



Scan for more information

**Hamara Sankalp
Viksit Bharat**

Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

India becoming world's manufacturing hub

Over 200 mobile manufacturing units in the country now as compared to two in 2014; India is the second largest mobile manufacturing country in the world



INDIA-MALDIVES HIGH-LEVEL CORE GROUP HOLDS FIRST MEETING

Maldives Govt pushes for withdrawal of Indian troops, sets March 15 deadline

Discussed mutually workable solution for continuing operation of aviation platforms for humanitarian aid: MEA

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

A DAY after Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu took an indirect jibe at India for "bullying", his government on Sunday set a March 15 deadline for India to withdraw its military personnel

from the country.

The deadline was announced by a senior official in the Muizzu government on a day the India-Maldives high-level core group held its first meeting in Male on Sunday.

"In this meeting, on behalf of President Muizzu, the Maldivian delegation proposed the re-



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu in Beijing on January 10. Reuters file

moval of Indian troops by March 15," Ahmed Nazim, policy director at the President's Office, told reporters, according to a Reuters report. "This date was proposed in the agenda by the government and specifically the President. These discussions are ongoing," he said.

Local media reports also quoted Nazim on a March 15 deadline. "Indian military personnel cannot stay in the Maldives. This is the policy of President Dr Mohamed Muizzu

Delhi AQI severe, restrictions back on cars and construction

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

THE AIR quality in Delhi turned 'severe' Sunday, prompting officials to bring back a ban on construction and on the running of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers.

Delhi's average AQI on Sunday was 447. Saturday's AQI was 399. According to officials at the India Meteorological Department, low wind speed and high moisture levels, which aid accumulation of pollutants,



A foggy Sunday morning in Delhi. Gajendra Yadav

contributed to this.

The Union government's Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), which has brought in the restrictions under phase III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), said in a statement that local pollution sources, including large-scale open burning, were also to blame.

Delhi has been gripped by cold conditions for two days.

The ban will cover construction and demolition activities, except for projects related to Railways, metro rail, airports,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Footfall down, Gulmarg businesses look to the skies — awaiting snow

BASHAARAT MASOOD
GULMARG, JANUARY 14

WITH SNOW eluding Gulmarg so far this winter, the slopes of the ski resort have remained lifeless and the tourist buzz usually felt there during this time of year has been absent.

"If Gulmarg is a movie, then the snow is the hero. When the hero is missing, the movie becomes a flop," said Waseem

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The ski resort has seen little snowfall this year. Shuaib Masoodi

Rahul yatra begins: In mandir season, Cong says BJP using Ram for votes

Manipur suffered due to BJP ideology, hatred... will restore peace, says Rahul



Rahul Gandhi in Manipur's Thoubal district on Sunday. AICC



Milind Deora with CM Eknath Shinde in Mumbai on Sunday

Deora joins Shinde Sena: 'Cong intent on opposing everything PM says, does'

ALOK DESHPANDE & ZEESHAN SHAIKH
MUMBAI, JANUARY 14

IN A setback to the Congress in Mumbai ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, former MP Milind Deora quit the party on Sunday and joined the Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
The loss, gain

CONGRESS HAS lost its only available candidate who could have contested the Mumbai South LS seat. The Shinde Sena gains a face with deep links in business circles and Delhi's political circuit.

MANOJ CG
IMPHAL, JANUARY 14

HOPING TO generate much-needed political momentum to take on the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections barely a couple of months away, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday began his second yatra in a little over a year, calling for a "harmonious and equitable" society as against what he said was the BJP's politics of "violence, hatred and monopoly".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNNY



Unlike the leader, no ally should take a walk.

Army to let Lt Cols who specialise in niche tech opt out of command posts

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

ARMY OFFICERS specialising in niche technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics and drones, among others, can now continue in the same domain on promotion to Colonel instead of

getting posted out for command assignments, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

According to sources, the Army is bringing in a new HR policy under which Lieutenant Colonels approved for promotion to the rank of Colonels can voluntarily continue in their field of expertise and not move for com-

mand appointments, which is the standard practice at present.

Only about 30-40 per cent of Lieutenant Colonels are approved for the rank of Colonel.

This will also be applicable for officers specialising in niche areas like space, information technology, nano technology,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Can a nylon shuttle match one made of feathers? IIT researchers may have answer

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, JANUARY 14

EVERY TIME Sanjay Mittal, 55, held a badminton shuttlecock made of feathers, all he thought of was the cruelty inflicted upon birds.

This got the IIT Kanpur aerospace engineering professor thinking. Could a nylon alternative replicate the flight pattern of a duck or goose feather shuttle

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE SCIENCE BEHIND BADMINTON SHUTTLES

SYNTHETIC SHUTTLECOCK

1. Shuttlecocks are traditionally made from duck feathers, but the nylon ones are more durable.

FEATHER SHUTTLECOCK

2. Using a wind tunnel, three Indian researchers studied the aerodynamics of shuttles

3. At higher speeds, a synthetic shuttlecock buckles, deforms into a square, and vibrates radially

"Our study opens up the possibility for improved designs that make the nylon shuttlecock structurally stiffer so that it more closely mimics the aerodynamic performance of feather shuttlecocks. This could be a game-changer"

Sanjay Mittal, IIT Kanpur

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम

Union Bank of India
A Government of India Undertaking

Unlock a life of financial freedom

Continue your growth story with **Union Udaan** savings/current account for young professionals:

- Personalised account number
- Overdraft facility
- Family a/c facility with multiple benefits
- Concessions on Retail and MSME Loans
- Operational convenience

Union UDAAN

#ChooseHappiness

Download Now

(Toll Free No.) 1800 222 244 / 1800 222 243 / 1800 425 1515 / 1800 208 2244 | www.unionbankofindia.co.in

unionbankofindia | UnionBankTweets | UnionBankInsta | UnionBankofIndiaTube | unionbankofindia | unionbankinsta

SWISS WOMAN KILLED IN CAPITAL: POLICE FILE CHARGESHEET

Fight over money, threat to 'expose' him: What transpired minutes before Gurpreet killed Nina

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

MINUTES BEFORE he allegedly killed 36-year-old Swiss national Nina Berger, accused Gurpreet Singh had a heated argument with her over not paying Rs 8 lakh she owed him. Nina, however, claimed he did not perform a 'puja' properly and threatened to expose him. "Hearing this, the accused feared Nina would file a case against them (him and his father) and if they were exposed in Switzerland, their business would be ruined. So he decided to eliminate her on the pretext of performing another ritual," the Delhi Police is learnt to have stated in their chargesheet filed in a Delhi court earlier this month.

The woman was killed in Delhi on October 18 and her body — with her limbs chained and sporting burn marks — was found outside a school in West Janakpuri on October 20. Police later arrested Gurpreet, a 29-year-old Janakpuri resident who runs a gemstone business. The final findings of Nina's post-mortem, conducted by a panel of three doctors from DDU Hospital, attributed her death to "asphyxia caused by constriction

RITUALS, MONEY & MURDER



Nina Berger, accused Gurpreet Singh

- 1 Gurpreet Singh and his father worked in foreign countries; performed pujas/prayers and sold stones
- 2 He met Nina five years ago, later introduced his father to her as a famous saint
- 3 Nina allegedly owed Singh Rs 8 lakh. She, however, felt cheated. Singh was scared she would file a police complaint against him in Switzerland
- 4 Singh asked her to come Delhi last October on the pretext of a 'ritual', killed her
- 5 Nina's body — with burn marks and chained limbs — was found outside a school in West Janakpuri on Oct 20 last yr. Singh arrested next day

of the neck... by an iron chain" and "assisted by masking of the face... by a polythene bag".

"Fingerprints of Nina and Gurpreet were sent to the Finger Print Bureau for comparison. The report stated that Gurpreet's fingerprints matched with five pieces of evidence recovered from the spot," a police officer said.

He added that police have

not named Gurpreet's father Arjun Singh as he is still abroad, but a look-out-circular was opened and his role in the case is to be probed. Police said Arjun had travelled to Switzerland to threaten Nina's family for not returning their money.

Police said Gurpreet and his father worked in foreign countries to "provide relief to people



Nina Berger's body was dumped behind a primary school in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar. Archive

from pain and disease, get jobs, or solve their problems" by performing pujas and selling stones.

During their investigation, police found that Gurpreet met Nina around five years ago on a dating app. "He is learnt to have told police that he visited Switzerland four times to meet her as she was worried about being jobless. He assured her he would perform puja and chant mantras for a fee. He also introduced his father to her as a very famous saint and did not disclose their relationship. Father-son took a lot of money from her and other people, converted it into Indian currency, and deposited the cash in their family members'

accounts in Delhi," an officer said.

Investigation also revealed Nina was facing a financial crisis and had borrowed Rs 6-7 lakh from the accused. "She didn't pay for the puja or repay the money she had borrowed from him. Last September, Gurpreet went to Switzerland and asked for the money, but she requested more time. He later decided to eliminate him and asked her to come to Delhi on the pretext of a 'ritual', promising to help her attain 'mental peace' through occult rituals and gemology," the officer said.

Before her arrival, police said he put his plan into motion — he purchased a car in someone else's name and bought several

iron chains and locks from a hardware shop.

"A day after Nina's arrival on October 11, he called and pressured her to return his money. They went to ATMs nearby on October 17 but she withdrew Rs 10,000, which made Gurpreet angry. On October 18, he took her to another ATM, but she failed to withdraw any cash. They got into a car and an argument ensued. Nina also accused him of not doing the puja properly and threatened exposure," the officer said.

Fearing that she would ruin business, he pretended to perform another ritual. "First, he tied and locked her hands, legs and body with chains and drove to a vacant spot in a parking area in West Delhi's Sant Nagar Extension. There, he increased the music volume, wrapped a cloth around Nina's neck, and strangled her. To ensure she was dead, he covered her mouth and chest with black polythene and taped it. He later parked his car after putting up black (film on the windows)," the official said.

Police said before he left the spot, he took Nina's belongings, including her iPhone. "He deleted all his chats and call records from her phone... he visited the spot after 48 hours to dump her body near the school," the officer said.

