

# 'AAP corrupt, can't stay': Delhi min Anand resigns

## Faces ED Case, Was Raided In Nov Last Year

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**New Delhi:** Dealing a blow to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the middle of election season, social welfare minister and Patel Nagar MLA Raaj Kumar Anand resigned from govt and party Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference, Anand, 57, said, "AAP was formed to fight corruption, but it is now embroiled in it. It has become difficult for me to work as a minister." He also alleged that Dalits didn't get respect in AAP.

AAP claimed Anand was under a lot of pressure. "He had told party colleagues that whenever he tried to get active (in politics and work), he got a phone call," minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said.

Reading out from a paper, Anand expressed his distress

**“ AAP is embroiled in corruption.** Given the situation, it has become difficult for me to stay in this party. That is why... I am resigning from this party and my minister's post... Till yesterday, we were under the impression that we are being framed, but after



the high court verdict, it seems that there is **something wrong at our end**  
— Raaj Kumar Anand

Time and again we said that the intention behind arresting Arvind Kejriwal was to break the party and govts of Delhi and Punjab. Many of our **colleagues will feel that we hate Raaj Kumar (Anand) and will call him dishonest and cheater.** We will not say any such thing...

Not everyone is Sanjay Singh. I **believe that he was scared**  
— Saurabh Bharadwaj



at the current state of affairs in AAP. "I don't want my name to be involved in such acts. I don't think we have the morality left to govern," he said, in an apparent reference to the ongoing investigation into the alleged excise policy scam and the arrest of CM Arvind Kejriwal.

Anand himself is being investigated in a money laundering case. ED had, in Nov last year, conducted a raid at

Anand's residence, apart from 12 other locations in Delhi-NCR, UP and Kolkata.

The searches were conducted based on a complaint filed by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence. Anand was accused of making hawala payments to China and evading customs duty amounting to about Rs 7 crore on various imports.

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# 19% more India univs in QS rankings, 2nd in Asia

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**Mumbai:** A total of 69 Indian universities have made it to the QS World University Rankings by Subject with 424 entries, a 19.4% rise from the previous year's 355. Up to 72% of Indian entries this year are new to the list, or have shown improvement, or maintained their positions, whereas 18% experienced a decline. Among the highest ranked are JNU, IIT-Bombay and IIT-Madras.

In Asia, India is second on list of universities featured (69), behind China (101) and is fourth on ranked subject entries after China, Japan and South Korea. The most repre-

## SOME INDIAN STARS ON GLOBAL STAGE

**JNU: 20th** in development studies (11th in academic reputation among Indian univs)

**IIM-A: 22nd** in business studies

**IIT-B: 25th** in engineering – mineral & mining (6th globally in employer reputation)

**IIT-M: 29th** in petroleum engg (8th in employer reputation)

**Indian School of Mines: 44th** in engineering – mineral & mining

**\* 6 Indian universities in top 10 for employer reputation**

Source: QS World University Rankings by Subject

sented Indian universities are DU (30 entries), IIT-B (28) and IIT-Kharagpur (27).

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# Why China's renaming spree in Arunachal has India fuming

China's hostile pursuit of sovereignty over the state risks worsening the already heightened tensions, if not another military flare-up. **Sachin Parashar** takes a look

What's in a name? A lot, apparently, as far as China is concerned. China believes it can reinforce its claim over Arunachal Pradesh, which it calls Zangnan, by renaming or "standardising" the names of places in the north-eastern state. According to Beijing, these names respect the ethnic culture and are in keeping with local laws. A closer look reveals a pattern to this rechristening that aims to belittle India's sovereignty over the state. China has renamed places in Arunachal Pradesh on four occasions, each of which was preceded by a diplomatic spat with India over some border issue. The first one, in 2017, followed the Dalai Lama's visit to the state. That was a particularly bad year for Sino-Indian ties as the Doklam standoff took place the same year. Then, in 2021, China renamed 15 places in the middle of the ongoing standoff in eastern Ladakh. Last year, 11 more places were renamed shortly after India held a G20 meeting in the state. China did not participate in the meeting and lodged a protest with India for hosting that meeting in Arunachal. On this occasion, the renaming exercise followed some sharp exchanges between the two sides shortly after PM Narendra Modi's visit to the state.

