 20,601 votes. Mr. Tanwar lost to AAP's Prem Chauhan by a margin of 36,680. The BJP has managed to unseat almost all senior AAP leaders, including Arvind Kejriwal.



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CCL T20 CRICKET MATCH

09.02.2025



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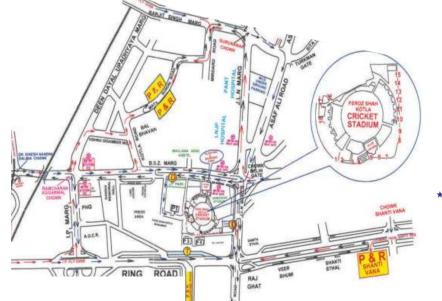
For feedback, write to rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in





RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

DIVERSION / RESTRICTION (AS AND WHEN REQUIRED) There will be diversion of traffic for half and hour after conclusion of the match. No heavy vehicles and buses shall be allowed on Bahadurshah Zafar Marg. Delhi Gate to J.L.N. Marg, from Darya Ganj to Bahadurshah Zafar Marg and from Guru Nanak Chowk to Asaf Ali Road, Peopled are requested to avoid following roads from 11:00 AM to 11:30 PM on the day when there are two matches on the match day respectively when the spectators would be coming to the stadium and congestior Raj Ghat to JLN Marg. Asaf Ali Road from Turkman Gate to Delhi Gate. Bahadurshah Zafar Marg from ITO Chowk to Delhi Gate.



RIDE METRO/FREE SHUTTLE BUS FOR HASSLE FREE JOURNEY

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★ - USE METRO OR PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO REACH THE STADIUM

Nearest Metro Station: Delhi Gate.



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😥 PARKING P 🚄

ARUN JAITLEY STADIUM, FIROZESHAH KOTLA GROUND, NEW DELHI

Velodrome Road and free park & ride and shuttle bus service also available Limited parking is available for labeled vehicles in the proximity of the Stadium. Display of car parking label on windscreen is mandatory. Vehicle number must be written on the parking label. Those who do not display parking label with vehicle number will not be allowed in the proximity of the stadium.

ENTRY TO THE STADIUM

(II) Gate No. 10, 14 & 15 are located on the Eastern side of the Stadium on the road

and entry is from J.L.N. Marg Next to Ambedkar Stadium Bus Terminal ^{III)}Gate Nos. 16 & 18 are located on the Western side of the Stadium & entry is fron

enclosures are from Bahadurshah Zafar Marq.

Bahadurshah Zafar Marg near Petrol Pump.

Car parking label holders are advised to take Ring Road, J.L.N. Marg, Asaf Ali Road or Bahadurshah Zafar Marg. 'U' turn at Delhi Gate is allowed. Entry to parking lots P1, P2, & P3 shall be from Bahadurshah Zafar Marg only from near the Vikram Nagar Cut, Shaheedi Park

No vehicle shall be allowed to be parked on Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg & Ring Road from Rajghat to I.P. Flyover (both the carriageways) on the match day. Vehicles parked on these roads shall be towed away and prosecuted as per law.

FREE PARKING

Mata Sundri Road • Rajghat Power House Road • Under Velodrome Road •

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT Mr. N SELVA KUMAR PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

24 Hours Traffic Helpline: 011-25844444 / 1095

Free Parking: Mata Sundari Parking, Rajghat Power House Road, Under Velodrome Road

Eatables

FRUCTIONS: Spectators visiting the stadium are requested not to bring the following prohibited items:

States

INBRIDE



Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma quizzed for nine hours in A.P.

Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma appeared before the Ongole police in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh for questioning on Friday in a case related to alleged derogatory remarks against Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, his deputy K. Pawan Kalyan, and their family members on social media. He was questioned for nine hours.

Adityanath visits his primary school in Uttarakhand's Pauri

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday visited the school where he studied from Class 1 to 5 in Uttarakhand's Pauri district. He appealed to the students to utilise the improved educational infrastructure created there to build their future. "A very good infrastructure has been created here. There is a modern science laboratory, computers, and smart classes. Now it is the responsibility of parents and teachers to inspire the students to make the best use of these facilities and build their future," he told the students and staff. PTI

Fire at Sabarmati bullet train station, no casualties reported

A fire broke out at the under-construction Sabarmati bullet train station in Ahmedabad in the early hours of Saturday, an official from the fire department said. No casualties were reported and 13 fire tenders were pressed into service to bring the blaze under control, he said. The National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited the agency responsible for the project – said the fire was reported on the roof shuttering on one part of the construction site. Welding sparks are believed to be the cause of the fire, it stated. PTI

Chr.

NAAC debars university in A.P. for 5 years from accreditation

The case involves the CBI probe into the alleged bribery of a NAAC team by the Guntur-based Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation; the council also debars all 7 members of the team

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

he National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), the autonomous accreditation body for higher education institutes, on Saturday announced that its executive committee (EC) has decided to not only cancel the current process of accreditation of the Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KLEF) in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, but also debar its university for five years from applying for accreditation.

It has also decided to debar all the seven members of the peer team for lifetime in assessment or any other activities of NAAC



its university.

ed to review the recent vi-

sits to HEIs (higher educa-

with immediate effect. such HEIs will be withheld, The case involves the and the Standing Commit-CBI investigation into the tee of NAAC may critically alleged bribery of a NAAC review them before declaring the results. In addition. team by the KLEF in exchange for an A++ rating for it is decided that the visits of the last one year will be "In addition, it is decidcarefully analysed and put

tion institutions) by any of in a statement. the seven members for "As per the Dr. Radhakrishnan Committee recomwhich the results are not yet declared. The results of mendations, NAAC has

up to the EC for further ne-

cessary action," said NAAC

It is decided to

review the visits

to higher education

institutions by any of the

7 members for which the

results are not declared.

The results of such HEIs

will be withheld

proposed to launch the Basic (Binary) Accreditation in April/May 2025 followed by Maturity-based Graded Levels (MBGL)," the council stated.

It added that special

committees are working on the preparation of framework and methodology for MBGL. "It is observed that NAAC's peer review system has faced a challenge due to the recent CBI case. These are undesirable to the higher education system, and NAAC being a quality assurance agency is determined to eliminate such practices through definitive actions," it stated.

NAAC said it is planning to take additional steps to refine the system by eliminating the scope for unfair practices in the system.

After Delhi, BJP hopeful of turning the tide in Bengal



Upbeat mood: BJP supporters breaking into a jig after the Delhi Assembly poll results were declared, in Kolkata on Saturday. ANI

Shiv Sahay Singh

Enthused with the party's victory in the Delhi Assembly election, the West Bengal unit of the BJP on Saturday said the win will serve as a morale booster for it ahead of the Assembly poll in the State, which is due in 2026.

The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) has outperformed the BJP in recent elections in the State, including the Lok Sabha poll in 2024.

West Bengal BJP chief Sukanta Majumdar and Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari expressed hope that the win in Delhi will boost the party's prospects in the State.

"The Delhi election results proved that people are not with the corrupt, they are with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In 2026, Bengalis, not only those residing in the State but also elsewhere, will come together to win Bengal [for the BJP]," Mr. Majumdar told reporters. Mr. Adhikari, who addressed a gathering at Purba Medinipur, said, "Now it's the turn of West Bengal.

Cash incentives and false cases will not work and all Hindus will unite [against the TMC]." "Haryana has spoken,

Maharashtra has spoken, Delhi has spoken, and Bihar will vote for us [BJP] in November. The very next year in February or March, West Bengal will also give the same verdict," he said.

The remarks by the West Bengal BJP leadership come amid the support extended by parties in the Opposition bloc to AAP. The TMC had backed AAP and some party leaders even campaigned for Arvind Kejriwal's party.

Reminding BJP workers about the "unity of anti-TMC voters", Mr. Majumdar said his party can trump the ruling party if all the votes polled in support of the other parties – the CPI(M) and the Congress come to the BJP's kitty.

Delhi wanted change, says Priyanka Vadra

The Hindu Bureau KOZHIKODE

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday said the people of Delhi wanted change as they were "fed up of the way things were". She was responding to media queries on the BJP's victory in the Assembly election during her visit to Wayanad, her Lok Sabha constituency.

"I think it was very obvious from all our meetings in Delhi that the people wanted change. They were fed up of the way things were. And they wanted change. I suppose they voted for change. My congratulations to all those who have won," Ms. Vadra said.

The Congress MP pointed out that the other political parties would have to work harder from now.

People cast their votes for good politics: Naidu

The <u>Hindu Bureau</u> VIIAYAWADA

Terming the BJP's win in the Delhi poll "historic", Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said it was a vote for good governance and good politics, which were in contrast to AAP's inefficient and corrupt regime.

Addressing mediapersons at his residence, Mr. Naidu said AAP was a "total failure in Delhi", and its model of governance was neither sustainable nor worthy of replication.

The proposed simultaneous polls were more appropriate at this juncture, he said. The vote for the BJP was a vindication of the fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the right leader at the right time, Mr. Naidu said.

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(अगर और कोई मेंगजीन चाहिए तो डिमांड करे उपलब्ध करा दिया जाएगा)

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otice No. EPC-CECONIVSKP202403 Dt.: 08.08.2024 The following modification has bee made against above Tender Notice which may please be noted.

Particulars: Date & Time of Closing o As Published Now To be Read As

at 1200 Hrs.

or details please visit website www.ireps.gov.in Chief Administrative Officer (Con) PR-150/CH/24-25

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HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT **E-Procurement Notice** INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Rampur Division on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering, system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as

aeta	alled in the table.				
Sr. No.		Estimated cost	Starting Date for downloading Bid		Deadline for submission of Bid.
1.	C/O Science Bock (Lab & Classroom) of	2,03,38,820/-	18.02.2025	2,35,900/-	24.02.2025
ı	Cout Sr Sec School Building at Duttnagar in	Taheil Damnur [Diett Shimla H.P. (SE	I. C/O Build	ling portion

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders form the department website www.hptenders.gov.in. The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the tender without declaring any reason.

Executive Engine Rampur Division (B&R), HPPWD, Rampur Bushahi On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

Bhubaneswar Development Authority

Bhubaneshwar Development Authority Akash Shova Building, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751001. Ph: +91-0674-2392801

RFP No.: <u>2749</u>/ BDA File No. - BDA/Planning/(General Branch)2024/32

civil works, WS & SI, rain water harvesting tank, septic tank & site development)

Dated: 06/02/2025

SELECTION OF CONSULTANCY FIRM FOR PLANNING & DESIGNING OF TOWN PLANNING SCHEME UNDER ZONE 4 OF PROPOSED BDA TOWN PLANNING SCHEMES IN BHUBANESWAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN AREA (BDPA)"- PACKAGE-3 (TPS No.-42, 43, 44 & 45)

Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) intends to select an agency for "Selection of Consultancy Firm for Planning & Designing of Town Planning Scheme Under Zone 4 of Proposed BDA Town Planning Schemes in Bhubaneswar Development Plan Area (BDPA)"- Package-3 (TPS No.-42, 43, 44 & 45)

Interested agencies may participate in this tender and submit their proposal. The RFP documents will be available from 06.02.2025 to 24.02.2025 and can be downloaded from Odisha e-procurement portal i.e., https://tendersodisha.gov.in. The completed proposal, as per instruction in the RFP document, should be submitted on the portal latest by 24.02.2025 up to 17:00 hrs. Please refer to the RFP document for further details.

BDA reserves the right to cancel this invitation and / or invite fresh Bid / RFP with o without amendments to this invitation, without liability or any obligation for such invitation and without assigning any reason. BDA also reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever Secretary

Bhubaneswar Development Authority. CAD-2502 OIPR-13033/11/0231/2425

CENTRAL RAILWAY

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ (An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India). Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030 Recruitment on Deputation for Practitioners

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Ra (NIRD&PR) an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India is the country's apex organization for undertaking Training and Research on various aspects of Rural Development. NIRD&PR, invites applications from the eligible candidates for the below mentioned posts on deputation basis.

SI. No.	Name of the Post	Pay Matrix Level	Age limit	Number of Posts
1.	Professor	Level 14	56 years	8
2.	Associate Professor	Level 13 (A)	56 years	4
3.	Assistant Professor	Level 10	56 years	9

For eligibility criteria, online submission of application and other details please visit: http://career.nirdpr.in/

ast date for submission of online application is 03.03.2025 Advt.No.38/2024 Sd/-

File No: NIRDPR/Admin/ Sec-I/2024/54 |Comp.no. 17314

Assistant Director Administration (Section-I)

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT E-Tender Notice No. NIT/01/25/07 dated 06-February-2025 For and on behalf of The President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manage

Central Railway invites e-tenders for supply of the following items Tender No. Description Quantity Due Date

27253721	Primary Voltage Transformer	28 Nos.	20/02/2025
27253629	Fire Detection Equipment	52 Nos.	24/02/2025
27253454	Master Controller	110 Nos.	26/02/2025
27253503	Gear Case	83 Nos.	27/02/2025
50245186	Armoured 48 Fibre Optical Fibre Cable	87.9 Km	27/02/2025
27253952	Set of Rotary Switch	110 sets	28/02/2025
62243961C	TOTAL HIP REPLACEMENT IMPLANT	90 Nos.	03/03/2025
41241761	Polyester Glass Silk Tape	307425 Metre	05/03/2025
27251513	CommutatorAssembly	45 Nos.	07/03/2025

requested to submit their bids online through the IREPS website a https://www.ireps.gov.in For more details regarding the above mentione enders and other supply tenders please visit IREPS website For Principal Chief Materials Manager 76

Govt. of Bihar

RURAL WORKS DEPARTMENT

Office of the Engineer-in-chief-cum-Additional Commissioner-cum-Special Secretary/Engineer-in-Chief, Rural Works Department, Bihar

5th floor, Visvesvaraya Bhawan, Nehru Path, Patna-800015

DETAILED NOTICE INVITING TENDER (through e-procurement mode only http://pmgsytende rsbih.gov.in)for Initial Rectification, Minor improvement, Surface renewal, Construction of bridge/drainage /protection work including Operation & Management for Rural Road Strengthening and Manage ment Program under component of Mukhya Mantri Gramin Sadak Unnayan Yojana (MMGSUY).

Notice Inviting Tender No.- RRSMP-02/2024-25

1. Designation and Address of the Advertiser : Engineer-in-chief-cum-Additional Commissioner- cum-Special Secretary,

Rural Works Department, Govt. of Bihar :06.02.2025

2. Date of Notice Inviting Tender 3. Period for download of Tender Document : From 27.02.2025 (9:00) to 07.03.2025 up to 15:00 hrs

4. Date, Time & Place of Pre-Bid meeting : Date 28.02.2025 at 15:00 hrs.

 $5. \ Last \ Date \& \ Time for uploading tender documents by bidder \\ : Date \ 07.03.2025 \ till \ 15:00 \ hrs \\ http://pmgsytendersbih.gov.in \\ http://pmgsy$: Date 07.03.2025 Time 15:30 hrs. 6. Date and time of opening of Technical Bid

7. (i) Bid Security (EMD) and cost of BOQ shall be submitted Online. No other forms of Earnest Money (Bid Security) and cost of BOQ will be bidder is reconsidered whose EMD has been refunded automatically, will be collected and refunded manually in the shape of Fixed

(ii)Bidders are required to upload an Affidavit regarding correctness of Information furnished with bid document. Original Affidavit regarding correctness of Information furnished with Bid document shall be submitted at the time of signing of agreement

The Engineer-in-chief-cum-Additional Commissioner-cum-Special Secretary / Engineer-in-chief, Rural Works Department on behalf

of Governor of Bihar invites bids for the works detailed below

Details of Works and Services:

SI No.	Package No.	District	Works Division	Block	Road Name	Length (km)	Construction Cost (Initial Rectification, Minor Improvement, Surface Renewal, Construction of Bridge/ Drainage/ Protection work) (in Lakh)	Cost of Operation & Manageme nt Services for 72 Months Period (in Lakh)	Total Estimat ed Cost Value (ECV) (in Lakh)	Cost of BOQ (in Rs)	Earnes t Money / Bid Securit y (in Lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	RRSMP/ 24-25 Samastip ur/01	Samast ipur	Samastip ur	Samast ipur	NH-28 Chhoti Bejhadih To Kanhaiya Chowk Via Sheetalpatti, Mahadev Chowk Tak Bypass Sadak Ka Nirman (Part- A) MDR-TO1 Se Hakimabad Tak Bypass Sadak Ka Nirman (Part B)	11.558	2609.543	132.447	2741.99	10000	37.42
					Total	11.558	2609.543	132.447	2741.99		
2	RRSMP/ 24-25 Udakisha nganj/01	Madhe pura	Udakisha nganj	Chausa	Chausa Murli Chowk Se Yogiraj Via Krishana Tola Polytechnic Vansh Gopal	14.900	2605.987	168.029	2774.016	10000	37.75
					Total	14.900	2605.987	168.029	2774.016		

For further details please visit website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar PR- 18919 (R W D) 2024-25 नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

Engineer -in-chief-cum- Additional Commissioner- cum-Special Secretary, Rural Works Department, Govt. of Bihar



Cauvery Bhavan, 9th Floor, E&A Block, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560009. Phone: 080-23118888

Date: 07-02-2025

Short Term Tender Notification (Through KPP portal only)

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited invites tenders for the following work through e-procurement from the eligible

Name of the work: "Construction of 862 DU's (G F Houses) for Houseless Beneficiaries in 10 All Mining Affected Villages on Identified Individuals sites at Ballari Taluk, Ballari District Karnataka" - (Haraginadona (110 houses), Belagal Thanda (57 houses), Belagal (83 houses), Jenekunte ((4 houses) Jenekunte Thanda (80 houses), Halakundi (181 houses), Honnalli (90 houses), Honnalli Thanda (160 houses), Sanjeevarayanakote (89 houses) and Hagari (8 houses) - 10 all mining affected villages). (FIXED PRICE NO-VARIATION). Indent No: RGRHCL/ 2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT1/CALL-2.

Amount put to tender [Excluding GST] (Rs. in Lakhs): 4892.00. EMD Rs. (in Lakhs): **48.92** (1 Lakh D.D and Rs.47.92 Lakh B.G).

Last date of submission of bid is Date:

17.02.2025 upto 16.00 hours

Further information visit: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in/

DIPR/CP/YC/4933/2024-25

SD/- General Manager (S D)



Fi	le No- B-IV-H-(H&D))-61/2022	Lr. No 4122 Bhubaneswar, the 30 th Jan. 2025								
	Invitation For Bids - Bid		dentification	No. C.E. (B) - 30	0 / 2024-25					
1.	The Chief Engineer, Buildings-I (I/C), Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building work as mentioned below:									
2.	Nature of work	:	Building Works							
3.	No. of work	:	01 No.							
4.	Bid Cost	:	₹ 10,000/- (each)							
5.	Class of Contractor	:	'A' / Special Class							
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	From dt.10.02.202	5 to 17,00 Hours of 0	dt.25.02.2025.					
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt. 27.02.2025 at 1	1:30 AM						
8.	The Bidders have to participate i	n (ONLINE bidding on	v. Further details ca	an be seen from the					

website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender car

Chief Engineer, Buildings-I (I/C), Odisha, Bhubaneswar OIPR-34117/11/0062/242



Office of

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, 6TH CIRCLE H.P. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, KULLU-175101 Ph: 01902_222530, E.mail.hp-kul@nic.in

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJNA (PMGSY) E-Procurement Notice

he Superintending Engineer, 6th Circle HP.PWD, Kullu on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads under Pradhai Mantri Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) for the following work including maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HP.PWD/CPWD/P&T/Railways/other State Govt./Central Govt. Agencies. Non registered bidders may submit bids. However, the successful bidder has to register in appropriate Class with appropriate authorises in HP.PWD.

District	Package No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Period of completion	Bid security (Rs. Lacs) i.e. 2% of the total cost.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Kullu 1	HP-06-152A	Construction of 36.00 mtrs. Span RCC BOW String Arch Bridge over MRL-01 Banjar Bathad road Km. 9/450 in District Kullu (HP) under PMGSY-III.		12 Months	Rs. 11,15,000/-

Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement on 10.02.2025 at 10:00 AM. Cost of Bid Form:- Rs.10,000/- per package/job (non-refundable) only in form of Demand Draft.

Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:- The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgsytender.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgsytender.gov.in.

Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

Submission of Original Documents:- The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B (a) (ii) of ITB with Superintending Engineer, 6th Circle HP.PWD, Kullu, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid. either by registered post or by

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering:- Upto on 15.02.2025 at 05:00 PM The site for the work is available

Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore, bids must be submitted online on website www.pmgsytender.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online on 17-02-2025 at 11:30 AM in the office of Superintending Engineer, 6th Circle HP.PWD, Kullu by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.

The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.

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

1. Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts. 2. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any

delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though 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 bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the Superintending Engineer 6th Circle, HP.PWD, Kullu

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK HP / 5081/24-25

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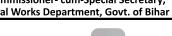
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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

tured US-based professional (MS). Seeks kind, driven, compatible partner. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

Slim 29/165cm, Girl, Vegetarian, LLM Contact: matrimail25@gmail.com

to U.K) Ct 9789047878 parents @ Chennai

professional Muslim groom for my Daughter of age 34 working in MNC (IT). Contact: 9865130076

pore, India. CNB, 89256 40111.

gmail, ph – 9176131538

28vrs. MBBS. MD. Business Family MS (NUS), 4 yrs abroad MNC experience, seeks Professional Groom, In-

DKV Govt. Dr. 28 Aswini Mesham Father Mother Govt. Dr. Seeks Dr. Groom Only. Ph: 9443151045.

