



## U.S. OFFICIALS TO COME TO INDIA IN AUGUST FOR NEXT ROUND OF TALKS ON TRADE PACT

# Trump hits India with 25% tariff plus a Russia penalty

India: Studying implications, will take all steps to secure our national interest

**SIDDHARTH UPASANI**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

EVEN AS India and the US negotiate a trade agreement, President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced a 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods from August 1, with an additional but unspecified “penalty” for its defence and energy imports from Russia.

In a post on social media platform Truth Social, Trump said India has “the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary Trade Barriers of any Country”.

India’s Commerce and Industry Ministry said the government had taken note of Trump’s statement and is “studying its implications”. “India and the US have been engaged in negotiations on concluding a fair, balanced and mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement over the last few months. We remain committed to that objective. The government attaches the utmost importance to protecting and promoting the welfare of our farmers, entrepreneurs, and MSMEs,” the ministry said in a statement.

The government will take “all steps necessary to secure our national interest, as has been the case with other trade agreements including the latest Comprehensive Economic and

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**FAILED FOREIGN POLICY: OPP**

**UNFORTUNATE, SAYS INDIA INC** **PAGES 8, 15**

### KEY UNKNOWN: WHAT’S THE PENALTY

## Road to October pact gets tougher, shrinks room to drive a better deal

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE & ANIL SASI**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump’s announcement of a 25 per cent tariff on Indian imports along with a penalty for procuring military equipment and energy from Russia comes barely a day before the intended deadline to conclude agreements. It has key consequences.

One, it puts India at a disadvantage in comparison to competitors. Two, it put the onus back on the Indian side to fast-track its negotiations for an interim deal with the US.

Indications are that the outer limit for a deal, currently pegged at around October from New Delhi’s perspective, might need to be brought forward.

What complicates the equation for India is that the Chinese are at an advanced stage of negotiations towards a deal which could have a favourable tariff rate and potential waivers on secondary tariffs, which include the tariff on account of Russian oil imports and the proposed 10 per cent BRICS tariff.

Though Trump did not specify the rate of penalty for India on account of Russian oil and defence imports, earlier statements made by Trump indicate that it

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## UNSC report names The Resistance Front, cites Pahalgam terror attack

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

IN A first, The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow outfit of Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba that had claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, has found mention in a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) report monitoring sanctions on terror outfits.



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According to the report of the Monitoring Team (MT) of the UNSC 1267 [ISIS (Da’esh) & Al-Qaida] Sanctions Committee, the entry under the Asia section reads: “On 22 April, five terrorists attacked a tourist spot in Pahalgam, in Jammu and Kashmir. Twenty-six civilians were killed. The attack was claimed that same day by The Resistance Front (TRF), who in parallel published a photograph

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### ARREST OF TWO KERALA NUNS IN CHHATTISGARH

## Was coerced to give adverse statement, says woman at centre of conversion row

**JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU**  
RAIPUR, JULY 30

AMID A storm over the arrest of two Kerala nuns on allegations of forcible conversion and trafficking in Chhattisgarh, one of the women they are accused of targeting has told *The Indian Express*

that she was coerced to give an adverse statement against them. The nuns, Preeti Mary and Vandana Francis, and another person, Sukhman Mandavi, were arrested last Friday at the Durg railway station in Chhattisgarh. The FIR, registered under sections of the Chhattisgarh Religious Freedom

Act and the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, was based on a complaint by a local Bajrang Dal worker, who alleged that the accused forcibly converted three women from Narayanpur and were attempting to traffic them.

But one of the three Narayanpur women told

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## Dhankhar asked MHA for new bulletproof vehicles last Feb; put on hold, he went with regular Innova

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

IN FEBRUARY last year, the Vice-President’s Secretariat sought new bulletproof vehicles for then V-P Jagdeep Dhankhar, citing the age of his three high-security BMW cars. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) conveyed in June that a panel would be formed to look into it, but by November, his

office decided to opt for a non-bulletproof Innova, in which he has been travelling ever since, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Dhankhar announced on July 22 that he was stepping down from his post as Vice-President, citing health reasons.

According to sources, on February 28 last year, a letter was sent from the V-P’s Secretariat to the Additional Secretary (Police Modernisation Division), MHA, regarding the condition of his official vehicles. In his communication, the then deputy secretary in the V-P’s Secretariat wrote, “I have been directed to inform you



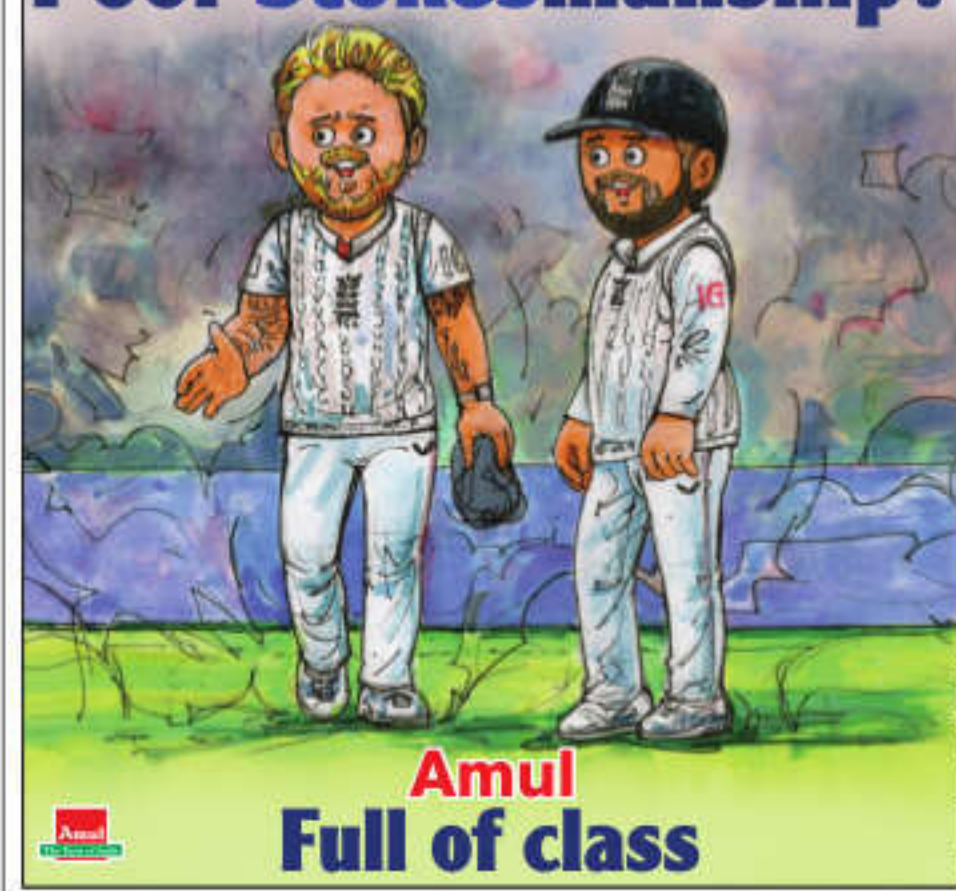
Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned as Vice President July 22. File

that three bulletproof BMW High Security vehicles have been provided to the Hon’ble Vice President of India for using the same during his day-to-day movement. Out of the three vehicles, two vehicles have become more than six years old, while the third one is almost four years and five months old, which will also become more than five years old in the next couple of months.”

“It has been further directed to get all three vehicles replaced with bulletproof high-security new vehicles. It is requested to get the process of replacement

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### Poor Stokesmanship?



## In two weeks, a crucial test for India smartphone success story

**SOUMYARENDRA BARIK**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump’s announcement on Wednesday of a 25 per cent tariff rate on India from August 1 has triggered concerns in the government that electronics exports to the United States, particularly the growing smartphone exports — which currently attract no customs duty — could be affected.

A senior government official said a review meeting on Section 232 of the US Trade Expansion Act of 1962 is coming up in two weeks, after which there will be more clarity on whether smartphone exports could be impacted. In 2018, the US had imposed an additional tariff of 25 per cent and 10 per cent on steel and aluminum respectively, globally under the same provision, which had impacted Indian exports.

While smartphones are India’s top export to the US by value, Trump has threatened a 25 per cent tariff on Indian-made Apple iPhones, which account for the bulk of mobile phone exports to the country. Days after he announced reciprocal tariffs on a number of countries in April, the US administration had exempted phones,

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## ISRO-NASA satellite placed in orbit, to map Earth in detail



ISRO's launch vehicle GSLV-F16 carrying NISAR, the first joint India-US satellite, lifts off from Sriharikota, Wednesday. PTI

**ANONNA DUTT**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

IN ITS most significant launch since the Moon-landing Chandrayaan-3 in 2023, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Wednesday placed NISAR satellite, a first-of-its-kind collaborative project between India and the US, into its intended orbit.

NISAR, which stands for NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar, is the most powerful Earth observation satellite to be put in space, the result of over one decade of research and development by the space agencies of India and the US.

The uniqueness of the satellite lies in the fact that it carries two Synthetic Aperture Radars (SARs) of different frequencies that are designed to work together to produce some of the most detailed images of the Earth ever captured from space.

SARs are imaging equipment that use the non-visible microwave radiation to create pictures of the Earth from space. Never before have two SARs been mounted on a single satellite.

