



BJP scouting for new CM in Manipur after Biren's exit

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

What next?

BJP has initiated the next course of action after N. Biren Singh resigned as Manipur Chief Minister



- State BJP in-charge Sambit Patra holds separate meetings with the party's MLAs, barring seven Kuki-Zo members
- He has also met MLAs of Naga People's Front and State security advisor Kuldiep Singh
- Manipur Congress says it would oppose any move to impose President's Rule in the State
- Security has been tightened in Imphal, especially in sensitive areas such as Sanjenthong, Singjamei, and Kangla Gate

After Nongthombam Biren Singh resigned as Manipur's Chief Minister, the BJP began searching for his successor. Sambit Patra, the party's in-charge for Manipur, held closed-door meetings with BJP MLAs (excluding seven from the Kuki-Zo community), Naga People's Front MLAs, security advisor Kuldiep Singh, and Hill Areas Committee chairperson Dinganglung Gangmei. Discussions focused on restoring peace, while the selection of a new CM remains with the party's central leadership.

Potential candidates include Yumnam Khemchand, Thokchom Satyabrata, Konthoujam Govindas, Thounaojam Basantakumar, and Thokchom Radheshyam. The Congress opposed President's Rule, calling for a democratic government. BJP leaders emphasized the need

for a leader acceptable to all communities. Reports suggest that the BJP's central leadership may consult Kuki-Zo MLAs before finalizing a successor. Security has been heightened in Imphal amid speculation and protests.

Trump to impose 25 % tariffs on steel, aluminium imports

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Metal merchandise

U.S. imports most of its aluminium and steel from Canada, China and Mexico. Tables show imports in \$ billion (2018-2023)



Aluminium and articles made of them

1	Canada	\$57.3bn
2	China	\$18.5bn
3	Mexico	\$9.6bn
4	UAE	\$8.9bn
5	India	\$4.5bn



Iron & steel and articles made of them

1	China	\$85.1bn
2	Canada	\$71.4bn
3	Mexico	\$58.4bn
..		
9	India	\$15.6bn

Former U.S. President Donald Trump announced a 25% tariff on all steel and aluminium imports, including from Canada and Mexico, with additional duties to follow. Speaking on Air Force One, he also reaffirmed plans for "reciprocal tariffs" on countries imposing high duties on U.S. goods.

While details on the tariffs remain unclear, Trump previously threatened 25% duties on Canadian and Mexican imports but paused them for 30 days while imposing 10% duties on Chinese goods. He views tariffs as a tool for economic leverage and revenue generation.

Additionally, Trump plans to delay tariffs on small imported packages, including those from fast-fashion companies like Temu and Shein, until customs officials devise enforcement mechanisms.

His announcement has caused concern among global trade partners, with South Korea's acting President Choi

Sang-mok convening a meeting to assess the potential impact on the country's industries and formulate a response.

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Why were you silent about Bills, SC asks T.N. Governor

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

The Supreme Court questioned the prolonged silence of Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi regarding State Bills, criticizing his delay in communicating objections before withholding consent and referring at least 10 Bills to the President. Justice J.B. Pardiwala noted that the Governor's inaction for years followed by sudden referrals suggested he had reservations but failed to convey them.

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani argued that the Governor had earlier raised concerns about the process for appointing Vice-Chancellors in State universities. The Tamil Nadu government had passed Bills to remove the Governor from this role, but he did not communicate his objections clearly.

Justice Pardiwala pointed out that if the Governor had expressed concerns earlier, the Tamil Nadu Assembly's reconsideration of the Bills in November 2023 would not have been a mere formality. Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, representing the Tamil Nadu government, emphasized that good governance required the Governor to state reasons for withholding assent.

The court reserved judgment, with the debate centering on whether the Governor acted beyond his jurisdiction by referring the Bills to the President after finding them repugnant. Singhvi maintained that the State Legislature had the constitutional

Niti Aayog report seeks more public funding for higher education

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

A NITI Aayog report titled "Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities" highlights variations in education spending across Indian States and Union Territories. Jammu and Kashmir allocates the highest percentage of its GDP to education (8.11%), followed by Manipur (7.25%), Meghalaya (6.64%), and Tripura (6.19%). In contrast, Delhi (1.67%), Telangana (2%), and Karnataka (2.01%) spend significantly less.