Grooms, Contact: 9677199925

Elect) Anna University 28/172, slim fair seeks suitable groom. Whatsapp: 80727 02352 / bevin.itc@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR 28 years well educated, good looking. Father Army officer. Seeks well settled Groom with clean

HINDU NADAR B.Tech / MBA, Industrialist, 26/166 Mumbai Based Seeking Suitable Groom. Contact: 8424058261

HINDU NADAR 21years,B.COM, MBA-pur suing working in software 12Lacs p/ a Elite Family 9380791999/ Brahmin Groom Ct : 98400 59297

HINDU, VEERA saivam, 34 Yrs, B.E, Engineer at Coimbatore, Income 1 Crore. Ct 8138900498

HINDU, VANNIYAR, 31 yrs, MBBS, Doctor at Chennai , Income 9 Lakhs. Ct 9072777804

LLB, Civil Judge Seeks bridegroom below 30 yrs from same Profession / Group 1 officer/ IAS / IPS / RICH MUDALIYAR, 29yrs, BE, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Con-tact:9962791888 tled family in Tamilnadu only. Contact: 9710209761, 9840425972

Inter Caste Parents (Nair, Ezhava) seek suitable Alliance for their Daughter, Uthradom, 29/164, IPS Officer. Contact: 9447186098, 6238162352

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IFS or IRS Boy should be below 32 First Marriage Divorcee widower with out child send Full details to email wants Mudaliar/Pillai profesly Qualfd working Groom 9444136336. 8220757159

> MUDHALIAR 31/162CM software Delloit Bangalore seeks professionals India /Abroad – Geetham 9884858014

29 YEAR old Nair girl, 165 cms tall, slim, fair, postgraduate, Canadian Permanent Resident, belonging to an elite family with roots in Trivandrum. Seeking suitable alliances from educated Contact HINDU, VANNIYAR, 26 Yrs, B.Arch, Architect at Chennai, Income 10

Lakhs. Ct 8138901097

28/Sep'96, 155, Karthika, CA(UK), employed in UAE, seeks alliance from HINDU, PILLAI, 25 Yrs. MBBS, Doctor at Chennai, Income 12 Lakhs. Ct 8138900470. professionally qualified (PG) and well

MUDALIYAR 40Y/ 155 cms Divorced

ARADHANA, 30, 170 cm, PG (Health) , Makam, EHO in Australia (Citizen) , Seeks well educated Groom (Nair/ HINDU PILLAI / Mudaliar Bride 27/158cm BE., MS., (Non-IT) working , Seeks well educated Groom (Nair/ Menon/ Pillal Tamil Brahmin/Mu-deliver) Ct. 11 9844/ 28004/ What with good family background. CT

9944247275, sureshu@hotmail.com

Hindu Telugu never married 45yrs/ 168 MS USA very fair working bride seeks 45-48yrs never married working MUDALIYAR 31/155 Uthiram/Kanni B.E TCS Australia seeks groom workin in Australia or willing to settl Australia/abroad. 9840829929

Hyderabad well-settled. Rich Hindu Mudaliar, B.Tech(CSE) Sept./2001/ 167 CM, Chittirai/Kanya Rasi. SWE at seeks qualified, employed, Unmar-ried Tamil Muslim Groom. 9444235779 MNC, Hyderbad. Family owns Busi-ness. Seeking Alliance from a Decent and Respectable Family. Contact

tor at Kanyakumari, Upper middle 93602 71137 class family. Ct 8138901181 MUDALIAR, VEGETARIAN, Fair, 27

CHRISTIAN, CASTE no bar, 34 yrs, Divorced, MS , doctor, Income 50 MUDALIAH, VEGETARIAN, I.a., Editor, I.a., Vegetarian, I.a., I.a.,

MUDALIAR UTHIRAM 32/ 160 fair beau TAMIL MUSLIM Girl 28/ 157 Pharm.D tiful PG HR employed Hyderabad 36L/ pa seeks tall handsome well settled groom in Hyderabad/ Banga-lore/ Chennai. Caste No bar.

RC NADAR, 27yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite ased out of Bangalore, from an ed-cated family, preferably CA, MBA PG in Engineering from reputed stitutions, Sozhia Vellala Pilsuitable Groom from USA 9940188956. or other caste, for our daugh-29-year-old, 165 cms, very , meritorious, accomplished, Only daughter (28), MBBS, Pursuing (MD) General Medicine, Well-educat-B.Com, CA, working for a well know company in Bangalore (email ID: ed family seeks suitable groom.

PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN Bride 27/162/ Class, 33/165, Mirugasim, Raghu in Lagnam, PG in HR (Asst. Manager, MNC) Seeks IIM/PG Groom. B.E,M.B.A./ UK based Software Pro-fessional seeks well settled UK based Groom.Ct:9445928250, 9176780777.

educated, Working at IT, Good family B.E., M.B.A, SBI Manager, Chennai. seeks suitable groom. Preferably IT job Seeks suitable Groom Ct: 8056104103 porean, seeks suitable Groom age between 34 to 36, Good Engrg Deg, Overseas & Local Industry Experior Other good job. Age below Re-marriage accepted. Co 73975-98889. (Brokers excuse).

> GROOM WANTED Rich Mudalivar. 23yrs,B.com, Elite Business Family in Chennai Contact: 9962791888

Tamil Hindu Nadar B.Tech (CS) working in Cisco, Bangalore, Rs 21 SEEKING NAIDU Groom, well educated lakhs per annum, 30 /160 cm, Moolam background. Contact: 91768 00819

an affluent Bangalore-based industrialist family. Seeking a well-settled, professionally accomvery rich, g in British trialist family. Seeking a settled, professionally au plished groom. (080–69129253)

HINDU SC PR, 35/170, B.Tech (IT), working in MNC, 12L PA, upper middle class seeks educated, well settled and same community Groom. Contact: ware engineer mnc Chennai seeks well-educated groom working in Chennai CT 9952054930/ 8668190730 8903670160

MUDALIAR 25, BE/MBA 165cm Good Sengunthar 25/167 Cm, IT-Chennai. Looking,well settled family seeks Anusham / Vrichigam seeks suitable suitable Groom CNB 8778514465/

MUDALIAR 23/164, Fair, Beautiful,

daliar Girl 25/163, Star Pooradam. MUTHU RAJA Naidu 25/173CM M.Sc.

IYER VADAMA, Naithrupa Kasyapa, Arudra, 28/167 cm, CA CFA, seeks professionally qualified Tamil professionally qualified Tamil Brahmin Groom with clean habits preferably from Thane/Mumbai. WA 9136163110/E–Mail matchs7587@

tor - surgeon 31years/163cms/fair complexioned good looking girl seeking match from suitable well placed brahmin grooms from good family within India. Whatsapp 6361631723 Email ID

shubhammangalam9@gmail.com IYER VADAMA Kousiga Thiruvonam DM/MCh/MD/ MS 27-29 yrs teetotaller boy strictly same sect 9080638723 / 8778549521.

hwa, Shaunaka Gothram, Poosam, PG

GROOM WANTED MUDALIAR, 24 yrs, 165 cms B.Arch, Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman Upper middle class family. Looking for a like

Contact: 9080629216 CORPORATE Prof., Bengaluru 34/165, Chettiar

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minded match from the

same community

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN IYER, 39, 180 cms, Working

Professional, MBA. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off

Looking for a like minded match from any

BALIJA NAIDU, 37, 183 cms, MS, Product

Manager. Lives in Washington, USA. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match

from equivalent community from Tamil Nadu, USA

MUTHURAJA NAIDU, 29, 178 cms, MBBS, Doctor

Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from any Naidu from

NADAR, 25, 179 cms, Architect, Businessman

Lives in Tirunelveli. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar

Contact: 6366448343

True Elite Profiles

India. Contact: 6366448343

community. Contact: 6366448344

DKV/ PALLAN 28vrs B.E., working Indl

Automation, Chennai father Sr.engr Rly (R) mother DGM-ONGC seeks groom,

clean habits, same caste, Govt.Emp

PSU/Pvt. 814894 9077/ 94450 05474

Sengundhar 35/165cm, Poorattathi/4

only daughter, Asst Professor. Govt.

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DEVENDRAKIJI A VELLAR (Pallan)

marriage seeks suitable Groom settled in USA. CNB. Ct: 9791170034

SC/AD 37vrs. BE. Sr. Software Engi-

neer TCS Chennai, seeks Bride Groom. Contact: 99521 47216

168cm Moolam Ph.D, seeks suitable groom, caste no bar, Cbe. 94871 62456

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Girl pursuing PG, 26yrs, 160cm, good looking, reputed family seek matching proposal from Parents of Doctor

search scholar born August 1990

GROOM WANTED Rich Naidu,30yrs, MS (US). Elite business family, Need

US WORKING Bride 29/172 BE MS

Bar Contact: 8056093838/ 9500009694

(US), Elite business family, US Profiles Ct:97100

9710091999

from a respectable family

Profiles Ct:9710093999/

Groom. nasser27ma@gmail.com

44/160cm, MCA., SWE_USA,

Vegetarian community. Contact: 6366448344

CASTE NO Bar, 28yrs, MBBS, MD, WELL SETTLED Tamil lyer family RICH NAIDU, 23yrs, BE, Elite business family, Seeks suit-seeks alliance for their daughter, ness family in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Groom Contact:9710093999/ Mumbai educated accomplished Doc-able Groom. Ct: 9710093999/ ness family in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Groom. Ct: 9710093999/

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CHENNAI, BALIJA Naidu girl from up-

per middle class family, 26 yrs / 152cm / MCA working in Bangalore seeks well educated well settled groom. Contact:87542 29161. NAIDU 24/162 Fair Beautiful Post Graduate, Own Star Hotel Elite Family 100.Cr.CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

KAMMA NAIDU Poorattadi 29/170, BDS, PG Diploma, Fair, Good looking Girl, **Industrialist Family,** Chennai (200 Cr & above)

Ct: 09710504647 DOCTOR M.D., Naidu, 1991/165cms Simam, Magam, seeks suitable Groom

Subsect no bar

M.S/MD/CA/IAS& IPS.Ct: 8072214843

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CHENNAL SETTLED Nair Boy 27/173 BE,MBA, Mageeram Shudha Jadhagam, Consultant in MNC Chennai. 9840838971

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HINDU VISWAKARMA GS Boy, 38

yrs, Tax Consultant, M.Com., LLB. Mob: 9447528352. THIYA/ EZHAVA 31/170 BE Non IT, HR business seeks bride from Chen-

Kerala or Bangalore.

HINDU EZHAVA boy, 36/183 cm, Airine Pilot. Looking for professionally qualified bride from well educated fa nily. Ph: 9496958265.

9551500642

HINDU NAIR 27/165cm, Kettai Oosham BE Owner of Private Ltd. Company, Upper Middle Class, Settled in Salem, Tamilnadu. Only son seeks suitable educated bride with good family background. Whatsapp BHP to 96555 77666 / 96555 88666

✔ Chennai Settled Nair Boy 34 Yrs, BBA seeking suitable Bride. Contact: 9940392004

30/180CM, Pooratathi, NAIDU, BTech, MS, Research Engineer, Sweden Citizen, Bride wanted call 9566682220

WANTED R.C Bride Tamil/English Good looking, Professional Working/ Settled in Australia, for Groom-Energetic Mechanical Engineer, 30/ 175, PR Status, Professional job n Australia. CT: 9442084403 /

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KAMMA NAIDU, 24, 170 cms, MSc, Business, Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Preferably in and around Chennai. Contact: 6366448344

GOUNDER, 23, 168 cms, B.Tech. Lives in Chenna Father is an IT professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match with mother tongue Telugu (Balija, Goud, Gavara, Kamma, Kapu) from Chennai. Contact: 6366448343

(四)

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better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

tor boy seeking for Bride willing to settle Abroad. Contact Mobile/ Whatsapp: 8870279396

CHRISTIAN 39 years Eng graduate well settled at Chennai working MNC wanted graduate girl from de literate christian family 9445931257

Engineer, works for mnc, Chennai. CT-9500188067

CASTE NOBAR 40/164cm Teamlead 18LPA MNC Bangalore looking for educated good looking girl. Contact

tist, USA, never married, Musiri-Trichy native, on Musiri vacation. Seeks match (no divorcees). 9944310533

B.Tech, TCS, Hyderabad, 2Lpm, seeks Equally Qualified bride, Caste No Bar. Contact: 8220984182

from same/other community. Contact 9845401461.

suitable bride.

Elite business

ness Family Contact: 9380791999 / HINDU NADAR BE, 27/175. Well Settled Entrepreneur seeks Suitable Well Educated Bride Contact: 24 MANAI Chettiar 47/173 BE (SW)

family 37yrs, BE, Divorcee, Elite Busi-

child. CNB. 9840429947/ 9790435234

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Revathy Meenam handsome boy / BE / working in MNC, Chennai /18 LPA.

/ Widow excuse. 216, 044 268

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Working in MNC Banga

lore, 30LPA, Seeks Hindu

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settled, affluent

Nadar Bride.

te). Ct. 9300502792.

9043991629.

Bride any OC.BC caste. 8124570336

9445132233

9444551216.

9841125556

ganesanv0@gmail.com.

ried, Star: Kettai, Own H Well settled. Sub Caste

8424058261 HINDU, MUTHARAIYAR, 29 yrs, B.Sc, MUDHALIYAR, CA, Age-40, Never mar

ALLIANCE INVITED from parents of Bride for my boy now in Chennai but working in U.S, Age 32, in 75000 / Well Settled Wants Suitwell to do Status.Ct: 9840456644, able Bride. 8122289871 / 9444139323 9840636662

HINDU NADAR 27 Years/ 185cms/ B.Arch, Elite Business Family in Chennai Seeks Suitable Bride. Call: 9884614579, WhatsApp: Chennai

KASYB IYR Barani 39/180 PhD diss (Germny) Mutual Divorcee Bride qualifd from Good family. Widows/ divs skip. 9444551216, srisivapuri@

AGE 33 Years Saiva Mudaliyar Chennai, B.E. (Software Engineer) salary Rs.30 Lakh P.A. Ct:

Hindu SC/AD, Tamil, Bangalore, 1988 born, 174 cms, BCA, Entrepreneur, LPG Distributor (Indian Oil Corporation), 21 LPA, Father is a Doctor, Well-Settled Family. CNB. Contact:

MBA, native of Puducherry, working in MNC Bangalore (AVP, 35LPA) | Issueless divorcee, seeks educated & qualified bride (Caste no bar), contact 9686107007

TAMII VISHWAKARMA 34/171 B Tech

SC (AD) Hindu, 35y/165, Mtech (IIT), 25 LPA-mnc (BLR), Erode (2 BHK, land), Seeks Beautiful Bride, Caste No 1-En30/ BE /32 years /170cm/ 66Kg/ 1.5
1 job Lacs per month/working at New Del03 / hi/ Wheatish/ Fair looking/ Parents in Chennai/ Father Mudaliar/
Mother Vellalar/ RC Christian/ Expects girl 26-30 years/ any degree/ Caste no bar. Contact:

nosurii, rooram/simmam, BE,MS (USA) N.Veg, Working in USA, Seeks suit-able bride (25-29yr) Studying/Work-ing in USA, Caste no bar Mother: 9003713942 HINDU FAMILY, CASTE NO bar, 28Yr, Swati/Thulam seeks bride seco marriage 9597331609/ 9840666103 Height - 170 cm. Affluent Family. Education - MBBS & CFA. Chennai. Bride should be well educated. Con-NAIDU 33 Work HR Operations Seeks

U.K PERMANENT resident s/w engi

neer-33, 180 cm Ht., seeks hindu bride: fair, slim,employed and age

parents: 9841294930, 8056575473. SOZHIYA VELLALAR 38/BE,Swathi. Employed. Upper Middle Class Seeks Suitable Bride. Coimbatore

tact - 9677166900.

9843252888 **HINDU, Kongu** Nadar, 27/174, Swathi, Thulam, B.Tech., Business at Salem, well settled family, seeks qualified

bride, same caste. M: 98430-36363.

RICH MUDALIYAR 29yrs BE Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9710093999/ HINDU NADAR, 29yrs, B.Arch, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9380791999/9841329471

THEVAR 39 /170cm BE Chennai wearing Hearing Aid seeks 10th,+2, gree bride Geetham 9884858014

(Ph.D),HOD, Pvt.Engg College, Pondy Seeks Bride 30 to 37yrs cated Bride Ct.9444049457

at UAE, income 20 lakhs. Ct 8138901227

HINDU IVER 36 yrs M com Finance

HINDU, VANNIYAR, 26 Yrs, B.E, Qua-

TELUGU CHETTIAR Unmarried 1983/

180cm Btech, Mba Manager 14 lakhs/ PA. Seeks suitable Telugu/Tamil al-liance. Ct 9444559768/04479609970

SCAD, 53/ M.Sc First Marriage 50k pm seeks suitable Bride, Divorcee, Widow Excuse Cast No bar

TAMIL BRAHMIN Iver, handsome mated, Educated, good looking girl from a good family background, employmen

PILLAI REMARRIAGE, 60 yrs,Income

MUDALIAR DIVORCEE, PhD, Professor

Seeking an educated, and

THEMOMHINDU

Seeking BRIDE tor Bridegroom Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar

open for discussion. CT: **93842 7605**6

SC Adi-Dravida 31/170 Punarpoosam B.E., MBA, TCS, SW-Engr at Sweden 2.5L.P.M well settled Family seeks B.E/ I.T Employed Gd looking Groom from Decent and same Family back ground Ct: 9444325009 / 94444 17759

44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech

IT professional, Caste

Settled Chennai. Seeks educated, working, good looking bride from decent Family. Ct: 9444141130 / Naidu 28/165 ME Chennai Design Engineer MNC Affluent Family CNB Contact: 9841097110. GROOM AGE 55 Well Settled. Bride

HINDU, VISWAKARMA, 26 Yrs, B.E. Wanted Age Above 50 Need Comfortable Life Partner Whats App: MBA, Business Analyst at Bangalore, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138901190 IYER ASHTASAHAS Kasyb 39/180 / HINDU SC. 45/171 M.Ped. M.Phil. Phd

Physical Director in College seeks sui table Bride, same Caste. 98413 14851 barani / Two masters (India & US), PhD diss (Germny) Mutual divorcee Bride qualifd from Good family. Di-Hindu, SC, AD Tamizh, Age 30yrs, Central Govt Job at Bangalore. Salary 40,000/Pm, seeks Fair and Good Looking Bride and also well settled 26861097.

Contact: 93426 56349

BALIJA NAIDU: 32/ 170. Handsome. VANNIYAR 49 Yrs B.Sc.,(Biology), B.Com, MBA, Entertainment Business & Plastic Processing Machinery, In-dustrial Coatings, Chennai, Elite M.A.,(Psychology) working Healthcare Counselor US Citizen looking for unmarried CNB 39 to 42 Yrs Bride. Family, seeks bride any degree Email: padmapalanisamy@gmail.com CT: 73958-81522.

MUDALIYAR AGE 50, Msc. Divorcee / GAVARA NAIDU 31/173 BE working 5 Divorcee, Seeks suitable Caste no bar. Ct: 87544 No Issue, Own Business. Seeks Suit-Bride.Caste Nobar.Ct:

> BALIJA NAIDU Chitirai 28 B.Tech Rly catering Licensee, above 15L/ Pa. 9445367047/ 7397018560/ **USA &** Based National. Balija Naidu, 24, IT, Bharani Seeks Edu-

TALL, HANDSOME, 37/180 cm. unmarried, vegetarian, PG Diploma in Marketing(Canada), affluent, Bali-ja Naidu, CNB, seeks brides wiling Engrs /CA/ Drs Employed Call: 9498072042 / 9444753417 to relocate to Canada 8148809055

inquiries only (080–69129253)

1993, Educated, Barigatione From a reputed, affluent business family running a hospital & multiple ventures. Seeking a well-mannered bride from a respectable family. Serious inquiries only (080–69129253) BALIJA NAIDU, Age 38, Bharani Star, M.E., Own Computer IT Outlet. Seeks Degree Completed Bride. 9894473236 NELLORE TELEGU business class family seeks a match for their 1993

TAMIL (HINDU-BC) Boy 41. MBA. Unmarried. No Bad habit. I am fully consent to HOUSE GROOM & GOOD born handsome son (Btech), height 188cm. (080-69074927) NAIDU 27/183, Fair, Handsome, BE, MBA of Girl parents as my parents. I Accept 2nd marriage, & all Religion, All caste, South Inds ok. Brokers Pls Avoid . Ph Industrilist 5000000.PA,Elite Family 50.Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

✓ NAIDU OR South Indian Cultured some Doctor (40 yrs) 180cm from a reputed, upper-middle-Class, tradi-tional South Indian Hindu family, Early education at Sri Sathya Sai School & College, Prashanti Nilay-am, now practicing in Bangalore, MUDALIAR 30.BE. MBA-IIM.PRO-MGR Microsoft-India-6000000 PA Elite Fam-

> Hindu Naidu MBA, 1973 / 178cms. administrator, Affluent family eeks bride from business / Industrialis

contact 9845006003/9845048816 via

(whatsapp msg only) manojceo1958@gmail.com Reddy: 34/180cm Handsome Bov Fair Complexion, Director in own Industry, own house in Tirupat

9989759279, 9553561616 Vellalar 29 Fair Handsome 189 cm Canada PR B.Tech MS. Seeks Fair Bride. Contact: 9866006556

ABDUL ELIYAS, Age 32, Height 159 cm, BSc CS, IT Professional, INR 10.3 LPA, Chennai, 7708892692. Seeks Urdu Muslim Shaik/Syed, aged

URDU MUSLIM Ahle Hadees, 26 Yrs, 176cm, M.Sc (UK) from Well Settled Religious Family. Looking Graduate 75503 77065

SM PARENTS well settled in Chennai having logistics Business looking for suitable match for their only son B.Com 27/ 173cm Very fair from

URDU, SYED, Muslim handsome M.D.Doctor 28/167 seeks fair, religious M.D/M.S/MBBS Bride. Ct.9952828485

Remarriage Hindus

US UK Europe All Caste Religion

BRIDEGROOM WANTED Doctor Girl. MD. Anaesthesiology of Doctors 35/165 from Kerala, based in Chennai

MBBS, fellowship in Diabetology seeks Engineer grooms. Ph: 94444 54188

ALLIED SERVICES

Bank / Govt Officer from well set-

Only drpvj5999@gmail.com

MALAYALAM

bachelors.

AFFLUENT MALAYALEE Nair girl

ettled Nair boys employed in India of broad. Please WhatsApp

daliyar). Ct:+91 98414 28004/ What-

sApp +61 416 927 100/ ckuknair@

groom in USA, CNB 9866274192

Lakhs. Ct 8138900372

(India), Ph.D (USA) employed pro-fessional in USA, Hijabi

Suitable Groom Con-

family, Seeks Suitable Groom tact: 9380791999 / 9841329471

CHENNAI BASED CSI Christian Nadar.

MUSLIM GIRL, Age 33, working Singa-

ence. Willing to relocate to Singapore. Whatsapp details to

GIRL ENG Graduate 35 years working

BORN AGAIN christian, 44vrs/152,

PARENTS OF God fearing CSI Nadar

rich family.

9884831257

✓ TAMIL MUSLIM girl 38, Engineer, seeks qualified, employed, Unmar-

WhatsApp

9444244065 / Whatsapp.

+971504947205

WANTED Looking for doctor groom (or) Engineer from good families 98400 50381 / 98409 85383

ASSAMESE

BENGALI

CHHATTISGARHI ENGLISH

HARYANI HINDI

KASHMIRI KONKANI

MARWARI NEPALI

SAURASHTRA

TULU URDU **ADVOCATE**

ENGINEER FINANCE/ BANKING

TECHNOLOGY MBA/ CA/ ICWA

DIVORCEE PHYSICALLY **CHALLENGED**

WARM, ATTRACTIVE, 34, 157cm, cul-

33/F, SC, Hindu, MBA. IT professional. 12 LPA. Looking for a suitable match. 9561343825.