The NISAR satellite flew on a GSLV rocket launched from Sriharikota Wednesday evening. The satellite was deposited in the Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSPO), about 747 km from the Earth, within 19 minutes of the launch. This was the first time

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### NITHARI: SC DISMISSES PLEAS AGAINST ACQUITTAL OF KOLI, PANDHER

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ACCUSED OF CAUSING DEATH OF 5-YR-OLD BY NEGLIGENCE

Can't approve of blood money: HC refuses to quash FIR against man

SOHINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

NO CIVILIZED society can approve of blood money, said the Delhi High Court on Wednesday as it refused to quash an FIR against a man accused of causing the death of a five-year-old child by negligence.

Noting that the accused arrived at a settlement with the legal representatives of the deceased, Justice Girish Kathpalia underlined, "It is the deceased child who suffered injuries and pain, followed by loss of life. That deceased child cannot be compensated in any manner. The legal representatives left behind by the deceased child have no

moral or legal authority to barter away his life for money to be paid to them."

The accused, Vipin Gupta, had moved the High Court, seeking quashing of the FIR against him, lodged in 2023 at the Paharganj police station, on the ground that he had compromised the disputes with the legal representatives of the deceased.

As part of the settlement, Gupta had agreed to pay Rs 1 lakh as compensation to the legal representatives of the deceased child, the court recorded.

Dismissing Gupta's plea, Justice Kathpalia recorded, "In my considered view, quashing the FIR after approving such a settlement would be tanta-

mount to sanctifying blood money, which is not recognised by our legal system."

Gupta was booked for the alleged offences of rash and negligent driving (IPC section 279) and causing death by negligence (IPC section 304A). According to the prosecution's case, Gupta, while driving his car in a rash and negligent manner, hit an e-rickshaw due to which a five-year-old child got crushed under the e-rickshaw that had overturned due to the impact of the crash. The child was declared dead when taken to the hospital.

While Gupta had blamed the e-rickshaw driver for being drunk, the Investigating Officer in the case had refuted the claim, informing the court that

the e-rickshaw driver was not found to be under the influence of alcohol.

The prosecution had vehemently opposed the plea for quashing the FIR on the grounds of settlement with the deceased child's representative. Additional Public Prosecutor Manjeet Arya told *The Indian Express* that one of the key grounds of opposition was that "while some countries accept blood money as settlement, including for offences such as murder, our country and legal system doesn't, regardless of whether the victim is a child or an adult, rich or poor."

Arya added that while charges have been framed in the case, the trial is yet to begin.

'UNHOLY NEXUS' OF BUILDERS AND BANKS TO CHEAT NCR HOMEBUYERS

CBI lodges 22 FIRs, searches 47 locations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

FOLLOWING SUPREME Court's directions to investigate the "unholy nexus" of builders and banks to cheat homebuyers in National Capital Region (NCR), the CBI on Wednesday said that it has registered 22 FIRs into the matter.

After lodging the FIRs on July 28, a CBI spokesperson said in a

statement that the agency has conducted searches at 47 locations in Delhi and NCR, including Gurgaon, Noida, Greater Noida, and Ghaziabad, on July 29. Various incriminating documents and some digital electronic evidence have been seized during the searches, the agency added.

The CBI has named Jaypee Sports International Limited, Jaiprakash Associates Limited, Ajnara India Limited, Vatika

Limited, Jaypee Infratech Limited, Supertech and Idea Builders, among others, in its FIRs.

"Bankers and financial institutions like State Bank of India, Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited, Piramal Finance, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Tata Capital Housing Finance and PNB Housing Finance Limited, among others, have also been named in the FIRs registered," the CBI spokesperson said.

In April, the SC had directed the CBI to register seven preliminary enquiries (PEs) into the matter. Following this, within three months, the agency had completed probe and submitted a status report before SC, the spokesperson said. Following this, earlier this month, the SC had directed CBI to register 22 regular cases against different builders in NCR and unknown officials of financial institutions, the agency added.

Waterlogging in corridor draws criticism, Safdarjung Hospital says result of 'construction work'



Screengrab from the viral video. Courtesy: X

EXPRESS NEW SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

PATIENTS AND their families can be seen struggling to walk inside a waterlogged corridor of the Safdarjung Hospital in a video that was widely circulated on social media on Wednesday.

In the clip, which was captured following heavy rain on Tuesday in the Capital, some people can be seen walking barefoot amid knee-deep water. Others can be seen taking support to maintain their balance.

Official sources confirmed that inundation happened. However, they said the health services were not affected. "The waterlogging was caused due to an ongoing construction in front of the H-Block. It got cleared within some time," an official said. The passage between the OPD and the New Emergency Block at the ground floor was affected.

The incident drew criticism. "This is Delhi's 'premier hospital' — Safdarjung! Patients instead of getting recovered, might leave the hospital with new illness," a user wrote on X.

GHAZIABAD INTERFAITH COUPLE

As family again claims woman kidnapped, she says 'left house as per my wish'

NEETIKA JHA  
GHAZIABAD, JULY 30

NEARLY TWO months after the father of a 25-year-old woman in Ghaziabad accused her in-laws of kidnapping her, only for the daughter to claim that she has entered into an interfaith marriage by choice, her family filed a complaint at Indirapuram police station on Wednesday, alleging that she has been kidnapped again.

Minutes later, a purported video surfaced in which the woman, Sonika Chauhan, claimed that she had left her home on Wednesday to be with her husband, Akbar Khan (29).

"I, Sonika, on July 30, around 2

pm, left my house as per my wish... Since last two months, my parents and some other people, including Meena Bhandari, Harish Karakoti, Kapil Tyagi, my maternal uncle Vikram Rawat and my paternal uncle Jagdish Singh Chauhan, had been torturing me physically and mentally... they wanted me to give a statement against Akbar in court and frame him under POC SO (Act) and put him behind bars. But I protested... I will only tell the truth," she is heard saying in the video.

Sonika, meanwhile, also wrote to the Ghaziabad district magistrate seeking police protection.

DCP (Trans-Hindon) Patil Nimish Dasharath said the family has filed a complaint and soon an

FIR will be registered. The investigating officer added that the family, in the complaint, has alleged that Akbar entered their house, abducted their daughter and stole Rs 50,000 in cash and jewellery.

The matter had first come to light on May 25, when Sonika's father, Laxman Singh Chauhan, filed a complaint with the Indirapuram police station, accusing Akbar of kidnapping Sonika.

The Ghaziabad Police had then raided Akbar's Indirapuram home and "handed over" Sonika to her parents. The police had also arrested Akbar, his two sisters, sister-in-law, and a neighbour. A purported video had surfaced before Akbar's arrest, in which Sonika could be heard saying that she

wanted to stay with him and that they had secretly gotten married under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 in August 2022.

In Wednesday's video, Sonika is heard saying that she had recorded her statement before the magistrate. "Since my statements were not in accordance with what my family wanted me to say... they started threatening me," she said.

"I had said before the magistrate that I wanted to stay with my family... thinking that both the families would live peacefully. But now they are forcing me to give another statement against Akbar..." she said, adding that she does not want to stay with her family anymore.

Gurgaon man assaulted over theft, video viral: Main accused arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GURGAON, JULY 30

TWO DAYS after the police took suo motu cognizance of a viral video that captured the brutal assault of a man at an under-construction society in Gurgaon, the fifth and the main accused in the case has been arrested, officers said on Wednesday.

A joint team from the Sector-10 Crime Branch and the Sector-10 Police Station arrested Yogendra Bhati (49), who hails from Greater Noida, on

Wednesday. He was working as a contractor at the site where the alleged assault took place, said officers.

This comes a day after the police had arrested four persons working at the site — Pushpendra (39), Ajit Singh (38), Krishna Kumar (19), and Amit Kumar (39). While Pushpendra worked and Krishna worked as security guards, and Amit and Ajit as security supervisors, said officers.

The victim was employed as an excavator operator at the site, police said, adding that he was

accused of stealing electric wires in June by the group.

The man, who hails from Rajasthan, was seen tied up, hung upside down in the viral clip. The video showed him in tears, pleading in broken voice while being struck by what appeared to be thin steel rods.

His statement in the matter was recorded on Wednesday, said officers. Bhati allegedly led the assault. The police will present him in a court on Thursday, a spokesperson said, adding that further investigation is underway

Wife leaves man, he kills 10-yr-old son to seek revenge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

AMAN in Delhi's Narela allegedly killed his 10-year-old son on Tuesday to seek revenge on his wife, who left him with their two children due to his drug and alcohol addiction, police said.

The accused, Narender, called his wife, Komal, and admitted to killing their younger son, officer said. According to the police, the incident took place in the afternoon when the boy was returning home from school.

"The Narela police station received information regarding the recovery of the body of a 10-year-old boy with visible injury marks on the neck. The boy's mother called the police control room, saying that Narender had called to say that he had killed their son and dumped his body," an officer said. The officer added that the couple used to have frequent fights due to Narender's alcohol and drug addiction. Narender had also allegedly physically abused Komal on multiple occasions. "Komal moved out with her two children and began living in Om Vihar Colony in Narela, which angered Narender even more... He pleaded with her to return and threatened her many times," the officer said.