As lakhs of buyers in Noida await registry of flats, dept short of year's revenue target

DHEERAJ MISHRA
NOIDA, JANUARY 14

THE STAMP and Registration Department of Gautam Buddha Nagar has been struggling to meet its year-wise revenue target for the last few years. This is primarily because of stalled projects and non-registration of flats in the city, according to officials.

Data available with the department shows a collection of only around 56% target revenue by the end of December even as the financial year 2023-24 concludes in less than three months.

To discuss the issue, a meeting of the Noida, Greater Noida, and Yamuna authorities, and the Stamp and Registration Department has been called Monday. "Senior officials of both — the department and the authorities — will participate in the meeting. The shortfall in revenue target is a big concern," said a senior official of the department.

In view of pending registration of flats, the Uttar Pradesh government had last month issued an order to implement the recommendations with some amendments. The panel was constituted by the Union Ministry of Housing to provide solutions for such legacy stalled projects.

The state government had announced a number of measures to help developers complete projects stuck for years — a 2-year 'zero-period' relief; time extension of three years without

any fee; provision to bring in a co-developer if builder is unable to complete project; relaxation in conditions to mortgage; and payment of land dues in installments over three years.

Even though authorities have informed builders about their final dues after deducting zero-period relief, many of them are yet to opt for the scheme. "Registry of these stalled flats will definitely help increase revenue. The outline for starting the registry will be decided in the meeting. It is only after this that we'll be able to calculate the income we can earn from these registries," said the official quoted above.

Data shows that the Stamp and Registration Department had a target to collect revenue of Rs 4,728.70 crore in FY 2023-24 through stamp duty, registration and court fees. However, it could generate only Rs 2,662.47 crore (56.30%) by December 2023. In the last financial year, the department had a revenue target (from April 1 to December 31) of Rs 3,036.95 crore of which it received Rs 2,136.22 crore.

Gautam Buddha Nagar is one of the biggest cities of UP in terms of revenue collection through stamp and registration. However, many developers have not been able to provide flats to buyers in Noida and Greater Noida for a long time, owing to reasons such as non-availability of funds, increasing dues on builders, litigation, fund diversions, criminal cases against realtors, etc. Due to this, registry has been hit.

NRI woman alleges rape by man at five-star hotel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

AN INDIAN-ORIGIN US citizen was allegedly raped by her colleague at a five-star hotel in New Delhi.

The Delhi Police said the accused is the chief executive officer of a private firm in New Delhi. No arrest has been made yet, they added.

According to police, the NRI woman, who is in her 40s, approached police in January alleging she was raped last year by the accused.

A senior police officer who refused to be named said, "She told us that she met the accused at a five-star hotel in the Lutyens' area on September 14 last year. She alleged e raped her."

A case under sections of rape has been registered. Police said the woman had been living in the United States for years.

Delhi Police said the accused is the chief executive officer of a private firm in New Delhi. No arrest has been made yet, they added

"As per the complaint received, she was working as the assistant general manager of the firm while the accused was the CEO. Both complainant and accused are known to each other previously. The man is a friend of the woman's uncle and helped her in getting the job," said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Ravi Kant Kumar.

Police said further investigation is in progress and legal action will be taken based on evidence.

Kites dot Delhi skyline as Baansera hosts festival

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

OVER 5,000 visitors flocked to Delhi's bamboo-themed park, Baansera, on the banks of the Yamuna, over the weekend to celebrate "patang utsav", a two-day kite festival organised by the DDA on the occasion of Makar Sankranti. The event, inaugurated by L-G V K Saxena, sold out all tickets by the second day Sunday.

More than 30 professional kites from various states showcased their artistry at the event, flying kites of diverse shapes,



It was organised for Makar Sankranti. Praveen Khanna

sizes, and colours, including the Tricolour, train, and eagle designs. The festivities were at-

tended by Union Minister of

State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi; MPs Harsh Vardhan, Ramesh Bidhuri, and Gautam Gambhir, along with foreign envoys and diplomats from multiple countries.

Saxena commended the DDA for its efforts in organising the festival and transforming Baansera's "earlier degraded landscape into a vibrant and lush green space". On the first day of the event on Saturday, Saxena said the festival was a tribute to Lord Ram who is said to have "flown kites in his childhood".



many developers have not been able to provide flats to buyers in Noida and Greater Noida for a long time. Archive

BRIEFLY

Delhi govt to organise skill training camps for construction workers

New Delhi: The Delhi government will launch a skill development initiative for construction workers, according to an official statement Sunday. Labour Minister Raaj Kumar Anand said the goal is to empower construction workers and labourers with skills that transcend borders. Under the initiative, training camps will be organised at labour chowks and construction sites, the statement said. Speaking about the initiative, the minister said compensation will be provided to workers for loss of daily wage during the training. "... This initiative aims to empower our workers for global opportunities," Anand said. PTI

2 workers die after inhaling toxic fumes from angithi

New Delhi: Two men died after inhaling toxic fumes from an angithi (coal brazier) in their room in Inderpuri, police said. They worked at a restaurateur's home and were sleeping in the same room on the third floor of their employer's house. ENS

केनरा बैंक
Canara Bank
A Government of India Undertaking

Together We Can

Celebrate the joy of timeless tradition

Makar SANKRANTI Greetings

Canara HOME LOAN

AT LOWEST & ATTRACTIVE INTEREST RATES

ZERO PROCESSING & DOCUMENTATION CHARGES

Canara VEHICLE LOAN

Canara GOLD LOAN

- Maximum Loan per Gram
- Attractive Rate of Interest
- Flexible Repayment Options
- Quick Sanction & Disbursement

SCAN TO APPLY & GET INSTANT APPROVAL

*T&C Apply

www.canarabank.com | 1800 1030

In Loving Memory



Arvind Vithal Gandhi
(8th Nov. 1930 – 15th Jan. 1986)

Arvind Gandhi, former Chairman and Managing Director of USV Pvt Ltd, was a leader who inspired with integrity and compassion.

Driven by his commitment to addressing India's healthcare needs, he built indigenous development capability and world-class manufacturing in Mumbai during the 1960s.

The strong foundation he created serves well to support USV's present and future success.

His values of unrelenting attention to quality and reliability are infused into the fabric of the company and remain integral to all USVites who feel empowered to carry forward the legacy with pride.



Your Reliable Healthcare Partner

ARMY DAY

2024: Year of Technology Absorbition

An initiative by **RED**
Read. Engage. Deliver.

ADVERTORIAL

The apolitical and nationalistic essence of the Indian Army

It is imperative for the nation to ensure future readiness, elevating India into a military power that complements its growing stature

INDIAN Army has been the strongest pillar of Indian democracy since independence. It has resolutely defended the sovereignty of the country on multiple occasions against aggression by two hostile neighbours, assisted in countering insurgency and terrorism, helped in maintaining law-and-order, came to rescue in disaster situations and even provided military assistance to foreign governments like Sri Lanka and Maldives at their invitation.

In 21st century, we must make the Indian Army future-ready and convert India from a military force to a military power. We have to prepare for future conflicts, a two-front threat and grey zone warfare. The two-front is a collusive threat emanating from China and Pakistan, which is likely to be complemented by proxy war through terrorists. The grey zone warfare includes several non-kinetic instruments of war like cyber space and information warfare in addition to diplomatic sanctions, economic leverages, food security, energy security and more.

In recent years, certain bold operational decisions have been taken, and some transformational changes have been initiated. When terrorists launched an attack on the Army Base at Uri and we lost 18 soldiers, Indian Army boldly launched surgical strikes at the terrorist camps across the LoC. A couple of years later when we lost 40 CRPF men to a terror attack launched by a Pakistan based terror outfit, India's precision air strikes caused havoc at a terrorist camp near Balakot. On the LAC, when the Chinese PLA attempted to advance into Bhutan territory at Dolam Plateau, the Indian Army forced the PLA to stop on their side of the LAC in 2017. In 2020, when PLA tried to alter the LAC



unilaterally in Ladakh, they were stopped at the expense of a bloody battle at Galwan, in which both sides had fatal casualties, for the first time in half a century. Another bold step was appointment of CDS to usher in transformational reforms and integration of structures and processes of armed forces, which is the need of the hour in this era where multiple inputs have to be processed simultaneously to arrive at decisions with speed.

Sensitive to demands of contemporary warfare, defence cyber and space agencies have been raised. Information warfare processes have also been strengthened and integrated. A special operations division has also been established and such structures will help in negotiating the grey zone warfare.

On the issue of women empowerment, not only women serve in the Indian Army as officers as well as soldiers, girls are now allowed to join Sainik Schools which prepare

IN THE 21ST CENTURY, IT IS IMPERATIVE TO MODERNISE THE INDIAN ARMY, TRANSFORMING IT INTO A MILITARY POWER TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS FUTURE CONFLICTS

them to join the army along with the boys.

No country which aspires for a global/regional role can remain dependent on foreign weapons and equipment. Hence, some path breaking reforms have been ushered in to

make India self-reliant (Atmanirbhar Bharat) in defence needs. A boost has been given to domestic industry, and special incentives to the private sector. Under strategic partnership, defence industry is being encouraged to partner with foreign defence manufacturers to bring in better technology and investment. For the first time an allocation of 25% of R&D budget has been reserved for the private sector.

Defence corridors for manufacturing have been established in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, technology hubs have been set up in Pune and Bangalore. These will support, incentivise and synergise an entire ecosystem of defence manufactures, especially MSMEs. Under the IDEX scheme, innovations by the academia or industry are being encouraged by government funding.

It has already started showing results. From being a net importer of defence equipment, India's exports of arms and defence technologies touched a record ₹15,000 crore, with 70% share from the private sector. An increase of more than six times has been registered from 2015, when it was ₹2,059 crore only.

While these transformational reforms are a must, Indian Army's biggest asset is that it is totally apolitical and truly nationalistic. It is also incumbent on the nation to make it future-ready, and make India into a military power that can support the country's growing stature.