TAMIL MUSLIM girl 36 / 170 cms mudivorced with a child. Well in MNC wanted working Eng graduate bride groom from a decent literate in Manchester, u.k who seeks an open minded professional who is educated and with a good moral compass aged between 34–43 years old. MBBS.MD doctor, Chennai, s christian groom, CT-9500188067 Settled groom in UK. Canada. US India or abroad (ideally someone from the uk is more preferrable or someone who is willing to relocate

girl, fair, beautiful, very rich, MBA (Belgium) working in British Council as Senior Manager in Chen-nai. Seek a God fearing, well edu-LOOKING A well educated, working Parents Contact: 93841 32336.

HINDU REDDY Surgeon 34Y 165cms Own Practice. Seeks Suitable Groom, Any Profession from Dubai, Singa-Anusham / Vrichigam seeks suitable groom. Ct: 99403 38277 / 8754543268

GROOM WANTED Rich kamma Naidu. Doctors 9710093999/ 9443643415

Hindu (CNB) 25yrs Doctor Bride Doing (MS) ENT Seeks Suitable

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar,27yrs,B. Arch, Elite Business Family Con-Arch, Elite Business Family tact: 9710093999 /9710091999

habits. Preferably from uniformed service. Ct: 94436 10323.

Mudaliar / Vanniar 30Y/165 cm Doctor 9841329471

✓ HINDU NADAR 25 Yrs 168 cm B.com

Cosmopolitan Beautiful very rich on-Boy with Good Family Background.

> HINDU. CASTE no bar. 22 Yrs. B.A. Business at bangalore, income 1 cro-re. Ct 8138900547

Govt Bank officer Chennai. seeks suitable groom from same caste. Call:7598783374

7358757620 LOOKING FOR a well-educated groom

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR, Upper Middle

Contact: Parents of Tamil Muslim Docto

Seeks Telugu / Tamil Speaking Bali-ja Groom Working US. WhatsApp NAIDU 32/5'5. Sadhvam Kumbham. BE. Fair, Good looking Chennai Girl for remarriage short lived, Seeks Groom from India/ Abroad, Caste No

> MBA Pursuing Seeking Settled, Good Job, Decent Family Send BHP beautiful. No Siblings. Studied Luxury Brand Management in UK. Boy settled in and around NY USA is preferred.

BRIDES

WANTED

BRAHMIN Athreva Gotra former HC Judge Son Vegetarian 31yrs/ 180cm/ affluent handsome Advocate at SC Delhi seeks alliance from any Brahmin

Community. Watsapp 9846173871

cer seeks suitable bride. (TN/PY based) CNB. 9952170513, 9444316785. HANDSOME, SUCCESSFUL, 30, 175cm UK-educated professional. Seeks attractive, compatible bride. Religion & caste no bar. Call/WA gion & ca: 9345634365.

BRIDE FOR 57 yrs lyer Phd divorcee advocate well placed caste no bar

CT.9176425933

YATHAVA B.COM 39, Star Revathi,

Well Settled Own House @ Nellai. OK. Caste No Bar

VEGETARIAN FAMILY, Pillai Karkathar, 12th December 1994, Revathy/ Meenam, Asst-Professor MS General Surgeon), having Own Clinic, Chennai, Smart well settled family, Expectation PG Doctor Vege-tarian, Family Oriented Girl. Con-

HINDU . TELUGU Parents looking for

inch, 93 born, B.Tech(IIT Kanpur), Group A(Class I) Gazetted Officer in Central Govt, Mumbai. Contact: +91 9453045661.

HINDU MUTHURAJA, 44. NRI PhD Scien-

VANNIYAR, MS (USA) 31/172 Swathi Fair, Employed in USA seeks well

established career and strong financial background based in Chennai, from a well

(below 28 yrs) from a good family background (CNB) +91 78458 10913

TTD DEVOTEE Rich Parents Seeks Alliance-Daughter 33/153cm & Son 36/168cm Educated No Expectation/Sta-

Ct:8248757840

a Well Educated Groom aged 36 to 42, for their widowed daughter 36 **BRIDE WANTED** Bank 6.7LPA well educated & well sett-Graduate, Own Schools, Elite Family 50.Cr.CNB. 9043991629, ried, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 AISTIAN, RC, (MUDALIYAM), 27
L.L.B, financially well setfamily, chennal, seeks brideom. Email – varshanathan3®
ail. ph = 9176131538

Seeking from
the same Community Preferably Chenthe same Community Preferably Chensection well

Seeking from well

HINDU NADAR, 26yrs, MBBS, MS,
Elite business family, Seeks Suitsection, Seeks Suitsect HR. IT. 29/167cm. Poorattadhi. N.V. Chennai. Well settled, educated family. Seeks employed girl. Pvt Eng.Collage, age 51, Magaram Seeks educated unmarried/ widow/ Divorcee without child from FC/OBC good-looking. 94443 67697 high-earning tech (40–45yrs) No Brokers Contact 9150799959 professional with **ALLIED SERVICES** HINDU-BE/33/170CM/SWE/SC/AYILLAM-KATAGAM. FAMILY is financially TELUGU KAPU Groom Invites alwell off -educated and settled in Mudaliar, B.Tech March, 1998, 174cm. liances from South India. 6 feet 1

HINDU VOKKALIGA, B'lore 32/180 MUDALIAR 32, M Com, MBA, 181 cm 12 26yrs, BE, MBA, Elite business fam-cm B.Com, MBA Ashwini only Son seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 9611557544 Bride CNB 87785 14465 / 72008 66346 9710091999

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Soft-

AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRADAM 34/180

HINDU, NAIDU, 28 yrs, B.E, Engineer

chief supervisor at Karnataka , Income 10 Lakhs. Ct 8138900557 CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee

> BE, MBA, 42, Cyber Security, IT, Chennai Tamil Boy seeks Good Character Girl For His 1st Mrg

CHETTIYAR 29, MCA, Accounts Manager Sal:30,000/-Pm, Viruchigam suitable bride in same

Visaka/Thula Rasi. Working as Group B Officer, Central Govt., GST & Customs, Vijayawada. Family owns Busi-ness. Seeking Alliance from a Decent and Respectable Family. Contact WhatsApp: 9704389711

gam 29/170 SWE Chennai 15LPA Seeks Prof. Qlfd. Girl with beliefs in our tradition & culture. Subsect No Bar. ✓ Tamiliyer/ lyengar Software eng. @ Bangalore 6ft / 32 yrs chitharai /

> Bride from well settled Family from Chennai.

MARRIAGE BUREAU

9786471828, 7373637324, MBBS Lady Doctor. Cont: 9486861866 35/180, BE, HRM, Job at Canada, Canadian Citizen. Seeks BE.Nursing. any degree bride.CNB. Ct:9442993042 PILLAI / MUDALIAR, B.Tech, MBA,

Pediatric, Neonatology Seek Good Looking Bride. Medical, Non Medical. 8610020066 / 9443326119

9742224560 chockalingamp@gmail.com

HINDU, CASTE no bar, 31 yrs, B.Sc, Merchant Navy at Coimbatore, inco-

THULUVA VELALAR, Dec 1981, Soft match. 9442112385 / 7353847074 (W

employed in Chennai, belongs to a is optional/not a must. Ct: 9500995343

90000 PM preference Brahmin or Vellalar Bride. Ct: 94431 02463.

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar

CHETTIAR 43YRS/170CM, Unmarried Well-settled, Head of Marketing in London, with Strong Values & Good Character. Seeking Educated Bride (30-38yrs) Caste no bar. Ph: oving understanding & caring natur

looking for a normal educated Bride (No background Required) Phone:

✓ SMU NORTH India Parents seek US citizen/ resident/ student status, professional Sunni bride for son 30, 167, Engr, H1B resident. WA 7834973937. Marriage agencies ex-

Send details what's App

GROOMS WANTED

BRIDES &

Mohan Majhi govt. announces unified pension scheme

Satyasundar Barik BHUBANESWAR

The Mohan Majhi government has announced implementation of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for government employees in Odisha, aligning it with the Centre's policy. The Cabinet, chaired by Mr. Majhi on Friday, gave approval for the implementation of the UPS for those employees considered eligible for pension under the National Pension Scheme.

"As you all know, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the UPS on August 24, 2024. Keeping in view the requests of various service organisations to determine appropriate pensions and factoring in compulsory pension, family pension and inflation, the Union government has further improved the existing NPS and implemented this Unified Pension Scheme. It is targeted to be implemented from April 1, 2025. Accordingly, the Odisha government has also decided to implement the UPS for



Mohan Majhi

its employees," the CM

As per the Cabinet deci-

sion, there will be assured pension for employees who complete 25 years of services. "Pension will be available at the rate of 50% of the average basic pay or basic pay earned in the 12 months preceding retirement. Pension will be paid proportionately for the period of service starting from a minimum period of 10 years to 25 years," it said. Similarly, family pension will be paid at the rate of 60% of the pension that the employee was drawing before death.

In UPS, there will be guaranteed family pension in case of death of a government employee after retirement, unlike in NPS.

₹500-crore fund gives autonomy for National Mission on Manuscripts

Allocation over next six years to be done through special committee; it is not yet clear if the new 'Gyan Bharatam Mission' announced in the Budget will be a part of the NMM or a separate entity

Sreeparna Chakrabarty NEW DELHI

teps have been initiated to make the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) autonomous, with the Centre allocating nearly ₹500 crore over the next six years separately to the institution through a Special Finance Committee.

The NMM was established in February 2003 by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. A unique project in its programme and mandate, the Mission seeks to unearth and preserve the vast manuscript wealth of India.

From this year, the NMM has been again put under a Central sector scheme. For Central sector schemes, all initiatives are wholly sponsored and implemented by the Central agencies. The NMM was till now functioning as a part



Conservation efforts: The NMM has digitised 3.5 lakh manuscripts that contain 3.5 crore pages, FILE PHOTO

of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). But for January to March, the funds for the institution were routed through the Sahitya Akade-

Budget proposal The Special Finance Committee has allocated an

amount of ₹491.66 crore to

the body till 2031.

However, sources said it was not yet clear whether the new 'Gyan Bharatam Mission' for manuscripts, announced in the Union Budget last week, would be a part of the NMM or be a separate entity.

According to the Budget document, the Gyan Bharatam Mission intends to cover more than one crore manuscripts.

It would undertake the "survey, documentation and conservation" of India's manuscript heritage lying with academic institutions, museums, libraries, and private collectors, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her budget speech on February 1.

The Hindu had reported last October that the Union Culture Ministry was set to "revive and relaunch" the NMM, and was mulling the formation of an autonomous body to help preserve ancient texts.

According to the Ministry, the NMM has documented around 5.2 million manuscripts across the country.

It has conserved 90 million folios of manuscripts and digitised 3.5 lakh manuscripts that contain 3.5 crore pages.

Activists seek more support for disabled NEET applicants

The Hindu Bureau

Disability rights activists have written to the National Medical Commission (NMC), the regulatory body that governs medical education and practice in India, asking for steps to facilitate measures that will support students with disabilities prior to the release of the NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) 2025-26 brochure.

The Doctors With Disabilities: Agents of Change group said committees, accommodation, and other important measures need to be put in place. Among their demands are enabling the appropriately trained members of the Disability Assessment Boards to apply the functional competency test.

The NMC should issue fresh guidelines for admitting persons with disabilities (PwD) into medical courses and include experts with disability or persons who have worked on disability justice in the committee formulating the guidelines.

Applicants must be in-

NEET applicants must be informed about the compliance of accessibility norms for accommodation available at colleges

formed about the compliance of accessibility norms for reasonable accommodation available at

Equal opportunity

colleges.

Students must be informed about the 'Enabling Units' and 'Equal Opportunity Cells' through the booklet circulated for new MBBS students, the college website, and via the Equal Opportunity Policy under Section 21 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

"Despite court judgments directing the NMC to comply with its directions before the publication of the NEET admission brochure for the academic year 2025-26, no instructions have been issued from the NMC to medical institutions," disability rights activist Satendra Singh said.

Owner of firecracker factory in Bengal held

The Hindu Bureau KOLKATA

A day after four people were killed in an explosion at an illegal firecracker factory in Kalyani Rathtala in West Bengal's Nadia district, the police arrested its owner on Saturday.

"Police have arrested the owner Khokan Biswas. The investigation is ongoing and will take time," a senior district police offi-Biswas has been remanded in police custody till Febru-

Ruma Sonar, Bharati Choudhury, Anjali Biswas and Durga Saha were killed in the blast. A woman who sustained injuries was admitted to the nearby College of Medicine and J.N.M.

The police said they had to investigate if the premises had a licence to manufacture, or deal in, firecrackers.

Hours after the explosion, Nilimesh Roy Chowdhury, chairperson of the Kalyani Municipality and Trinamool Congress councillor of Kalyani's ward number 11, had said that the site of the explosion had a trading licence.

However, Subrata Guha, Divisional Fire Officer at Nadia district, said the building did not have any licence from the fire department for storing or manufacturing firecrackers.

"Their entire operation was illegal, and no valid licence was given to them by us. The cause of the explosion is not certain yet, but we did not see any electrical connection. So it is possible the raw materials caught fire from overheating," he said.

The local BJP MLA, Ambika Roy, said the police knew about illegal firecracker factories in the area but did not take action against them.

The explosion on Friday, which reduced the building to ashes and left bodies charred and scattered, is reminiscent of a series of similar explosions in illegal firecracker factories in the State in the last few years.

Hats off



Into the ranks: Students of the College of Nursing, Command Hospital, Central Command, celebrate after their commissioning ceremony in Lucknow on Saturday. SANDEEP SAXENA

President's speech became a mere formality, PM's response rhetorical exercise: Saamana

<u>Snehal Mutha</u>

The Shiv Sena (UBT)'s mouthpiece, Saamana, on Saturday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his speech in Parliament during the Motion of Thanks to the President. It said "99% of Modi's topics" were false and he "kept repeating the same points".

In an editorial titled Raniak Katha" (Modi's colourful stories), the Marathi newspaper said the Prime Minister was "diverging from topics" and not letting the

Opposition speak. The editorial noted that the President's speech had become a mere formality in the past decade, and the Prime Minister's response was a rhetorical exercise.

"Mr. Modi maintained silence on the humiliation of over 150 Indians being deported back to India from the U.S., and failed to throw light on the death toll in the Kumbh Mela stampede. Instead, he chose to speak on unrelated topics," the Saamana editorial said.

The editorial ed that the President's speech traditionally presents an assessment of the government, and a draft of future policies that are discussed in Parliament. The Opposition provides suggestions, and then the Prime Minister responds.

However, this has been "a complete sham of the government", and the speeches of the ruling party "are all nonsense", Saamana alleged.

"The Prime Minister did not disappoint this time either. He again criticised the Congress for taking the people of the country hostage, handcuffing them, and turning the country into a jail [referring to the Congress should not use the word 'Constitution' and [the PM's] supporters applauded. These supporters were former Congressmen who, for their vested interests or to avoid jail, are in the court of Modi,"

CM, Deputy CMs have defrauded women in Maharashtra: Patole

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee President Nana Patole slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Mahayuti government for betraying millions of women in Maharashtra and said the three brothers (referring to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and CMs Deputy Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar) defrauded women in the State as the government declared five lakh women ineligible for the Ladki Bahin Yojana.

"This is deception; Mahayuti promised ₹1,500 to all women to secure votes, and now they are cutting off this financial assistance after coming to power," Mr. Patole said.

On Friday, Women and Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare declared five lakh beneficiaries under the Ladki Bahin Yojana as ineligible, as they are either beneficiaries under other schemes or do not fit

the eligibility criteria. Mr. Patole called Ladki



Nana Patole

Congresss leader calls scheme an electoral gimmick to lure women's votes during the election

Bahin Yojana an electoral gimmick to lure the women's votes during the Assembly elections. "We already warned about BJP's action, and now their socalled 'brothers' are treating these women like outsiders," Mr. Patole said, adding ₹1,500 was the monthly payment that was further to be increased to ₹2,100 post elections. Mr. Patole said the BJP is using criteria as an excuse to stop the instalments.

Mithuns get a glow-up for road safety

The semi-wild bovines of Arunachal Pradesh will soon wear fluorescent collars that are visible enough for vehicle drivers on highways, thus ensuring the safety of both humans and animals

Rahul Karmakar **GUWAHATI**

he mithun, a semi-wild bovine creature, will soon start wearing fluorescent collars to be visible enough for drivers on a major highway in central Arunachal Pradesh's Siang district.

The mithun (Bos *frontalis*) is a free-ranging animal and stays mostly in the jungles. Seeking warmth, mithuns usually spend winter nights on the roads, leading to accidents fatal for humans and animals.

"Unlike cows, mithuns have a black or deep brown hide, making them less visible at night on poorly lit highways, especially in foggy stretches. The death of at least 30 mithuns in road accidents, some dragged for miles by vehicles, made us think of something that may save them," Niyang Pertin, Circle Officer of Pangin, told The Hindu on Saturday.



A mithun owner displaying a fluorescent collar received from the Pangin Circle Officer and PWD (Highways) Executive Engineer in Arunachal Pradesh's Siang district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pasighat Division, she

the mithuns.

purchased 200 collars for

A series of meetings

with the mithun owners

chiefs) preceded the collar

distribution programme

Commissioner Gamtum

Padu presided over the

Mithun owners were

on Friday. Pangin's

Additional Deputy

event.

and gaonburas (village

major town, and district.

Inspired by the fluorescent jackets of New Delhi who sells glow-collars. Along with Okep Dai, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department (Highways),



Pangin is about 20 km from Pasighat, the nearest headquarters of East Siang

construction workers, Ms. Pertin located a vendor in presented with the collars after they were convinced that their animals would be safer at night. "We thought we had too many collars. As it turned out, we could not give the collars to quite a few mithun owners," Ms. Pertin, who is also in charge of the Kebang Circle, said. 'We wanted the

mithuns to be as safe as the humans who use the roads. We hope our initiative will serve the purpose," Mr. Dai said.

The mithun collar idea has caught on, officials in Pangin said. There have been enquiries from mithun owners from other parts of the State, seeking guidance to procure the fluorescent collars.

In Arunachal Pradesh, the mithun holds immense cultural significance, serving as a symbol of wealth and social status, is often used as a form of currency for barter trade, and is especially seen as a crucial part of the bride price in tribal marriages.

UPSC extends last date to apply for civil services exam

the editorial said.

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has extended the last date to apply for civil services preliminary examination 2025 till February 18.

The civil services examination is conducted annually by the UPSC in three stages – preliminary, mains and interview – to select officers of the Indian Administrative (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS), among

others. The last date for registration for Civil Services (Preliminary) 2025 and Indian Forest Service (Preliminary) 2025 exams "has extended been 18.02.2025 (6 pm)," said a note put out by the Commission on its website.

A correction window will also be open for applicants "till expiry of seven days from the next day after the closure of application window i.e. from 19.02.2025 to 25.02.2025", it said.

In 2025, the AAP faced significant declines among seats with poorest voters and those with considerable Muslim presence - the party's key support bases in the 2020 and 2015 polls

2025 ↑↓

47.2 +7.8

2.9 +0.2

43.6

6.3

On its own, the BJP secured a vote share of 45.6%

in 2025, its highest since

1993, the year when the

first Assembly election was

held for Delhi as a National Capital Territory after the

Legislative Assembly was

The Congress once again

failed to win any seats, de-

spite a marginal increase

of around 2 percentage

A closer analysis reveals

three distinct patterns.

First, the AAP contin-

ued to secure the ma-

jority of votes in con-

stituencies with a

significant Muslim

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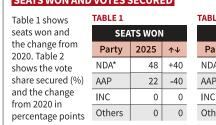
points in its vote share.

Among poor and

minorities

revived (Chart 1).

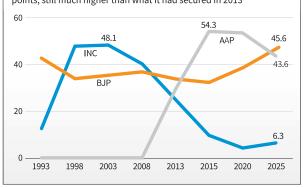
SEATS WON AND VOTES SECURED



*Apart from BJP, it includes JD(U) and LJP(RV), who did not win any seat

CHART 1: HIGHS AND LOWS

Chart shows vote share secured by major parties in Delhi Assembly elections across years. On its own, the BJP secured a vote share of 45.6% in 2025, its highest since 1993. AAP's vote share declined by 10 points, still much higher than what it had secured in 2013



Sambavi Parthasarathy Nitika Francis Samreen Wani Vignesh Radhakrishnan Srinivasan Ramani

he ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s significant decline in vote shares across all regions in Delhi, resulted in its losing of 40 seats compared to its tally in 2020. This paved the way for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies to secure a decisive victory - it won 48 out of the 70 seats (Table 1).

The vote share of the NDA – which included the BJP, Janata Dal (United), and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) – increased by 7.8 percentage points in the 2025 elections compared with 2020, while the AAP's vote share saw a steep decline of over 10 points (Table 2).

comprised its support bases in 2020 and 2015. However, the party's vote share declined by 12.3 points and 8.2 points in these types of seats, respectively. Second, the BJP,

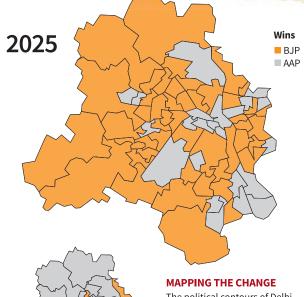
already strong in areas with a relatively higher concentration of the city's "richer" residents, further consolidated its hold in these segments (Table 4). Similarly, in constituencies with a relatively low minority presence-where the BJP already had an advantagethe national party and its

The combination of these two factors were key in deciding the outcome of the 2025 election.

allies made further gains.

The AAP's decline in areas with a high Muslim population did not result in major gains for the BJP. Instead, it can be attributed to two key factors: the strong performance of the AIMIM in two seats and the improved performance of the Congress in these constituencies. AIMIM's candidates secured second and

third positions in Okhla and Mustafabad, respectively.



The political contours of Delhi has changed significantly as

seen in the two maps

Note: The class-wise categorisation was based on property price values scraped by Thejesh G.N. Using these values, seats were grouped into "poorest," "poor," "middle," and "rich" categories.

Data as of 11 P.M.

Region-wise

2020

The AAP failed to secure a 50% vote share in any region of Delhi this time, a sharp contrast to its performance in the previous elections, where it had surpassed the 50% mark across all regions.

The BJP crossed the mark only in West Delhi in this election (Table 5).

The AAP performed better in seats reserved for SCs, though its vote share in those constituencies declined by 11 points (Table 6).