TATA TATA STEEL LIMITED				
Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001 India Tel.: 91 22 6665 8282 • Email: cosec@tatasteel.com • Website: www.tatasteel.com CIN: L27100MH1907PLC000260				
NOTICE				
Extract of Standalone Financial Results for the quarter ended on 30th June 2025				
Particulars	Quarter ended on 30.06.2025	Quarter ended on 31.03.2025	Quarter ended on 30.06.2024	Financial year ended on 31.03.2025
	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
Total revenue from operations	31,014.36	34,398.84	32,957.89	1,32,516.66
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	4,776.84	4,826.22	4,701.85	19,620.88
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	4,557.76	4,293.18	4,465.28	18,718.84
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax	3,523.25	3,169.19	3,330.95	13,969.70
Total comprehensive income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	6,743.37	(21,813.74)	3,380.29	(10,003.46)
Paid-up equity share capital [Face value ₹ 1 per share]	1,248.60	1,248.60	1,248.60	1,248.60
Reserves excluding revaluation reserves				1,25,483.34
Securities premium reserve	31,290.24	31,290.24	31,290.24	31,290.24
Net Worth	1,30,287.29	1,23,543.94	1,41,421.62	1,23,543.94
Paid-up Debt Capital	15,157.00	15,156.26	12,823.89	15,156.26
Net Debt Equity Ratio	0.46	0.43	0.27	0.44
Earnings per equity share:				
Basic earnings per share of ₹ 1 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items)	2.82	2.54	2.67	11.19
Diluted earnings per share of ₹ 1 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items)	2.82	2.54	2.67	11.19
Debenture Redemption Reserve	1,328.75	1,328.75	1,328.75	1,328.75
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.34	3.47	3.13	3.82
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	6.91	8.87	8.71	9.94

Extract of Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter ended on 30th June 2025				
Particulars	Quarter ended on 30.06.2025	Quarter ended on 31.03.2025	Quarter ended on 30.06.2024	Financial year ended on 31.03.2025
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total revenue from operations	53,178.12	56,218.11	54,771.39	2,18,542.51
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	3,199.20	2,588.30	2,734.75	9,267.51
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	3,067.08	2,199.69	2,376.82	8,412.87
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax	2,007.36	1,200.88	918.57	3,173.78
Total comprehensive income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	4,351.52	1,422.37	1,094.50	3,447.08
Paid-up equity share capital [Face value ₹ 1 per share]	1,247.44	1,247.44	1,247.44	1,247.44
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserves) and Non controlling interest				90,105.34
Net Worth	91,464.44	87,770.44	89,815.10	87,770.44
Net Debt Equity Ratio	0.91	0.91	0.88	0.90
Earnings per equity share:				
Basic earnings per share of ₹ 1 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items)	1.67	1.04	0.77	2.74
Diluted earnings per share of ₹ 1 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items)	1.67	1.04	0.77	2.74
Debenture Redemption Reserve	1,328.75	1,328.75	1,328.75	1,328.75
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.98	0.74	1.64	0.70
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	3.69	3.44	3.19	3.12

**Note:**  
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Standalone and Consolidated financial results for the quarter ended on 30th June 2025 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone and Consolidated results for the quarter ended on 30th June 2025 are available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges ([www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) / [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and the Company's website ([www.tatasteel.com](http://www.tatasteel.com)).

Sd/-  
**T V Narendran**  
Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director  
Mumbai, July 30, 2025

TATA STEEL



Sd/-  
**Koushik Chatterjee**  
Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer

New Delhi: The High Court on Wednesday directed the Delhi Police and the Delhi government's Excise department to submit the details of the action taken against clubs, pubs, bars and restaurants, which are operating illegally, including those running in violation of the licence conditions.  
The bench of Chief Justice DK

Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Gedela was hearing a PIL filed by Mahtab Khan, a Delhi resident.

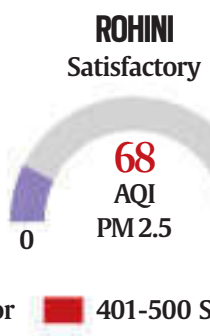
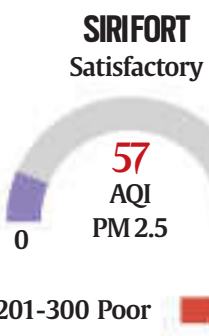
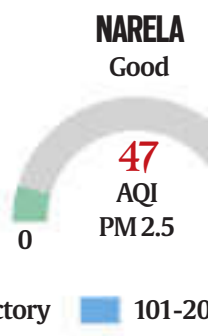
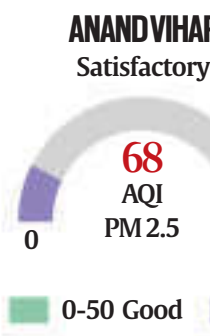
In the PIL, Khan claimed at least 21 establishments were operating in violation of the licence conditions. Violations included operating and selling alcohol past the permitted hours, among others. **ENS**

**ICAR-Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan,**  
Almora - 263601 (Uttarakhand)



**WALK-IN-INTERVIEW**  
It is proposed to conduct Walk-in-interview on **22.08.2025** for filling up the temporary and time bound positions of **Senior Research Fellow, Young Professional-II, Young Professional-I, Project Assistant and Field Worker** under the various projects at this Institute on contractual basis. For other details of eligibility, terms & conditions and emoluments etc., the interested candidates may contact to:  
1. Mobile Number - 8351016208 (Sh. Sandeep Verma, Assistant)  
2. Email ID - [vpkasheadoffice@gmail.com](mailto:vpkasheadoffice@gmail.com)  
(R. S. Negi)  
Senior Administrative Officer





**FORECAST: July 31**  
Generally cloudy sky; light to moderate rain with thunderstorm/lightning

**MAX: 30-32**  
2.4°C below normal

**MIN: 23-25**  
2.1°C below normal

## NITHARI KILLINGS

## SC dismisses 14 pleas against acquittal of accused

Lauds Allahabad HC for ‘withstanding pressure’, says appellants did not highlight any perversity in judgment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday dismissed 14 appeals filed by the CBI and the families of victims of the Nithari serial killings, challenging the acquittal of main accused Surinder Koli and his former employer Moninder Singh Pandher by the Allahabad High Court in 2023.

A bench of Chief Justice B R Gavai, as well as Justices Satish Chandra Sharma and K Vinod Chandran, lauding the HC for “withstanding pressure”, said

the appellants had not been able to highlight any perversity in the judgment. “There must be a lot of media pressure and all that...,” he added.

A detailed SC judgment is awaited.

Koli, meanwhile, will continue to be in prison even after his acquittal was upheld by the SC in 12 cases because of the life imprisonment awarded to him in the murder of a teenage girl by the HC. “The convict will continue to remain in jail because of a life



Moninder Singh Pandher and Surinder Koli. File

term in one of the Nithari cases,” the CBI spokesperson told PTI.

The killings had come to light with the discovery of skeletal remains of eight children from a drain behind Pandher’s house at Nithari in Noida in December 2006.

Further digging and searches of drains around Pandher’s house led to more skeletal remains. Most of these remains

were that of poor children and young women who had gone missing from the area.

Pandher and Koli, his domestic help — both were arrested in December 2006 — were accused of abducting and raping children and women, committing acts of cannibalism, and disposing of their bodies in a drain. Koli had allegedly killed the girls, chopped their bodies before

throwing them in the backyard.

On October 16, 2023, the HC had acquitted Koli in 12 cases, and Pandher in two. Both had earlier been awarded the death penalty in these cases relating to rape, murder, and destruction of evidence, among others, by a CBI court in Ghaziabad.

The HC had pointed to violation of basic norms while collecting evidence and the “failure” to probe the “possible” angle of organ trade.

Pandher was accused in six cases — he was earlier acquitted by the trial court in three cases and in one by the HC. He was also convicted under the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956, and in another case arising out of the Nithari killings against which no appeal was filed. However, the HC had said that he

had already completed the sentence prescribed under the said conviction.

Pandher was in jail for around 13 years after he was first arrested in December 2006, along with Koli.

On February 13, 2009, Koli and Pandher were sentenced to death by a special CBI court for the rape and murder of a 14-year-old. On appeal, the HC confirmed Koli’s death sentence but acquitted Pandher. Following this, Koli had moved SC with a plea, which was dismissed in 2011.

In January 2015, the HC had commuted Koli’s sentence to life imprisonment in this case, citing “inordinate delay in the disposal of the mercy petition”.

The police had lodged 19 FIRs against the two relating to crimes against 19 victims.

## Property buyers to feel pinch as Haryana hikes collector rates — 2nd time in 8 months

SUKHBIR SIWACH & ABHIMANYU HAZARIKA  
CHANDIGARH, GURGAON, JULY 30

THE HARYANA government will implement from August 1 revised collector rates for property registration — with hikes ranging from 10% to 50% — in both urban and rural areas, in a move that will push up the property rates with dealers apprehending that it may stall the real estate market. This will be the second hike in collector rates in Haryana in eight months.

The collector rates were last revised with effect from December 1, 2024. The rates are normally revised with effect from April 1 each year, but the 2024 adjustment was delayed due to the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls.

A senior official said that in urban areas of districts such as Gurgaon, Panchkula and Faridabad, the collector rates are low.

“The government wants to bring the collector rates and the market rates on par to stop the real estate transactions through black money. However, the collector rates can’t be hiked so much in one go as this may upset the buyers. So, a slab-wise hike — 10%, 20%, 30%, 40% and 50% — in rates has been proposed. The hike has been proposed keeping in view the market rate of properties in the different areas of the cities and towns concerned.”

The draft collector rate notification for Gurgaon proposes a hike in circle rates for Sector 42, the neighbourhood that houses the tony DLF Camellias and the

Golf Club, among others. For residential properties there, the proposed rate is Rs 79,970 per square yard, up from the existing Rs 72,700 per square yard — a rise of 10%. Commercial and retail spaces are proposed at Rs 15,500 per square foot, a significant increase from the existing rate of Rs 14,400 per square foot. Office and IT spaces are proposed at Rs 11,000 per square foot — a marginal increase over the current rate of Rs 10,080.