*Lt General Satish Dua (Retd.)
The views expressed in this article are personal and do not reflect the official stance of the Indian Army or the Government of India.*

Birth of a battle-ready beast: DRDO's assault rifle 'Ugram'

The assault rifle boosts frontline firepower, demonstrating our commitment to arming soldiers with top-notch weaponry



As India gears up to celebrate Army Day on January 15, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has delivered a powerful present, days ahead of it—the 'Ugram' assault rifle that will strengthen the nation's defence capabilities. This state-of-the-art weapon marks a significant stride in India's indigenous weapons development programme and bolsters the Indian Army's capabilities.

Ugram, which translates into 'ferocious', lives up to its name. Crafted with a potent 7.62 x 51 mm caliber, the rifle boasts an effective range of 500 meters and a sleek design while weighing less than four kilograms, rendering it agile and lethal in diverse combat scenarios. This indigenous marvel, engineered for precision and reliability and designed based on the general staff qualitative requirements (GSQRs) of the Indian Army, offers a perfect balance of firepower, maneuverability, and portability, making it a formidable companion for soldiers on the frontlines.

Designed to meet the operational needs of the Indian Army, Ugram is not merely about firepower. Developed by DRDO's Pune-based facility, Armament Research and Development Es-

tablishments (ARDE) in collaboration with Hyderabad-based Dvipa Armour India private limited, the assault rifle embodies the nation's growing prowess in advanced weapons technology and marks a significant step towards self-reliance in the critical domain of infantry weaponry.

With its ergonomic design, inherent modularity, and adaptability that equip soldiers with the agility and tactical advantage needed in modern combat, Ugram delivers the promise of enhanced operational efficiency and battlefield dominance. The rifle, which has a 20-round magazine and fires in both single and full auto mode, awaits rigorous testing and trials before it joins the Indian Army's arsenal. However, its successful launch indicates that India is well on its way to achieving self-sufficiency in advanced weaponry.

As the nation salutes its brave soldiers on Army Day, it is also a time to celebrate the ingenuity and dedication of our scientists and engineers who tirelessly strive to provide them with the edge they deserve. Ugram underscores the unwavering commitment of our defence apparatus, which is always "In Service of the Nation" to safeguarding our territorial integrity.

COURAGE IS A DECISION

WE HONOUR THE INVINCIBLE SPIRIT OF OUR HEROES ON

INDIAN ARMY DAY

MKU
EMPOWERING HEROES

सशक्त सैनिक सदासभ्य भारत

PROUD TO EMPOWER OVER
80%
OF INDIAN FORCES

www.mku.com | MKU | @MKUofficial | @mku_official | MKU.LTD



The Schiebel Group set up its Schiebel India subsidiary two years ago and is collaborating with VEM to be able to manufacture the world leading rotary UAS within the country. This shows our commitment towards Atmanirbhar Bharat. We are taking small but strong steps in order to provide a reliable product to our customers and work along with them with total commitment. The S-100 has several years of operational experience with 40+ clients worldwide operating the UAS on a daily basis. Our payload capacity is up to 50 kg, which enables the S-100 to fit multiple sensors, making it ideally suited for ISR operations. Having the experience provides us the opportunity to be ahead of the curve and think of future tech integration. Case in point is the recent REPMUS 23 NATO exercise, where the world market saw future offerings possible in the maritime domain.

— Jajati Mohanty, CEO at Schiebel India

Fortifying Indian Army's combat readiness - BRAHMOS

INDIA commands one of the largest ground forces in the world. Indian Army – world's second largest military force and the largest standing volunteer army – has remained at the forefront of safeguarding national unity and territorial integrity while maintaining constant vigil in the border frontiers.

In the backdrop of swiftly changing regional and global geopolitical landscape, India has steadfastly focused on building and sustaining a highly modernised and organised military force capable of decisively dealing with constantly shifting multifaceted conflict situations of current times.

As the largest wing of Indian Armed Forces, Indian Army has marched ahead on an ambitious path of transformation to become a modern, agile, technology-driven and self-reliant 'future ready force'. In such critical times, state-of-the-art BRAHMOS supersonic cruise missile system has evolved to occupy a central place in Indian Army's modern land warfare domain by immensely bolstering its artillery firepower.

BRAHMOS land attack cruise missile (LACM) system has been deployed in Indian Army since 2007. During numerous successful test firings conducted over the years, the tactical weapon has validated its impeccability to precisely engage and neutralise strategic ground-based installations of an adversary such as command & control centres, radar stations, underground bunkers, arms depot among others.

The Indian Army, capitalising on the superior technologies and unmatched capabilities offered by BRAHMOS, has sharply enhanced its combat power and flexibility. Over the years, we



BRAHMOS, WITH ITS SUPERSONIC SPEED, STAND-OFF RANGE, DESTRUCTIVE FIREPOWER, AND USER-FRIENDLY OPERATIONS, IS THE INDIAN ARMY'S TOP WEAPON OF CHOICE

have also upgraded the missile by infusing more cutting-edge technologies and indigenous systems to improve its overall operational and functional features," says Outstanding Scientist Atul

Dinkar Rane, DG (BrahMos, DRDO) & CEO & MD of BrahMos Aerospace – the India-Russia defence JV entity between DRDO and NPOM which has been designing, developing and producing the BRAHMOS weapon system in various configurations for the Indian Armed Forces.

With its supersonic speed, stand-off range, deadly accuracy, destructive firepower, and user friendly operations, BRAHMOS has emerged as Indian Army's 'first weapon of choice.' The tactical weapon's quick adaptability, mobility, near-simultaneous launch capability towards different targets and launch-readiness at very short notice has strongly fortified the Army's operational preparedness in times of contingency and conflict. The powerful weapon has proved its salience at a time when the Indian Army is actively deliberating on the formulation of Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) as part of the future joint battlefields.

As India builds a formidable Defence Force capable to fight and win modern wars in highly complex, multi-domain combat environments, an incredibly versatile weapon like BRAHMOS which has established its 'across the full spectrum of operations' capability, has emerged an indispensable asset to secure national interests in synergy with all three services.

Recent successful test firings of BRAHMOS by the Tri-Services from ground, ship and air platforms have fortified India's stature as a rising military power of 21st century.

BrahMos Aerospace extends its greetings to the Indian Army on 76th Army Day



Modernisation & indigenisation- Focus areas for Indian Army

Modernisation spans personnel, equipment, technology, and infrastructure, crucial for maintaining a credible defense posture and ensuring national well-being



Vikas Manral
Global Aerospace & Défense expert



INDIAN Army has been actively involved in modernising its forces to enhance its capabilities and meet the challenges of contemporary security threats. Modernisation efforts encompass a wide range of areas, including personnel, equipment, technology, and infrastructure. Modernisation of the Indian Army is essential for maintaining a credible Défense posture, adapting to contemporary security challenges, and ensuring the nation's security and well-being. It aligns with the broader goal of building a robust and resilient Défense infrastructure to protect the interests of the country and its citizens.

Recent approval of capital acquisition proposals worth ₹2.23 lakh crore by the Défense Acquisition Council (DAC) to enhance the operational capabilities of the Armed Forces is a testimonial of the fact that the process of modernisation is on track.

The DAC has accorded the acceptance of necessity (AoN) for procurement of two types of

anti-tank munitions namely, area denial munitions (ADM) Type - 2 and Type-3, which will give additional lethality to Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers to take down enemy tanks, armoured vehicles and personnel. The ADM munitions are essentially rockets that can drop bomblets over an extended area, which can take down incoming armoured formations. The order will be split between the industrial development partners of DRDO—Munitions Limited (MIL) and Economic Explosive—Ltd (EEL). The two companies will in the near future present commercial bids and the order will be split 60:40 in favour of the lower bidder.

To replace the Indian field gun (IFG), which has completed its service life, AoN for procurement of state-of-the-art towed gun system (TGS) has been granted which will become a mainstay of artillery forces of the Indian Army. The new

towed gun system (TGS) will be lighter, more versatile, and feature-packed compared to current artillery guns. The Army aims to acquire 400 advanced 155mm/52 calibre guns, with a total requirement estimated to be 1,200 guns.

The AoN for procurement and integration of automatic target tracking (ATT) and digital basaltic computer (DBC) for T-90 Tanks under Buy (India) category have also been accorded which will help in maintaining combat edge of T-90 tanks over adversary platforms. ATT technology helps in precise engagement with moving targets. As of now, to hit a target accurately, the T-90 tanks are positioned manually. The DBC, which is used for the fire guidance system, calculates the trajectory of the round based on the atmospheric conditions. A round of ammunition generally gets affected by the atmospheric temperature condi-

ATTAINING DEFENCE SELF-SUFFICIENCY REQUIRES SUSTAINED EFFORT, GOVERNMENT SUPPORT, INDUSTRY COLLABORATION AND A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPING INDIGENOUS CAPABILITIES

tions, temperature inside the tank, and wind conditions such as the speed and direction. The DBC makes calculations based on all these factors in order to hit a target accurately. The computer currently installed in the tanks is analogue in nature and systems are being digitised to remove the scope for human error and bias.

To boost indigenisation, most of these equipment of the Indian Army will be procured under Buy (Indian-IDD) category. However for self sufficiency in defence, it requires a comprehensive and sustained effort involving government support, industry collaboration, and a commitment to building indigenous capabilities over the long term. The success of indigenisation efforts often hinges on a multi-stakeholder approach involving the government, private sector, research institutions, and the Armed forces.



Today, as we honour the unwavering commitment and the indomitable spirit of our Indian Army on this occasion of Army Day, we stand united in reverence and gratitude. The resilience and dedication displayed by our forces resonate deeply with our core values at AXISCADES. With a long defence pedigree, we take pride in supporting our defenders, and we remain committed to develop cutting-edge defence technologies, empowering them to safeguard our nation's security. Our new age solutions such as electronic warfare systems, telemetry, simulators, radars, drone & anti-drone solutions provide critical strategic advantage, ensuring they remain the epitome of strength. Their unwavering commitment inspires us to deliver advanced solutions, reinforcing our pledge to fortify our defence capabilities. Together, let us honour and support these men and women of our Army, ensuring a safer tomorrow.