Maharashtra leads in higher education funding with ₹11,421 crore, followed by Bihar (₹9,666 crore) and Tamil Nadu (₹7,237 crore), while Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland have the lowest budgets. Bihar ranks highest in higher education expenditure as a percentage of GSDP (1.56%), followed by Jammu & Kashmir (1.53%) and Manipur (1.45%), whereas Telangana allocates the least (0.18%).

The report notes growing disparities in higher education spending and emphasizes the role of State Public Universities (SPUs) in maintaining academic excellence. NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery stressed the need for SPUs to strive for high standards alongside premier institutions like IITs.

LCA-Mk2 prototype likely to be rolled out by 2025-end, AMCA by early 2027: officials

POLITY & GOVERNANCE



India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and Light Combat Aircraft-Mk2 (LCA-Mk2) are key to the Indian Air Force's modernization efforts. The first prototype of LCA-Mk2 is expected to roll out by the end of 2024, with its first flight in early 2026 and induction by 2028-29. It will feature 11 weapon stations and fully indigenous weapons.

The AMCA, a fifth-generation stealth fighter, was sanctioned in April 2024, with development underway. The first prototype is expected by late 2026 or early 2027, with a test flight by 2028. The aircraft will be certified by 2032 and inducted into the IAF by 2034. The AMCA can carry 1.5 tonnes of internal armament and additional external weapons in non-stealth mode.

Five prototypes are planned for testing, with initial production at four aircraft per year before ramping up. Amid China's and Pakistan's rapid fighter modernization, India aims to accelerate development to strengthen its air capabilities.

India, U.K. sign several agreements to strengthen defence cooperation

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The United Kingdom has formally launched the Defence Partnership-India (DP-I), a dedicated cell within its Ministry of Defence to strengthen defence collaboration with India. The announcement was made at Aero India, where multiple defence cooperation agreements were signed between the two nations.

Key agreements include the production of Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS), Lightweight Multirole Missiles (LMM), and the establishment of an Advanced Short-Range Air-to-Air Missile (ASRAAM) assembly and test facility in India. Additionally, a Statement of Intent (Sol) was signed to develop an Integrated Full Electric Propulsion (IFEP) system for Indian Navy ships.

Thales U.K. and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) signed a contract for Laser Beam-Riding MANPADs (LBRMs), with initial deliveries of STARStreak missiles and launchers set for this year. Both companies will also collaborate on producing LMMs, integrating Indian industry into Thales' global supply chain.

Additionally, MBDA U.K. and BDL are setting up an ASRAAM assembly and test facility in Hyderabad, intended for use on Jaguar and Light Combat Aircraft-Mk1A jets. The agreements aim to enhance security, create jobs, and promote interoperability between both nations' armed forces.

Stealth aircraft from Russia and U.S. showcase their aerial capabilities

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



On the inaugural day of Aero India, visitors witnessed an impressive aerial display by two advanced fifth-generation fighter aircraft—the Russian Su-57 and the U.S. F-35 Lightning II.

At 2:30 p.m., the Su-57, making its debut at the airshow, performed a series of aerial maneuvers showcasing its stealth capabilities, supersonic speeds, and advanced sensors. India was previously part of a joint Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft program with Russia but withdrew in 2018.

Following the Su-57, the U.S. F-35 Lightning II took to the skies, demonstrating its stealth and multi-role capabilities. This marks the second time the F-35 has participated in Aero India. The aircraft, developed by Lockheed Martin, is the USAF's latest fifth-generation fighter with supersonic speed and advanced combat features.

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Modi arrives in France for AI summit, talks with Macron

INTERNAL SECURITY



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in France for a three-day visit, during which he will co-chair the AI Action Summit with French President Emmanuel Macron and hold bilateral talks. The summit, focused on AI innovation, governance, and its impact on the future of work, will see India representing the Global South.

Following the summit, Modi and Macron will engage in economic discussions at the India-France CEOs Forum and review the 2047 Horizon Roadmap for strategic cooperation. Other key events include the opening of a new Indian consulate in Marseille and a visit to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) for nuclear research. Modi will also pay tribute to Indian soldiers at the Mazargues War Cemetery, which honors those who fought in World Wars I and II. After France,

Modi will visit the U.S. for talks with President Donald Trump, aiming to strengthen India-U.S. relations across various sectors.