Other areas in the city limits will see varying rates of hike ranging from 5% to about 40% (and higher for newly developing sectors that are urbanising). For example, the residential properties rate for Rajeev Nagar (Sector 13) is being hiked from Rs 25,300 per square foot to Rs 35,000 per square foot.

The circle/collector rate is the minimum price set by the government for sale of real estate, and is legally binding. However, the market rate can fluctuate. Registration fee and stamp duty to be paid while buying a property will be based on the circle rate.

The draft document states that residential group housing for Gurgaon will be valued at four times the agriculture collector rate, and commercial CLU rates will be five times the agricultural rate. Additional charges apply to plots facing parks and those with multiple open sides.

These changes will affect stamp duty and registration charges, as both are linked to the notified collector rates. The proposals are pending public feedback, which can be given till 1 pm on Thursday.

## EOW arrests Tamil actor ‘Powerstar’ from Chennai over Rs 5-cr loan fraud

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

FIFTEEN YEARS after Tamil actor and self-styled doctor Srinivasan, popularly known as ‘Powerstar’, took Rs 5 crore from an infrastructure company on the pretext of securing it a Rs 1,000-crore loan, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police arrested him on July 27 in connection to the alleged fraud.

Srinivasan was picked up from Vanagaram in Chennai — his third arrest in the case, said police. Evading trial since 2018, he was declared a Proclaimed Offender (PO) twice for absconding while out on bail. Police said that Srinivasan, who was arrested from Golden Treasure Apartment, is now in judicial custody.

Officers said that Srinivasan came to Chennai after completing a course in “acupressure practice” from a China-based university through a distance education programme. “His passion for films brought him to Chennai, where he set up a finance firm, Baba Trading Company, and advertised through brokers that he would help businessmen acquire bank loans,” Additional CP (EOW) Amrutha Gungloth said.

Srinivasan also took an interest in acting, and played supporting roles in small banner films like *Unakkaga Oru Kavithai*. He then launched himself as a lead actor in the film *Neethana Avan*, giving himself the sobriquet ‘Powerstar’ in the film credits, police said.

The alleged fraud started when Blue Coast Infrastructure Development Limited started looking for investors to build hotels in Chennai. “The company was approached by Henry Lalremasanga, Deepak Banga, Anil Varshney, and Ramanuja Muvvala, who presented themselves as experienced consultants capable of arranging a loan of Rs 1,000 crore for hotel and corporate investment purposes. They then introduced the company representatives to Srinivasan,” DCP (EOW) Ravi Kumar said.

As a proprietor of Baba Trading company, Srinivasan claimed that he could quickly arrange for a loan of Rs 1,000 crore for the developers. He took a fee of Rs 5 crore for arranging adhesive stamps for the company, and also gave it a post dated check to cash in if he wasn’t able to deliver the stamps within 30 days, police said.

“Investigation revealed that Rs 5 crore was transferred on December 27, 2010 to Baba Trading Company by the complainant’s company, and then into accounts controlled by Srinivasan and his wife. He withdrew Rs 50 lakh and transferred Rs 4.5 crore into a joint account. A fixed deposit of Rs 4 crore was later made,” the DCP said.

Srinivasan was arrested in the case in 2013 after he failed to show any proof of his attempts to either secure a loan or to buy the stamps, police said. He got bail in September 2013, and fled twice before he was finally arrested on Sunday.



Thick vines cover the bungalow where Moninder Singh Pandher lived with Surendra Koli, in Noida on Wednesday. Tashi Tobgyal

## What the Allahabad High Court had said in its 2023 order

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

IN ITS order acquitting Surinder Koli and Moninder Singh Pandher, who were accused of raping, killing and dismembering several minors and a domestic help, the Allahabad High Court in 2023 had come down heavily on both the Uttar Pradesh Police and the CBI’s investigation.

The acquittal was upheld by the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

The Allahabad HC had pointed to unsatisfactory “evidence”, procedural loopholes and “improbable possibilities” in its judgment.

The one investigative loophole pointed out by the court was the “failure” to investigate the “possible” angle of organ trade.

In its judgment, the court said that the house of the accused was adjacent to one belonging to a doctor who “apparently was a suspect in a case of organ trade (kidney transplant).” It said that despite specific recommendations made by the high-level committee constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child

Development, investigators did not look into the matter, calling it a “betrayal of public trust by responsible agencies”.

The court called the prosecution’s case circumstantial and said there were lapses in the arrest, disclosure statement and in the way the confessions had been recorded.

## Arrest

While the defence alleged that the arrest was made on December 27, 2006, the prosecution said the arrests were made two days later. The court said the prosecution had failed to prove the circumstance of the arrest and there was no arrest memo on record.

## Disclosure statement

The court said the disclosure statement of the accused was not placed on record and the prosecution evidence on the place and time of making the statement was “full of contradictions”.

For this reason, it said, the discovery of bones, skulls or skeletons recovered from the drain behind the house could not be placed in evidence.

## Confession

The court had raised questions about the 60-day long continuous police and CBI custody for the two accused.

Pointing out that the police had told the court that Koli had confessed on December 29, 2006, the HC had said there was “no reason as to why he was not produced before the magistrate before March 1, 2007 for recording of his confessional statement”.

“Accused, at the first opportunity, retracted... confession and alleged that he was brutally tortured while in police custody. He offered to be medically examined as his genitals were burnt and his nails had been extracted but the accused was not examined medically,” the court said.

“There was no legal aid given to the accused and the legal aid given for 5 minutes by the ACMM, Delhi on March 1, 2007 amounts to its denial...” it had added.

It also said there was no “independent corroboration of murder, rape or cannibalism in the confession”... and that the events mentioned in the confession were “highly improbable”.



A small plaque fixed behind a green fence identifies it as *Khaya Senegalensis* or African Mahogany, presented by Nigeria.

who pleaded anonymity, expressed caution, “It is too soon to jump to conclusion. The species could be a native variety...this will be ascertained.”

“The plantation was carried out by embassy teams. If there has been a mismatch, it could be due to a communication issue. We will assist in checking the matter. So far, no other such discrepancies have been reported from that event,” the official said.

Sources in the MEA said that the sapling was quarantined and presented by Nigeria. In the case of a mismatch, sources added, the responsibility would lie with the presenting country. “We have started a probe after coming across the social media post.

Documents related to the plants have been rechecked and we are in touch with the NDMC. The verification of the species will be undertaken and completed in a few days,” the source said.

All foreign saplings brought for the ceremonial drive were required to clear phytosanitary inspections, in a bid to ensure they are free from pests, and were quarantined for over three months at the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) in Pusa before plantation.

A Delhi-based environmentalist said, “There is a huge difference between Jamun and African Mahogany. The Jamun tree has simple leaf arrangement and

Mahogany has pinnate or compound leaves. There is no resemblance in both the species. It is likely that the officials didn’t have the knowledge.”

At the 2023 ceremonial drive, saplings symbolised bilateral ties and sustainability: Olive from Turkey, Spain and Italy; Real Yellowwood from South Africa; Silver Tree from South Korea; Date Palm from Egypt and Saudi Arabia; Teak from Indonesia; Camphor Laurel from China; and trees from the African Union, including the Sausage Tree and Red Frangipani.

On Tuesday, when *The Indian Express* did a spot check, even as several saplings were found to be healthy, others showed signs

of strain.

The leaves of an Arjun tree donated by Canada were visibly perforated by insects. The Gular tree gifted by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), as well as the Apple HR99 variety from the Netherlands were apparently infested. The Sycamore from France, Queen’s Crepe Myrtle from the US, and Weeping Willow from the UK are in similar condition. The Teak tree from Indonesia stands visibly bent.

While Olive trees, among others, are carefully placed in netted enclosures, Silver Tree from South Korea, despite its cover, had holes chewed into the netting by squirrels.

SOPHIYAMATHEW  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

AT FIRST glance, it isn’t easy to spot the African Mahogany, presented by Nigeria during the G20 Summit in Delhi in September 2023, at the Nehru Park. Tucked inside a white mesh enclosure, the sapling is nearly waist-high with pale green, elongated leaves on its slender branches. A small bilingual plaque fixed behind a green fence identifies it as *Khaya Senegalensis* or African Mahogany, presented by Nigeria.

The park itself has been a picture of monsoon calm. The lawns glisten after a light drizzle, neatly trimmed hedges line the walking

paths, and several of the 17 ceremonial saplings stand protected in similar netted enclosures. But this particular sapling has now become the subject of scrutiny.

On Monday, Delhi Trees, a citizen-run page on X, posted images of the sapling. The post read: “The so called African Mahogany, planted in Nehru Park during G-20, turned out to be a Jamun.” The post has garnered over 28 lakh views since then as it suggested that a native species was planted amid a diplomatic gesture.

Questions sent to the Nigerian High Commission regarding the identity of the tree did not elicit a response at the time of publication.

On the claims, a senior horticulture official from the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), who was associated with the G20 plantation drive, told *The Indian Express*: “The sapling at the site marked as African Mahogany has been brought to our attention. At this stage, a confirmation (on its identification) is possible only after it is examined by experts.”

Officials at the NDMC stressed that their role was limited to logistical support for the event. “We prepared the space, dug pits, and ensured protection after the planting. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) coordinated the event and provided the saplings,” said the official quoted above.