— **Arun Krishnamurthi**
MD & CEO, AXISCADES

India buttresses firepower with Sig Sauer assault rifles

THE ministry of defence's approval for the acquisition of an additional 70,000 'shoot to kill' US-made Sig Sauer assault rifles marks a significant stride in enhancing India's arsenal. This procurement not only contributes to the ongoing modernisation efforts but also elevates the operational capabilities of Indian troops.

India's military modernisation drive has taken a significant step forward with the decision of the ministry to sanction the acquisition of over 70,000 Sig Sauer assault rifles (7.62x51 mm caliber). The approval for procuring more of these rifles—the second batch of Sig Sauer procurement by the ministry was given during the meeting of the defence acquisition council (DAC). The deal, valued at a ₹840 crore, marks a continued commitment to reinforce national security, central to which is equipping troops with cutting-edge weaponry for border security and counter-insurgency operations.

The recent decision to procure these rifles through the fast track procedure (FTP) comes on the heels of the first order of the same under the 'Buy (Global)' category of the government, wherein the Indian Army received 66,400 of these rifles while the Indian Air Force acquired 4000 rifles and the Indian Navy got 2000 rifles. Reasons abound for the repeat order of these US-made assault rifles, bought to replace the Indian Small Arms System or INSAS Rifles (5.56x45 mm).

Specifically chosen for this procurement, the Sig Sauer 716 Assault Rifle is a proven performer known for its accuracy, longer range and enhanced operational ease. The 7.62x51mm caliber of SIG 716 ensures an extended effective range, rendering it more lethal in operations. Firing the powerful 7.62x51mm NATO cartridge, the 716 provides greater stopping power and precision compared to the 5.56x45mm ammunition used in India's INSAS rifles.

Delivering reliability, versatility, and adaptability built for rugged conditions, the Rifle can be configured with various attachments—optical sights, laser pointers, fore-hand grips and bipods to suit different operational needs. Scoring

high on ergonomics and ease of use, this rifle is designed for enhanced convenience and control, with features like an adjustable stock and ambidextrous controls, making it suitable for a wider range of users. With the nod



for India's Sig Sauer acquisition granted at a defence ministry meeting, the move

reflects not only a focus on modernising the country's arsenal to boost Indian soldiers' firepower but also sends a clear message to the world of India's commitment to national defence and regional stability.

SCHIEBEL INDIA

UNRIVALLED MULTI-ROLE MULTI-DOMAIN

CAMCOPTER® S-100 UNMANNED AIR SYSTEM

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

25 Silver Jubilee Year of BrahMos Aerospace

BrahMos

The Glorious Emblem of Self-Reliant Bharat Wishes Indian Army on the 76th ARMY DAY

• SPEED • PRECISION • POWER • RANGE

BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile

A WORLD LEADER

• Multiple Platforms • Multiple Missions • Multiple Targets

BrahMos
JOINT VENTURE OF DRDO, INDIA & NPOM, RUSSIA

BRAHMOS AEROSPACE
16, Cariappa Marg, Kirby Place, Delhi Cantt. New Delhi -110010. www.brahmos.com

ARMY DAY

2024: Year of Technology Absorption

An initiative by **RED**
Read. Engage. Deliver.

ADVERTORIAL

MESSAGE

ON THE occasion of the Army Day 2024, I convey my felicitations and warm wishes to All Ranks of the Indian Army, Civilian employees, Veterans and their families. We solemnly remember and pay homage to our comrades who have laid down their lives in service of the nation. Their supreme sacrifice shall always inspire us.

The Indian Army has a vital role to play, in ensuring a stable and secure environment, so that the nation's progress continues unabated. Our resolve towards that, must remain robust and grow stronger with each day. I urge each member of the 'Olive Green' fraternity to continue with an unwavering commitment, to counter security threats, to the nation.

The character of Warfare continues to change. To prepare ourselves for the future, we had set into motion a holistic transformation process, last year. We have made good progress and many

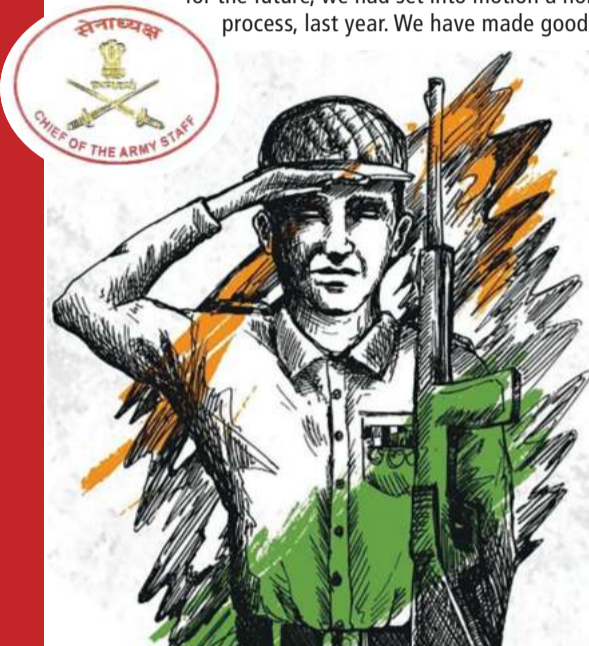
milestones have been achieved. Our capability development endeavours stand on the edifice of *Atmanirbharta*, to which we firmly stand committed to. The transition towards becoming a modern, agile, adaptive and technology enabled future ready force, shall continue, as part of the Transformation Roadmap. The Indian Army will observe the year 2024 as the 'Year of Technology Absorption' a theme which underscores our focus and efforts to leverage technology, as a catalyst for transformative change.

Our responsibility towards the Veterans, *Veer Naris* and their families, remains a sacred commitment. Endeavours to augment welfare initiatives, proactively reach out to them and address their grievances, must remain a focus area for commanders at all levels.

The Indian Army enjoys a distinct stature in the national mind space. I am sanguine that we shall forever remain steadfast in our resolve to uphold the trust reposed in us, by the nation. Let us re-dedicate ourselves to the service of the nation, in the true spirit of our core ethos of *Naam, Namak aur Nishaan*.
'Jai Hind'



Manoj Pande
General Chief of the Army Staff



Choose the right institute for a bright career



Dr R.K. Agarwal
Director General, AKGEC

A young aspiring student, no matter what stream he/she may be from, is faced with numerous options of choosing the right course and the right institute for a successful career. My advice to aspirants is to evaluate your passion for your career because the secret to success and happiness is being able to love whatever you do in life. Identify your skill set and capabilities and choose a course that is a natural progression of your existing skills and qualification. Take advice from your parents and teachers and use their experience as a guide in deciding the course you choose.

With technology changing at an exponential rate and the glaring gap between the academic curriculum and fast changing industry requirements, employability is a major challenge. Students, therefore, should look for institutions (like AKGEC) which, in addition to academic excellence, emphasise project-based learning, industry relevant training programmes and all round development to make their students globally employable.

My best wishes to all the young aspirants for a bright and successful career and a happy life.

AJAY KUMAR GARG
ENGINEERING COLLEGE
GHAZIABAD College Code 027

SCALING THE ZENITH
OF EXCELLENCE

Affiliated to Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU), Lucknow

B.Tech.

• CSE¹ • IT¹ • ECE¹ • ME¹ • EN¹
• CSE (Hindi) • CSE (AI&ML) • CS
• CSE (DS) • AI&ML • CS&IT • CE

*NBA Accredited Branches

M.Tech.

• CSE • EN • ECE • ME

MCA

Master of Computer Applications

MBA (AKGIM -Code: 820)

• MKT • FIN • HR • IB • OM • IT

25
YEARS
OF
EXCELLENCE

Unmatched
Record Breaking
Performances



HIGHLIGHTS

- AKTU Chancellor's Medal for securing maximum marks across all B.Tech branches bagged by AKGEC students for five consecutive years
- Distinguished Alumnus Award by AKTU bagged by AKGEC students for two consecutive years since its inception
- Silver Medal at India Skills 2021 National Competition in Additive Manufacturing Skills
- AKGEC Alumni at top positions in private and public sector and as successful entrepreneurs in India and abroad
- Students selected for higher education in IITs, IISc Bangalore, NITs, IIMs, IMT, XLRI and many other eminent institutions in India and abroad
- The only Institution in U.P. to have established the Common Facility Center for General Engineering Industry under 'One District One Product (ODOP)' scheme of the Government of U.P.
- The only Institution in U.P. to have received approval from DST, Govt. of India, for establishment of Centre of Relevance and Excellence (CORE) in the field of Industrial Automation & Robotics
- Skill Development Centre established in partnership with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)
- Advance Technology Centres of Excellence in collaboration with eminent multinational companies for Industry oriented training

PLACEMENTS

- Our recruiters include Infosys, TCS, Accenture, Amazon, Airtel, Ericsson, Byju's, HCL Technologies, HSBC Technology, Lohia Group, Newgen Software, DXC Technology, Tech Mahindra, Global Logic, PricewaterhouseCoopers, JAK Software, Torrent Group, Coloforge, Honda Cars India Ltd., JK Cement, Deloitte, Lowe's Services India Pvt. Ltd., Morgan Stanley, PhonePe Pvt. Ltd., Tata Steel Ltd., C2FO, Maersk Global Service Centres (India) Pvt. Ltd., Gainsight Software, Willy Edge, Sopra Banking Software, Schneider Electric, Continental India and many more.

Placements (2022-23)

1635 offers (with 883 exclusive offers)

HIGHEST PACKAGES ACHIEVED BY AKGECIANS (2022-23)

> = 25 LPA	05
> = 15 LPA	07
> = 10 LPA	54

HIGHEST Salary package drawn

₹ 33.80
LAKH
PA

8744052891-93, 7290034978 | info@akgec.ac.in | https://www.akgec.ac.in



SALUTING INDIAN ARMY FOR THEIR COURAGE AND COMPASSION.