## Coercive Diplomacy

The renaming is seen by many as another example of coercive diplomacy that Beijing is known to practise to validate its territorial claims. India and China are yet to fully resolve the 2020 military standoff in eastern Ladakh and India continues to insist it won't resume normal bilateral exchanges with Beijing till the disengagement process is completed in the remaining areas. China is also within striking distance, apparently, of achieving a border settlement with Bhutan, adding another layer of complexity to boundary issues as it might have a bearing on the status of Doklam, the Bhutanese territory at the Bhutan-China-India trijunction, close to the Silliguri Corridor. India wants to build a motorable road from Tawang to Guwahati that will pass through Bhutan but Thimphu, which is keen to have its China border demarcated soon, is dithering under pressure from China. It believes work on the proposal will probably lead to China not giving up some of the disputed areas in the north.

China has never recognised the McMahon Line which runs from the eastern Bhutan border and effectively serves as the boundary between India and China. Beijing says Tibet didn't have sovereignty over the region when it was negotiated in 1914 with the British as it was a part of China.

China claims not just Tawang in



Satellite images from 2019 and 2021 show a village along the border in Arunachal



Arunachal but effectively the entire state saying it's a part of south Tibet, citing examples like the second most important Tibetan Buddhist monastery being in Tawang and the sixth Dalai Lama being born there. The Tibetan govt in exile, however, says Arunachal Pradesh is a part of India. There's a possibility that China may leverage its maximalist position on Arunachal to make India give up its claim on Aksai Chin, a region of far more strategic value for China because it also links Tibet with Xinjiang by a road China surreptitiously built in the 1950s. After the 1962 war, Chinese troops pulled back to the north of the McMahon Line in Arunachal, or what was then the North East Frontier Agency, but retained Aksai Chin in the western sector covering an area of 38,000 sq km.

## Risking A Conflict?

India has always rejected China's renaming exercise. Indian external affairs ministry has reiterated New Delhi's position that Arunachal is and always will be an integral part of India. EAMS Jaisankar has also said that the state is a natural part of India. While there's little risk of a full-blown military conflict over the issue, chances of military clashes, like in Tawang in December 2022, because of overlapping claims can't be

discounted. That clash again followed India's joint military exercise with US in Uttarakhand which China objected to. China may become even more assertive with its claims if the increasing power differential goes unchecked.

## Border Infra Way Forward

India is of course preparing for any eventuality by ramping up its border infrastructure to facilitate smooth movement of armed forces. Modi last month inaugurated the Sela tunnel for all-weather connectivity to Tawang and to improve troop mobility. As Jaisankar has said, the budget for the China border in the past 10 years has gone up from Rs 4,000 crore to Rs 15,000 crore. There's also a 24/7 deployment. Despite China's objections, high-level visits to Arunachal have continued with Modi himself travelling to the state at regular intervals. While ramping up military infrastructure, India has also launched initiatives like vibrant villages in the border areas to prevent people from migrating and to ensure job opportunities in areas like tourism. Modi's predecessor Manmohan Singh too had visited Arunachal in 2008, calling the state India's land of the rising sun and launching, among other projects, a highway to Tawang. Singh visited the state again next year, leading to an angry response from Beijing.

**TOI Explains**



# Iran is edging closer to N-bomb capability: Report

Iran is edging closer to nuclear weapons capability and Tehran is rapidly accumulating enriched uranium, "some of it very close to weapons grade", the Washington Post newspaper said on Wednesday quoting officials who fear that a "bomb could be a short dash away". The latest development comes amid heightened tension in the Middle East and six years after the Donald Trump administration withdrew from the Iran nuclear accord. "While Iran says it has no plans to make nuclear weapons, it now has a supply of highly enriched uranium that could be converted to weapons-grade fuel for at least three bombs in a time frame ranging from a few days to a few weeks," the newspaper quoted current and former officials as saying. **P 15**