Another NDMC senior official,



This is the right time  
to invest in Uttarakhand

## Destination Uttarakhand

Promoting Sustainable Development

### Promotion of Industry and Investment

The progress made in the field of industry and investment in Uttarakhand in recent years is extremely important for the state's economic, social, and cultural development. Investor summits have placed the state on the global investment map. Due to

the government's visionary policies, an investor-friendly environment, infrastructure development, and better utilization of local resources, Uttarakhand is moving towards becoming one of the best states in the country in the future.



The construction of a developed India in the 21st century rests on two main pillars. First, pride in our heritage, and second, every possible effort for development. Today, Uttarakhand is strengthening both these pillars. This decade will be Uttarakhand's decade.

**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

Uttarakhand's industrial journey is not just a story of economic development, but also a powerful effort towards realizing the dreams of the state's youth, women, and entrepreneurs. Through investment and industries, Uttarakhand is moving towards fulfilling the dream of a self-reliant, prosperous, and developed India.

**Pushkar Singh Dhami**  
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand



'House of Himalayas' was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the Investors Summit



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah and CM Pushkar Singh Dhami reviewing Patanjali's products

## Uttarakhand is scaling new heights in investment, innovation, and industrial development

Following the Global Investors Summit held in Uttarakhand in December 2023, the state celebrated the successful grounding of investments worth ₹1 lakh crore. On this occasion, Union Home Minister Amit Shah highly praised the efforts of the state government and assured full support from the central government.

The Union Home Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for various projects worth a total of ₹1,342.84 crore. This included the foundation stone laying for 16 projects worth ₹1,263.5 crore and the inauguration of 4 projects worth ₹79.34 cr.

### MoUs and Grounding from the Global Investors Summit

**Energy Sector** – 157 MoUs worth ₹1,03,459 crore (Employment: 8,472); grounded investment: ₹40,341 crore

**Industrial Sector** – 658 MoUs worth ₹78,448 crore (Employment: 44,663); grounded investment: ₹34,086 crore

**Housing Sector** – 125 MoUs worth ₹41,947 crore (Employment: 5,172); grounded



### Uttarakhand Nivesh Utsav - 2025 Grounding of ₹1 Lakh Crore in Investments

investment: ₹10,055 crore

**Tourism Sector** – 437 MoUs worth ₹47,646 crore (Employment: 4,694); grounded investment: ₹8,635 crore

**Higher Education Sector** – 28 MoUs worth ₹6,675 crore (Employment: 4,428); grounded investment: ₹5,116 crore

**Other Sectors** – 374 MoUs worth ₹79,518 crore (Employment: 13,898); grounded investment: ₹3,292 crore

## Investor Summit: A Milestone

The Uttarakhand Global Investor Summit, inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, proved to be a historic turning point in the state's economic development. Thousands of investors and industry groups from India and abroad participated in this summit, clearly reflecting their eagerness to invest in the state. The government had set a target of ₹2.5 trillion in investment, but agreements worth more than ₹3.5 trillion were signed, which shows investor's confidence in the state's potential.

**Record-Breaking Investment** : The record-breaking agreements made at the summit indicate the growing confidence of investors in the state's economic progress.

**Interest in Diverse Sectors** : Investment proposals were received in various sectors such as energy, manufacturing, service sector, tourism, agriculture, IT, and Ayush, highlighting the state's versatile potential.

**Job Creation** : These investments are expected to create large-scale employment opportunities at the local level, which will also help in tackling the problem of migration.

**Brand Uttarakhand** : The Prime Minister emphasized promoting the state's local products and women's self-help groups by launching brands like 'House of Himalayas', which will strengthen the rural economy.

## Government Initiatives & Future Plans



The Uttarakhand government is committed to attracting investment and promoting industry. It has undertaken several important initiatives and prepared a clear roadmap for the future. Read on to know more...

**New Industrial Policies** : New and revised industrial policies have been introduced for various sectors, making investment attractive.

**Single Window System** : The 'Single Window System' is being strengthened to simplify the investment process and eliminate unnecessary delays.

**Infrastructure Development** : Special attention is being given to the development of basic facilities such as roads, railways, airports, and electricity.

**Skill Development** : Emphasis is being placed on skill development programs to train youth according to industry demands, which will help in job creation.

**Promotion of Local Entrepreneurship** : Special schemes are being run to promote Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), including cheap loans, technical training, and export incentives. Women entrepreneurs are also being specially encouraged.

**Sustainable Development** : The state government is committed to achieving sustainable development goals, which will promote environmentally friendly and long-term investment.

### Challenges and the Way Forward

While Uttarakhand has immense investment potential, there are also some challenges that need attention: **Landslides and Disasters** : Being a hilly region, landslides and natural disasters can be a challenge, requiring strong infrastructure and disaster management

plans. **Migration** : Lack of employment opportunities is a serious problem, which needs more local job creation to control it.

**Development of Mountainous Regions** : Ensuring equitable distribution of investment and promoting industries in mountainous regions is important to reduce regional imbalance.

**Marketing of Local Products** : Strong marketing strategies and branding are needed to take local products to national and international markets.

Despite these challenges, the new partnership being formed between the Uttarakhand government and investors is laying the foundation for a strong and prosperous state. The investor summit has made it clear that Uttarakhand is not just a tourist destination, but also an emerging industrial hub. In the future, this state will certainly play a significant role in India's economic development and contribute to realizing the dream of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India).

This is just the beginning. If the government effectively implements its policies and investors fulfill their promises, Uttarakhand can truly establish itself as an 'Udyam Bhoomi' where employment opportunities will be created, income will increase, and ultimately the living standards of the people of the state will rise. This is the first step towards a golden future for Devbhoomi.

## Key Investment Areas and Opportunities

There are many areas in Uttarakhand with immense investment potential

### TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY



Uttarakhand is known as 'Devbhoomi' and has immense tourism potential. There is huge scope for investment in areas such as Char Dham Yatra, adventure tourism, wildlife tourism, yoga and wellness tourism, and destination weddings. The government has also launched special schemes to encourage tourism entrepreneurs.

**Destination Wedding** : Emphasis is being placed on establishing Uttarakhand as a destination for weddings, which will increase tourism revenue.

**Adventure Tourism** : Investment in adventure sports like trekking, river rafting, and skiing can attract tourists.

**Wellness Tourism** : Uttarakhand is an ideal place for yoga, Ayurveda, and naturopathy, where there are investment opportunities in wellness resorts and centers.

**New Tourism Policies** : Policies like the 'Uttarakhand Tourism Entrepreneur Promotion Scheme-2024' have been implemented by the state government to encourage investment in the tourism sector.

### AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE



Despite being a hilly state, Uttarakhand has a rich base of agriculture and horticulture. Investment in organic farming, cultivation of medicinal plants, processing of fruits and vegetables, floriculture, and development of herbal products can increase farmer's income.

**Organic Farming** : Efforts are being made to make Uttarakhand an organic state, which opens up a large market for organic products.

**Medicinal Plants** : Investment in the cultivation and processing of medicinal plants found in the Himalayan region will promote the pharmaceutical and Ayush industries.

**Food Processing** : Establishing processing units for fruits, vegetables, dairy, and meat products will lead to value addition and job creation.

**New Policies** : New policies have also been introduced to promote crops like millets, kiwi, and dragon fruit.

### ENERGY SECTOR



Uttarakhand is known for its hydroelectric potential. Besides this, there are significant investment opportunities in solar energy and small hydropower projects. The state government has implemented the Solar Energy Policy 2023, which is boosting investment in this sector.

**Hydroelectric Projects** : The state has potential for several small and large hydroelectric projects, which can become a source of clean energy.

**Solar Energy** : Uttarakhand's geographical location is favorable for solar energy generation, and government subsidies are encouraging investment in this sector.

**Energy Security** : Investment in the energy sector will ensure the state's energy security and reduce external dependence.

### IT AND STARTUPS

The IT and startup sectors are being given special importance in Uttarakhand to promote entrepreneurship among the youth. The government has implemented the 'Uttarakhand Startup Policy 2023', which offers seed funding, monthly allowances, and other incentives.

**Incubation Centers** : The government aims to establish incubation centers in every district within the next three years to provide startups with a suitable platform.

**Technical Education** : The state has several technical institutions that are producing a skilled workforce for IT and related sectors.

**Digital Infrastructure** : Investment in the development of digital infrastructure will provide better connectivity for IT companies and startups.

### AYUSH AND WELLNESS



Uttarakhand has a unique identity in the field of Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy. Investment in Ayush hospitals, wellness centers, yoga studios, and the production of Ayurvedic medicines can establish a global presence here.

**Ayush Health and Wellness Centers** : 200 Ayush Health and Wellness Centers are being established in the state with the cooperation of the central government.

**Traditional Knowledge** : Ayush products can be developed by

utilizing the traditional medical practices and knowledge that have existed in Uttarakhand for centuries.

### FILM INDUSTRY



Uttarakhand's picturesque valleys are becoming a favourite destination for filmmakers. The government has implemented the 'Uttarakhand Film Policy 2024', which offers several incentives, including the construction of a film city and grants for films.

**Shooting Locations** : Uttarakhand offers a diverse range of shooting locations that attract filmmakers.

**Local Employment** : Film production will create local employment for artists, technicians, and other support staff.

**Promotion of Tourism** : Films promote the state, which also boosts tourism.

Investment  
friendly  
environment and  
policies attracts  
entrepreneurs

**Sankalp**  
Naye Uttarakhand Ka



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# 6 IN PARLIAMENT MONSOON SESSION

## Operation Sindoor is 'Modi normal', no third party role in truce: Jaishankar takes on Opp

**DIVYAA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar told the Rajya Sabha Wednesday that there was no third-party intervention in ensuring a ceasefire between India and Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, making it clear that it was not linked to trade as claimed by US President Donald Trump.