On Army Day 2024, Trimble and Allterra India extend a heartfelt thank you to the Indian Army for their selfless service and unflinching determination to do what's right for India, including embracing technology to become one of the most modern armies globally.



Ron Bisio
Senior Vice President
Field Systems, Trimble

Trimble is a trusted supplier of innovative, high-performance geospatial solutions for military customers worldwide. Trimble and its strategic partner Allterra India are proud to support the Indian Army in its acquisition of best-in-class technologies.



Scott Crozier
Vice President
Survey & Mapping, Trimble



Rajan Aiyer
VP & MD
Trimble South Asia



Pradeep Rathor
CEO & Managing Partner
AllTerra India



Baroda MILITARY SALARY PACKAGE FOR INDIAN ARMY

FREE PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR SALARIED PERSONNEL

- Salary account cover on-duty ₹ 75 Lakhs and Off-duty ₹ 60 Lakhs
- Additional PAI* cover upto ₹ 30 Lakhs on Yoddha Debit Card & Yoddha Credit Card
- Disability covers upto ₹ 60 Lakhs
- Air Accident Insurance Cover ₹ 100 Lakhs
- Daughters' Marriage cover (18-25 Years) of ₹ 6 Lakhs
- Higher Education Cover of ₹ 6 Lakhs

FREE PERSONAL ACCIDENTAL INSURANCE BENEFITS TO AGNIVEERS

- Entry Age : 17.5 years (Personal Accidental Insurance Cover starts at 18 years)*
- Salary account cover On-duty ₹ 75 Lakhs and Off-duty ₹ 60 Lakhs
- Disability covers upto ₹ 60 Lakhs
- Air Accident Insurance Cover ₹ 100 Lakhs

FREE PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE FOR VETERANS & VEER NAARIS

- Denial account cover upto ₹ 40 Lakhs
- Disability covers upto ₹ 60 Lakhs
- Applicable age for cover is Life Long
- Daughters' Marriage cover (18-25 Years) upto ₹ 4 Lakhs
- Higher Education Cover upto ₹ 4 Lakhs

OTHER BENEFITS

- Waiver on various service charges*
- Salary Overdraft up to ₹ 3.00 Lakhs
- Personal Loan at attractive ROI up to ₹ 20 lakhs

RETAIL LOAN FACILITIES

- Yoddha Loans at concessional ROI
- No pre-closure charges
- Concession on Processing charges *

*Subject to terms and conditions



Call Toll Free No. (24x7): 1800 5700

www.bankofbaroda.in

Follow us on

ARMY DAY

2024: Year of Technology Absorbtion

ADVERTORIAL

An initiative by **RED**
Read. Engage. Deliver.

Saluting Indian Army's spirit of "In Service of the Nation"

Pulsating with national pride and patriotism, Army Day in India transcends a historic event's commemoration while honouring Indian soldiers' valour and the mindset of "Service before Self" that ensures that Indians thrive in a free and safe nation

EACH year on January 15, as the crisp January air reverberates with the thunderous march of Indian Army personnel's boots in tandem with drums beating to valour's rhythm, the grand parade marking the country's Army Day celebration unfolds, highlighting the Indian Army's strength and operational readiness, alongside instilling a sense of pride and patriotism among every Indian.

It is a day etched in the nation's calendar for honouring the unwavering spirit of the Indian Armed Forces' ground warfare branch and its largest component, the Indian Army, which is ranked fourth in the world in terms of military strength. With the President of India as its Supreme Commander and the Chief of Army Staff as its professional head, the Indian Army has been in a league of its own in living up to its tradition of heroism, valour and fortitude while enshrining its motto – *Seva Paramo Dharma*, which translates into "Service before Self".

Responsible for ensuring national security and unity while safeguarding peace within the country's borders, the Indian Army's primary role is to defend the world's most populous country, India, against external aggression and internal threats, alongside carrying out humanitarian rescue operations whenever needed. From the icy heights of the



Himalayas to the scorching sands of the desert—the unwavering commitment, unflinching valour, countless sacrifices and selfless service of our brave soldiers have secured our borders and shielded us to provide a safe cocoon for India to safely march ahead on the path of progress.

As we pay homage to the Indian Army's bravehearts and those men in the olive-green uniform, who have made the supreme sacrifice for the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity while upholding the nation's honour in every conflict, the theme of this year's Army Day – "In Service of the Nation" – shines a spotlight on the essence of the Indian Army's existence.

AS THE NATION CELEBRATES ARMY DAY, IT'S VITAL TO RECALL THAT THE DAY'S SPIRIT GOES BEYOND FESTIVITIES, SPARKING PATRIOTISM IN BOTH THE YOUNG & OLD

dia's military history, symbolising the dawn of a new era where Indian valour would stand sentinel over the security of the independent nation, which has emerged as a regional power since then.

This date, etched in the annals of Indian defence, holds significance beyond a mere handover of command, as the symbolic passing of the baton of responsibility from colonial rule to an independent India.

Lieutenant General Cariappa, affectionately known as 'Kipper,' led the nation's Army through the nascent years of the country as an independent nation, navigating the volatile landscape in the aftermath of

the Partition of India and laying the foundation for the formidable Indian Army. The annual observance of Army Day on January 15 commemorates the momentous occasion, when he assumed the prestigious role of the Indian Army's first Indian Commander-in-Chief.

Celebrating Indian Army's valour

The vibrant cultural extravaganza of Army Day celebration, replete with a grand parade, military shows, synchronised march past and awe-inspiring aerial maneuvers demonstrating the Indian Army's airpower alongside awarding Sena medals for gallantry in combat operations takes place annually on 15th January.

Beyond the celebration

As the country comes together to celebrate Army Day every year, it is important to remember that the spirit of the day extends beyond the revelry of a single-day observance igniting the spark of patriotism in the hearts of young and old alike. The occasion serves as a call to action for Indian citizens to uphold the legacy of courage, values of patriotism and the spirit of nationalism while fulfilling their role in ensuring the nation's safety and prosperity and pledging to stand united under the banner of our tricolor.



On Indian Army Day, we stand united in reverence for the valiant soldiers who embody the spirit of 'service before self.' The Indian Army, a formidable force dedicated to national security and unity, stands as a symbol of dauntless courage and sacrifice. General KM Cariappa, the first Indian Commander-in-chief, set the tone for this legacy of bravery and commitment. This historic occasion serves as a touching reminder of our soldiers' tireless dedication and unyielding patriotism. Today, we salute the protectors of our sovereignty, the guardians of peace, who face external and internal challenges with unshakeable resolve. Their sacrifices reverberate through the pages of history. On this Indian Army Day, let us pay a heartfelt tribute to these fearless warriors and express our deepest gratitude for their service to the nation.

— S.K. Narvar

Group Chairman, Trident Realty



NO FOUR WALLS ARE STRONGER THAN THE COURAGEOUS RESOLVE OF A SOLDIER WHO PROTECTS THE DREAMS OF OUR NATION

Trident Realty extends gratitude to the bravehearts of Indian Army who defend our nation with indomitable courage and valour.

CELEBRATING 76TH ARMY DAY

Corporate Office: Trident Realty, DLF Square, 16th Floor, Jacaranda Marg, DLF Phase 2, Sector 25, Gurugram, Shahpur, Haryana, Pin-122002
83430 90909 | tridentrealty.co.in



Government of India

MODI GOVERNMENT DEDICATED TO TRIBAL WELFARE



PAN INDIA **188** DISTRICTS

INTERACTION OF **PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI** with the beneficiaries of

PRADHAN MANTRI JANJATI ADIVASI NYAYA MAHA ABHIYAN (PM JANMAN)

(through Video conferencing)

15th January 2024 12:00 Hrs

Empowering Tribal Communities through PM JANMAN

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural)



1 Lakh

Pucca Houses Sanctioned
Outlay: ₹2390 crores

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)



Remaining 1830

Habitations sanctioned for
Piped Water Supply
Outlay ₹220 crores

Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme



70,000

Households Electricity
Connection
Outlay: ₹300 crores

PM JANMAN Vikas Yojana



450

Multipurpose Centre
Sanctioned
Outlay: ₹270 crores

Universal Service Obligation Fund



206

Mobile Towers sanctioned
to cover 503 villages
Outlay: ₹240 crores

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana



1200 KM

Road Sanctioned
Outlay: ₹900 crores

PM Janjatiya Vikas Mission



405

Van Dhan Vikas Kendra
Sanctioned
Outlay: ₹20 crores

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan



100 Hostels

Sanctioned for Tribal
Students
Outlay: ₹275 crores

Anganwadi Services



916

Anganwadi Kendra
Sanctioned
Outlay: ₹125 crores

National Health Mission



100

Mobile Medical Units
to be Operational
Outlay: ₹34 crores

More than
8,000 Camps
outreaching over
10 lakh beneficiaries

2.5 Lakh
Beneficiaries
identified for
Kisan Samman Nidhi

More than
82,000
New Ayushman Cards
made to reach
saturation

and
70,000
New Aadhar Cards
made

Janjatiya Sashaktikaran

Viksit Bharat

Live Telecast on DD News

India can play key role in Ukraine peace formula: NSAs meet in Davos

Davos: National security advisors of several countries met here on Sunday to discuss early restoration of peace in war-hit Ukraine, with the host Switzerland asserting that India can play a key role with its influence and relations with Russia.

The fourth NSA meeting also saw many participants echoing India's position that war can never be a solution and dialogue was a must to resolve the situation. India was represented by Deputy NSA Vikram Misri at the meet.

Addressing a press conference, Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis said Russia would be asked to join the peace plan discussions at some point in time but to bring it on the table would require mediation by some countries.

The Swiss Federal Councillor for Foreign Affairs said currently, Russia is not willing to make any concessions, but there is no alternative to bringing both coun-

tries to the table for which a collective momentum would be required from more than 100 countries, including those from outside Europe.