# India now 4th largest exporter of digitally delivered services

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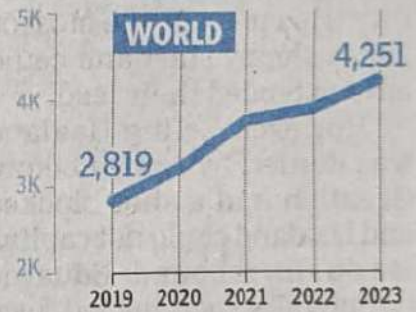
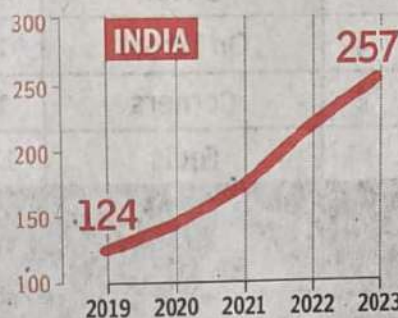
**New Delhi:** Amid a more optimistic picture of global trade in 2024, there is more good news for India, which has now emerged as fourth largest exporter of digitally delivered services, whose share has now increased to more than a fifth of international trade in services.

Data released by WTO in the Global Trade Outlook and Statistics estimated India's digitally delivered services exports at \$257 billion in 2023, 17% higher than the previous year. Having piped Germany, India lags the US, the UK and Ireland.

Digitally delivered services — using computer networks to provide professional services to education, gaming and streaming music and videos — itself has seen a sharp increase over the last two decades, now accounting for over one-fifth of global ser-

## Surging Over 2X In Last 4 Years

Exports of digitally delivered services (\$ billion)



Source: WTO

vices trade, compared with 14% in 2005. Their exports are now 50% higher than pre-Covid levels, bucking the falling trend seen in goods trade.

“Use of artificial intelligence (AI), including models capable of creating content, such as text, images, music or even videos, increased rapidly in 2023. These technologies are set to revolutionise various aspects of the economy, leading to increased efficiency, innovation, cost savings, personalization opportunities,

creation of new jobs, and economic growth, further boosting trade in digitally delivered services,” the report said.

Overall, the WTO expects the global economy and trade to improve. After a 1.2% decline in goods trade volume, the multilateral body on Wednesday forecast a 2.6% increase in 2024. In value terms, world goods trade, measured by the average of exports and imports, fell 5% in 2023 to \$24 trillion, while commercial services expanded 9% to \$7.5 trillion.



# Focus On Boosting Strategic Ties, Arms Exports

## India posts defence attachés to several new nations for 1st time

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**New Delhi:** India has begun to post military and defence attachés to several new countries, in a big move to expand strategic ties with key regions across the globe and also push arms exports.

Govt sources on Wednesday said 15-16 new attachés from the Army, Navy and Air Force are now being posted to countries like Poland, Armenia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast and the Philippines after "some rationalisation" by cutting down on the number of military officials posted at the large missions in Russia, the UK and France.

"Some of them have already joined their new posts. In the next phase, 10 entirely new defence wings will be created in different countries, with a particular focus on nations to which arms can be exported," a source said.

A special area of interest is Africa, which is in line with the stepped-up military outreach to the continent where China has made huge strategic inroads. Apart from the ongoing combat exercises, military exchanges and training programmes with African countries, India is now trying to export indigenous Tejas fighters, Pinaka multi-launch rocket systems, BrahMos supersonic cruise



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missiles and Akash air defence missile systems to African countries.

Among other African countries like Tanzania, Mozambique and Ivory Coast, the small but strategically located Djibouti will also get an Indian defence attaché now.

The former Soviet republic of Armenia has also emerged as a major arms exports destination, with deals already inked for Pinaka rockets, Akash missiles, ammunition and the like, a few of them coming even during its clash with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh. "A defence attaché is especially being posted to Armenia for the first time," the source said.

With an eye on China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific, including the

South China Sea, India has also been steadily stepping up military ties with Asean countries. This led to the \$375 million contract for three anti-ship coastal batteries of the BrahMos missiles being inked with the Philippines in Jan 2022.

India wants this first-ever BrahMos export order to pave the way for more such deals with the Philippines as well as other Asean countries like Indonesia and Vietnam.

India is also trying to export the single-engine Tejas fighter to countries like the Philippines, Nigeria, Argentina and Egypt. India's bid to sell it to Malaysia, however, had failed last year with the Royal Malaysian Air Force picking South Korean supersonic fighter KAI FA-50 made by Korean Aerospace Industries.