Intervening in the special discussion on Operation Sindoor, he slammed the Congress over its regimes' apathetic response to incidents of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. He referred to the previous Congress-led UPA government's "inaction" in the wake of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, saying "there is a Congress nor-

mal... and a Modi normal".

"The Modi normal is terrorists are not proxies. Number two, cross-border terrorism will get an appropriate response in our way, at our time. Three, talks and terror will not go together. If there are talks, it will only be about terror. Number four, we will not give in to nuclear blackmail. And number five, terrorism and good neighbourliness cannot go together," he said.

Targeting the Opposition, which kept their guns trained on the government, asking it to come clean on President Trump's claims of brokering the ceasefire, Jaishankar said, "*Kaan khole sun lein, April 22 se June 16 tak ek bhi phone call President Trump and Prime Minister Modi ke beech mein nahi hui* (Listen carefully,

there was not a single phone call between PM Modi and President Trump from April 22 to June 16)." He also took a swipe at Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Jairam Ramesh, calling them "China gurus" who took "private tuitions" from Chinese diplomats. The Congress recently questioned Jaishankar's visit to China, while Rahul flagged a "two-front challenge" from China and Pakistan while attacking the Modi government.

"I have spent 41 years in the Foreign Service, only being the longest-serving Ambassador, but there are 'China Gurus'. One of them is the member sitting in front of me (Ramesh), whose affection for China is so great, '*unhone ek sandhi bana li thi India aur China ki, Chindia* (he con-



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar speaks in RS. *PTI*



SCAN TO WATCH THE MINISTER'S FULL SPEECH

joined the words India and China as Chindia)," Jaishankar said. The term 'Chindia' was used by Ramesh in his 2007 book "Making sense of Chindia:

Reflections on China and India".

Jaishankar said while Gandhi may lack knowledge about China, he did not learn about the country through the Olympics, or unlike others who took "private tuitions" at the home of the Chinese Ambassador. Gandhi had attended the 2008 Beijing Olympics as a special invitee.

"...no one called me, I was not a special person. Some people gained their knowledge of China during their visit to Olympics. Let's not discuss who they met or what they signed. They also took private tuitions at their homes from the Chinese Ambassador," he said, amid objections from Opposition.

He also took on the Opposition leaders for seeking evidence of India's military action against Pakistan, saying

"they should watch videos of funerals of terrorists in Pakistan and destruction of airfields in the neighbouring country.

Referring to the Opposition's points about national security, Jaishankar said the biggest damage for India in the last 20 years was the Chinese occupation of Hambantota port in Sri Lanka, but the then government did not act on it. "We were told for 60 years that nothing can be done. Pandit Nehru's mistakes can't be corrected. The Narendra Modi government showed it can be corrected. The Article 370 was corrected. The Indus Water Treaty is being corrected, it is being held in abeyance until Pakistan irrevocably gives up support of terrorism. Today, we are demonstrating what we say, we will do," he said.

### RS DISCUSSION ON PAHALGAM, TRUMP

## Opp keeps up attack on Govt, Jha says House must apologise

**NIKHIL GHANEKAR & JATIN ANAND**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

FROM FIXING accountability over the Pahalgam terror attack to clarification over US President Donald Trump's claims of brokering a truce between India and Pakistan, Opposition parties kept up their attack on the government as the special discussion on Op Sindoor continued in Rajya Sabha Wednesday.

RJD's Manoj Kumar Jha said the Pahalgam attack showed that no lessons had been learnt from previous terror incidents and that it warranted an apology from MPs across party lines.

Stating that the killing of 26 civilians in Pahalgam on April 22 became "collective pain" of the country, Jha said: "Time has come for the entire House to apologise to the nation for all such incidents... We should say to the people that we are sorry, we do not learn from history... I am saying this for everyone, not one individual or party... It is said that there were intelligence inputs... if there were indications, what actions did they trigger?... we are clueless to this day..." Jha said.

Jha hailed the country's "unified front" in the aftermath of Pahalgam, but cautioned it should not be utilised to "shield the government". He also urged restoration of "full-fledged" statehood to J&K, underlining "an unprecedented change" in how the people there reacted to the Pahalgam attack. "Kashmir is not just a piece of land... the people of Kashmir have also laid down their lives... but they have a government which has responsibility without power..." he said.

Jha also proposed a resolution condemning Trump for seeking credit for brokering the ceasefire. "Come clean, we are with you Honourable Prime Minister..." he said.

CPI (M)'s John Brittas said that for the government, a new normal meant "celebration of failure". He asked why did the Union Home Minister not resign after



RJD's Manoj Jha speaks in Rajya Sabha, Wednesday. *PTI*



SCAN TO WATCH THE RJD MP'S FULL SPEECH

Pahalgam if former home minister Shivraj Patil did so after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, when the UPA was in power: "Will history judge Shah as morally inferior to Shivraj Patil?" he asked.

On Trump, Brittas said: "We want our PM to say Trump is speaking rubbish... The moment you say, we will all support."

Independent MP Kapil Sibal said India does not have "that many resources that we can destroy Pakistan", which, he added, receives technological support from China. Sibal said, "In October 2024, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh addressed the declining strength of the Indian Air Force squadrons, which had reached 31, the lowest since 1965."

Sibal also criticised Union Home Minister Amit Shah for not inviting J&K CM Omar Abdullah to a security review meeting before the Pahalgam attack.

Sanjay Raut of the Shiv Sena (UBT) demanded Shah quit. "The LG has accepted that there was a security lapse. Who is taking responsibility and who will resign... Pandit Nehru, J D Vance or Trump? The Home Minister has to resign," he said.

TMC's Susmita Dev asked why India abstained from the IMF meeting that approved a financial package to Pakistan. CPI's Sandosh Kumar P urged the government to fill over 1 lakh vacant posts in the Army urgently.

In the latter half of the discussion, Congress and TMC MPs demanded the PM address the House and staged a walkout.

## Shah, Nadda target Cong: 'You gave away PoK, BJP will bring it back'

**VIKAS PATHAK & NIKHIL GHANEKAR**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah told Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that the Congress had given away Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) but the BJP government would bring it back.

He was responding to the Opposition's questions on why PoK was not taken back once Pakistan was on the backfoot during Operation Sindoor.

The Opposition walked out early into Shah's speech over the Prime Minister not replying to the debate. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge called it an insult to the House.

Shah responded that the Business Advisory Committee had decided on a 16-hour debate but agreed that the government would decide who would reply. He targeted former home minister P Chidambaram for seeking evidence that the three terrorists killed in Operation Mahadev were involved in the Pahalgam attack. He said all three were shot in the head the same day Chidambaram asked the question with "vote bank politics" in mind.

Responding to Chidambaram's assertion that Operation Sindoor was not decisive, Shah sought to know whether the 1965 and 1971 wars were decisive, wondering how terrorism came up if that was the case. He also attacked Congress leader Digvijaya Singh for talking about Hindu terror. "A Hindu can never be a terrorist," Shah said.

Shah said that while the earlier surgical strikes were in PoK, this was the first time that India attacked deep inside Pakistani.

The Home Minister claimed that the Congress had never given requisite equipment to the Army, but the present leadership sends Brahmos missiles (across the border) and not dossiers.

Leader of the House in Rajya



Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks in RS. *PTI*

Sabha JP Nadda, meanwhile, accused the Congress of appeasing Pakistan and lacking the political will to act against terrorism between 2004 and 2014 despite numerous attacks.

Nadda said there was a clear difference in the way the Narendra Modi-led BJP government acted against terrorism due to political will and leadership. "Political leadership is very important, because it is the political leadership which gives orders to the Army," said Nadda. "Yours (Congress rule) was inactive, lukewarm, non-reactive and non-responsive."

Nadda said it was important that the Pahalgam incident was not looked at in isolation. He listed several terror attacks and the response of the Congress-led UPA government after these incidents. He said despite hundreds of deaths in different blasts, no action was taken and trade continued. "You kept appeasing Pakistan and did not pressure them... They kept shooting us and you kept feeding them briyani," he said.

Rebutting the opposition's charge that the Prime Minister was campaigning in Bihar after the Pahalgam attack, Nadda said that Modi was in Madhubani to mark the Panchayati Raj Diwas. "He spends it with elected panchayat members each year. He said, not his clarity, that punishment will be beyond imagination," he said.

Nadda said that apart from Jammu and Kashmir, there were no terror attacks in India between 2014 and 2025.



## HOLDING OUT AGAINST BIHAR SIR

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other Opposition MPs protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, at Parliament. The Opposition has been demanding a debate on the exercise as well. *PTI*

## BJP cites Indira's letter to Nixon during '71 war: 'Begged before US'

Hits back at Rahul: Did she not have faith in Army, her govt?

**VIKAS PATHAK**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

A LETTER written by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during the 1971 India-Pakistan war has been picked up by the BJP to counter the Opposition charge against it of "capitulating" to US President Donald Trump, during the Operation Sindoor debate in Parliament.

On Wednesday, BJP MPs Anurag Thakur and Nishikant Dubey claimed that the letter, which was written by Mrs Gandhi to then US President Richard Nixon on December 5, 1971, suggested she did not have faith in the defence forces and said her government seemed to be "groveling" before the American president. The war with Pakistan started on December 3, 1971.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha Tuesday, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi said if

Trump was "lying" about brokering a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi should call him out, if "he has even 50% of the courage of Indira Gandhi".