Replying to questions, he said participation from BRICS countries, including India, is very important, as these are the coun-

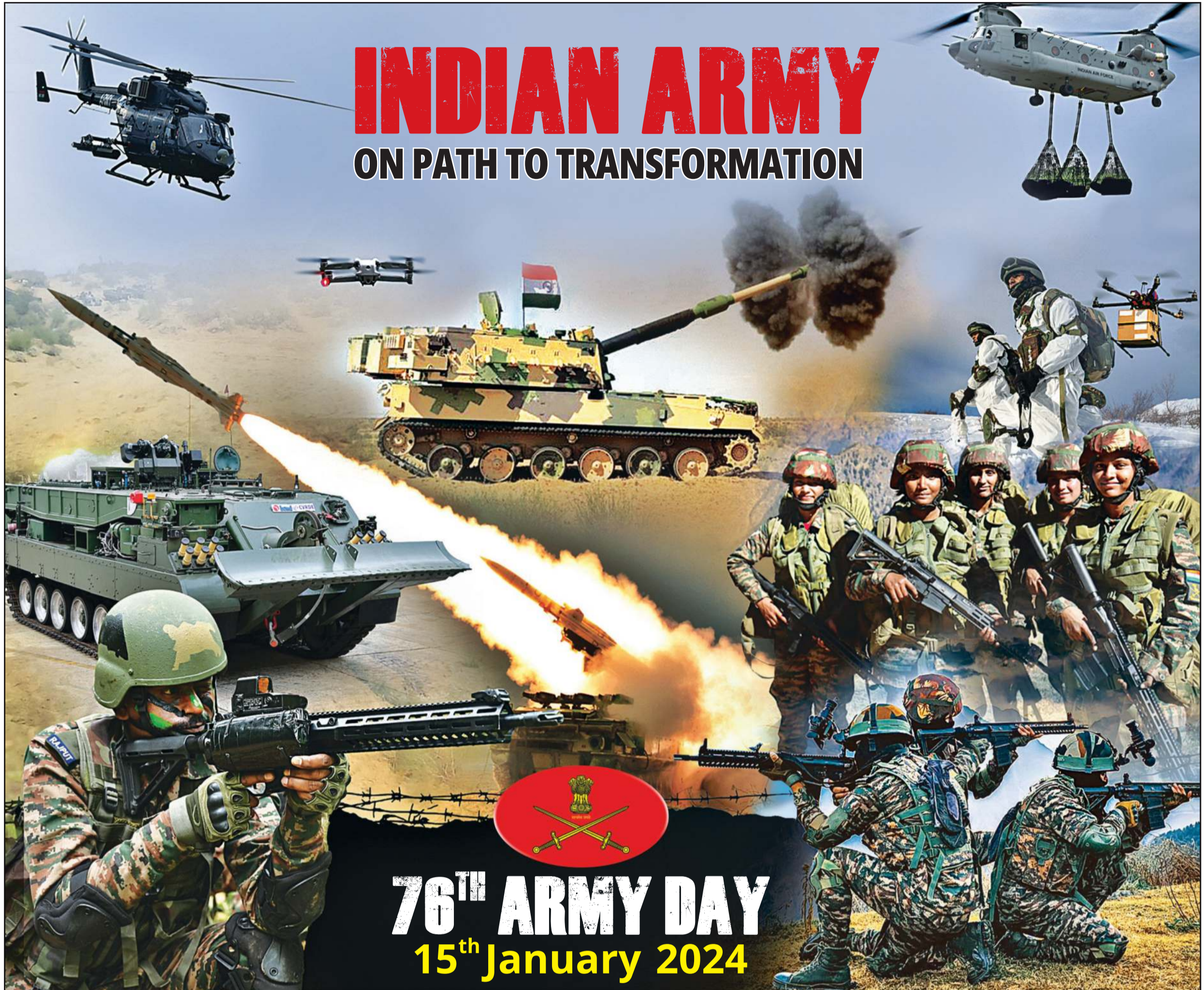
tries, which have got some relations continuing with Russia. "They may be far away (physically from the conflict zone), but they can play an important role as they have influence. China can also play a key role, and we will have to work to involve China in these meetings," he said. **PTI**

Will protect borders at all costs: Army chief

New Delhi: The Indian Army continues to maintain a "robust posture" at the borders and is prepared to protect the country's territorial integrity at "all costs", Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande said on Sunday, amid the over three-year festering border row with China in eastern Ladakh.

On the eve of the Army Day, Gen Pande said the force is fully committed with an "unwavering resolve" to counter any security threat, asserting that its fundamental character, core ethos and professionalism will enable it to live up to the expectations of citizens. He said the transition

towards becoming a modern, agile, adaptive, technology-enabled and future-ready force shall continue as part of the transformation roadmap. Without naming Pakistan, Gen Pande said the Army along with other security forces are dealing with the "proxy war" in J&K. **PTI**



Our Army always puts the Nation first. I salute all those great individuals who sacrificed their lives while serving the Nation. India will never forget our valiant heroes.

-Narendra Modi

OUR FALLEN HEROES IN THE YEAR 2023

RANK	NAME	ARMS/SERVICES
SEPOY	AMIT SHARMA	INFANTRY
NAIB SUBEDAR	PARASHOTAM KUMAR	INFANTRY
HAVILDAR	AMRIK SINGH	INFANTRY
SEPOY	PAWAN KUMAR	INFANTRY
HAVILDAR	NEELAM SINGH	INFANTRY
NAIK	ARVIND KUMAR	INFANTRY
LANCE NAIK	RUCHIN SINGH RAWAT	INFANTRY
PARA TROOPER	SIDDHANT CHETTRI	INFANTRY
PARA TROOPER	PRAMOD NEGI	INFANTRY
HAVILDAR	VIVEK SINGH TOMAR	INFANTRY
NAIK	DEEPAK KUMAR SINGH	SIGNALS
SEPOY	NUFAIL KT	ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
HAVILDAR	MANDEEP SINGH	INFANTRY
LANCE NAIK	KULWANT SINGH	INFANTRY
SEPOY	HARKRISHAN SINGH	INFANTRY
SEPOY	SEWAK SINGH	INFANTRY
LANCE NAIK	DEBASHISH BISWAL	ARTILLERY
NAIK	LENGKHOLAL	INFANTRY

RANK	NAME	ARMS/SERVICES
SEPOY	ALDRIN HMINGTHANZUALA	INFANTRY
HAVILDAR	CHARANJIT SINGH	INFANTRY
SUBEDAR	ARUN KUMAR MISHRA	INFANTRY
HAVILDAR	BABULAL HARITWAL	INFANTRY
RIFLEMAN	WASEEM SARWAR	INFANTRY
SIGNALMAN	VALA MAHIPALSINH PRAVINSINH	SIGNALS
NAIK	GORE AMOL TANHAJI	INFANTRY
MAJOR	JAYANTH A	ARTILLERY
LIEUTENANT COLONEL	V VINAY BHANU REDDY	ARMY AVIATION CORPS
NAIB SUBEDAR	KULDEEP SINGH	MECHANISED INFANTRY
LANCE NAIK	TELU RAM	MECHANISED INFANTRY
SEPOY	RAVI KUMAR	INFANTRY
NAIK	MOTI RAM	ARMY SERVICE CORPS
SEPOY	THAKOR RASANGJI SAVAJI	ARMY SERVICE CORPS
SEPOY	PARDEEP SINGH	INFANTRY
COLONEL	MANPREET SINGH, SM	INFANTRY
MAJOR	AASHISH DHONCHAK, SM	INFANTRY
HAVILDAR	BHARMAL INANIYAN	CORPS OF ELECTRONICS AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS



Good Governance

Modi's Guarantee delivered in one Month

Free housing for over
18 lakh poor families.

Paddy procurement
bonus of Rs. 3716 crores to
13 lakh farmers.

Purchase of 21 quintals
of paddy per acre at the rate
of ₹ 3100 from farmers.

Free water connections for
50 lakh rural families.

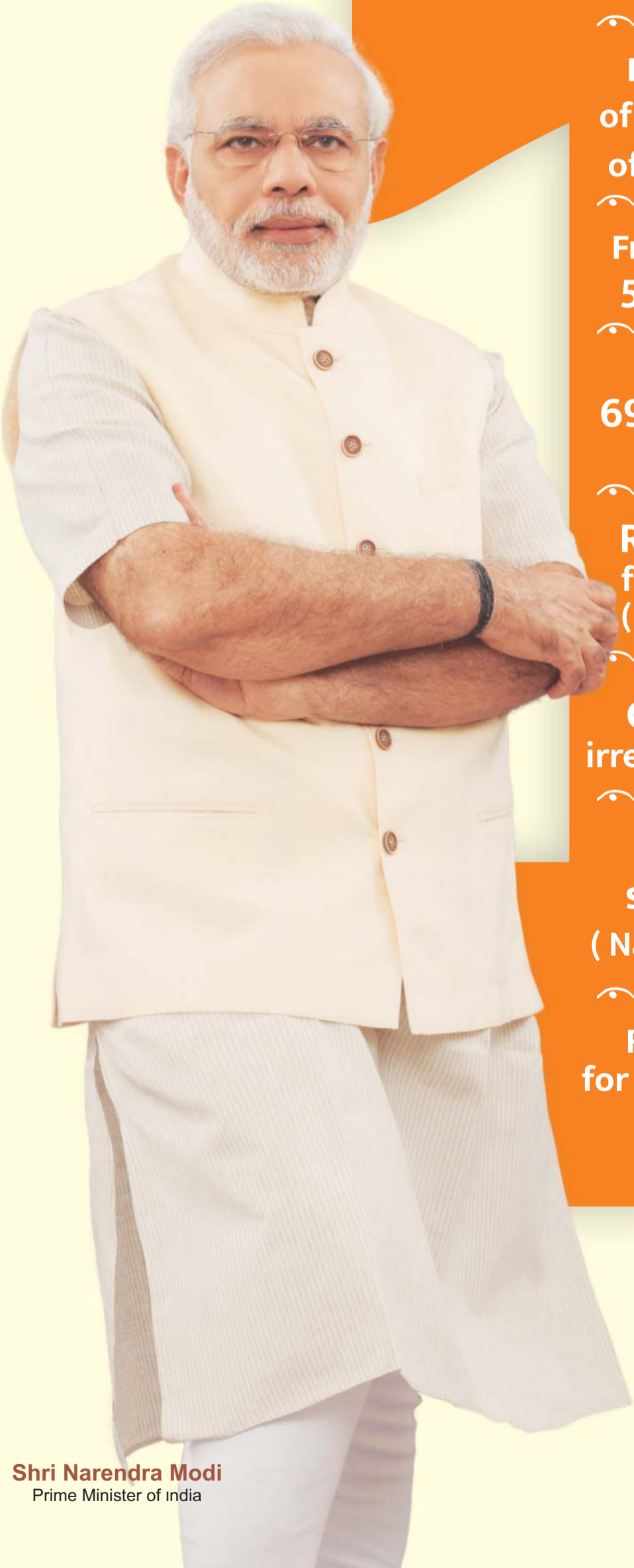
Free rations for
69.92 lakh poor families
for the next five years.