India may offer lower duties on pecans to pacify Trump

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Tariff matrix

The table shows the current tariffs on top U.S. exports to India



Product	Basic customs duty
Crude petroleum	₹1 per metric tonne
Diamond	5%
Coking coal, steam coal	2.75%
Aeroplanes	2.5%*
LNG	2.75%
Gold	6%
Aluminium and scrap	2.50%
Other types of waste, scrap	0.00%
Saturated acrylic hydrocarbons	2.50%
Suspension grade PVC resin	7.50%
Non-industrial diamonds	0.00%
Bleached/semi-bleached coniferous wood	5%

* zero if imported by a scheduled commercial operator

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming bilateral meetings with U.S. President Donald Trump are expected to focus on trade, particularly tariffs. India may offer further reductions in import duties on U.S. goods like pecan nuts to ease Trump's concerns over tariffs. India has already lowered duties on certain U.S. agricultural products, such as almonds, and may consider more cuts for non-locally produced items.

Officials hope these concessions, along with data showing India's low tariffs on major U.S. industrial exports, will help soften Trump's stance. Modi is also expected to push for the reinstatement of India's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) status, which was revoked in 2019.

Trade experts note Trump's negotiation style often involves using tariffs as leverage, as seen with Canada and Mexico. Strengthening India-U.S. relations through a potential Free Trade Agreement (FTA), increased Indian purchases of U.S. defense equipment, and energy trade are key U.S. priorities.



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'Key Maoist leader among 31 killed in Bijapur encounter'

INTERNAL SECURITY

Security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur killed 31 Maoists, including key members of the West Bastar Division, in an operation on Sunday. Among those identified is Hunga Karma, a divisional committee member with an ₹8 lakh bounty, responsible for multiple attacks on security forces and villagers. Other identified Maoists include Mangu Hemla, Subhash Oyam, and Sannu (₹5 lakh bounty each) and Ramesh (₹2 lakh).

This year, 65 Maoists have been killed in the Bastar region, with 56 from Bijapur, highlighting the area's ongoing security challenges. The operation targeted the National Park area, a Maoist stronghold.

Gaza and Trump's 'expanding the canvas' strategy

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Former U.S. President Donald Trump proposed a controversial plan to depopulate Gaza and redevelop it into a global tourist hub, while hinting at a forthcoming proposal for the West Bank. His remarks, alongside Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, suggested Saudi Arabia might soon join the Abraham Accords, though Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS) insisted on Palestinian statehood as a prerequisite for Saudi-Israeli ties.

Trump's unpredictable second term coincides with a shifting geopolitical landscape in West Asia, following 16 months of conflict that have weakened Iran's influence and intensified regional instability. The war in Gaza has reinforced Palestinian statehood as a central issue, complicating Trump's efforts to expand Arab-Israeli normalization.

Economically, the region faces major post-war reconstruction challenges, with billions needed to rebuild Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria. Trump's policies, including his focus on U.S. energy independence and trade restrictions, further complicate West Asia's reliance on oil.

Saudi Arabia, under MbS, emerges as a key player with its strong economy and diplomatic reach. While MbS once sought security and nuclear concessions from the U.S. in exchange for joining the Abraham Accords, the Gaza war has hardened his stance on a two-state solution. Despite obstacles, U.S.-Saudi cooperation remains crucial, with MbS positioned to fund regional reconstruction and encourage diplomatic solutions. Trump's challenge lies in persuading Israel to compromise, making his partnership with MbS a potential stabilizing force in the region.

India as a bridge between the Global North and South

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

India has renewed its commitment to championing the Global South, as highlighted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statements at the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit. Unlike the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM), India's approach is not based on decolonization or anti-West rhetoric but on balancing ties with both developing nations and traditional partners like the U.S. and Europe.

While some argue India is countering China's influence, its broader goal is to establish itself as an independent global power. Many Global South nations are disillusioned with existing economic paradigms, and India positions itself as a bridge between the Global North and South. However, to be successful, it must implement effective strategies.

Key steps include:

- **Promoting an alternative development model** – India must ensure its initiatives reflect genuine partnerships rather than a top-down, India-first approach.
- **Human-centric development** – Beyond behavioral change (e.g., Mission LiFE), India should invest in capacity-building, skill development, and entrepreneurship, aligning with Global South priorities.
- **Strengthening global governance** – India played a role in adding the African Union to the G-20 but must also develop its own domestic institutions for international cooperation.
- India must both **amplify and listen** to Global South voices. Just as it once led NAM by offering a third way, it now has an opportunity to shape a more inclusive global order.