"Yesterday, a leader said that 50% courage should be shown. In 1971, the Indian defence forces made sacrifices and someone else was declared Iron Lady (a reference to Mrs Gandhi)," Thakur said in the Lok Sabha.

"Indira Gandhi wrote to Nixon in a way that it seemed that she was grovelling before Nixon. Let the nation decide whether that government was iron or irony," he added.

Charging that Gandhi wrote to request Nixon to convince Pakistan to reverse the aggression in 1971, Thakur asked, "Did she not have faith in the Army or her government? Who was grovelling here? Why did Indira Gandhi write this timid letter to the US President? Fifty percent

of zero is also zero."

BJP MP Dubey wrote to Speaker Om Birla, requesting him to reprimand Rahul Gandhi. "Shri Rahul Gandhi, during his speech, made a reference of 1971 War and proclaimed that his grandmother, late Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, had gallantly fought the war despite diplomatic, political and various other strategic pressures from the United States of America, resulting in creation of Bangladesh..."

Dubey added that Rahul "cunningly co-related" the 1971 war with Operation Sindoor "and delivered a sermon that the present Government should have followed the path of his grandmother..."

He then cited the same letter that Thakur referred to in the House. Dubey said that on December 5, 1971, Gandhi wrote to Nixon and "literally begged before him to use his influence to stop the war with Pakistan".



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**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

LOK SABHA Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said Wednesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not be able to say US President Donald Trump was lying about brokering a truce between India and Pakistan as Trump will then "tell the whole truth".

Gandhi's comments came a day after he dared Modi, during a discussion on Operation Sindoor in Lok Sabha, to show "courage" and declare Trump a liar if there was no truth in his repeated statements.

Asked about Trump's latest remarks repeating his claims and the PM's "silence" over the



MoS for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai; (right) Congress MP from Inner Manipur Bimol Akoijam in LS. *PTI*

Rai said there was only "one casualty" in the state in the past eight months. "Law and order is under control and full efforts are being made to resolve the dispute between both the communities through dialogue and establish a permanent peace," he said, adding that more than 2,500 weapons, more than 1,900

explosives and over 30,000 ammunition had been recovered during President's Rule.

Rai said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on the Northeast resulted in stability in the region. He said the PM had in the past 10 years visited the Northeast "more than 78 times" which, he added, had led to its



all-round development. Targeting the Opposition, Rai said: "I assure, peace is getting restored there. You don't try to spread confusion."

Earlier, during a discussion on the resolution, Inner Manipur MP Akoijam said: "Instead of introducing this and extending this almost illegitimate, in some sense morally, President's Rule in Manipur, we should have a fresh mandate in the state... Despite having a brutal majority you are not able to form the government. In collusion with that state government and Union government, you have created this tragedy of Manipur in past two years."

"Please dissolve that Assembly, let's have a fresh mandate and the rule of the people, will of the state must have a say

rather than dictating terms even if it's a small state," he said.

Samajwadi Party's Lalji Verma said "it was a matter of concern that peace was not restored in Manipur even after six months of President's Rule". "As PM and Home Minister deliver speeches with arrogance, certainly that is the reason we are unable to conduct elections in Manipur... certainly this government is working with the objective of increasing its vote bank. They spread hatred because of which we are not able to conduct elections in a small state..." he said.

TMC's Dastidar said: "Prime Minister should have visited (Manipur) and helped in resolving the issue. We want an elected government there."

### INHOUSE

**In 10 years, train accidents down by 77%: Vaishnaw**

RAILWAY MINISTER Ashwini Vaishnaw told Lok Sabha Wednesday that railway accidents were down by 77 per cent — from 135 in 2014-15 to 31 in 2024-25 — as the Government was focusing hard on safety, including the use of new technologies such as KAVACH. Vaishnaw said Kavach was a technology-intensive automatic train protection system that was commissioned on a Make-in-India basis in a short span of time, while many developed countries took a few decades to move towards such systems despite a smaller railway network than India's. **ENS**

**No money spent on engaging any influencer: Govt**

NO GOVERNMENT expenditure has been incurred for engaging any social media influencer, minister L Murugan told Lok Sabha. In a written reply, he said eight influencer marketing agencies have been empanelled with MyGov following due process. He said MyGov had issued request for quotation on March 7, 2023 for engagement of influencer marketing agencies. "Till date, no expenditure has been incurred for engaging any social media influencer," he said, adding MyGov regularly engages with stakeholders for disseminating information about programmes directly and through agencies. **PTI**

### LOK SABHA APPROVES RESOLUTION ON EXTENDING PRESIDENT'S RULE IN STATE

## MoS says peace returning in Manipur, Opp demands elections

**LALMANI VERMA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

LOK SABHA on Wednesday passed a statutory resolution approving extension of President's Rule in Manipur by another six months beyond August 13 even as Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said violence was on a decline in the state.

The Opposition criticised the move, with Congress MP from Inner Manipur, Bimol Akoijam, demanding the state Assembly be dissolved. "Let's have a fresh mandate and the rule of the people," he said. SP's Lalji Verma called the extension "a matter of concern" and TMC's Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar emphasised that President's rule was "not the fi-

nal solution of the problem".

Rai had moved the statutory resolution — it is moved in pursuance of a provision in the Constitution or an Act of Parliament — to extend President's Rule in Manipur for discussion in Lok Sabha. Speaker Om Birla said President's Rule was imposed in Manipur on February 13 and the House had approved it on April 2. The approval of the President's Rule by Parliament is valid for six months.

When the Opposition questioned the move, Rai said, "Peace is being restored there and not a single casualty has happened in the past four months... BJP believes in democracy, so President's Rule is necessary to restore law and order."





# Bihar hikes pay for ASHAs, Tejashwi asks: Will you copy everything from me?

HIMANSHU HARSH  
PATNA, JULY 30

THE NITISH Kumar-led National Democratic Alliance government has announced an increase in the honorarium for ASHA and Mamta workers in the state, prompting Opposition leader Tejashwi Yadav to seek credit for the move.

In a post on X Wednesday, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced that honorarium of ASHA, or Accredited Social Health Activists, workers was being tripled to Rs 3,000 crore and that of Mamta workers was going to be doubled to Rs 600 for every child they help deliver.

“Since the formation of the government in November 2005, we have worked on a large scale to improve healthcare services... In recognition of the significant contribution of ASHA and Mamta workers in strengthening healthcare services in rural areas, it has been decided to increase their honorarium amount.”

While ASHA, or Accredited Social Health Activists, are community health workers in rural India. Under the National Rural Health Mission, they are seen as bridge between the community and the public health system.

Mamata workers, on the other hand, are contractual health workers in maternity wards of government hospitals that are meant to care for newborns and their mothers. Both are crucial links in the rural healthcare chain.

ASHA workers currently get

₹1,000 while Mamta workers ₹300/child. The decision comes months ahead of the assembly polls and follows a series of recent welfare measures by the Nitish cabinet.

Soon after Wednesday’s announcement, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and Bihar’s former deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav accused his former ally Nitish of “repackaging and claiming credit” for initiatives introduced during his tenure.

In a post on X, Yadav said: “In my 17-month tenure as Health Minister, I had initiated the process of increasing the incentive amount for ASHA and Mamta workers which had reached its final stage, but the government and the Chief Minister habitually backtracked. This incompetent NDA government then sat on it for two years. Finally... they had to bow to our demand”. Yadav further criticised the government for what he called a partial implementation of the proposal.

“Here, the government has cleverly not implemented our demand in full. They (ASHA and Mamta workers) deserve honorarium, not just incentives. We will provide them with an honorarium,” he said.

He then went on to say: “It feels good to see how this imitation-prone, exhausted, visionless government is now visibly rattled by our demands, promises, and intent... *Sab kuch Tejashwi ka hi nakal karoge ya apni bhi akal lagaoge* (Will you copy everything from Tejashwi, or will you use your own brain too)?”

# Rights groups say vague Data Protection Act to fail RTI, curb Press freedom

ENS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

CIVIL RIGHTS and journalist bodies on Wednesday expressed apprehension over the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, saying the provisions under it may fail the Right to Information Act and end press freedom.

Supreme Court lawyer and convenor of The Campaign for Judicial Accountability & Judicial Reforms, Prashant Bhushan alleged that the Act bars and amends RTI Act to stop sharing of personal identifiable information without consent. He said that the provision not only kills the Right to Information Act but also discourages journalists and

whistleblowers from exposing the names of corrupt officials without their consent.

“The definitions contained in the Act of data fiduciary, data principal, data processing that anyone be it an activist who seeks personal information through RTI or journalist or a whistleblower attempts to expose corrupt officials then it can be considered an offence under the Act,” Bhushan said.

Former High Court Justice AP Shah in an open letter to Attorney General of India on July 28 said that Section 44(3) of the DPDP Act “enables public authorities to deny information simply by classifying it as ‘personal,’ regardless of its public relevance or importance.”

# Badri Narayan Tiwari is new TISS Vice Chancellor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JULY 30

PROFESSOR BADRI Narayan Tiwari from the GB Pant Social Science Institute, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, was on Wednesday appointed vice-chancellor of the Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) in Mumbai, nearly two years after the institution’s previous full-time head stepped down.

The order was issued by the Ministry of Education Wednesday.

The Centre’s order was followed by an order by the GB Pant Social Science Institute, relieving him of the charge as its director and the TISS issuing a notification that he has assumed charge.

Tiwari, a social historian and cultural anthropologist, will be the first vice-chancellor appointed as per the new regulations that took effect after TISS came under the purview of the Central

Government. Previously, the institute was headed by the director picked by a governing body appointed by the Tata Trust, the sponsoring organisation. The governing body established a selection committee that included a nominee from the University Grants Commission (UGC).