Rs. 1200 crore allocated
for women empowerment
(Mahatari Vandan Yojana)

CBI investigation into
irregularities in the PSC exam.

Construction of another
state of the art library
(Nalanda Parisar) for students .

Free of cost Darshan tour
for pilgrims from Chhattisgarh
to Ayodhya for the
darshan of Ramlala.



Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



Shri Vishnu Deo Sai
Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh



हमने बनाया है
हम ही संवारेँगे

सबका साथ-सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास और सबका प्रयास

19 IDEA EXCHANGE NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

You are consuming content which the algorithm wants you to consume. When the platform is no longer a platform in the true sense, should the safe harbour be a safe harbour in the original sense?



ANIL SASI: With regard to the railways, there seems to be a gap between demand and supply. The passenger traffic demand is approximately to the tune of 1,100 crore annually while the supply is about 800 crore. When it comes to larger network planning, are you looking at addressing this demand-supply gap?

Any country of our size requires multiple transportation modes to be developed simultaneously. Until 1950, the railways had a very dominant role in transportation. Over a period of time, since railways was an isolated organisation, with its own budget and processes, it was starved of investment.

When Atalji started the Golden Quadrilateral Project, the thought was to have a golden quadrilateral for highways and railways. Unfortunately, the investment in railways could never come. There was a structural issue because of which railways lost out on cargo and the demand-supply gap in case of passengers became prominent.

In 2014, Modi merged the railway budget with the general budget. From about Rs 35,000 crore annual budgetary allocation, he has increased it to Rs 2,40,000 crore. In the last 9.5 years, we've added 26,000 km of new tracks. Today we are adding new tracks at a rate of 14 km a day. Almost 94 per cent of the network is already electrified.

ANIL SASI: There is still an element of cross-subsidy in railway fares between freight and passengers. While you have some degree of flexibility now on fares on trunk routes, the operating ratio still continues to be fairly high at 97-98 per cent. Does the flexibility give you more headroom to bring down the cross-subsidy element? Given the high operating ratio, does it give you enough surplus to work on things like safety?

I don't think we can look at it purely from the prism of subsidy, cross-subsidy or flexibility in fares. Railways carry a social obligation, and that's important. In every train today, a person travelling over 1,000 km pays Rs 450 to 500 depending on the train track. We are also catering to the lowest income segment and should not look at it from this prism of cross subsidisation.

Even in the case of cargo, the difference between road and rail carrying one tonne for one km is Rs 2, which is almost 62 per cent cheaper compared to road. If you take a slightly bigger perspective, if we carry more cargo by rail by increasing capacity, having better technology, more locomotives, wagons, better terminal facilities, we'd have to spend less on imported oil. The pollution load of the road sector is nine times compared to the rail sector. That much carbon emission is saved, cost is saved, congestion in terms of time of travelling is avoided.

ANIL SASI: The Data Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP) and the Telecom Act were much-needed reforms, but the data bill seems to offer government entities blanket exemptions and the Data Protection Board is not as empowered as it was envisaged earlier. On the Telecom Act, there seems to be some confusion on whether OTT platforms are included. Can you clear the air on that?

It is very straightforward. In the DPDP Act, the exemption is very narrow and clearly defined. There is no blank exemption to the government. In the case of telecom, you have to define what is being transported... So the carrier is regulated by the Telecom Ministry. The content is regulated by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The financial services are regulated by the Ministry of Finance. Overall, the internet and OTT world are structurally regulated by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology through the IT Act.

LIZ MATHEW: As we walk into an election, there is a belief that YouTube and that kind of communication has a lot of influence on public opinion. How well are we prepared in terms of safeguarding democracy?

All over the world, democracies are worried about the influence of social media on the democratic process, especially after the AI-related developments. The promise of social media was that everybody gets a voice. That promise had an inherent understanding that whoever is publishing views on social media would also be accountable for it, be cognizant of the legal structure, social realities, make sure that nobody else is hurt. Today's social media has become free for all, where anybody can write anything derogatory about anybody else. So, many countries have already taken steps, which in a different context would be seen as suppressing freedom of speech. But they have taken those steps because that is necessary for society and protection of democracy. We

'From the UP govt to highways, telecom and railways, we are all ready (for the Ram temple)'

Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw on regulating telecom and upgrading safety systems in Railways. This session was moderated by Deputy Editor Liz Mathew and National Business Editor Anil Sasi



(From right) Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology, with Liz Mathew and Anil Sasi *Abhinav Saha*

have a legal structure, which addresses some of the concerns to some extent, but we need a much stronger and more comprehensive legal structure, where what is right, what is wrong, there has to be some judgment on that. There has to be accountability, both of the platform as well the users. We are working on the overhauling of the entire digital legal framework. We are working on four legislations. The first and second, we have already enacted in the Parliament. There are two more. One is a law, actually. The fourth is not a law, it's more of a framework.

LIZ MATHEW: With the opening of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the Railway Ministry has a key role to play. How well prepared are you for the massive crowds that are expected?

We have a structure and a work ethos which is very different from 10 years back. We are in a position to take up any big challenge. Practically every organisation, from the UP government to the highway system, telecom system or the railway system, we are all prepared.

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK: You're working on the Digital India Bill. The biggest gripe is that the way we've envisaged the concept of safe harbour for intermediaries, which was heavily borrowed from the US concept, was flawed. As we move towards a more complex system of intermediaries over the internet, how do you think safe harbour has changed since we first thought of it?

The context then was that the internet was an emerging thing. People who wanted to take the internet to the general public, said, 'How do I limit my liability to somebody who puts content on the net, for which I'm not responsible?' That was the context. The context has totally changed. Every platform moderates content as per their own policies. It's not as per law. The investment they make in moderation is different in different geographies, depending on their own priorities. When you say an algorithm is defining what will be seen, that's not equitable either. You are consuming content which the algorithm wants you to consume. When the platform is no longer a platform in the true sense, should the safe harbour be a safe harbour in the original sense? That's my question.

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK: When the Apple threat notification issue came, you and the MoS put the ball in Apple's court, that they have to justify why this was triggered. Since then, some

WHY ASHWINI VAISHNAW

Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw has been working for the modernisation of Indian Railways and the introduction of Vande Bharat Express trains across India. An alumnus of IIT Kanpur, the former bureaucrat is now in the

process of revamping the regulatory regime for the internet and telecom through key legislations such the Digital Personal Data Protection Act and the Telecom Act. Known to enjoy the confidence of PM Narendra Modi, there is also speculation that he may contest the Lok Sabha elections in 2024



I don't think we can look at it purely from the prism of subsidy, cross-subsidy or flexibility in fares. Railways also carry a social obligation, and that's very important... We are also catering to the lowest income segment

developments have happened but the concern was initially raised because it seemed that some people who had received the notifications were either from the Opposition or people from civil society or the media who are seen to be little critical of the government. Is there an understanding about why the notification was triggered? Also, why people from that particular strata?

You have answered your own question. You're saying that strata of the society 'seemed' to have. That means there is also a significant number of people who received, who are not in that 'seemed to have received' category. We have clarified everything. Apple has come out with a statement. Every company in the world has a standard language in which they issue notices. There is absolutely nothing abnormal in this case.

RITU SARIN: Apple has come to India for one or two meetings. What was the result of those meetings?

Once the inquiries are complete, it will be known to everybody. The technical investigation is still going on.

ANIL SASI: In the Pegasus case, the panel investigating it had said that the government had not cooperated.

They never said this. There was absolutely no lack of cooperation. We wanted that investigation to be absolutely objective and done by the expert committee. Whatever they asked, we provided — the technical help, data required, documents required. We never took care of the hospitality, which we were not supposed to do. It was an absolutely objective and purely technical investigation.

LIZ MATHEW: As the Railways Minister, what lessons did the Balasore train

accident teach you?

The entire team and system worked as one, which was committed to saving every possible life and making sure that every family affected by the incident would get the best possible support.

We have invested more than Rs 1,27,000 crore in the last 10 years to develop new safety systems. All the railway systems in the world moved to automatic train protection in the '80s and '90s. In 2016, Automatic Train Protection (ATP) was trialed on a live train system for the first time in India. ATPs need a complex certification system, called Safety Integrity Level 4 (SIL4), which means if something is operating for 10,000 years, it will fail only once. It took the Railways three years to get SIL4 certification for the entire system. It is an indigenously developed system, which is a matter of pride for us. We have now reached a level where the industry and the railways are capable of installing about 1,500 km to about 2,000 km (of railway lines) every year.

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK: The NSO Group, which makes the Pegasus software, has said that it does not sell the software to anyone else but a government or government agency. A lot of unease about Pegasus stems from the fact that the Indian government has never really clarified if it has ever bought Pegasus or not.

Has the TMC come out with a statement, clarifying if they have not bought it or not? The governments of West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh are also governments. Why do you look at the government as only the Central government? There was a proper Supreme Court-supervised investigation. We have clarified everything. I have submitted a reply in Parliament.

VIKAS PATHAK: There has been a lot of talk about Digital India but there have also been internet blackouts. A report revealed that there were 84 internet blackouts in 2022, making India the country with the most internet blackouts in the world. What is the balance between citizens' freedom to communicate and the concerns that the government cites?