TABLE 3: SEATS WITH SIGNIFICANT MUSLIM POPULATION

Vote share secured by parties in 2025 (%) and change (↑↓) from 2020 (% points) across seats with varying levels of Muslim population: over 25% voters, between 10% and 25%, and less than 10%

Share of Muslims 2025 >25% of voters 10%-25% voters 8.1 45 -7.5 1.8 2.3 -2.4 8.5 42.4 5.6 1.9

Seats with high Muslim population were identified based on estimations by Raphael Susewind using electoral rolls

TABLE 4: CLASS-WISE SPLIT

Vote share secured by parties in 2025 (%) and change (♠♦) from 2020 (% points) across class-wise split* of constituencies. Not all constituencies were included in the analysis (see note for more explanation)

		NDA	A/	AP .	INC		Others	
Class	2025	ΛΨ	2025	Λ√	2025	^↓	2025	↑↓
Poorest	42.2	3.5	48.3	-8.2	5.7	2.6	3.8	2.1
Poor	49.3	10.1	42.6	-11.1	5.2	2.3	2.9	-1.3
Middle	47.3	7.3	45.3	-6.6	6.1	-0.8	1.3	0.1
Rich	52.6	9.3	37.2	-12	8.7	2.7	1.5	0

TABLE 5: REGION-WISE SPLIT

Vote share secured by parties in 2025 (%) and change (↑↓) from 2020 (% points) across regions

Danien	NDA		A/	AP	INC		Others	
Region	2025	^↓	2025	^↓	2025	ΛΨ	2025	^↓
Chandni Chowk	45.8	8.1	45.1	-10.8	7.6	2.8	1.5	-0.1
East Delhi	47.6	5.2	42	-8.4	5.7	0.1	4.7	3.1
New Delhi	47.8	10.8	43	-12.5	7.8	2.2	1.4	-0.5
North East Delhi	44.7	7.6	45	-8.6	5.8	2.2	4.5	-1.2
North West Delhi	48.5	8	40.8	-11.2	8.4	3.2	2.3	0
South Delhi	43.7	3.6	47.8	-6.6	5.4	3	3.1	0
West Delhi	51.3	11.1	42	-12.4	4.6	1.4	2.1	-0.1

TABLE 6: SEAT-TYPE WISE SPLIT

Vote share secured by parties in 2025 (%) and change (++) from 2020 (% points) across seats reserved for

	NDA		AAP		INC		Others	
Type	2025	ΛΨ	2025	^↓	2025	ΛΨ	2025	Λ√
General	47.8	7.2	42.9	-9.8	6.3	2	3	0.6
Reserved for SC	43.9	10.1	46.7	-11	6.7	2.7	2.7	-1.8
			•					

PM calls AAP 'most dishonest party', vows to make Delhi a modern city

Satvika Mahajan NEW DELHI

Celebrating the Bharatiya Janata Party's thumping victory in the Delhi Assembly election on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the party's senior leaders and workers at the party's national headquarters here.

Taking a jibe at the Aam Aadmi Party, which conceded defeat earlier in the day, he said, "The AAP came with promise to usher in politics of change but turned out to be the most dishonest party."

Congratulating the BJP, the Prime Minister, who had addressed four election rallies in the national capital, said, "For the first time since Independence, the BJP will now have governments in Delhi and all adjoining States."

Thanking voters for the mandate, he said, "People of Delhi today have enthusiasm and satisfaction. There is relief of liberating Delhi from 'AAPda'. I thank all Delhiites for entrusting their faith in Modi's guarantee.

He said that with the BJP in power, "Delhi will be transformed into a modern city." "Our focus will be on mobility, infrastructure and providing new opportunities to the youth," he said. He reaffirmed his commitment to restoring the Yamuna.

Mr. Modi has been refer-



BJP's victory in the Delhi Assembly elections on Saturday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

ring to the AAP government as an 'AAPda' (disaster in Hindi) at his rallies. "Now Delhi's double-engine government will ensure development at double speed. It is a historic win and not a usual victory as the people of Delhi have shown the door to 'AAPda'. Delhi has become AAPdamukt," he said.

ests, confrontation and administrative uncertainty has caused great harm to the people of Delhi. Today, all you Delhiites have removed a major obstacle in the development of Delhi by removing the AAPda,"

"The politics of prot-Mr. Modi said.

Listing the corruption

Prime Minister also congratulated BJP workers and leaders and thanked voters for the mandate

charges against AAP leaders, the Prime Minister said the AAP had been "consumed by corruption". "This is the only party in the country whose Chief Minister and Ministers have gone to jail on corruption charges. Those who once certified themselves as honest and labelled others as corrupt have been exposed as the real culprits. This was a massive betrayal of Delhi's trust. But now, Delhi's verdict is in," he said.

Mr. Modi said that in the very first Assembly session, the CAG report on Delhi, which the AAP government had not tabled, would be presented in the

Attacking the Congress, which drew a blank, he said, "In Delhi's elections, the Congress scored a double hat-trick of zeroes. The country's oldest party has failed to open its account in the national capital for six consecutive elections. Earlier, I said that Congress had become a parasitic party. It does not just sink itself, it takes its allies down with it."

Freebies, governance and more: key lessons and impact of Delhi election

NEWS ANALYSIS

<u>Nistula Hebbar</u>

Delhi has yielded yet another poll result that has a national footprint, in terms of realpolitik and policy and messaging.

The Aam Aadmi Party was defeated and the Bharatiya Janata Party stormed to power in the national capital after over 26 years. That the victory restores the BJP-led Modi government's political authority, eroded after the Lok Sabha election, is just a small part of this national footprint.

The most important lesson from this result is that freebie politics is here to stay and has now evolved a few of its own characteris-

Apart from free electricity, water, and bus service for women, both parties also promised income support schemes for women. The BJP also went to

great lengths to assure the public that the schemes offered by the AAP government will continue if they were voted to power. In what seemed like a

freebie versus freebie fight, the BJP seemed to have pulled ahead, which reveals two things – one, that the voter is mindful of the track record of delivery of parties promising freebies. Two, that freebies alone cannot win you an elec-



New Delhi on Saturday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

tion, it must be leavened with governance as well. The frequent run-ins between the office of the Lieutenant-Governor and the Chief Minister, given the nature of the National Capital Territory Act, resulted in a narrative that the AAP government could not find a way to deliver.

Coupled with the fact that Mr. Kejriwal inexplicably refused to resign when arrested and jailed in the excise policy case, it seemed to have convinced the voting public that governance was being sacrificed at the altar of scoring political brownie points.

Postponement of Cabinet meetings and a paralysis in governance were the result of that intransigence.

The result has proved that quitting in March 2024 and claiming the high moral ground would have been a sound and ethical

On INDIA bloc

The other big impact the Delhi results will have is on Opposition politics. The Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance's death knell as a grouping for Assembly polls has been rung by the Delhi election, if not heard clearly during the Assembly polls in Haryana.

In Delhi, the Congress effectively helped the BJP win many seats, including Muslim-dominated Mustafabad and the New Delhi constituency where Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit's votes account for more or less the margin with which Mr. Kejriwal

The first impact of this result will be felt in Punjab,

where the Congress is anxious to challenge the AAP government, and now will have no fetters with regard to pre-existing alliances. The Assembly polls in Punjab are scheduled to be

held in 2027. Arguments that the alliance between the Congress and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam work well do not stand as it pre-existed the formation of the IN-DIA bloc. Even the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Maharashtra was formed in 2019. Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party, as well as the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress had thrown in their lot with the AAP against the Congress, during the campaign in Delhi. Therefore, the IN-DIA bloc that fought the Lok Sabha election is now a thing of the past.

In terms of narrative, the Delhi polls speak to an important issue – the need to have both ideological and policy engagement with your voter. The AAP which came to power on an anti-corruption plank, failed to provide an ideological alternative beyond that point, alienating minorities and other significant part of its support

Freebies can bring in the votes, but an ideologically engaged base will keep you in the game. For the AAP, one of India's youngest political parties, the hard graft begins now.

ELECTIONS 2025



Delhi is the trailer, Bihar yet to come, says Jitan Ram Manjhi

Criticising Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after his party's loss in the Delhi Assembly election, Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi said Mr. Gandhi will now "blame EVMs" for the defeat. The Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) founder also advised Mr. Gandhi to "develop maturity" instead of playing the blame game. "The Opposition will now cry about EVMs and voter lists," he said. "Delhi is just the trailer, Bihar is yet to come. This victory is a testament to the trust of the people of Delhi in the development policies of the National Democratic Alliance [NDA] under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Mr. Manjhi later posted on X.

Liquor policy, focus on money 'drowned' AAP: Anna Hazare

As the BJP on Saturday headed to capture the Delhi seat of power after more than 26 years, activist Anna Hazare, once a mentor to Arvind Kejriwal, said AAP "drowned" due to the liquor policy and its focus on money. In a jibe at Mr. Kejriwal, the anti-graft activist added that a candidate's character should be clean and he should know the virtues of sacrifice. "With the liquor policy issue came the money and they drowned in it. The (AAP's) image was tarnished. People saw him (Arvind Kejriwal) talking about clean character and then about liquor," Hazare said. He said AAP lost as it failed to understand the need to serve people selflessly and took the wrong path. PTI

Four Muslim candidates make it to Delhi Assembly

The Delhi Assembly election saw a division of Muslim votes, but despite that, the AAP managed to win in six of the seven constituencies which have a substantial population of the community. Four Muslim candidates made it to the Assembly. They are Imran Hussain from Ballimaran, Aaley Mohammed Igbal from Matia Mahal, Amanatullah Khan from Okhla, and Chaudhary Zubair Ahmad from Seelampur. All contested on AAP ticket. In 2020, the AAP won all seven seats with a substantial Muslim population. This time it won six barring Mustafabad which saw a three-way split of the Muslim vote between the AAP, All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen, and

Left candidates poll fewer votes than NOTA in Delhi

The Left parties, which came together to contest six seats in the Delhi Assembly election, polled fewer votes than NOTA in all the constituencies, failing to make any dent. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) had fielded candidates from Karawal Nagar and Badarpur, the Communist Party of India was in the fray from Vikaspuri and Palam, and the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation contested the Narela and Kondli seats. In the six seats, the Left parties together polled 2,158 votes, while NOTA got 5,627 votes. PTI

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING:

Soli			ye		-			
2	7	5	9	3	6	8	4	1
1	4	8	7	2	5	6	9	3
9	6	3	4	8	1	5	7	2
4	5	2	8	6	7	1	3	5
3	1	6	5	4	9	2	8	7
7	8	9	2	1	3	4	6	5
8	9	1	6	7	2	3	5	4
5	3	4	1	9	8	7	2	6
6	2	7	3	5	4	9	1	8

Delhi verdict a referendum on Arvind Kejriwal's politics of deception: Cong.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge says his party had created an atmosphere against the ruling party in Delhi in 'public interest', but it did not receive the expected mandate from the people; many argue that Congress can make a fresh start by trying for a bipolar fight for Delhi in the future

Sandeep Phukan

NEW DELHI

he Congress on Saturday failed to win a single seat in the Delhi Assembly as the party drew a blank for the third consecutive Assembly election in the national capital. The party's leadership, however, asserted that the Delhi verdict was not a vindication of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies but a referendum on former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the Aam Admi Party (AAP).

Arguing that the verdict was more about ousting the AAP rather than ushering in the BJP, the Congress's communications chief, Jairam Ramesh, in a social media post, said the AAP had won decisively in 2015 and 2020, at the height of Mr. Modi's popularity.

"This shows that rather than being vindication of the policies of the Prime Minister, this vote is a rejection of Arvind Kejriwal's politics of deceit, deception, and vastly exaggerated claims of achievement,"



Lost ground: A deserted view of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee office during the counting of votes for the Delhi Assembly election on Saturday. ANI

Mr. Ramesh said on X.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a post on X, said his party had created an atmosphere against the ruling party in Delhi in "public interest", but it did not receive the expected mandate from the people.

Accepting the defeat Former Congress chief and Leader of the Opposition

in the Lok Sabha Rahul

Gandhi took to X to thank his party workers for the campaign and "humbly accept" defeat.

"The fight for the progress of Delhi and rights of Delhiites against pollution, inflation and corruption will continue," Mr. Gandhi said on X.

Senior leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who campaigned for her party in Delhi, said that the mood on the ground was for change, and conceded that the Congress needed to work harder to be in the reckoning.

Though the party did not win any seats, Mr. Ramesh said the one consolation was that its vote share improved. The party secured 6.39% of the valid votes against 4.3% in the 2020 Assembly election.

While the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) allies are likely to blame the Congress for playing "spoilsport" for the AAP and going against Opposition unity, the party rejected it.

"The meltdown of a section of so-called liberals is completely bizarre. They didn't give these lectures on Opposition unity to AAP when the party went to Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, etc., to fight elections and weaken anti-communal, secular vote," senior Congress leader Pawan Khera said on X.

Many argue that the Congress, which once ruled Delhi for three consecutive terms, can make a fresh start by trying for a bipolar fight for Delhi in the future.

"In States such as Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Haryana, where the fight is mainly between us and the BJP, we do make a comeback. But in States where we have lost power to a regional party, we have either been reduced to a fringe player or become a junior partner of the regional player," a Congress leader who did not wish to be named said.

In fact, a section of the party argues that before the upcoming Bihar Assembly election, if the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) did not offer a respectable alliance, the Congress should fight on its own.

'AAP's end'

The break in the Congress-AAP bonhomie has also made it easier for the Punjab Congress to take on the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government in the State. "Delhi's results point towards the beginning of the AAP's end," senior leader Partap Singh Bajwa, also the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assemb-

"The people of Punjab have also seen the real face of the so-called Kattar Imaandar party. Kejriwal and Punjab CM @BhagwantMann made lofty promises in Punjab to befool Punjabis and garner their votes in 2022. Mann govt. remained inefficient in taking action against its corrupt ministers and leaders. The Mann govt. will meet the same fate in 2027," Mr. Bajwa said on X.

After Delhi poll debacle, challenges increase for INDIA bloc, Congress

Sobhana K. Nair NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) defeat and the Congress's failure in resurrecting itself in the Delhi election have raised further challenges for the alreadyfaltering INDIA bloc. There is a growing impatience with the Congress and many allies have accused it of contributing to the BJP's

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who had earlier called for the disbanding of the bloc, was the first one to react on Saturday morning. In a post on X, even as the early trends were coming in, he blamed the fight between the allies for the outcome.

In a direct attack on the Congress, senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Ramgopal Yadav said the Congress campaigned for the BJP's victory in Delhi. Communist Party of India general secretary D. Raja said the results were a wake-up call for the constituents of the INDIA bloc, particularly the Congress, the largest party in the coalition, and other dominant regional parties. The poll outcome, he added, "serves as a



The CPI(M) and the Trinamool worked as emissaries to iron out the difficult relationship between AAP and Congress. FILE PHOTO

stark reminder of the consequences of disunity among secular democratic forces."

Many of the constituents chose to remain silent, such as the Trinamool Congress which has been a strident critic of the Congress and the only party in the bloc not to have an electoral alliance with the grand old party.

Senior Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and Rajya Sabha MP Manoi K. Iha called the poll result a "small episode" in the long electoral history of India. He said it will have no impact on the INDIA bloc. "The core idea of the INDIA bloc was to offer an alternative to the BIP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and we have been fairly successful in doing just that by reducing the overwhelming majority of the BJP. Every political party is entitled to expand its footprint," he

The AAP and the Congress have been uneasy allies. Its entry into the Opposition bloc was resisted by the Congress, which refused to invite it for long for the Opposition's coordination meetings in Parliament.

Alternating between public rebukes and backroom negotiations, the late Sitaram Yechury, CPI(M) general secretary, and the Trinamool worked as emissaries to iron out this difficult relationship. The AAP was invited to the first meeting of the INDIA bloc in Patna in July 2023. The meeting gave a platform to the party to reach out to the Congress. Arvind Kejriwal, the then Delhi Chief Minister, had pleaded with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to meet him. Mr. Keiriwal revealed in public what he had spoken behind closed doors. Despite this, the meeting never happened till very late.

To the utter unease of the Delhi unit, the two parties teamed up for the Lok Sabha elections, an arrangement that did not extend to Punjab. They tried to reach an electoral understanding in the Haryana Assembly polls. In Delhi, to the relief of the Congress's Delhi unit, the AAP announced that it would contest the election alone.

The INDIA bloc has not met since the Lok Sabha results. The fragmentation in the bloc that came to the fore after the consecutive defeats in the Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly elections is expected to exacerbate further. In the run-up to the Delhi election, the bloc saw several allies aligning with the AAP against the Congress. In an alternative opinion, many feel that the AAP's defeat will discourage the attempts to form a third pole without the Congress.



Big win: U.P. Deputy CMs Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brijesh Pathak with Bhupendra Chaudhary celebrating victory in the Milkipur and Delhi Assembly polls in Lucknow on Saturday. SANDEEP SAXENA

BJP scores victory in Milkipur; SP calls it 'electoral fraud'

Mayank Kumar LUCKNOW

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the high-stakes Milkipur Assembly byelection in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, with Chandrabhanu Paswan defeating Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate Ajit Prasad by an impressive margin of 61,710

While the BJP celebrated the win as a victory for its "double-engine" government, the SP called it a "false victory", repeating the allegations of largescale electoral fraud that it had raised on polling day.

The Milkipur constituency, reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC) candidates, is in Ayodhya district. It witnessed a noholds-barred campaign, with the BJP aggressively pushing its Hindutva plank while the SP countered it with its PDA narrative, which stands for Pichda, Dalit, and Alpasankhyak, or the backward class, Dalit, and minority communities. The bypoll was necessitated after the SP's Awadhesh Prasad won the Faizabad Lok Sabha seat in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, and gave up his Assembly seat. The Faizabad constituency covers parts of Ayodhya district. The Faizabad MP's son, Mr. Ajit Prasad, was then nominated by the SP against the BJP's Mr. Paswan, both hailing from the Pasi com-

munity. Mr. Paswan polled

1,46,397 votes against Mr.

Ajit Prasad who got 84,687.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attributed the victory to voters' faith in the "double-engine" BJP governments at the Centre and State.

"Heartiest congratulations to all the dedicated and hard-working party workers for the historic victory of Bharatiya Janata Party in the Milkipur Legislative Assembly bypoll. This victory is a symbol of the unwavering faith of the common people in the public welfare policies of the double engine BJP government led by the Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Nodi Ji and dedicated Uttar Pradesh government for service, security and good governance," Mr. Adityanath said in a post on X.

'Large-scale rigging' SP president Akhilesh Ya-

day, however, alleged that large-scale rigging in Milkipur was responsible for the SP's loss. "The BJP cannot face the growing power of PDA on the basis of votes, that is why it tries to win by misusing the electoral machinery. The level of manipulation required to carry out such electoral fraud may be possible in one Assembly constituency, but this game will not work in 403 seats [in the next Assembly election in 2027]. BJP members know this, which is why they postponed the byelection of Milkipur. PDA means 90% of the people have seen this fraud with their own eyes," he said.

BJP hits the right chord, wins big with Purvanchali voters in Delhi

Ishita Mishra NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) has managed to hit the right chord with Delhi's Purvanchali voters in the Assembly election, winning 70% of the seats dominated by these migrants from eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand as it returns to power in the capital after almost three decades.

Purvanchalis, who generally vote as a bloc, are estimated to account for nearly a third of Delhi's electorate. Out of the capital's 70 Assembly seats, 51

have significant Purvanchali populations. In fact, in 27 of these seats, the majority of voters are from Purvanchal.

In the Assembly election, the BJP fielded four Purvanchali candidates and all four won their rac-

In Sangam Vihar, where over half of the electorate is Purvanchali, the BJP's Chandan Choudhary defeated three-time AAP MLA Dinesh Mohaniya. The BJP also won the Vikaspuri As-

sembly seat with Pankaj

Kumar Singh defeating

three-time AAP MLA Ma-

hinder Yadav. In Dwarka,

aged to make a comeback as an MLA for the first time since 2013, defeating the AAP's Vinay Mishra. In Karawal Nagar, Kapil Mishra won for the second time after 2015, but on BJP ticket. He was earlier an AAP

Parduymn Rajput man-

Other BJP candidates also found success in Purvanchali-dominated constituencies. In Palam, the BJP's Kuldeep Solanki secured victory against the AAP's Joginder Solanki, while in Lakshmi Nagar, the BJP's Abhay Verma won against the AAP's B.B. Tyagi. In Matiala, the BJP's Sandeep Sehrawat managed to defeat the AAP's Sumesh Shokeen. In Rithala, the BJP's Kul-

want Rana defeated the AAP's Mohinder Goyal. In Mangolpuri, Raj Kumar Chauhan, a four-time Congress MLA who contested on BJP ticket this year, defeated the AAP's Dharam Rakshak alias Rakesh Jatav. The saffron party also swept the Badli seat, with Ahir Deepak Chaudharyy defeating the AAP's Ajesh Yadav.

The AAP managed to win Burari and Babarpur, two Purvanchali-dominated constituencies.

Business



BHEL bags ₹8,000-crore order from Mahagenco

State-owned engineering firm Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) on Saturday said that it has secured an order worth ₹8,000 crore from Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (Mahagenco). The order is for a 2x660 (1320) MW BTG (boiler turbine generator) package of Koradi Thermal Power Station which includes supply of equipment, erection & commissioning and civil works, according to a BSE filing by the company. PTI

Tata Motors launches vehicle scrapping facility at Guwahati

Tata Motors unveiled its registered vehicle scrapping facility at Guwahati with a capacity to dismantle up to 15,000 end-of-life vehicles ayear. Operated by Tata Motors' partner Axom Platinum Scrappers, the facility is equipped to scrap both passenger and commercial vehicles of all brands. With this, the home-grown auto major now has seven such facilities, including in Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, Surat, Chandigarh, the Delhi-NCR, and Pune, the company said. PTI

NCLAT directs NCLT to decide on BCCI-Byju's deal in 1 week

Appellate tribunal NCLAT asked NCLT to decide in a week BCCI's plea for settlement and withdrawal of insolvency matter against ed-tech firm Byju's. A two-member bench comprising Justice Rakesh Kumar Jain and Jatindranath Swain directed the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) while disposing the plea filed by Riju Raveendran against the tribunal's previous order to reinstate Glas Trust and Aditya Birla Finance into Committee of Creditors of Byju's. PTI

Interest rate cut, tax stimulus to revive demand, investments'

Non-durables' order books are rising for the coming quarter, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday, citing industry feedback

Vikas Dhoot NEW DELHI

ndia Inc. is gearing up for a consumption re-

covery and reviewing existing capacities' utilisation rates, following the Budget's push for consumption and the interest rate cut unveiled by the central bank, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman indicated on Saturday, stating this could be a precursor for a durable recovery in private investment in 2025-26.

Asserting India's economy has been in good stead over the past decade due to good coordination between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Centre, she said: "I believe with the new Governor [Sanjay Malhotra] as well as the entire RBI team, including the deputy Governors and executive directors, a similar harmony will be there, and the RBI and the Centre will work in a very coordinated fashion, keeping our growth impulses in mind."

Speaking after the customary post-Budget meeting of RBI's central board, she said fiscal and monetary policy working in sync worked best for the economy, whether the focus is on taming inflation or stimulating growth.

"No one encroaches on each other's territory. I



Green shoots: Seeing signs of a consumption recovery, the private sector is reviewing capacities, the Finance Minister said. RBI

don't think that existed in the last 10 years and I don't see that existing even in the future," she averred.