Troubled waters

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The long-standing fisheries dispute in the Palk Bay region has escalated with the Sri Lankan Navy arresting 14 Tamil Nadu fishermen on February 8 for alleged poaching near Mannar, bringing the total Indian arrests in 2024 to 77. Earlier, on January 27, the Navy fired at an Indian boat near Delft Island, injuring two fishermen. In 2024, the number of Indian fishermen detained in Sri Lanka surpassed 500 for the first time in a decade, with increasing convictions and hefty fines complicating their release.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin informed External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar that 97 fishermen and 216 boats remain in Sri Lankan custody. Sri Lankan Tamil fishermen oppose Indian bottom trawling, which depletes marine resources, and seek sustainable solutions. Talks between Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen have stalled since 2016, and the current Sri Lankan government appears reluctant to negotiate.

Unlike detentions in other countries, Sri Lanka's arrests are significantly higher. India must introduce incentives for Palk Bay fishermen to shift away from trawling while also urging both governments to facilitate dialogue between fishing communities. Sustainable fishing policies and proactive diplomacy are essential to resolving this ongoing dispute.

What has the Budget offered scientists?

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The Union Budget 2025-26 prioritizes research and innovation, allocating ₹20,000 crore for the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and private sector R&D under a ₹1 lakh crore corpus. It aims to enhance collaboration between academia, startups, and corporations, particularly in deep tech and sunrise sectors. The National Geospatial Mission receives ₹100 crore to strengthen geospatial data infrastructure.

The budget significantly boosts the biotechnology sector with ₹3,446.64 crore for the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), a 51.45% increase from the previous year. It supports initiatives such as the 'Bio-RIDE' scheme, high-yielding seed research, and bio-entrepreneurship. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) welcomes the budget's focus on industry collaboration, green hydrogen, sustainable agriculture, and youth skilling.

In the nuclear sector, the government aims to expand nuclear power to 100 GWe by 2047 and promote Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), with regulatory enhancements by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The budget also introduces a ₹10,000 crore fund for deep tech startups.

However, some experts criticize the budget for favoring mission-driven research over curiosity-driven science and education. Concerns include underfunding of basic research, reduced allocations to universities, and excessive focus on AI and private sector initiatives. Critics also highlight bureaucratic hurdles in research funding and the need for stronger government support for public universities and scientific institutions.

India stays stoic on Trump's aluminium, steel tariffs' gambit

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Former U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement of a 25% tariff on all steel and aluminium imports has raised concerns for global markets, including India, just ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington. However, India's response has been muted, with Union Steel Secretary Sandeep Poundrik downplaying the impact, citing India's minimal steel exports to the U.S. (95,000 tonnes out of 145 million tonnes total production).

Experts warn that while the direct impact may be limited, increased competition and oversupply in other markets could hurt Indian steel producers, who are already struggling with high imports and low prices. A similar tariff move in 2018 led India to impose retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods.

Meanwhile, India has yet to respond to the U.S. decision to modify or revoke its sanctions waiver for the Chabahar port project in Iran, which is crucial for India's trade strategy. Additionally, there has been no official reaction to Trump's threats of 100% tariffs on BRICS countries if they move away from using the U.S. dollar.

RBI followed a highly unfortunate exchange policy: Arvind Subramanian

ECONOMICS & DEVELOPMENT

Former Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) Arvind Subramanian criticized the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) exchange rate policy from mid-2022 to early 2025, calling it costly and damaging to the economy. Speaking at a panel discussion, he emphasized the need for greater accountability and safeguards against inappropriate policies by major institutions.

On the Union Budget 2025-26, he noted a shift in the fiscal framework from targeting fiscal deficits to focusing on a declining debt trajectory, a recommendation he made in 2017. However, he pointed out the lack of operational benchmarks for achieving this goal.

Regarding income tax cuts, Subramanian argued that taxation's legitimacy depends on the State's ability to provide essential public goods and services before focusing on redistribution.

He also highlighted weak private investment, stating that while the government has improved returns through tax cuts and banking reforms, it has failed to reduce investor risk. He warned that the strategy of favouring "national champions" with regulatory benefits has discouraged broader investment.

Southern States should benchmark themselves against the world, says CEA

ECONOMICS & DEVELOPMENT

Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran emphasized that Southern States should benchmark their progress against global standards rather than just India, as they lead in many economic parameters. Contributing over 30% of India's GDP, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka stand out with high Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth. The region's real annual growth rate is 6.3%, surpassing the national average of 5%, while per capita GDP growth is 5% compared to 4.2% for the rest of India.

The South also excels in labour force participation, Gross Value Added (GVA), and industrial activity, accounting for a significant share of factories and fixed capital investments. However, despite having 33% of India's manufacturing workforce, the region's output share is only 26%, indicating potential for productivity improvement.