All over the world, there are standard operating processes built for law and order situations. There was a time when curfews were quite common. Agencies responsible for maintaining law and order will have to take certain steps.

JATIN ANAND: The BJP is understood to have told most of its Rajya Sabha ministers and several MPs to contest the Lok Sabha elections. Would you prefer contesting from Rajasthan or Odisha?

I'm a disciplined *karyakarta* of the BJP, who understands what is expected of me and what is the meaning of *karyakarta*. I will do exactly what the party tells me. The party asked me to go to Maharashtra to organise the Rajya Sabha election. I went there. The party sent me to Madhya Pradesh for Assembly elections. I took a house there, lived and worked there.

UPASIKA SINGHAL: Why have there been so many delays in the tendering for the New Delhi railway station's redevelopment?

We are developing about 1,309 railway stations across the country and the progress on most is very good. New Delhi has a special challenge. We are located in an area which is very congested. So the station should decongest not just railway transportation. Our PM's mandate to us is very clear — the station has to join both sides of the city and become the city centre. It has to be a facilitator for all modes of transportation in that area. We have to integrate metro, intercity buses, interstate buses and cars. This creates a very large network outside the station. A complete road network gets built around the station that will decongest a large part of the city for many years to come. We should not take that as a station project but look at it as a project to create a transportation hub for a large part of the city.

The price quoted for the tender was high, so we cancelled it and are re-doing the tender. We have now revised the entire design and made it fully perpendicular.

HARISH DAMODARAN: What is the status of the Dedicated Freight

Corridor project?

The Dedicated Freight Corridor is very important because the capacity of railways needs to significantly increase. The thought process in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government was a golden quadrilateral for highways and a golden quadrilateral for railways. In 2005, the first papers started getting published on it. In 2007, the project was approved. Before 2014, zero km of the dedicated freight corridor was done. Now, practically the entire network is done, except for a small section which had design flaws. So we have revised the design. The system is designed to take about 400 trains a day. It's already taking more than 300 trains. It has helped us decongest the East and West parts of the golden quadrilateral. As we go forward, more capacity will be created, especially in sections that are highly congested.

JATIN GROVER: In the telecom sector, two operators — Jio and Airtel — occupy 70 per cent of the market share. You had earlier said that there were no signs of duopoly in the sector. How do you see it now? Vodafone and BSNL are continuously losing subscribers in the market.

I see this sector as a sunrise sector. There are new technologies, new investments. Close to Rs 2 lakh crore investment is happening in the 5G rollout. BSNL is reviving in a very systematic and methodical way. (We have) indigenously developed 4G and 5G technology. Today, there are only four countries in the world that have end-to-end telecom technology stack — China, South Korea, Sweden and Finland. India has become the fifth country to have an end-to-end telecom technology stack and the entire world, including the US, Europe and Australia, are showing interest in importing technology from us. That technology deployment has started. By Diwali, you'll see a significantly rolled-out network of BSNL 4G, which is upgradable to 5G.

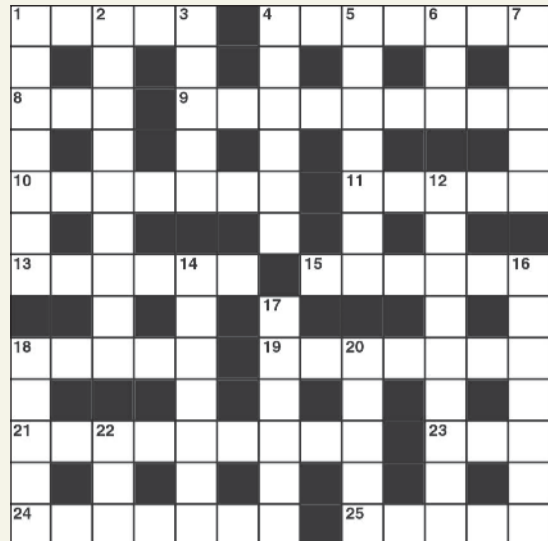
AMITABH SINHA: The proposed alignment of the new Pune-Nashik speed corridor is very close to the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) centre in Pune, which is your major radio telescope. It was feared that this would affect the quality of signals captured by GMRT. Has that issue been resolved?

We are working on it. It's a very complex issue because that is one of the observatories that we are proud of. We are trying to figure out a solution. We looked at either bypassing it on the right side of the map or on the eastern side or western side.



There has to be accountability, both of the platform as well as the users. We are working on the overhauling of the entire digital legal framework. We are working on four legislations

CROSSWORD 5261



- ACROSS: 1 Transport a road vehicle by railway (5), 4 No answer (7), 8 Surrounded by Roman figures (3), 9 Lady dives into trouble deliberately (9), 10 It could confuse men in a whole continent (7), 11 Imprisoned dog to suffer (5), 13 Careless delay about the start of day can be fatal (6), 15 His bank account is often misleading (6), 18 Italian city return for Greek (5), 19 Attractive sketch (7), 21 Its failed participants may well be out of pocket (9), 23 Copy out of the newspaper (3), 24 Binds books (7), 25 The fewer you have the less you want (5). DOWN: 1 Order the ambitious officer hopes to get (7), 2 Turned and twisted overmuch (9), 3 Times when rays may be seen around the East (5), 4 Great celebration about a show (6), 5 Make way? (7), 6 Depressing piece of misadventure (3), 7 A better type of cake (5), 12 Pay attention to work (9), 16 Seeking to taste defeat (7), 17 Thinks a great deal of modern day raw materials (6), 18 Walk carelessly from blame (5), 20 The offence of one coming to light (5), 22 Fuel record (3).

Solutions Crossword 5260 Across: 1 Spotlights, 8 Canal, 9 Strived, 10 Accused, 11 Espion, 12 Champs, 14 Aster, 17 Lucre, 19 Embrace, 21 Oculist, 22 Abuse, 23 Now and then, 24 Panacea, 3 Tiles, 4 Inside, 5 Harness, 6 Saves, 7 Adam and Eve, 8 Chancellor, 13 Preview, 15 Erasure, 16 Sent on, 18 Chum, 20 Beast

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson

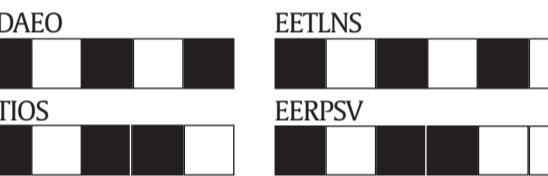


MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue. ... is only one of many. - Samuel Johnson (4, 8)



SOLUTION: ADBOEB/ABOEB, STORIC, WESTLE, VESPERS

SUDOKU 5442

Difficulty Level 2s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



Difficulty Level 1s = Very Easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5441



SALUTE THE SOLDIER



On the occasion of 59th Raising Day, the CARNATIC family with a heavy heart and head held high, salute and pay our tributes to our valiant soldiers who laid down their lives true to our regimental motto 'Swadharme Nidhanam Shreyaha'.

OP PAWAN (Sri Lanka) 1988 Nk Murugesan, Nk Haridasan P, Nk KA Ramakrishna, L/Nk K Selvaraj, L/Nk G Marimuthu, L/Nk R Chidambaram, L/Nk T Muniappa, Sep Santhanam, Sep Selvaraju J, Sep Devendra Reddy, Sep Maruti Patil & Sep J Reddappa Reddy OP RAKSHAK-III (J&K) 1996 Maj JS Pandian, SC, Nk Vinayan, SM, Sep Francis Suresh Kumar, SM, Sep Ramakrishna Pillai & Sep S Dasarathan OP VIJAYA (J&K) 1999 Sub C Mohan Rao & Sep Sekhar OP RAKSHAK-III (J&K) 2000 Nk Saveena, Sep Natarajan, Sep Babu Sanikoppa, Sep S Narasimhulu, Sep Hema Chandu, Sep Simhachalam K & Sep Jenish TS OP RAKSHAK-III (J&K) 2004 Nk K Mani, Sep Balarami Reddy & Sep Ajith OP MEGHDOOT (Siachen) 2016 Sub Nagesha TT, Hav Elumalai M, SM, L/Hav S Kumar, L/Nk Sudheesh B, L/Nk Mahesha PN, L/Nk Hanamanthappa Koppad, SM, Sep Ganesan G, Sep Rama Moorthy, SM, Sep S Mustaq Ahmed & Sep V Santhosh Kumar

Their act of valour & sacrifice will always be the guiding light for the CARNATIC family & will inspire rank & file to keep the 'CARNATIC' flag flying high in the years to come. Colonel Sambhav Sagar, SM & all Ranks 19 MADRAS (CARNATIC)

Advertisement for Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport Mumbai, featuring EOI and E-Tender notices.

Advertisement for East Central Railway, featuring E-Tender Notice for construction work.

Advertisement for Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), featuring Public Notice and Notice for tenders.

Advertisement for Classifieds, featuring Personal notices and Mohamud Hanif's notice.

Advertisement for Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd, featuring Tender Notice for film and bearing supply.

Advertisement for Municipal Council Sailu Dist. Parbhani, featuring E-Tender Notice for works.

Advertisement for UPSIDA, featuring E-Tender Notice for construction and maintenance work.

Advertisement for Office of the Superintending Engineer, featuring Notice Inviting Tender for outsourcing work.

Advertisement for Adani Electricity Mumbai Infra Limited, featuring Notice Inviting Tender for power supply arrangement.

Advertisement for Classifieds, featuring Personal notices and Nitesh Kumari's notice.

Advertisement for Classifieds, featuring Personal notices and Bilma Devi Choriya's notice.

Advertisement for Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd, featuring Request for Proposal for procurement of buses.

Advertisement for Adani Electricity, featuring Notice Inviting Tender for power supply arrangement.

Advertisement for Adani Electricity Mumbai Infra Limited, featuring Notice Inviting Tender for power supply arrangement.

Advertisement for Classifieds, featuring Personal notices and Bhawana W/O's notice.