Asked if the private investment cycle is likely to revive after the Budget and the 0.25% interest rate cut, she said: "Yes, I would expect that... because, at least since after the Budget, the few inputs I've had from some business leaders and those who've been interacting with business is that. These are anecdotal... I am not saying I am relying on them, but this is being heard from different sources and most of it seems to be on the same page. The orders for fast moving consumer goods for the period April to June are already getting booked."

"Industry is clearly seeing the signs of a possible recovery of consumption. As a result, many of them are looking at reviewing capacity utilisation, which means from these limited anecdotal inputs you're getting, you can see the triggers for a consumptiondriven cycle, is very clearly felt by those who have to take the investment decisions," she said.

Governor Malhotra said the RBI is alert to all pressures on inflation, including Rupee depreciation impact on imported goods' prices. "As per our estimates, a 5% depreciation in the Rupee leads to about 30-35 basis points (0.30-0.35%) of inflation. We'll be watchful," he said. "Most of the deprecia-

tion is driven by the uncertainties which have come about, especially, Trumprelated tariff announcements. And, hopefully, that should settle down, and help us in the downward movement of inflation," he concluded.

New surrender value norms may impact 'insurance for all' goal

HYDERABAD

India's life insurance companies may have displayed resilience by responding quickly when new surrender value norms for the policies set in October 1 but the change will impact the industry's ability, especially insurers focused on rural and middle income segment, to push insurance to those who need the cover the most, Shriram Life Insurance MD and CEO Casparus J.H. Kromhout said.

While the new norms were good from a customer value perspective, profitability of the insurers got impacted, especially of smaller organisations aspiring to grow fast.

"It restricted the costcarrying capacity on products, ability of companies to reach out to lower segments with poorer persistency [levels]," he said post Q3 results of the insurer.

Mitigation measures

Consequent to the changes, which primarily mandated relatively higher payouts to customers opting to surrender policies ahead of the maturity, life insurers had to revise products and this meant a large number of mitigation steps to ensure "we come to the same level or remain at the same level of profitability post the regulations."

The new norms could also come in the way of the ambitious target of insurance for all by 2047 the country is pursuing, he said, pointing out Shriram Life Insurance has taken



Casparus J.H. Kromhout

measures to mitigate and continues on growth path. "However, we needed to do lot of work to ensure that mitigations are in place," he added.

For the December quarter, the joint venture of Shriram Group and Africa's Sanlam Group reported a 14% decline in Q3 net profit to ₹43 crore from ₹50 crore a year ago. Sequentially, net profit was higher with the company having posted ₹23 crore in the September quarter.

Total premium for Q3 climbed almost 37% to ₹1,151 crore. For the September quarter, total premium was ₹952 crore

On impact of special surrender value norms on the net profit, Mr. Kromhout said it was to some extent.

"But mostly the impact is from our investment in building capacity to reach out to more customers. We are not focused on continuously growing profits at the moment," he said. Regarding Assets under

management (AUM), he said the plan is to raise the AUM from the existing ₹13,000 crore to ₹15,000 crore next fiscal.



Elgi to invest ₹650 crore to integrate operations

M. Soundariya Preetha COIMBATORE

Elgi Equipments, the sixth largest air-compressor supplier globally, is aiming at finding a place in the top three by 2035-2036.

Unveiling its new technology 'Stabilisor', Jairam Varadaraj, MD, told the media the company plans to invest ₹600-₹650 crore in the next five years to shift all its manufacturing facilities in Coimbatore to an integrated campus. Its aspiration was to touch \$450 million in FY26.

The company will use its existing capacity to make "Stabilisor" for air compressors and roll it out progressively in the next six to seven months for all its global markets.

Stabilisor is meant for industrial plants, constituting 85%-90% of the compressors sold. These will cost 30% less than the VFD machines, he said. "Almost 70% of the market is unable or not ready to invest in the VFD ((variable frequency drive) machines.

"They will get compressed air-stabilisation technology at very minimal cost with the new system," he added.

⁺ 'Tata Power's Odisha discoms' show is a model for States'

Lalatendu Mishra

In four years, the four distribution companies of Tata Power Co. Ltd., operating in Odisha, have improved operations substantially thus becoming a model for other States to emulate, a top company executive said.

"Our operations in Odisha have emerged as a role model for discom reforms. We are earnestly exploring distribution opportunities in other States to support the government's focus on revamping the sector," Praveer Sinha, CEO-MD, Tata Power said this Tuesday.

The four distribution companies (Discoms) include TP Central Odisha Distribution (TPCODL), TP Western Odisha Distribution Ltd. (TPWODL), TP Northen Odisha Distribution Ltd. (TPNODL) and TP Southern Odisha Distribution

Ltd. (TPSODL). "We [TPCODL] came in 2020 and subsequently the other three discoms came in 2021. From there we have travelled a lot. If you see just one parameter which everybody looks at that is Average Technical & Commercial (AT&C) loss we [all 4 discoms] have reduced it by almost 10% collectively for the State of Odisha," Arvind Singh, CEO, TPCODL, told The *Hindu* in an interview.

Better reliability

"Reliability has improved substantially. Now, the ability to restore electricity has gone up primarily because we have got more trained manpower, lot of materials have been kept in locations and losses



have reduced," he said.

So as far as consumers are concerned, especially in urban areas and industrial areas, the availability of power is very high, Mr. Singh said adding even in rural areas, the availability is more than 23 hours.

"This is a very high number. It must be one of the best in India," he emphasised.

Since coastal Odisha is a cyclone prone area and the cyclonic storms hit at a notice of 3 hours, Tata Power has put in place a strategy for fast response and restoration of supplies.

"We are much better prepared now to deal with frequent cyclones which hit coasts in three hours notice. The response to the recent Cyclone Dana is the perfect example," he said.

Commenting on the overall performance, he said, "Business is doing well. Even on the financial side all four discoms are making profit."

Stating bill collection has improved to almost 100% now and billing efficiency has been improving every year, he said "In every report on transmission, Odisha comes first. And this was a challenge which Tata Power took and really succeeded"

Zoom seeking to expand far beyond videoconferencing, says its India chief

Aroon Deep NEW DELHI

Zoom Communications, Inc. has left the pandemic firmly behind, and is leaning to a pivot to court more enterprise customers in markets like India.

In an interview with The Hindu, Sameer Raje, who has led the firm's India operations since 2019, said the firm has made inroads into the Communications Platform as a Service (CPaaS) and Contact Centre as a Service (CCaaS)



industry, with enterprise services that span from its existing meeting product to a comprehensive collaboration suite.

In the pandemic years, Zoom faced extensive scrutiny on its privacy record, a Raje said, adding the sernatural outcome of a firm vice was used by a wide niche video conferencing tool to a critical piece of digital infrastructure in a locked down world.

A Ministry of Home Affairs cybersecurity arm had even put out a circular warning government officials against using the service.

Those days are gone now. "We are now licensed by the Department of Telecommunication to provide Zoom Phone services," Mr.

ties; several courts also use Zoom to allow virtual hearings. DoT licenses for ser vices straddling traditional and Voice-over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) telephony like Zoom are rare, with the other major licensee in the space being Cisco's

Mr. Raje declined to disclose India revenue. But overall Asia-Pacific revenue stayed at \$144 million in the last two quarters.

WebEx.

Govt. mulls roadmap for local aerospace manufacturing

Jagriti Chandra NEW DELHI

The Centre is planning a "national roadmap" to grow Indian manufacturing of aerospace components and has sought industry suggestions for a 10-year and 20-year plans.

The first in a series of meetings was held on this subject at the Ministry of Civil Aviation on Friday, following a push from the

PM's Office. The meeting was chaired by Minister for Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu, and included Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, V. Vualnam.

Mr. Naidu agreed to an industry proposal for a detailed aerospace roadmap over the next 10 and 20 years as well as goals to be achieved by 2047, when India celebrates 100 years of Independence, according to sources.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD CITY DIVISION AJMER NOTICE INVITING BID NO.- 25/2024-25 NIB Code No.:- PWD2425A3709

Tender for 03 works are invited from interested bidders up to 06.00 PM on 21st Feb. 2025. Other particulars of the bids may be visited or the procurement portal ({HYPERLINK "http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in"} {HYPERLINK "http://sppp.rai.nic.in"}) of the State; and DIPR departmental

UBN S. No.1:-PWD2425WSOB13468 JBN S. No.2 :-PWD2425WSOB13474 UBN S. No.3:-PWD2425WSOB13475 DIPR/C/1447/2025

(VIPIN KUMAR JINDAL) PWD City Division Ajme

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PHED CIRCLE ALWAR

NOTICE INVITING BID (NIT No. 56/ 2024-25) Bids for Annual Rate Contract for the work of Transportation of Water through Tanker at various places in city under the jurisdiction of PHED Division-Alwar under the urisdiction of PHED Division Alwar are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00PM n Date 20.02.2025. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement porta

(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and https://phedwater.rajasthan

departmental website UBN:- PHE2425WSRC08878

NIB-PWD2425A3971

DIPR/C/1368/2025

UBN-PWD2425WSOB14309

Superintending Enginee

(राजीव कुमार अग्रवाल अधीषण अधियन्त

सा.नि.वि. शहर वृत उदयपुर

DIPR/C/1463/2025 कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, शहर वृत उदयपुर क्रमांक:-2394 निविवा संख्या- 03/2024-25 राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से भवन निर्माण कार्य हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग नस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग, डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग/ रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के ए, एए श्रेणी वे संवेदकों के समकब हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 1 (एक) भवन निर्माण कार्य के लिए ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑन लाईन निविदाएं आर्मीवत की जाती है। भवन निर्माण कार्य- कुल १ (एक) कार्य कार्यका नाम निविदा को कुल लागत राशि रु. 352.00 लाख ऑनलाईन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड 30.01.2025 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से एवं अपलोड करने की ताग्रख 19.02.2025 सायं 6.00 बजे तक 20.02.2025 सायं 4.00 बजे से ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तारीख निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in व sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण

निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन सम्पदित की जावेगी।



ห้ಎಸ್ಐಆರ್ - ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ಆಹಾರ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾಲಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು - 570 020, ಭಾರತ सीएसआईआर – केंद्रीय खाद्य प्रौद्योगिक अनुसंधान संस्थान, मैसूरु - 570 020, भारत CSIR - Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysuru - 570 020, India

Recruitment Notice

Date of commencement of Online Applications: 10/02/2025 (Monday) at 10:00 AM Closing Date for Online Submission of Applications: 14/03/2025 (Friday) at 05:00 PM

CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysuru, a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ministry of S&T, Govt. of India, invites online applications from Indian citizens for the following positions:

Advertisement No.	Name of Position	No. of Vacancies & Reservations	Pay Level (as per 7th CPC)	#Age limit
Rec 01/2025	Scientist	34* [UR-14, EWS-3, SC-6, ST-2, OBC,(NCL)-9] {*includes 1 post reserved for PwBD (HH)}	Level-11 (₹ 67,700- 2,08,700)	32 Years
	Scientist	01 [UR-PwBD(OH)] (Backlog Vacancy)	Level-11 (₹ 67,700- 2,08,700)	42 Years

Upper age limit as on the last date of online application & please see the detailed advertisement for age

For detailed advertisement, Terms & Conditions and to apply ONLINE please visit official CFTRI website https://cftri.res.in under Recruitments or https://recruitment.cftri.res.in. All further announcements/details pertaining to this process/updates/corrigendum/ addendum etc. will be published/provided only on CFTRI official website https://cftri.res.in from time to time. Sd/-

Controller of Administration

Later-onset menopause linked to lower heart disease risk

The Hindu Bureau

Women who go through menopause later in life have healthier blood vessels for years to come than those who go through it earlier, a study by the University of Colorado Boulder researchers found. The study published in the journal Circulation Research, offers new insight into why females who stop

menstruating at age 55 or later are significantly less likely to have heart attacks and strokes in their postmenopausal years.

Previous studies show that women who hit menopause – defined as going one year without a period – at age 55 or later are as much as 20% less likely to develop heart disease than those who cease menstruation at the usual 45 to 54

years old. University of Colorado researchers set out to determine the reason by assessing the vascular health of 92 women, looking specifically at a measure called brachial artery flow-mediated dilation (FMD), or how well their brachial artery – the main blood vessel in the upper arm - dilates with increased blood flow.

They found all the post-

menopausal women had significantly worse arterial function than their premenopausal counterparts. The reason: as people age, they produce less nitric oxide, a compound that helps blood vessels dilate and keeps them from getting stiff and developing plaque. Mitochondria in cells lining the blood vessels also become dysfunctional with age and gener-

more damaging molecules called free radicals. When menopause hits, the age-related decline in vascular health accelerates. But the 10% or so of women who experience late-onset menopause appear to be somewhat protected from this effect, senior author Dr. Matthew

Rossman said in a release. For instance, the study found that vascular func-

tion was only 24% worse in the late-onset menopause group compared to the premenopausal while those in the normalonset group had 51% worse vascular health. Such differences persisted five years or more after the women went through menopause, with the late-onset group still having 44% better vascular function than the normal onset group.

Heart failure patients in India die 10 years earlier: study

Compared with high-income countries, rheumatic heart disease and congenital heart disease cause higher mortality rates in heart failure patients than ischemic heart disease

R. Prasad

ata from India's first nationally representative heart failure registry with prospective follow-up data has found that heart failure patients in India are almost 10 years younger than their counterparts living in high-income countries. One in four heart failure patients in India die within one year of follow-up, with a wide variation in the one-year mortality rate based on the disease that causes heart failure. Heart failure is said to occur when the heart muscle fails to pump enough blood to meet the demands of the body. A study which looked at

the one-year mortality rate of patients with heart failure enrolled consecutive patients admitted with the diagnosis of acute decompensated heart failure from January-December 2019. In total, 10,850 participants were enrolled in the National Heart Failure Registry (NHFR), which is a multicentric, hospitalbased registry of heart failure patients from 53 centers across 24 States and two Union Territories in India. The registry has nine nodal centers with five participating centres under each of them. The Thiruvananthapuram-based Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) is the national coordinating centre for the national registry. "The baseline demographic and clinical characteristics, etiology, and one-year survival of heart failure patients may help to influence policies to reduce heart failure-re-

25% of heart failure patients die in a year

There is a wide variation in the mortality rate at one year based on the disease that causes heart failure

- Heart failure is said to occur when the heart muscle fails to pump enough blood to meet the demands of the body
- 10,845 participants with heart failure enrolled from 53 centers across 24 States and two Union Territories in India had disease etiology identified
- Mean age of heart failure patients ranged widely - 29.2 to 61.9 years for peripartum cardiomyopathy and ischemic heart disease, respectively
- Ischemic heart disease was the predominant cause of heart failure (7,800 patients, 71.9%) followed by dilated cardiomyopathy (1,877 patients, 17.3%) and rheumatic heart disease (586 patients, 5.4%)

Mortality factors: The study looked at the mortality patients with heart failure at one year

■ Mortality rate at one year was 21.1% for patients with ischemic heart disease compared with 23.7% for dilated cardio myopathy

■ Mortality rates were substantially higher in patients with rheumatic heart congenital heart disease compared with ischemic

Lack of awareness about acute rheumatic fever, poor compliance with penicillin prophylaxis, and late presentation contribute to high prevalence of rheumatic heart disease

cardiomyopathy

lated burden and mortality in India," the NHFR registry website says.

The study, was published in January 2025, looked at one-year mortality among 10,845 patients with heart failure. At 7,800, ischemic heart disease was the predominant cause of heart failure (71.9%). Dilated cardiomyopathy was the second major cause of heart failure among 1,877 patients (17.3%), and rheumatic heart disease in 586 patients (5.4%) was the third leading cause of heart failure. Despite the predominance of ischemic heart disease, at 21.1%, the mortality rate at one year was relatively less dilated cardiomyopathy (23.7%). The other causes of heart failure were non-rheumatic valvular heart disease (1.9%), hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (0.9%), congenital heart disease

(0.7%), peripartum cardiomyopathy (0.5%), restriccardiomyopathy (0.4%), and infective endocarditis (0.1%).

"Mortality rate of over 20% in one year is considered very high. Such high mortality rates are not seen in most common cancers such as breast cancer." says Dr. Jeemon Panniyammakal, Additional Professor of Epidemiology at SCTIMST and the corresponding author of the paper. "Good and timely acute disease management of ischemic heart disease is one reason for longer survival of such patients. Not following medications and poor lifestyle are reasons for higher mortality in these patients."

A 2022 study found that the 90-day mortality was 14.2%, with ischaemic heart disease being the primary disease cause (72%) followed by dilated

. Though ischemic heart disease patients accounted for most deaths even at one year -1,649 – among heart failure patients in the Ianuary 2025 study, the mortality rate was only 21.1%. In comparison, there were 444 deaths in one year among dilated cardiomyopathy, but the mortality rate was higher at 23.7%. In the case of rheumatic heart disease, though there were only 161 deaths in one year, the mortality rate was far higher at 27.5%. The mortality rate was high in infective endocarditis (50.0%), congenital heart disease (34.6%), and restrictive cardiomyopathy (36.8%) compared with other causes of heart failure.

In contrast to the reports from heart failure registries in high-income regions, the National Heart Failure Registry of India

showed substantially higher mortality rates in heart failure patients with rheumatic heart disease, congenital heart disease, and infective endocarditis compared with ischemic heart disease. Compared with ischemic heart disease, mortality was two to five times higher in patients with rheumatic heart disease, congenital heart disease, and infective endocarditis.

"The high mortality associated with rheumatic heart disease and congenital heart disease in the NHFR cohort has important implications, especially in the low- and middleincome countries (LMIC) context," they write. "Lack of awareness about acute rheumatic fever, poor compliance with penicillin prophylaxis, and late presentation contribute to the high prevalence of rheumatic heart disease in LMICs."

"Patients with rheumatic heart disease require timely surgical corrections. Since the valves get affected by the disease, not replacing the valves on time will lead to heart failure and worsening of the Dr. Panniyammakal.

According to the auth-

ors, in the case of people with congenital heart disease, not treating the disease early is a risk factor for the development of irreversible pulmonary hypertension, and subseventricular quent dysfunction leading to heart failure. "Appropriate management of congenital heart disease early in life prevents pulmonary hypertension development and progression to heart failure," they write.



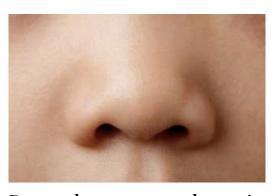
Drying, rewetting cycles increased soil CO2 release

The amount of carbon dioxide released by microbial decomposition of soil organic carbon is nearly five times greater than the amount of anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions. The amount of carbon dioxide released from soil increases due to repeated drying and rewetting cycles expected to be caused by changes in precipitation patterns due to global warming. The carbon dioxide released under drying and rewetting cycles were 1.3- to 3.7-fold greater than under continuous constant moisture conditions.



Identifying people with COPD by low-cost genetic samples

A study showed that low-cost genetic samples obtained from a cheek swab or blood test can improve identification of people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in the community. Researchers developed a polygenic risk score for COPD based on genome-wide association studies of lung function that was associated with COPD in multiple cohorts. They found that adding the polygenic risk score to a case-finding questionnaire improved the identification of undiagnosed COPD cases.



Researchers use nose bacteria to sneak drugs into mice brain

Bacteria that colonise the nose have been engineered to ferry drugs to the brains of mice. Researchers examined bacteria in the nasal microbiome and identified the species Lactobacillus plantarum as both safe to use in treatment and able to bind to a molecule found on a nose membrane connected to the brain. They then engineered *L. plantarum* to produce and secrete three-appetite suppressing

How do bacteria resist antibiotics?



D. Balasubramanian

The extensive use of antibiotics in health care has resulted in a rise in pathogenic bacteria and other microorganisms that are resistant to antibiotics. In the year 2021, about 1.2 million deaths worldwide were attributed to antimicrobial resistance to existing antibiotics. Surveys in Indian hospitals show that infections with drug-resistant bacteria have a 13% mortality rate. Therefore, the search for new antibiotics is a high-priority area of research.

Antibiotics literally means against life. But antibiotics are specifically used for killing bacteria and other microorganisms or for inhibiting their **Unique cell walls**

growth, without harming

human cells.

A distinguishing feature of bacterial cells is the presence of a cell wall that forms a sheath over the cell membrane. Our cells do not have cell walls. Bacterial cell walls are primarily made of a unique substance called peptidoglycan, which is a mesh-like structure mostly made of two components.

Glycans are long chains of alternating sugar molecules called NAG (N-acetylglucosamine) and NAM (Nacetylmuramic acid). The NAM-NAG unit, linked into long chains, is unique to bacteria. This uniqueness makes it an important target for antibiotic development. Our immune system too looks for this signature

to attack invading bacteria. The 'peptido' portion of peptidoglycans are peptides (short amino acid



antimicrobial resistance. GETTY IMAGES

chains) that link NAM sugars on adjacent glycan strands. The crosslinks form a strong, interconnected mesh. The first antibiotic to be discovered, penicillin, works by interfering with this crosslinking step. The result is a weakened cell wall that can no longer securely hold the cytoplasm, and the bacterial cell bursts open and dies.

How did bacteria evolve

quires rapid division of bacterial cells, for which cell wall synthesis is needed. To understand bacterial cell division, let us use the children's game LEGO

resistance to penicillin?

They came up with new

enzymes, (e.g., penicilli-

nase) which chop up peni-

cillin molecules. Or, they

evade antibiotic action by

modifying the targets of

Bacterial infection re-

penicillin.

as a simplified analogy. Picture a square cell that is six inches on each side, with walls made of LEGO tiles. To make this cell divide, you would add tiles to two opposite sides until it becomes a rectangle that is twelve inches by six inches. Then you would extend the walls along the middle, creating two sixinch square daughter cells.

ble bacteria to precisely control cell division. In a Real bacterial cells must study published last year synthesise their own wall in PLOS Genetics, they have shown that bacteria material. And just as some links in a LEGO wall must be uncoupled to enable the addition of fresh tiles, bacteria selectively break and reform bonds within the existing wall to allow for growth and division. Before new cell wall components can be added, molecular scissors are used: enzymes called endopeptidases uncouple the pepterial infections. tide crosslinks, and lytic transglycosylases (LTs) cleave the backbone sugar

chains. Both of these have

are clever and can make up for the loss of the crosslinkcutting scissors by making an excess of the chain-cutting LT scissors. New findings in this field facilitate a better understanding of bacteria survive against all odds. Such insights will pave the way for new strategies to fight bac-

> (The article was written in collaboration with Sushil Chandani, who works in molecular modelling)

to work in harmony, and

the bacterial machinery

that regulates this process

is very complex - new

components continue to

The group of Dr. Manju-

la Reddy at the Centre for

Cellular and Molecular

Biology, Hyderabad, works

on mechanisms that ena-

be discovered.



Question Corner

Blood-powered toes

How are salamanders able to take off and stick their landing with ease?