Nageswaran highlighted the need to enhance higher-order skills (levels 3 and 4) in areas like engineering, medicine, and AI, as the Southern States currently excel in mid-level skills but lag in advanced expertise. He stressed that improving these skills is crucial for high-value manufacturing and AI-driven industries in the 21st century.

Trump's latest tariff threat bruises euro, Australian and Canadian dollars amid risk of global retaliation

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Fresh tariff threats from U.S. President Donald Trump put pressure on global currencies, particularly the euro, Australian dollar, and Canadian dollar. Trump announced plans for new 25% tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, along with reciprocal tariffs matching other countries' rates. This added to trade war concerns, especially with China's retaliatory tariffs set to take effect.

The Canadian dollar fell 0.33% to C\$1.4347, as Canada is a major steel and aluminum exporter to the U.S. The euro dropped 0.14% to \$1.03125, while the Australian dollar declined 0.13% to \$0.6269. The Japanese yen weakened, with the dollar gaining 0.7% to 152.43 yen. China's yuan also hit a three-week low,



breaching the 7.3 per dollar level.

Analysts warned that reciprocal tariffs could further disrupt global trade. Investors are also watching U.S. inflation data and Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's congressional testimony, as tariffs may increase inflation, influencing Fed rate decisions. Markets now expect 36 basis points of interest rate cuts this year, down from 42 bps, following a strong U.S. jobs report.

SEC starts shifting agency's focus as job cut threat spooks staff

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Following a directive from the Trump administration inviting federal employees to resign, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) acting chief Mark Uyeda addressed staff at the agency's Washington headquarters. Instead of discussing job security or concerns over the SEC's new direction, Uyeda focused on his own career, which some staff found "tone deaf." However, he also took questions and did not make offensive remarks.

The Trump administration has criticized the SEC's enforcement approach, leading to a shift in priorities. Recent changes include centralizing power with Republican-led commissioners and scaling back

crypto enforcement, with further restructuring expected. Some experts warn that these rapid changes, layoffs, and lack of transparency could undermine the agency's effectiveness.

Paul Atkins, Trump's nominee for SEC chair, is expected to clarify the agency's direction. Experts emphasize that while regulatory efficiency is needed, maintaining market confidence and protecting investors should remain priorities.

Trump asks Treasury Department to stop minting new pennies

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

U.S. President Donald Trump has ordered the Treasury Department to stop minting new pennies, citing their high production cost—each penny costs over 3 cents to make. His decision aligns with his administration's cost-cutting efforts, led by Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency. While Trump's authority to unilaterally eliminate the penny is unclear, Congress has historically debated similar proposals. The U.S. Mint reported an \$85.3 million loss in 2024 from penny production. Proponents argue eliminating the coin could save money and speed up transactions, following the example of countries like Canada. The U.S. previously discontinued the half-cent coin in 1857.

China lays down conditions for Dalai Lama's Tibet return

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



China has stated that it is open to discussions about the Dalai Lama's future if he abandons his stance on Tibetan independence and acknowledges Tibet and Taiwan as inalienable parts of China. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson made the remarks while responding to news of the death of the Dalai Lama's elder brother. The exiled Tibetan leader, who fled to India in 1959, has expressed a desire to return to Tibet before he dies. However, the Tibetan parliament-in-exile in India rejected Beijing's preconditions for talks.

Centre's allocations for justice-related schemes fluctuate

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

The paper trail

The data for the charts were sourced from the Central government's Budget documents and the India Justice Report 2025-26

Chart 1: Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and actual expenditure of the Modernisation Fund for the State Police Forces (in ₹ crore)

Years	Budget Estimates (BE)	Revised Estimates (RE)	Actual Expenditure (AE)
2018-19	897.29	915.79	914.12
2019-20	959.8	939.79	929.58
2020-21	784.53	106.74	159.99
2021-22	668.5	240.49	170.45
2022-23	621.45	152.52	34.72
2023-24	264.12	221.16	65.28
2024-25	520.51	160.12	-
2025-26	587.97	-	-



The India Justice Report 2025-26 reveals a consistent decline in budget allocations for justice-related schemes since 2019, with actual spending often falling below estimates. The Modernisation Fund for State Police Forces, meant to upgrade police infrastructure, has seen a steady reduction in budget estimates, from ₹900 crore in FY19 to ₹587.97 crore in FY26. Revised Estimates (RE) show drastic cuts, such as ₹780 crore in FY21 being reduced to ₹106 crore. Actual spending has been significantly lower, with only 6% of the allocation utilized in FY23.

The Modernisation of Forensic Capacities scheme saw fluctuating allocations, while the Modernisation of Prisons Fund, initially increasing to ₹400 crore in FY23, was later cut to ₹300 crore, with only 44% utilized after FY23.

In contrast, judiciary-related schemes have seen better budget utilization. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has reported 100% utilization of funds, with allocations ranging between ₹150 crore and ₹200 crore, except for an increase to ₹400 crore in FY24. Similarly, the Judicial Infrastructure Development Fund has been almost fully utilized over the past five years, though allocations have dropped from ₹1,123.40 crore in FY25 to ₹998 crore in FY26.

The report highlights a trend of declining justice-sector funding, particularly in police modernization and forensic capacities, while judiciary-related schemes continue to receive and utilize funds effectively.

Chart 2: The Budget Estimates of funds for the Modernisation of Forensic Capacities from FY23 to FY26. Figures in ₹

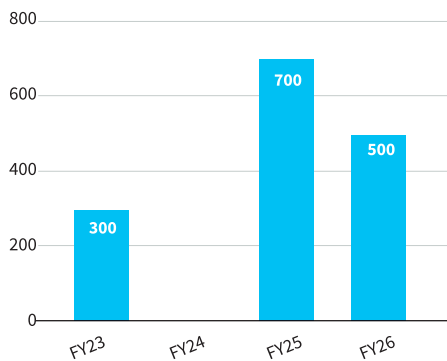


Chart 3: The allocation of funds for the modernisation of prisons from FY22 to FY26. Figures in ₹ crore

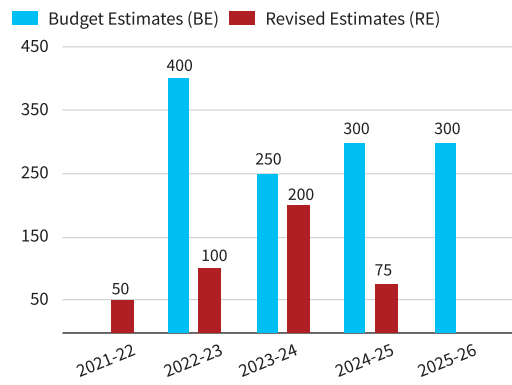


Chart 4: The BE and RE of allocations to the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) from FY19 to FY25

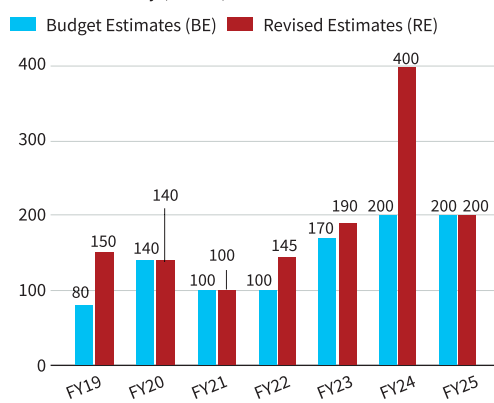
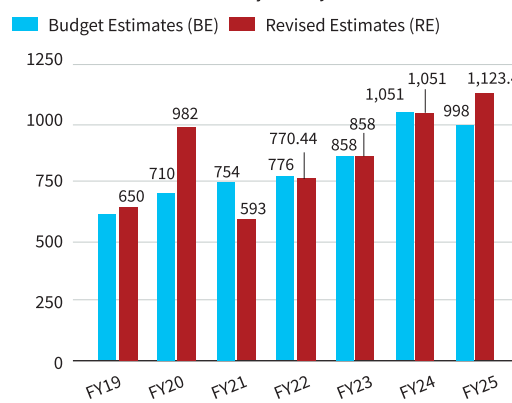


Chart 5: The BE and RE of allocations for the development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary from FY19 to FY25



Vietnam aims at cutting public sector jobs, slash govt. budgets

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Vietnam plans to cut 20% of public sector jobs and reduce government spending by \$4.5 billion over the next five years, following a model similar to U.S. President Donald Trump's cost-cutting efforts. The reform, led by Communist Party General Secretary To Lam, will reduce government ministries from 30 to 22 and affect sectors like media, civil service, police, and military. Nearly two million people work in the public sector, with 100,000 set for redundancy or early retirement. While the move aims to boost economic growth and streamline bureaucracy, concerns remain about job security, corruption, and Vietnam's vulnerability to U.S. tariffs.



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