Wandering salamanders are known for gliding high through the canopies of coastal redwood forests, but how the small amphibians stick their landing and take off with ease remains something of a mystery. As per a new study, the answer may have much to do with the blood-powered toes of wandering salamanders. Researchers discovered that wandering salamanders can rapidly fill, trap, and drain the blood in their toe tips to optimise attachment, detachment, and general

locomotion through their

arboreal environment. The researchers uncovered that wandering salamanders can finely control and regulate blood flow to each side of their toe tips. This allows them to adjust pressure asymmetrically, improving grip on irregular surfaces like tree bark. Surprisingly, the blood rushing in before "toe off" appears to help salamanders detach rather than attach. By slightly inflating the toe tip, the salamanders reduce the surface area in contact with the surface they are on, minimising the energy required to let go.

Readers may send their questions /

Is private investment expected to rise?

Will the tax incentives and other measures announced in the Budget help spur consumer demand?

Prashanth Perumal

The story so far:

ith the government providing a tax stimulus through income tax breaks to boost consumer spending and the RBI cutting interest rates for the first time in nearly five years, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said she was quite optimistic of the tide turning on private investments in the months to come. Addressing the media, she said, "anecdotal evidence suggests a pick-up in investment activity." Ms. Sitharaman said that she had heard from different sources that orders for Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) for the period April to June were already getting booked, and that "industry is clearly seeing the signs of a possible recovery of consumption."

Why was there a concern?

Private investment in India, which has been on a downward trajectory for more than a decade, showed further signs of weakening in the latest quarter. Private investment plans dropped by 1.4% in the December 2024-2025 quarter even though investments overall increased by 9.9% due to a significant rise in public investments by the Centre and State governments, which grew by 11.8% and 34.6%, respectively.

Private investment matters because it helps build physical, human, and other forms of

Many analysts point at ultimately help the drop in the pace of economic reforms as discouraging private investors from undertaking capital-intensive investment projects

capital that increase the amount of goods and services produced in an economy. It should also be noted that private investment is generally considered to be more efficient

than public investment, which is undertaken by the government. This is because private investors are subject to the discipline of profits and losses in the marketplace, which ensures that capital is allocated towards the most urgent needs of consumers. Public investments are not subject to the same degree of market discipline. But notably, public investment is viewed as a major reason behind the high growth numbers reported by India in recent years.

What determines private investment?

It is generally believed that money deposited as savings in banks by ordinary citizens is loaned out to fund large-scale investments. But in reality, private investment depends not or savings levels in the economy but on the pace at which loans are created by the banking system. This is because banks can create loans electronically through simple accounting entries that deposit money in borrowers' accounts even without savings to back these loans. So, there is a strong positive relationship between bank credit growth and the level of private investment, with heathy bank credit growth driving private sector investment higher. In fact, bank credit growth averaged about 22% between 2005 and 2014 when economic growth was high, before dropping precipitously to just around 9% between 2014 and 2021 when the economy began to slow down.

Why has private investment been sluggish?

Many economists have blamed the lack of sufficient consumer demand for the lack of strong private investment in the country. They argue that unless the government does something to increase the amount of money that consumers have in their hands to spend, investors would be unwilling to take the risk of investing in business projects. Given this backdrop, making incomes up to ₹12 lakh tax-free is seen as an attempt to put more money in the hands of individuals to boost consumer spending and spur private investment. However, over the decades, there has been an inverse or negative relationship between private investment and consumer spending.

Private final consumption expenditure stood at a high of 90% of GDP way back in 1950-51, from where it dropped gradually over the decades to hit a low of 54.7% of GDP in 2010-11. At the same time, private investment as a percentage of GDP rose from around 10% in the decades between independence and economic liberalisation to around 27% in 2007-08. Interestingly, from around the time when private investment hit a peak in 2011-12, private consumer spending has actually risen, not fallen. In other words, over the last decade or so, consumer spending has actually risen at the same time that private investment has dropped from its peak. This suggests that the negative relationship between private investment and consumer spending could simply be due to the fact that the money in an economy that is not invested is spent on consumption, and vice-versa. Given this, policy uncertainty and unfriendly government policies are cited as the major reasons behind the slowdown in private investment. Many analysts have pointed to the drop in the pace of economic reforms as discouraging private investors from undertaking long-term capital-intensive investment projects.

What will be the impact of Trump's trade war?

Why has the U.S. announced steep tariffs on imports from China, Canada and Mexico? What are the potential risks to such measures? How will it affect world trade? How has China responded? In the case of Mexico and Canada, doesn't it violate the free trade pact they have with the U.S.?

prospects

Narayan Lakshman

The story so far:

.S. President Donald Trump has sought to deliver, in the early days of his second term in office, on his most vociferous campaign promise - to slap a range of the U.S.'s trading partners with significant tariffs in a bid to tamp down on undocumented migrant and illicit drug inflows, while presumably incentivising companies to favour creating jobs on U.S. soil. His administration's initial action in the space, to use executive orders to impose a 25% tariff on Canadian and Mexican goods and a 10% tax on energy products from Canada and a wide range of goods from China, roiled stock markets across the world, especially in Asia.

What followed the announcement?

As Beijing vowed to file a lawsuit with the World Trade Organization against the U.S. for "wrongful practice" and Ottawa and Mexico City announced plans for retaliatory tariffs, Mr. Trump appeared to back down from his position. Following discussions with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and Canadian officials, Mr. Trump said the White House had agreed to "pause" the tariff action for a month in the wake of Mexico committing 10,000 National



New order: Workers transport boxes of avocados at a packing plant in the municipality of Uruapan, Michoacan state, Mexico, on February 5.AFP

Mr. Trump's Guard troops to man its northern border and a longer-term bilateral deal in the works. Similarly, moves could a 30-day pause on tariff action would be applied seriously to Canada given its Prime Minister Justin dampen Trudeau's commitment to "work together" as world trade his government sought to appoint "a fentanyl at a czar, list Mexican cartels as terrorist groups and precarious launch a Canada-U.S. Joint Strike Force to combat organised crime, fentanyl and money time for laundering." global economic growth

While the tariffs on Chinese goods are in force, Mr. Trump temporarily exempted small-value packages imported from there after the U.S. postal service was plunged into chaos as it struggled to deal with new regulations.

What is the broader context for the tariffs?

Although in the traditional macroeconomic policy context, tariffs are imposed to rectify trade imbalances due to artificial price barriers, the justification given by the Trump White House for their tariff plan was that it would address the "national emergency" resulting from "the extraordinary threat posed by illegal aliens and drugs, including deadly fentanyl."

This expansive reasoning for imposing tariffs across the board potentially risks blowback from other nations' inevitable retaliatory tariffs. The resulting trade war could seriously dampen world trade at a precarious time for global economic growth prospects. The irony is that escalating tit-for-tat tariffs will likely exert strong upward pressure on the prices that U.S. consumers pay for imported products, and ignite a broader inflationary trend through higher input prices across industries.

The second cause for concern of the Trump administration's tariff plan is that it tacitly endorses the weaponisation of tariffs as a countermeasure against unrelated inter-country disputes – in this case the inflow of unsanctioned migration and illegal drugs rather than rely on traditional law enforcement activity to ensure less porous borders.

How have Mexico and Canada responded?

According to the White House, Mexican drug trafficking organisations have an "intolerable alliance with the government of Mexico", and that the latter has "afforded safe havens for the cartels to engage in the manufacturing and transportation of dangerous narcotics, which collectively have led to the overdose deaths of hundreds of thousands of American victims."

The Trump administration has also said that there is a "growing presence of Mexican cartels operating fentanyl and nitazene synthesis labs in

Canada," with a recent study recognising Canada's "heightened domestic production of fentanyl, and its growing footprint within international narcotics distribution." These facts, according to Mr. Trump's administration, suggest that this is an alliance that endangers the national security of the U.S., requiring the eradication of the influence of these "dangerous cartels."

Perhaps emboldened by his success in forcing Colombia to accept deportees from the U.S. flown to Bogota via military aircraft, Mr. Trump has used tariffs to bring Mexico and Canada to the negotiating table, even if his proposal violates the terms of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada free trade pact. Mexico has now already deployed most, if not all, of the promised troops to surveil and protect the U.S. border from unauthorised crossings. Reports also suggest that Mexican authorities have seized 20 million doses of fentanyl since Ms. Sheinbaum's term began in October.

Mr. Trudeau initially responded with greater defiance, announcing retaliatory tariffs on \$106 billions' worth of imports from the U.S. However, despite reportedly being told that "Canada could avoid tariffs by becoming the 51st member of the U.S.", he revived a border security package said to be worth \$900 million, announced last year, and promised to appoint a "fentanyl czar".

Where does China stand?

Mr. Trump's 10% tariff levy on Chinese products is relatively modest compared to the 60% tariff rate that he had earlier threatened to hit Beijing with. Nevertheless, China was quick to announce a 15% counter-tariff to be levied upon imports of U.S. coal and liquefied natural gas, crude oil, agricultural machinery and certain cars - measures that are set to kick in on February 10.

In a more expansive counterattack, the Chinese government further opened an antitrust probe into Google, placed several top U.S. fashion and biotech companies on an "unreliable entities" list, and set limits on exports of critical minerals for high-tech products.

Nevertheless, analysts suggest that both sides have refrained from excessive or knee-jerk reactions, even though the 10% U.S. tariff on China adds to pre-existing levies imposed by Mr. Trump during his first term, and this leaves room for manoeuvre in negotiations that may follow when Mr. Trump meets Chinese President Xi Jinping in the near future.

However, with Mr. Trump promising stringent tariff action against the EU and other "reciprocal" tariffs against all trading partners of the U.S. in the days ahead in his mission to level the playing field, the risk of trade skirmishes derailing global growth prospects remains high.

Are freebies and welfare schemes different?

Can schemes such as the midday meal, the public distribution system, and child development services be considered as welfare? How do targeted cash transfer programmes impact lives? What are the fiscal risks of freebie-driven politics?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

ll three major political parties in the Delhi Assembly elections, won by the Bharatiya Janata Party, unveiled a barrage of freebies or subsidies to woo voters. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) pledged a ₹2,100 monthly allowance for all women, an additional ₹21,000 for pregnant women, and subsidised LPG cylinders at ₹500 for those from impoverished backgrounds. The BJP followed suit, offering ₹2,500 per month to women from low-income families, and 'free electricity' through its solar energy initiative. The Congress too joined the fray.

Were these electoral sops or welfare politics?

The core challenge in this debate is the absence of a clear consensus on what constitutes a freebie. Some argue that freebies amount to bribery and discourage voters from making informed choices. Others, however, claim that such a narrative strips voters of their agency and delegitimises welfare politics. "What some perceive as a freebie may be regarded as welfare by others. For instance, while one segment of society may view free transport as an unwarranted concession, for another, it constitutes a vital welfare measure. Ironically, those who criticise free transport as a subsidy

'A growing reliance on freebies will inevitably deepen the revenue deficit'

often benefit from the availability of cheap labour. Affordable transport enables people to travel in search of work, making such labour possible," Dr. K.K. Kailash, Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad, told The Hindu.

The National Food Security Act, enacted by the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government in 2013, transformed key welfare schemes such as the mid-day meal, the Public Distribution System, and child development services into legal entitlements. According to data released by the Centre, the law's beneficiaries include 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population – roughly 800 million people in total.

A 2023 study by the Centre for Financial Inclusion (CFI) found that carefully designed cash transfer programmes, which channel funds directly to women on behalf of their households, not only empower women but also help mitigate the risks of intimate partner violence.

Where does one draw the line?

According to Dr. Kailash, welfare provisions – unlike freebies – enhance human capabilities and freedoms, aligning with the "capability approach" to development propounded by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen. "For instance, access to nutritious, free food through mid-day meal schemes strengthens immunity, and enables individuals to lead dignified lives. In contrast, poor health not only causes personal suffering but also burdens public resources by increasing the demand for hospitals and medical treatment. Investing in nutrition from an early age yields significant long-term benefits for both individuals and society," he explained.

Cash transfer schemes have recently found electoral success in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Haryana, cementing their role as a staple of electioneering. However, Dr. Kailash cautioned that while such schemes stimulate market activity by boosting consumer spending, they ultimately fall short of creating genuine economic opportunities. Freebie-driven politics poses a serious fiscal threat, particularly to heavily indebted State governments. The RBI's latest report on State finances highlights how such measures have led to a sharp increase in subsidy expenditure. It further urges States to

rationalise these subsidies to ensure they do not displace critical investments.

Radhika Pandey, Associate Professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), cautioned that the growing reliance on freebies will inevitably deepen the revenue deficit for States. "Delhi reported a revenue surplus of ₹14,457 crore in 2022-23. In 2023-24, this figure was budgeted at a significantly lower ₹5,769 crore, with revised estimates reflecting a further 13.9% decline. For 2024-25, the projected surplus stands at just ₹3,231 crore – a sharp 35% drop from the previous year's revised estimates. With the rising fiscal burden of freebies, the revenue account is likely to slip into deficit unless States substantially scale up their revenue generation," she told The Hindu. She further pointed out that the wide array of freebies promised - including cash transfers for women, pensions for senior citizens, and subsidised electricity – would increase annual revenue expenditure by ₹10,000-₹12,000 crore. In the long run, this could result in higher taxes and reduced consumption among the middle class.

Does the judiciary have a role?

In August 2022, the Supreme Court referred a series of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of electoral freebies to a three-judge Bench. The lead petition, filed by BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay, contended that such populist measures undermine the constitutional guarantee of free and fair elections.

During the proceedings, a Bench led by former Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana even suggested forming an expert panel to solicit recommendations from key stakeholders. This marked a significant departure from the Court's earlier position. In S. Subramaniam Balaji vs Government of Tamil Nadu (2013), the Supreme Court ruled that such matters fell within the domain of legislative policy and were beyond judicial scrutiny. It further underscored that such expenditures could neither be deemed unlawful nor characterised as a "corrupt practice," particularly since they sought to advance the Directive Principles of State Policy. However, there has been no effective hearing in the challenge since November 23, 2023

According to senior advocate Sanjay Hedge, there is little that courts can do to distinguish welfare measures from populist sops and pre-election inducements. "It is the legislature's prerogative to rein in unchecked competitive populism. The judiciary should not intervene in the choices made between voters and their elected representatives," he said.



Subsidy polls: BJP workers celebrate with firecrackers after the party's victory in the Delhi Assembly election on February 8. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

PROFILES

Tribunal at the receiving end

International Criminal Court

The international tribunal is in the spotlight after U.S. President Donald Trump imposed sanctions for investigations that threaten the 'national security' of Washington and its allies, which include Israel

Aaratrika Bhaumik

n February 6, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order imposing sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC), warning of "tangible and significant consequences" for those behind investigations deemed a threat to U.S. national security and that of its allies, including Israel. This condemnation follows ICC Chief Prosecutor Karim A. Khan's decision to issue arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip.

However, this is not the Trump administration's first offensive against the ICC. In June 2020, it sanctioned then-ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda and a senior court official after she launched an investigation into alleged war crimes by U.S. troops in Afghanistan. The Biden administration later rescinded the sanctions. The latest sanctions have prompted key member states such as the U.K., France, and Germany to reaffirm their "unwavering support" for the court.

The ICC has always had a contentious relationship with the U.S. While President Bill Clinton's administration played a pivotal role in the negotiations that led to the court's creation, it remained wary of the emergence of an independent tribunal that Washington could not control through the UN Security Council. Although Mr. Clinton signed the Rome Statute, he did not send it to the Senate to be ratified, fearing scrutiny of U.S. actions and those of its allies.

When President George W. Bush took office, he launched a hostile campaign against the ICC. His administration pressured governments worldwide to sign bilateral agreements barring the surrender of U.S. nationals to the court. He also enacted the American Service Members' Protection Act of 2002, which



restricted the ICC's jurisdiction over U.S. military personnel. The law even authorised military action against the court, earning it the nickname "The Hague Invasion Act."

The U.S. position on the ICC softened during Mr. Bush's second term when he recognised its potential to serve American interests, particularly in regions where U.S. nationals were unlikely to face prosecution, such as Africa. In 2005, his administration abstained from a UN Security Council vote granting the ICC jurisdiction over war crimes in Darfur, Sudan. This measured engagement continued under the Obama administration, with U.S. diplomats attending ICC conferences. However, cooperation remained conditional, as Washington made it clear that it would support only those investigations that aligned with

Under the Biden administration. Washington's double standards in its purported commitment to the "rules-based international order" lay bare when it endorsed the ICC's arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin while denouncing as "outrageous" the one issued for Benjamin Netanyahu.

'Low-hanging fruit'

In the aftermath of the Second World War, the Allied powers established the Nuremberg Tribunal, the first international war crimes tribunal, to prosecute top Nazi officials. This gave birth to the idea of a permanent court to hold perpetrators accountable for the world's most egregious crimes. Although the UN later created ad hoc tribunals to prosecute war crimes in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, many international law experts considered them inadequate

In July 1998, the UN General Assembly adopted the ICC's founding treaty at a conference in Rome. Unlike the International Court of Justice,

which adjudicates disputes between states, the ICC prosecutes individuals. It complements national courts and intervenes only when they are unwilling or unable to act. A major challenge to its enforcement is the absence of its own police force.

Despite its mandate, the ICC has struggled to gain the membership of major powers, including the U.S., China, and Russia. Some nations have even withdrawn. Burundi left in 2017 after the court decided to investigate its crackdown on opposition protests. In 2019, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte pulled out, rejecting the ICC's inquiry into his war on drugs and insisting that domestic courts were sufficient to uphold the rule of law.

African nations, in particular, have expressed discontent towards the court's tendency to disproportionately target the continent. It was not until 2016 that the court opened an investigation outside Africa – in Georgia – reinforcing perceptions of it being an instrument for advancing Western political interests. The ICC has also been criticised for focusing on "low-hanging fruit" crimes prosecuting warlords and rebel leaders while failing to hold senior political figures accountable.

Challenges ahead

through the Council.

Perhaps the most damning criticism of the ICC is its perceived inability to hold the U.S. and its allies accountable. By refusing to ratify the Rome Statute, the U.S. has ensured that the court lacks jurisdiction over crimes committed on its territory or by its military personnel. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, it can also veto any attempt to initiate a referral

With the Trump administration in power, the court is staring down the barrel of four years of punitive measures from Washington. Whether it emerges as a meagre shadow of itself or a resilient tribunal will depend on the resolve of its member states.

Beyond external pressures, the court faces internal challenges that undermine its standing. Chief among them is the sharp decline in trials. This year, apart from delivering two verdicts, the court will oversee only a single ongoing trial, with no other cases expected to reach the trial stage. Its workload has also diminished significantly, with just 80 hearing days scheduled – a steep drop from the average of 369 annual hearing days recorded over the past eight years (excluding the COVID-related shutdown in 2020).

Further complicating matters is the cloud of sexual harassment allegations against the ICC's chief prosecutor. In November 2024, the court's governing body announced an external investigation into the claims, deepening concerns over the institution's credibility. To preserve its legitimacy and public trust, the ICC must address these internal issues with unwavering transparency and

THE GIST

The ICC has always had a contentious relationship with the U.S. The most damning criticism of the ICC also stems from its perceived inability to hold the U.S. and its allies accountable

Despite its mandate, the ICC has struggled to gain the membership of major powers, including the U.S., China, and Russia. Some nations have even withdrawn from the body. African nations, in particular, have expressed discontent towards the court's tendency to disproportionately target the continent

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Port of contention

Chabahar Port

The tiny warm-water port in the Gulf of Oman, with minimal trade compared to Iran's main Bandar Abbas port, received a special mention in Donald Trump's memo

Suhasini Haidar

.S. President Donald Trump has taken aim at many countries around the world in the first few weeks of his presidency – with Iran being perhaps the most predictable target, much as it was during his first tenure. So, while it came as no surprise when he issued a Presidential National Security Memorandum (PNSM-2) on February 4, calling for "maximum pressure" on Iran, as what he called the "world's leading state sponsor of terror", his decision to name the Chabahar Port in particular sent shock-waves through New Delhi.

Chabahar's Shahid Beheshti port terminal is after all India's first international port, its alternative trade route to Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and beyond. and part of its plans for regional leadership. So why does the tiny warm-water port in the Gulf of Oman. that does relatively little trade with the world compared to Iran's main Bandar Abbas port, merit a special mention in Mr. Trump's memo, and where could this lead?

India had an interest in developing a terminal for trade to bypass Pakistan's land route and Karachi port route. Chabahar not only provides a quick sea route from India's west coast, but the plan fits in with India's development assistance to the Afghan republic, especially through the construction of the Za-



ranj-Delaram highway in 2009, that could take Indian goods around the country.

In time, India could develop Chabahar as a counter to Pakistan's Gwadar port, that is funded by China. In recent years China showed its interest in Chabahar as well, as a part of its Belt and Road Initiative and signed a 25-year cooperation agreement in 2021 with a potential investment of \$300 billion.

Between 2010 and 2015, the U.S. encouraged India to increase energy contracts with Iran, to build up the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar and even to invest in a rail line connecting Chabahar to the Afghan border – as it wanted to use this as leverage in its high-stakes negotiations for the 6-nation Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear capabilities. The thinking for the U.S. administration was that Indian investment would give Iran incentives to join the international mainstream with JCPOA signed.

But the best-laid plans are often derailed by geopolitics. By the time Donald Trump was elected in November 2016, the U.S.'s relations with Iran had soured, and Mr. Trump walked out of the JCPOA, enforcing sanctions on any country importing oil or trading with Iran. India submitted to the sanctions on oil, stopping its imports of cheaper Iranian crude in 2018, but it lobbied hard to keep its stake in Chabahar

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Addition of waivers

In November 2018, the Trump administration decided to add waivers to the U.S.'s Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act (IFCA 144(f)), stipulating that all consignments through Iranian ports were subject to sanctions, except those meant for humanitarian aid for Iran, and for Afghanistan reconstruction. The waiver was welcomed by New Delhi, and it spurred a new round of interest in Chabahar.

Over the next few years, India's trade and aid through Chabahar grew. While the collapse of the Ghani government and the takeover by the Taliban reduced the U.S.'s engagement, India has tried to forge ties with the Taliban leadership through the supply of aid.

India also provided equipment worth \$25 million dollars, including six mobile harbour cranes, and developed the terminal at Chabahar during this time, albeit at a slower pace than Iran had hoped. In May 2024, even as India was in the throes of an election campaign, the Modi government sent Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to Tehran to sign a 10-year contract for Chabahar to invest approximately \$120 million in equipment for the port and a credit window of \$250 million. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar extolled the agreement, indicating India wanted to connect its Chabahar port to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) so as to trade with Central Asia and Russia. Reminding India of the Afghanistan aid stipulation, the Biden Administration said the plans carried the "risk of sanctions", but did not move on the implicit threat. Mr. Trump's latest memo brings the risk back into focus.

Given that the order came just days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's U.S. visit, South Block officials hope they can once again negotiate for an exception for India's plans for Chabahar port. The question is what kind of bargain Mr. Trump wants to strike, now that Chabahar is once again in U.S. cross-hairs.

Domestic interests, global cost

The humanitarian aid organisation is the latest casualty of the reforms initiated by U.S. President Donald Trump and DOGE helmed by Elon Musk

Adithya Narayan

aving returned to the President's chair on January 20 and signing a spree of executive orders since, Donald Trump, along with billionaire friend and advisor Elon Musk, moved to freeze all foreign funding for 90 days. The ramifications of this stop-work order were far-reaching, affecting countries as diverse as Syria, Thailand, Ukraine, and South Africa, where the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the country's premier humanitarian aid agency, was actively

Not stopping at that, the U.S. President, along with Mr. Musk, who heads the newly formed Department for Government Efficiency (DOGE), has sought to tighten the choke-hold by trimming the USAID's 10,000-strong workforce to a mere 294 - a move temporarily put on hold by a court on Friday.

In between, senior officials at the USAID were placed on leave following a run-in with Mr. Musk's DOGE - an organisation whose ambit of power remains sketchy - after it sought access to sensitive information. The USAID's website went dark, and its Washington office was locked, leaving employees to protest outside.

The original plan of the Trump-Musk duo for the USAID involves shutting it down, a position previously stated by the Tesla foun-



der. "What we have is just a ball of worms. You have got to basically get rid of the whole thing. It's beyond repair," Mr. Musk was quoted as saying.

The next best outcome would be the absorption of the USAID into the U.S. State Department – a move driven by Secretary of State Marco Rubio's takeover of the agency's Acting Director role after accusing it of 'insubordination'.

Allegations galore To justify their actions, the trio has said the USAID's

functioning did not align with the President's 'America First' policy. A statement put out by

the White House has criticised the agency's \$1.5 million grant to an LGBTQ group in Serbia and \$2.5 million assistance to an electric vehicle manufacturer in Vietnam. Separately, Mr. Trump

has levelled allegations of corruption against the USAID. He also accused the USAID of shipping \$50 million worth of condoms to Gaza where they were being repurposed as bombs. A Guardian fact-check report found that the U.S. did not ship contraceptives anywhere in West Asia except for Jordan.

However, the fact of the matter is that the U.S. remains the largest contributor of the foreign aid, despite that amount not being the highest in terms of the fraction of a country's annual budget (0.6% of \$6.75 trillion). The USAID is the primary source of that assistance. Of the \$68 billion spent by the country on international aid in 2023, the USAID accounted for \$40 billion.

The agency has operations in 130 countries. It takes care of the education of schoolgirls in Talibanruled Afghanistan while monitoring the Ebola outbreak in Uganda. It is also responsible for PEPFAR, an HIV/AIDS control programme that began under President George W. Bush in 2003 and is credited with saving more than 20 million lives in Africa.

Of late, the agency's primary focus has been Ukraine where it buys produce from farmers and sells it in other parts of the world; it also provides prosthetic limbs to soldiers. It boasts a famine

prevention programme that can predict crises in regions. In India, the agency works in areas such as health, education, sanitation and environment.

Soft power

The USAID was established in 1961 by Democratic President John F. Kennedy during the Cold War era to counter Russian influence. While it functioned under the State Department initially, Congress made it an independent agency in 1998. Hence, experts say, the power to dissolve the USAID wrests Congress.

The U.S. has benefited from this independent stature for it could maintain bridges with non-friendly nations such as Iran and North Korea, where the agency undertook humanitarian work. However, the public in the U.S., mainly Republicans, have always sided with slashing foreign spending.

As Mr. Musk and Mr. Trump chip away at the USAID with the acumen of two businessmen, 'cutting costs and trimming the flab', experts say China will step in to fill the void left by the agency. But China's priority has so far been 'visible programmes', or infrastructure projects it undertakes in the form of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). These can never supplant the USAID.

Sadly, the price for the Trump administration's domestic interests end up being paid by the deprived people across the globe.

WASHINGTON

Trump revokes Biden's security clearance in a set of new orders



President Donald Trump on Friday revoked his predecessor Joe Biden's security clearance in a blizzard of new orders. "There is no need for Joe Biden to continue receiving access to classified information," Mr. Trump said on his Truth Social network. "JOE, YOU'RE FIRED," he added in all caps. AFP

VANCOUVER

Trump's talk of making Canada a U.S. State 'a real thing': Trudeau



REUTERS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Friday said President Donald Trump's talk of making Canada the 51st U.S. State is "a real thing" and is linked to the country's rich natural resources. "They're very aware of our resources, of what we have and they very much want to be able to benefit from those," Mr. Trudeau reportedly said. AP

BERLIN

German Chancellor slams Trump's demand for Ukrainian rare earths



REUTERS

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz slammed as "selfish and self-serving" Donald Trump's demands for Ukrainian rare earths in exchange for U.S. military aid, in an interview on Saturday. "Ukraine is under attack and we are helping it, without asking to be paid in return. This should be everyone's position," Mr. Scholz said. AFP

BEIRUT

Lebanon PM Nawaf Salam names new government, vows 'reform'



Lebanon has formed on Saturday its first full-fledged government since 2022, led by Prime Minister Nawaf Salam. The 24-member Cabinet, evenly split between Christian and Muslim sects, was formed after weeks of negotiations. Mr. Salam aims to implement financial reforms and oversee post-war reconstruction. AFP

Trump signs order to cut funding for South Africa

Reuters WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order to cut U.S. financial assistance to South Africa, the White House said on Friday, citing disapproval of its land policy and of its genocide case at the International Court of Justice against Washington's ally Israel.

The United States allocated nearly \$440 million in assistance to South Africa in 2023, the most recent government data

South Africa's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday the Executive Order "lacks factual accuracy and fails to recognise South Africa's profound and painful history of colonialism and apartheid".

The White House said Washington will also formulate a plan to resettle white South African farmers and their families as re-

Mr. Trump had earlier said that "South Africa is confiscating land".

Judge orders temporary halt to dismantling USAID

Judge Carl Nichols blocks the Trump administration from placing USAID workers on leave; some workers abroad had been cut off from govt. communication systems needed for emergencies

Associated Press WASHINGTON

federal judge on Friday dealt President Donald Trump and billionaire ally Elon Musk their first big setback in their dismantling of the U.S. Agency for Develop-International ment, ordering a temporary halt to plans to pull thousands of agency staffers off the job. U.S. District Judge Carl

Nichols, a Trump appointee, also agreed to block an order that would have given the thousands of overseas USAID workers the administration wanted to place on abrupt administrative leave just 30 days to move families and households back to the U.S. on government expense.

Both moves would have exposed the U.S. workers and their spouses and children to unwarranted risk and expense, the judge



Shaky ground: Tributes placed beneath the covered seal of the USAID at its headquarters in Washington DC on Friday. AFP

Judge Nichols pointed to accounts from workers abroad that the Trump administration, in its rush to shut down the agency and its programmes abroad, had cut some workers off from government emails and other communication systems they needed to reach the U.S. government in case of a health or safety emergency.

It was reported earlier that USAID contractors in the West Asia and elsewhere had found even "panic button" apps wiped off their mobile phones or disabled when the administration abruptly loughed them.

"Administrative leave in Syria is not the same as administrative leave in Bethesda," the judge said in his order Friday night. In agreeing to stop the

30-day deadline given to USAID staffers to return home at government expense, judge Nichols cited statements from agency employees who had no home to go to in the U.S. after decades abroad, who faced pulling children with special needs out of school midyear, and had other difficulties.

The judge also ordered USAID staffers already placed on leave by the administration Trump reinstated.

But he declined a request from two federal employee associations to grant a temporary block on a Trump administration funding freeze that has shut down the six-decadeold agency and its work, pending more hearings on the workers' lawsuit.

Judge Nichols stressed in the hearing earlier Friday on the request to pause the Trump administration's actions that his order was not a decision on the employees' request to roll back the administration's swiftly moving destruction of the agency.

Hamas frees 3 more Israeli hostages under Gaza truce

Associated Press DEIR AL-BALAH

Hamas-led militants released three gaunt, fraillooking Israeli hostages on Saturday, and Israel freed 183 Palestinian prisoners as part of a fragile agreement that has paused the war in the Gaza Strip. The hostages' emaciat-

ed condition and scenes of Hamas forcing them to speak in a staged release ceremony sparked outrage in Israel and could increase the pressure on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to extend the ceasefire beyond its current sixweek phase.

Mr. Netanyahu has previously signalled he would resume the war, even if that meant leaving dozens of remaining hostages in Hamas captivity.

Before a crowd of hundreds, armed Hamas fighters led Eli Sharabi, 52, Ohad Ben Ami, 56, and Or Levy, 34, onto a stage to make public statements before handing them over to the Red Cross.

The three civilian men were among about 250 pe-



Israeli captives Ohad Ben Ami, Eli Sharabi and Or Levy, who have been held hostage by Hamas, before being released on Saturday. AP

ople abducted during the Hamas-led attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, that sparked the war. They appeared in much poorer physical condition than the previous 18 hostages released during the ceasefire that began January 19.

"Israel views Hamas's repeated violations with great severity, and the condition of the three hostages who were released this morning with even greater severity," said Gal Hirsch, the Israeli Prime Minister's coordinator for hostages. "We will not remain silent about this. A message has been passed on to the mediators, and action will be taken accordingly."

Israeli Opposition leader Yair Lapid said the "difficult scenes" were reason to extend the truce and bring home the remaining hostages.

In an apparent response to concerns over the released hostages' health, Hamas's military wing, the Qassam Brigades, claimed it had "made efforts to preserve their lives despite the [Israeli] bombardment".

Many Palestinians released from Israeli jails during the ceasefire have also appeared gaunt and pale, and have alleged abuses and mistreatment in Israeli custody.

Iran's Khamenei meets top Hamas leaders in Tehran

Reuters **DUBAI**

Iran's Supreme Leader

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei met with acting Hamas leader Khalil al-Hayya and two other leaders of the Palestinian group in Tehran on Saturday, Iranian state TV reported.

"You defeated the Zionist regime, which was in fact America's defeat," Mr. Khamenei, whose country supports Hamas in its war with Israel, told the Palestinian delegation.

Iranian TV said the Pal-

estinian leaders were in Tehran to congratulate Mr. Khamenei on the anniversary of the 1979 Iranian revolution.

The delegation, which also included Mohammad Darwish, head of Hamas's leadership council, and top Hamas official Nizar Awadallah, presented Mr. Khamenei a report on the current situation in Gaza and the West Bank.

Mr. Khamenei added that the U.S. threats against Iran "have no effect on the mindset of our nation," the Iranian media said.

Rwandan, Congolese leaders meet over eastern DRC conflict, call for ceasefire

Agence France-Presse BUKAVU

Rwandan President Paul Kagame and his Congolese counterpart Felix Tshisekedi joined a summit in Tanzania on Saturday where regional leaders called for an "immediate ceasefire" in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Rwanda-backed M23 armed group has rapidly seized swathes of territory in the mineral-rich eastern Democratic Republic of Congo in an offensive that has left thousands dead and displaced vast numbers.



Leaders before attending the Extraordinary Joint Regional Summit at the State House in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. AFP

The group took the strategic city of Goma, capital of North Kivu province, last week and is pushing into neighbouring South Kivu in the latest episode of decades-long turmoil in

the region. Mr. Kagame took part in person at the summit in the Tanzanian city of Dar es Salaam that brought toof the East African Community (EAC) and 16-member South African Development Community (SADC). Mr. Tshisekedi appeared via video call. "We call on all parties to

gether the eight countries

actualise the ceasefire, and specifically on the M23 to halt further advancement and the armed forces of DRC to cease all retaliatory measures," said Kenyan President William Ruto, current chair of the EAC.

The Presidents of Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe were among those present when the summit began.

Three Baltic states disconnect from Soviet-era power grid

Associated Press VILNIUS

The flow of electricity between the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and Russia was officially severed on Saturday morning after officials switched off the Soviet-era grid's transmission lines and prepared to join the rest of Europe on Sunday.

This came more than three decades after the collapse of the Soviet Union, ending the Baltics' final ties to oil- and gas-rich Russia. For the three countries, as well as the rest of Europe, the move was steeped in geopolitical and symbolic significance.

"The Baltic energy system is finally in our hands, we are in full control," Lithuania Energy Minister Žygimantas Vaičiūnas told reporters.

For 24 hours after detaching from the Soviet-era grid, the Baltic Power System will operate independently. If all goes as planned, the power system will merge with the European energy networks on Sunday afternoon.

आर्मर्ड व्हीकल्स निगम लिमिटेड भारत सरकार का उद्यम



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Immovable properties situated in Peramangalam, Kaiparambu, Kanippayur, Tholur and Choondal Villages in Thrissur district attached by Income Tax Department will be sold in public auction through E-auction on MSTC platform at 11 A.M on 27th February 2025. Auction notices of the 7 properties, terms and conditions and photos and videos of properties can be viewed on www.mstcindia.co.in. Scan QR code for direct access to link. Intending bidders may please register with www.mstcecommerce.com by remitting one time registration (non refundable) charges of Rs. 1000/- + GST.



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A ND-NDE

THE HINDU

ALL GOOD

Batting coach Kotak not fretting over India losing early wickets



K.R. DEEPAK

Batting coach Sitanshu Kotak did not give too much importance to India losing wickets early in Nagpur. "Gill, Shreyas and Axar batted really well. You are going to lose some wickets, whether it's openers or middle-order. As a batting unit or as a team, there were a lot of positives — the way we batted, the way we showed our intent."

SOAKING IT IN

Rohit and Kohli get the eyeballs at the Barabati Stadium



Hosting an international game after nearly three years, the Barabati Stadium wore a festive look despite the heavy security deployment on the eve of the second ODI. Even though Hardik Pandya, Shreyas Iyer and Harshit Rana skipped practice, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's presence made the day for nearly 20000 fans.

LONE RANGER

Mathews delays the inevitable as Aussies scent victory



Angelo Mathews's gutsy 76 helped Sri Lanka avoid an innings defeat in the second Test in Galle but Australia remained on course for a 2-0 series sweep. The scores: Sri Lanka 257 & 211/8 in 62.1 overs (Mathews 76, Kusal 48 batting; Kuhnemann 4/52) vs Australia 414 in 106.4 overs (Carey 156, Smith 131; Jayasuriya 5/151).

MAIDEN CENTURY

Phillips and Santner lead NZ to 78-run win over Pakistan



Glenn Phillips cracked a maiden ODI century and Mitchell Santner scalped three to help New Zealand overpower Pakistan by 78 runs in the opening match of a tri-nations series in Lahore on Saturday. The scores: New Zealand 330/6 in 50 overs (Phillips 106 n.o.. Mitchell 81, Williamson 58) bt Pakistan 252 in 47.5 overs (Fakhar 84).

Spotlight on Rohit, Kohli as India targets series victory

It will be interesting to see whom the latter replaces, especially after Shreyas' excellent performance in Nagpur; England must adapt to the traditionally high-scoring venue quickly to take it to a decider

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Y.B. Sarangi CUTTACK

aptain Rohit Sharma's dip in form across formats and Virat Kohli's recovery from a knee issue will be in the spotlight as India, after taking a 1-0 lead in the Orange City, will seek to win the second One-Day International (ODI) and seal the threematch series against England in the Silver City on Sunday.

The host will be keen to see the two stalwarts shine again, like they have done at the Barabati Stadium here in the past, ahead of fast-approaching Champions Trophy.

Kohli, who also went through a lean phase in competitions, red-ball looked fit to take the field. It will be interesting to see whom he replaces, especially after Shreyas Iyer's excellent performance in the first ODI. India urgently needs to decide its pace combination for the ICC event. As Jasprit Bumrah's return is still in doubt and Mohammed Shami's



Testing times: Kohli and Rohit will be eager to come good and silence the critics. K.R. DEEPAK

search for his old magic continues, debutant Harshit Rana's resilient threewicket haul in the series opener must have acted as a soothing balm for the host. While Hardik Pandya provides the much-needed balance, left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh, who last played an ODI in August, is waiting for some game

time. Fine performances of Shubman Gill, Shreyas and Axar Patel with the bat and the effectiveness of the Indian spin trio Axar, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja has pleased the home think-tank as much as it thrilled the spectators in Nagpur. T20I series hero Varun Chakravarthy is waiting to prove himself after getting a maiden ODI call-up.

Here, too, fans' enthu-

siasm knows no bounds evident from the sleepless night they spent to buy tickets and filled the stands in large numbers for the Indian team's practice on the match eve - as international cricket returns to the 67year-old venue, still awaiting modernisation, after nearly three years and an ODI after five years.

Instead of travelling to Cuttack for match-eve nets,

England players chose to take a break and involve in a game golf in Bhubaneswar. The visitor must adapt to the traditionally highscoring venue quickly.

While contributions of openers Phil Salt and Ben Duckett, skipper Jos Buttler and Jacob Bethell indicated a good beginning in Nagpur, the below-par showing of Joe Root and Harry Brook was disappointing.

England will look to overcome India's spin challenge in the middle overs and expect its own tweakers, including the crafty Adil Rashid, Liam Livingstone and Bethell, to be impactful.

With pace ace Jofra Archer displaying good form, England will hope its other speedsters, such as Sagib Mahmood and Brydon Carsen, to be more productive.

With the series on the line, England will push to take it to the decider.

The teams (from): India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill (vice-capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakaravarthy. England: Jos Buttler (Capt.), Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Ben Duckett, Jamie Overton, Jamie Smith, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Sagib Mahmood, Phil Salt

Match officials: Umpires: Chris Brown & J. Madanagopal; Third umpire: Sharfuddoula Saikat: Match referee: Javagal Srinath. Match starts at 1.30 p.m.

(wk), Mark Wood.

Not concerned about skipper's form: Kotak

Y.B. Sarangi

Batting coach Sitanshu Kotak was not concerned about captain Rohit Sharma's form in ODI cricket ahead of India's second match against England at the Barabati Stadium, here on Sunday.

While downplaying Rohit's poor form in red-ball cricket, Kotak cited the skipper's statistics in the 50-over format to underline his point.

"I don't think there is any problem. In the last three one-dayers (before the series opener in Nagpur where he scored two), Rohit made 56, 64 and 35 (against Sri Lanka), averaging 50-plus. We are talking about a player who has got 31 ODI hundreds. When he keeps scoring runs in backto-back matches, nobody asks 'When will he fail?" said Kotak on Saturday.

"I don't think I would be worried about their [Rohit



Rahul will have a big role to play with the bat. K.R. DEEPAK

and Virat Kohli] form. Australia Test series – that was a tough time. About the one-dayers, the way he batted in the last three onedays before the first match (in Nagpur), he has always been scoring runs. So, not really so much concern about that."

Kohli fit

On Kohli who missed the first match due to a knee issue, Kotak said: "He is fit. He is good to go. He is here and training with us".





Zipping to victory: Animesh wins the men's 100m while Sudeshna does the same in the women's event and Sawan proudly holds his men's 10,000m gold. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Animesh and Sudeshna emerge as the fastest athletes

NATIONAL GAMES

Stan Rayan **DEHRADUN**

Odisha's Animesh Kujur emerged as the men's 100m winner but not before some drama in the 38th National Games at the Ganga Stadium here on Saturday.

When the results came up on the giant screen a few seconds later after the race, it showed Services' Manikanta Hoblidhar as the fastest man.

There had been some confusion somewhere and some 20 minutes later, during the medal ceremony, things became clear and Kujur returned wearing the precious gold me-

Was he shocked when Manikanta was shown as the winner first?

"No, I knew I came first. I didn't have any doubt. My expectation was to break the national record, but it's okay," said Odisha's Kujur who clocked 10.28s which equalled Amlan Borgohain's Games record set in 2022. Borgohain took the bronze, while Manikanta went without a medal, tak-

ing the fifth spot in 10.46. Kujur, not a strong starter, made up nicely towards the finish.

"My coach told me, don't panic even if you don't get a good start, you have a good top-end. Just believe that you're going to do good," said Kujur who is coached by Englishman Martin Owens at the Reliance Foundation's Odisha centre.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra's Sudeshna Shivankar, last year's Khelo India University Games champion, surprised top names like R. Giridharani and Srabani Nanda to emerge as the fastest woman here in 11.76s.

The results: Athletics: Men: 100m: 1. Animesh Kujur (Odi) 10.28s EMR, 2. Pranav Gurav (Mah) 10.32, 3. Amlan Borgohain (Asm) 10.43. **1500m:** 1. Yoonus

Shah (Ser) 3:46.48s, 2. Ritesh Ohre (MP) 3:46.64, 3. Ram Singh (Utk) 3:50.24. 10,000m: 1. Sawan Barwal (HP) 28:49.93s, 2. Kiran Matre (Mah) 29:04.76, 3. Vinod Singh (MP) 29:43.60. Long jump: 1. Shahnavaz Khan (UP) 7.70m, 2. V. Sriram (TN) 7.59, 3. C.V. Anurag (Ker) 7.56. **Discus throw:** 1 Gagandeep Singh (Ser) 55.01m, 2. Nirbhay Singh (Har) 54.07, 3. Alex P. Thankachan (Ker) 52.79. Women: 100m: 1. Sudeshna

Giridharani (TN) 11.88. 1500m: 1. K.M. Chanda (Del) 4:17.74s, 2. K.M. Deeksha (MP) 4:21.92, 3. Amandeep Kaur (Pun) 4:22.75. 10,000m: 1. Sanjivani Jadhav (Mah) 33:33.47s, 2. Ankita (Utk) 34:31.03, 3. Soniya (Utk) 35:45.19. Pole vault: 1. Pavithra Venkatesh (TN) 3.95m, 2. Baranica Elangovan (TN) 3.90, 3. Mariya Jaison (Ker) 3.90. Discus throw: Seema (Har) 52.70s, 2. Bhavana Yadav (Del) 51.82, 3. Amanat Kamboj (Pun) 49.94

Shiyankar (Mah) 11.76s, 2. Nithya

Gandhe (Tel) 11.79, 3. R.

Tennis: Men: Doubles: Semifinals: Prajwal Dev & Nikki Poonacha (Kar) bt Shivank Bhatnagar & Sarthak Suden (Del) 6-3, 6-0; Ishaque Eqbal & Faisal Qamar (Ser) bt Abhinav Sanjeev & Manish Sureshkumar (TN) 6-1

Nominees for Club/State Team of the Year



2024 was a landmark year for Indian sports with a host of achievements across several disciplines. The annual Sportstar Aces Awards seek to honour the trailblazers











The awards

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Teichmann ends Maaya's dream run in the semifinal

MUMBAI OPEN WTA 125

Tarun Shastry MUMBAI

A huge cry of 'vamos' echoed around the court while the fans, who had gathered to rally behind 15year-old Maaya Rajeshwaran, looked on in disbelief. Soon, the silence was broken by a big round of applause.

Switzerland's Jil Teichmann defeated India's rising star 6-3, 6-1 to seal her spot in the summit clash of the L&T Mumbai Open WTA 125 at the Cricket Club of India here on Saturday.

The 27-year-old Swiss left-hander got off to a quick start and put Maaya on the defensive.

She broke serve in the second game and dominated with aggressive net play and measured drop shots.

Flashes of brilliance

The Indian teen displayed flashes of brilliance, which included a stunning backhand down the line winner. However, she couldn't keep pace.

Teichmann, a former World No. 21, jumped to a 4-0 lead and held off Maaya, who fought back bravely. She sealed the first set

with a blistering forehand

In the second set, it was



Marching on: Teichmann proved too strong for Maaya. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

one-way traffic as errors crept into Maaya's game and the number five seed had no trouble in closing it

It was a campaign to remember for Maaya, who entered the tournament in the qualifiers after receiv-

ing a wild card. Thanks to her performances this week, she will

making her the youngest Indian to earn a WTA ranking. Other results:

break into the top 700,

Semifinals: Singles:

Mananchaya Sawangkaew (Tha) bt Rebecca Marino (Can) 6-2, 6-2 Doubles: Amina Anshba & Elena Pridankina bt Camilla Rosatello (Ita) & Nicole Fossa Huergo (Ita) 4-6, 6-3, [10-3].

Sport



Shubham wins the PGTI **Oualifying School tourney**

Shubham Narain beat Anant Singh Ahlawat on the third play-off 13th hole to emerge the champion, after the duo had tied 16-under 268 in the Tata Steel PGTI Qualifying School at the Golmuri Golf Course, Jamshedpur, on Saturday.

Bayern Munich rides on Harry Kane's brace

Harry Kane scored two penalties as Bayern Munich beat Werder Bremen 3-0 on Friday, while Bayer Leverkusen was held goalless by Wolfisburg on Saturday in the Bundesliga.

The results: Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 1 (Brandt 81) lost to Stuttgart 2 (Anton 50-og, Chabot 61); Hoffenheim 0 lost to Union Berlin 4 (Hollerbach 24, 87, Liubicic 61, Ilic 73); Freiburg 1 (Grifo 30) bt Heidenheim 0; Wolfsburg 0 drew with Bayer Leverkusen 0; Mainz 0 drew with Augsburg 0. LaLiga: Celta Vigo 3 (Beltran 63, Rodriguez 65, Swedberg 87) bt Real Betis 2 (Antony 10, Llorente 22).

Serie A: Verona 0 lost to Atalanta 5 (Retegui 21, 25, 44, 56, Ederson 37).

On Friday: Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 3 (Kane 56-pen, 90+7-pen, Sane 82) bt Werder Bremen 0.

Serie A: Como 1 (Assane Diao 45) lost to Juventus 2 (Kolo

LaLiga: Rayo Vallecano 1 (Alvaro Garcia 71) bt Real Valladolid

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: Quarterfinals, JioCinema, 9.30 a.m. Sri Lanka vs Australia: 2nd Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 a.m.

India vs England: 2nd ODI, Star Sports 2 & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m. **Zimbabwe vs Ireland**: Only Test, day 4, FanCode, 1.30 p.m. **Serie A**: gxr.world, 5, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday) **LaLiga**: gxr.world, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday) ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 & 10 p.m.

Mulani, Kotian bail Mumbai out on roller-coaster day

The two add 165 for the eighth wicket to lift the defending champion from 113 for seven as the Eden Gardens track eases out: Survakumar falls early while Rahane & Dube fail to convert starts

RANJI TROPHY

Sahil Mathur KOLKATA

umbai made a roaring comeback after Haryana flattened its top order in a roller-coaster day one of the Ranji Trophy quarterfinals here at the Eden Gardens on Saturday.

Haryana reduced Mumbai to 113 for seven inside 30 overs before Shams Mulani and Tanush Kotian made use of better batting conditions to stitch a 165run stand to restore parity.

Despite the situation, both batters played their shots. Kotian placed a backfoot punch towards square to get his first boundary while Mulani checked an upper cut early into his innings.

Flat conditions nullified Jayant Yadav and Nishant Sindhu's spin threat and the pacers were forced to put more effort on the ball.

After batting nearly two sessions, Mulani got a leading edge straight back to Jayant five minutes before stumps, missing his century by nine runs. Mumbai finished at 278 for eight.

Earlier, a 9 a.m. start gave the Haryana pacers a home-like feel with seam movement on offer as Anshul Kamboj uprooted Ayush Mhatre's middle stump off the first ball after Ajinkya Rahane opted to bat. Twenty-six minutes later, Sumit Kumar's inswin-



Plucky knock: Mulani fell nine short of a hundred on stroke of stumps. DEBASISH BHADURI

ger crashed into the off stump of Akash Anand, who shouldered arms being set up by the outswingers. Kamboj then cleaned up Siddhesh Lad and Sumit cut short Suryakumar Yadav's stay at the crease with a nip-backer, disturbing the stumps for the fourth time in the morn-

ing. With Mumbai 25 for four, Shivam Dube showed attacking intent in his 32ball stay, hitting four fours and a six to score 28. However, he walked back dejectedly after Ajit Chahal induced an edge straight to the second slip placed wide. Rahane played with soft hands, showcasing some good-looking strokes down the ground before getting a faint edge off Kamboj. Shardul Thakur's dismissal early in the second session brought Mulani and Kotian together, who then pulled the defending champion out of the rubble.

The scores: Mumbai — 1st innings: Ayush Mhatre b Kamboj 0, Akash Anand b Sumit 10, Siddhesh Lad b Kamboj 4, Ajinkya Rahane c Rohit b Kamboj 31, Suryakumar Yadav b Sumit 9, Shivam Dube c Yashvardhan b Chahal 28, Shams Mulani c & b Jayant 91, Shardul Thakur c & b Thakral 15, Tanush Kotian (batting) 85, Mohit Avasthi (batting) 0; Extras (lb-1, nb-2, w-2): 5; Total (for eight wkts. in 81

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-14, 3-14, 4-25, 5-65, 6-94, 7-113, 8-278.

Haryana bowling: Kamboj 18-3-58-3, Sumit 13-1-57-2, Thakral 18-1-59-1, Chahal 5-1-21-1, Jayant 11-2-32-1, Sindhu 16-1-50-0.

RANJI TROPHY QUARTERFINALS SCORES (DAY 1)

At Pune: Jammu & Kashmir 228/8 in 86 overs (Kanhaiya Wadhawan 48, Lone Nasir 44, M.D. Nidheesh 5/56) vs. Kerala. Toss: Kerala

At Nagpur: Vidarbha 264/6 in 89 overs (Danish Malewar 75, Karun Nair 100 batting) vs. Tamil Nadu. Toss: Vidarbha

At Kolkata: Mumbai 278/8 in 81 overs (Shams Mulani 91, Tanush Kotian 85 batting) vs. Haryana. Toss: Mumbai

At Rajkot: Saurashtra 216 in 72.1 overs (Chirag Jani 69, Chintan Gaja 4/48) vs. Gujarat 21/0 in five overs. Toss: Gujarat



One step away: Ymer came through in a long-drawn battle. R. RAGU

Ymer holds off top-seed Harris, to meet Jacquet in final

CHENNAI OPEN

S. Prasanna Venkatesan CHENNAI

Sweden's Elias Ymer emerged a hair's breadth better than the top-seeded Briton Billy Harris, winning two tie-breaks, in a semifinal match that lasted around two-and-a-half hours in the Chennai Open ATP Challenger at the SDAT tennis stadium here on Saturday.

Ymer won 7-6(5), 7-6(2). It was a match where both served well and none was able to break serve. Ymer hit ten aces to Harris' four, including the one he hit to secure the first set and let out a guttural yell. Ymer was especially hyped for it since Harris had just saved a set point.

Ymer resorted to keeping Harris on the move to counter his heavy groundstrokes.

The real clincher was his ability to smartly place his winners - on the corners and margins.

It also helped that he had an early lead in the tiebreaks: 2-0 in the first and 3-0 in the second.

It didn't help Harris that he erred more than his opponent. For instance, he double-faulted and made a couple of unforced errors to concede the 3-0 lead in the second tie-break.

In the first semifinal. Frenchman Kyrian Jacquet claimed a relatively easier 6-4, 6-1 win over Czech Dalibor Svrcina.

"I think he had a problem with the heat. I was struggling (with the heat) too, but I saw him struggling more than me. I'm really happy about this win. It's really good to be in a final again," said Jacquet, who'd last made it to a Challenger final in July,

The Indian pair of Ramkumar Ramanathan and Saketh Myneni lost 4-6, 4-6 to the Japanese duo Shintaro Mochizuki and Kaito Uesugi in the doubles final.

The results: Singles (semifinals): Elias Ymer (Swe) bt

Billy Harris (GBr) 7-6, 7-6; Kyrian Jacquet (Fra) bt Dalibor Svrcina

Doubles (final): Shintaro Mochizuki and Kaito Uesugi bt Saketh Myneni and Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-4, 6-4.

SNAPSHOTS

Chennaiyin FC blanks East Bengal

KOLKATA: Chennaiyin FC returned to winning ways after a gap of seven matches as it outplayed home favourite East Bengal FC 3-0 in an ISL fixture at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Saturday. The results: East Bengal 0 lost to Chennaiyin 3 (Nishu Kumar 13-og, Jordan Gil 21, Chima

At Hvderabad: Hvderabad 3 (Paulista 24, Ramhlunchhunga 45+1, Sunny 90+6) bt Mohammedan 1 (Chothe 78).

Chukwu 90+9).

Delhi Dribblers get the better of Chennai Heat

NEW DELHI: James Montgomery came up with an electrifying performance to help Delhi Dribblers to a 90-80 victory over Chennai Heat in the INBL Pro basketball league at the Thyagaraj Indoor Stadium on Saturday.

Montgomery not only scored 21 points, but had



Chennaiyin players celebrate. PTI

14 rebounds and seven assists, as the team pulled ahead in the fourth quarter, after leading 54-51.

There was a spurt of scoring early in the fourth quarter when Delhi added 10 points without conceding one in the first two minutes.

It was the first defeat in three matches for Chennai, while it was the second victory in three matches for Delhi. Alexander Mudronja and Daniel Poelsma along with Sahil helped Delhi stay ahead right through the

match with their consistent scoring. Arvind Kumar top-scored for the Chennai team with

The result: Delhi Dribblers 90 (Alexander Mudronja 22, James Montgomery 21. Daniel Poelsma 21. Sahil 15) bt Chennai Heat 80 (Arvind Kumar 20, Tad Dufelmeier 14, Keith Kiner 14, Sejin Mathew 10, Jack Stanwix 10)

Wildcards for Mukund, Ramkumar and Karan

S. Mukund, Ramkumar Ramanthan and Karan Singh have been given the main draw wild cards for the \$100,000 Delhi Open Challenger tennis tournament to be played at the DLTA Complex from Monday.

Owing to a high cut-off, it was hard for the Indian players to get into the qualifying event, except for Aryan Shah who made it as an alternate. The qualifying wild cards were given to Sidharth Rawat, Chirag Duhan, Aditya

Aggarwal. In doubles, only Niki Poonacha and Courtney Lock of Zimbabwe could get a direct entry, and the duo was seeded second. Siddhant Banthia and Parikshit Somani got in with protected ranking. The doubles wild cards were given to the pairs of S.D. Prajwal Dev and Sai Karteek Reddy, and Ramkumar and Karan. The singles qualifying event will be played from

Govila and Parth

Manas defeats fifth seed Neuchrist, makes semifinals

Sunday.

Qualifier Manas Dhamne defeated fifth seed Maximilian Neuchrist of Austria 6-7(5), 6-3, [10-8] in the quarterfinals of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Monastir, Tunisia.

In the semifinals, Manas will play top seed Alberto Campos of Spain.

Lake Michigan fancied for Crown Treasure Plate

HYDERABAD: The three year old colt Lake Michigan, who finished third in his last start, should make amends in the Crown Treasure Plate, the chief event of the Sunday's (Feb. 9) races.

SURYAPET PLATE (1,800m), 4y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 1-10 p.m: 1. Take A Breath (1) H.M. Akshay 60, 2. Wandring Warrior (2) Akshay K 60, 3. Hoping King (4) Mohit 59, 4. Shubrak (6) A.A. Vikrant 56.5, 5. Hoping Wind (3) Kuldeep Jr. 56, 6. Tupac (5) R.S. Bhati 55.5 and 7. Silver Arrow (7) P.

1. WANDRING WARRIOR, 2. SILVER

ARROW, 3. TAKE A BREATH. **2** CROWN TREASURE PLATE (1,600m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 1-40.: 1. Corte Madera (7) Afroz K 56, 2. Lake Michigan (8) Akshay K 56, 3. Ashwa Changez (6) Gaurav 54.5, 4. Blue Candy (2) Md. Ekram 54.5, 5. La Fleuriere (5) Abhay 54.5, 6. Mystical Dawn (1) Ashad Asbar 54.5, 7 Screenshot (3) Md. Ismail 54.5 and 1. LAKE MICHIGAN, 2. MYSTICAL

DAWN, 3. CORTE MADERA. **3** CIRCAR CUP (Div. II) (1,400m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2-15: 1. Quality Warrior (9) Shivansh 60, 2. Palash (7) Mohit 58.5, 3. Bellingham (8) B.R. Kumar 56.5, 4. Sargent (3) H.M. Akshay 55.5. 5. Amboseli (1) Mukesh 52, 6 Rani Ruckus (2) Md. Ismail 52, 7. Una Paloma Blanca (5) Surya Prakash 51.5, 8. Club Queen (10) Md. Ekram 51, 9. Dhanadeepa (6) B. Nikhil 51 and 10. Splendour On Grass (4) P. Sai K 50.5. QUALITY WARRIOR.

1. BELLINGHAM, 2. PALASH, 3.

NARAYANPET PLATE (Div. I) (1.200m) 6 v o c - 1 (1,200m), 6-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65, 2-45: 1. Runlikethewind (7) Shivansh 61, 2. Dyanoosh (4) Akshay K 60.5, 3. Kings Best (6) P. Sai K 59, 4. Winning Attitude (5) Afroz K 58, 5. Challenger (8) Md. Ekdram 57.5, 6. Blissful (2) R.S. Jodha 56.5, 7. Lady Danger (9) Mukesh 56.5, 8. Sopranos (3) P. Ajeeth K 56.5, 9. Briar Ridge (12) Kuldeep Sr. 54, 10. Mr. Perfect (10) R.S. Bhati 54, 11. Sucker Punch (11) Surya Prakash 53 and 12. Top In Class (1) Mohit 53. WINNING ATTITUDE, 2. DY

ANOOSH, 3. CHALLENGER. FLIRTING VISION PLATE (1,400m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3-15: 1. Arm-

strong (5) Deepak 60, 2. Oliver's Mount (9) Md. Ekram 58, 3. Knight Crusader (2) Antony Raj 57.5, 4. Star Forever (10) G. Naresh 55, 5 Sangreal (6) P. Sai K 54.5, 6. N R I Ultrapower (1) Abhay 53.5, 7. Clara (7) Akshay K 53, 8. Annhilator (4) Kuldeep Sr. 52.5, 9. Catchme If You Can (3) Mukesh 52.5 and 10. Ariette

1. KNIGHT CRUSADER, 2. STAR FOREVER, 3. CLARA.

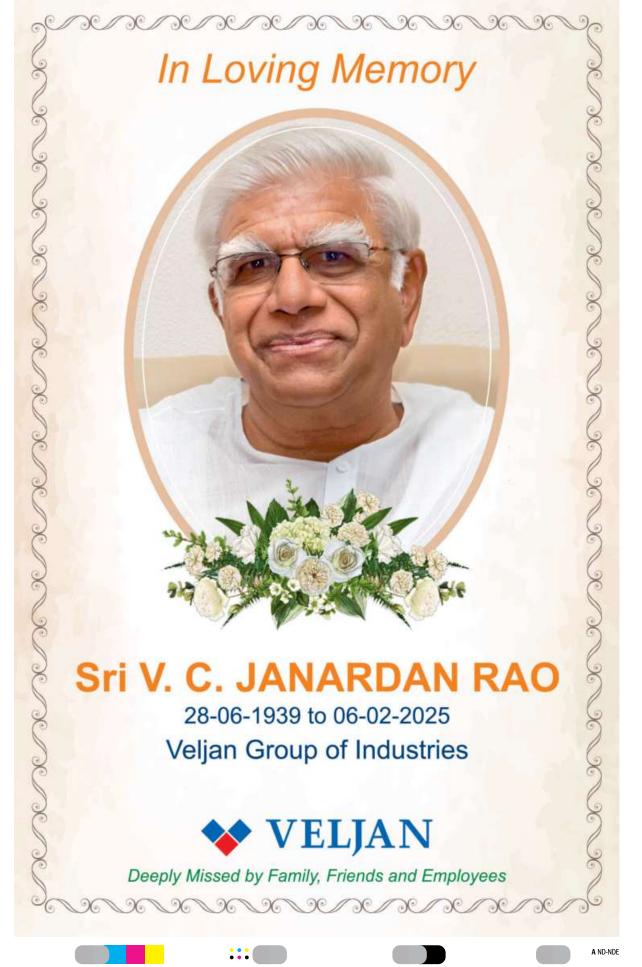
5 CIRCAR CUP (Div. I) (1,400m), 4-y-o and unward **5** 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3-45: 1. Shadow Of Light (5) Afroz K 60.5, 2. Petra Act (1) Mukesh 59, 3. Hawk Wing (2) R.S. Bhati 57, 4. Clarity (7) Gaurav 55.5, 5. Aos Si (9) B.R. Kumar 52, 6. Cherish The Lady (3) P. Sai K 52, 7. Exponent (6) Md. Ekram 51.5, 8. Battle On (10) G. Naresh 51, 9. Politics (4) B. Nikhil 51 and 10. Varaneek Gold (8) H.M. Akshay 51. 1. PETRA ACT, 2. HAWK WING, 3. CHERISH THE LADY.

NARAYANPET PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), 6-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4-15: 1. Amyra (10) Shivansh 60.5, 2. High Reward (1) R.S. Jodha 60, 3. Nucleus (7) Mohit 59, 4. First Class (4) Mukesh 57.5, 5. Only My Way (3)

B.R. Kumar 56.5, 7. Juramento (12) Uday Kiran 56.5, 8. Sweet Dancer (11) P. Ajeeth K 56, 9. Clefairy (5) P. Sai K 54, 10. Mark My Day (6) Md. Ekram 53, 11. Inderdhanush (9) Gaurav 52.5 and 12. Das (2) Surya Prakash 50. 1. CRIMSON ROSE, 2. CLEFAIRY, 3. FIRST CLASS.

ABERADER PLATE (Div. II) (1,100m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4-45: 1. Only The Brave (14) Shivansh 62, 2. Star Cruise (3) Kuldeep Sr. 61.5, 3. Swiss Girl (7) Akshay K 61, 4. Tiger Ruby (13) Uday Kiran 59, 5. Pancho (5) Mukesh 56.5, 6. D Battle (2) B.R. Kumar 55.5, 7. Muaser (1) P. Ajeeth K 55.5, 8. Glimmer Of Hope (11) Gaurav 54, 9. If You Like It (4) B. Nikhil 53.5, 10. Ilene (10) Abhay 53.5, 11. Grey Sky (8) Md. Ekram 53, 12. Hoping High (9) Mohit 52.5, 13. Iconic Star (12) Santosh Raj 52.5 and 14. Reining Queen (6) Surya Prakash 51.5.

1. SWISS GIRL, 2. PANCHO, 3. GLIM-MER OF HOPE. Day's Best : KNIGHT CRUSADER. JKT: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; Mini Jkt: (i) 2, 3, 4 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) 6, 7 & 8; Tanala:





Crowning glory: A worker puts together material that will go on to become the head section of a mechanical elephant structure.



Right texture:
Finishing touches are applied to the tail of a mechanical elephant next to a metal and cement framework.



Majestic creation:

The completed mechanical elephant being moved from a workshop before being offered to the Kombara Sreekrishna Swami Temple in Thrissur

Electric elephant breaks cover

<u>The Kombara temple in Thrissur of Kerala</u> has refrained from using live elephants in its rituals since 2015, citing exorbitant costs and suffering endured by captive elephants



Thulasi Kakka

he ancient Kombara Sreekrishna Swami Temple, located near Irinjalakuda in Thrissur district, recently witnessed a rare sight. While the temple was adorned with festive floral decorations and hosted a vibrant *Panchari melam* (traditional orchestra) with numerous artists, the star attraction, Kombara Kannan, was not a living elephant but a mechanical marvel.

elephant but a mechanical marvel.

Since 2015, the temple has refrained from using live elephants in its rituals and festivals due to the exorbitant costs and the suffering endured by captive elephants, which are chained and often made to take part in long and tiring processions. Ravi Namboothiri, the temple president, says, "In honour of our decision to never hire or own a live elephant for our temple rituals and festivals, we are absolutely thrilled to accept a mechanical elephant. All of God's creations deserve love and respect."

Standing about three metres tall and weighing 800 kg, Kombara Kannan was gifted to the temple by the People for the Ethical Treatment of

Animals (PETA) and sitarist Anoushka Shankar.
The mechanical elephant was crafted by
Prashanth Puthuvelil, an innovator from
Chalakudy, and his three partners. Their journey
began in 2018 when they built mechanical

elephants for expatriate Malayalis ahead of the Dubai Pooram festival. Since then, they have created over 46 elephants in various sizes, now found across Kerala, several other Indian States, and countries such as the U.S., Canada, Spain, and England. Currently, Prashanth is working on an African elephant model for Kenya

an African elephant model for Kenya.

These mechanical elephants, constructed using rubber, fibre, metal, mesh, foam, and steel, are powered by five motors. Powered by electricity, they mimic the natural movements of elephants – shaking their heads, swishing tails, flapping ears, and spraying water. Mounted on wheelbases, they can be easily manoeuvred during processions and rituals via remote control or even manually.

The installation of Kombara Kannan made headlines in Kerala, coinciding with reports of three human deaths caused by live elephants on a single day. Recent court interventions have also intensified scrutiny over the use of elephants in festivals. Animal rights activists have long highlighted the suffering of captive elephants used in festivals. Kerala's elephant-related death statistics are alarming: from 2012 to February 2023, wild elephants killed 202 people, while captive elephants caused 196 deaths between 2011 and 2023.



Fine touch: A worker paints the trunk of a mechanical elephant at a workshop in Chalakudy, Thrissur.

News in Frames







Art imitating life: The water spraying mechanism from a mechanical elephant's trunk gets a test run.



Alternative parade: Kombara Kannan is moved along on wheels during the ritual procession.



Decked up:
Kombara Kannan,
being adorned with
a nettipattam (a
traditional
caparison) before
being offered to the
temple.



Welcome ceremony: The mechanical elephant, in all its finery, is greeted with drumbeats and trumpet tunes at the Kombara temple.