In September 2023, Prof Shalini Bharat stepped down from the post of vice-chancellor after completing her term of five years. Professor Manoj Kumar Tiwari, Director of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Mumbai, was then given additional charge as the TISS vice-chancellor.

UGC rules stipulate that deemed-to-be universities receiving over 50 per cent of their funding from the Government will have their heads appointed by the Central Government. An executive council has replaced the governing council at TISS, with the vice-chancellor as its chairperson.

# Bengal CEO orders DEOs to review voter additions to weed out fictitious voters

ATRI MITRA  
KOLKATA, JULY 30

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal has directed all the District Election Officers (DEOs) to conduct sampling of one per cent of Form 6 disbursed in the past one year to check if any “fictitious” voters were added to the electoral rolls.

West Bengal will go to the Assembly polls early next year.

In a letter to the DEOs and DMs, CEO Manoj Agarwal directed them to form a team of senior officers to check the disbursed Form 6 in their respective districts and submit a report by August 14.

“Sample checking of less than 1 per cent Form 6 disposals by the EROs (Electoral Registration Officers) during continuous updation has revealed a considerable number of Form 6 for fictitious voters. In all these cases, BLOs verification was dispensed with, without any apparent urgency/requirement and similar documents were captured for a large number of application forms and

their verification reports,” the CEO wrote.

The CEO has also ordered that the OC Election, posted in the BDO Office, and the casual and daily wages contractual data entry operators should not be involved in the disposal of the forms or any of the functions and duties in ERONet, the electoral roll management system.

“The EROs have since admitted that they had provided user access to the ERO net to the AERO/OC Election in BDO Office/Casual Data Entry Operators who had thereafter disposed of the Form 6 applications. While appropriate action in these and other cases is being contemplated, District Election Officers are hereby directed to form a team of senior officers and have the sample checking of all Form 6 disposals done during the last one year and send a report to the undersigned by 14th August, 2025 positively,” the July 28 letter stated.

Reacting to the report, BJP MLA and Leader of Opposition in Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, demanded a probe, accusing the TMC government in the state of “rigging the electoral system”.

“This latest memo from the Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal to all the District Election Officers (DMs) exposes a scandalous betrayal of democracy... Fictitious Voters added to the rolls and unauthorized meddling by Casual Data Entry Operators IS THE DEPTH OF CORRUPTION UNDER MAMATA BANERJEE’S RULE,” Adhikari posted on X.

**CEO meets poll panel chief amid SIR talk**

West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agarwal is in New Delhi to meet Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the implementation of the controversial Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral roll, which is currently being conducted in neighbouring poll-bound Bihar, sources said.

According to sources in the state election commission, Agarwal will discuss with the CEC on the timeline of conducting the SIR and the necessary preparations for it. Earlier, the CEO started the SIR training workshop for the Booth Level Officials (BLOs) from Saturday.

# ‘Wish of supporters’: Meghalaya’s last Cong MLA joins ruling NPP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GUWAHATI, JULY 30

A YEAR after he remained the last Congress man standing in the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly after three of his colleagues crossed the aisle to the ruling National People’s Party, Mylliam MLA Ronnie Lyngdoh too joined the NPP Wednesday.

His move has left the Congress – which had won five seats in the 2023 state elections – without a single member in the legislative assembly. Lyngdoh was also the Chief Whip of the Opposition and he submitted a letter to Speaker Thomas Sangma resigning from the post Tuesday. On Wednesday, Sangma said Lyngdoh submitted another letter stating his intention to join the NPP.

“I had received the letter of resignation from the Opposition Chief Whip Ronnie Lyngdoh Tuesday, and I received his letter Wednesday stating his desire to merge with the NPP... I have found the letter submitted to be valid... I have accepted his application and given my recognition, and he is recognised as a member of the NPP with immediate

effect,” said Sangma.

Last year, Congress MLAs in the state had dropped from five to four after Gambegre MLA Saleng Sangma was elected to the Lok Sabha – his assembly seat was later won in a by-election by NPP candidate and Chief Minister Conrad Sangma’s wife Mehtab Chandee. In August, three of the remaining Congress MLAs – Celestine Lyngdoh, Charles Marmgar and Gabriel Wahlang – joined the NPP, and Speaker Sangma had notified that it was a permitted “merger” as opposed to defection since the MLAs jumping ship had accounted for two-third of the Congress MLAs.

Lyngdoh said: “My supporters believe that the best option for my constituency is to join the NPP... I have joined without any precondition except stability and development in Meghalaya.”

His entry has further consolidated the position of the NPP, which leads a coalition government in the state and had to form a patchwork alliance after the 2023 election where it had emerged as the single largest party but had not received a simple majority, and it now has 33 out of 60 MLAs in the house.

# Andhra liquor ‘scam’: SIT finds ₹11-crore cash at farmhouse

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, JULY 30

A SPECIAL Investigation Team probing the alleged liquor scam in Andhra Pradesh claims to have seized Rs 11 crore in cash and boxes of alcohol bottles from a farmhouse in Shamshabad on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

According to sources, the seizure was made during searches conducted following information from Varun Purshottam, a suspect in the case and a close aide of the prime accused, Kesireddy Rajashekar Reddy. The cash was allegedly stashed in 12 boxes of alcohol bottles. K Rajashekar Reddy is a former IT advisor to then chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy.

The seizures are connected to the alleged Rs 3,500 crore liquor scam under the former chief minister’s government. Investigators claim that Andhra Pradesh’s liquor policy was skewed in favour of a select group of companies in return for kickbacks.

The CID filed a chargesheet in the case on July 20 after the arrest of three-time party MP P V Midhun Reddy.



Government of Haryana



# Remembering Shaheed Udham Singh

on his

# Martyrdom Day

July 31, 2025

State Level Programme

Chief Guest

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini

Chief Minister, Haryana

July 31, 2025 | 11 am

Mukhya Dham Baba Bhuman Shah, Village-Bhuman Shah (Sangar Sarista) Sirsa



“शहीद उधम सिंह की वीरता हर भारतीय की स्मृति में अंकित है। मैं भारत के इस वीर सपूत को उनके शहादत दिवस पर नमन करता हूँ।”

-नरेन्द्र मोदी



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1	NFL/MKTG-D/EOI/ Mycorrhiza/2025/01 & E-Tender No. 2025_NFL_242526_1	Empanelment of Manufacturers of Mycorrhizal Bio-fertilizers units
2	NFL/MKTG-D/EOI/ PGR/2025/02 & E-Tender No. 2025_NFL_242256_1	Empanelment of Manufacturers of Gibberellic Acid PGR GA-0.001 %L (Product : Gibberellins) units

Last date of Bid submission date / Opening of Technical Bid document for the above tenders is 15.30 Hrs on 20.08.2025 / 15.30 Hrs on 21.08.2025. For details visit website: <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocedure/app> (e-tendering) & [www.nationalfertilizers.com](http://www.nationalfertilizers.com) (Homepage). Any Corrigendum (s) to these tenders shall be published only on our websites.

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# 8 GOVT & POLITICS

## Maharashtra govt revokes decision on EWS quota in pvt medical colleges

PALLAVI SMART  
MUMBAI, JULY 30

IN ANOTHER rollback by the Maharashtra government, the medical education department on Wednesday withdrew its decision to implement the 10 per cent Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota in private medical colleges. The government stated that the reservation will only be applicable if the Central Government or respective Council increases the number of seats to compensate for the reservation impact on other category seats.

The decision comes just a month after the state government revoked the three-language policy on June 29, following a major uproar.

The order issued by the state's medical education department on Wednesday, with regards to EWS reservation clause in the information brochure of the state medical admission, stated, "For MBBS/BDS/BAMS/BHMS and BUMS courses, this reservation will be applicable only if Central Government / respective council increased existing seats. For courses other than MBBS/BDS/BAMS/BHMS and BUMS courses, 10% EWS reservation will be applicable on available seats."

Principal secretary of medical education department, Dheeraj Kumar, said, "After careful examination and various court orders, including those of Supreme Court and High Court, we have modified provisions as per last year."

This comes as a big relief to medical aspirants in the state and their parents who along with private medical colleges

were up in arms against the implementation of 10 per cent EWS quota in private medical colleges, which came to light with release of the information brochure on July 23. According to them this was going to result in a drastic reduction in the number of seats which are un-der general merit, causing steep increase in cut-off marks for admission on those seats.

It was highlighted by parents as well as colleges that it was unfair of state to implement 10 per cent EWS quota in private medical colleges without allowing proportionate boost in the total intake, a one time-measure followed by the central government when EWS reservation was applied in government medical colleges (GMCs).

While the Association of Private Medical Colleges wrote to state against the reservation, several candidates and parents not only sent multiple letters requesting to withdraw the decision but also met with the state's medical education minister Hasan Mushrif on Tuesday, with their concerns.

Welcoming the move, a parent representative, Sudha Shenoy said, "The minister as well as principal secretary of the department not only gave us a patient hearing, the issue was resolved promptly within just a day after we presented our concerns."

Another parent representative, Brijesh Sutaria, said, "It is now clear that the Government of Maharashtra will not implement EWS reservation in private medical colleges unless seat capacity is increased, a move that aligns with the Central Government's original 2019 approach. This step protects merit-based access while preserving the intent of social justice."

## Cash row: 1985 Act empowers us to call in-house inquiry, SC tells Justice Varma

SC says judge conduct doesn't inspire confidence, defends CJI authority to act

ANANTHAKRISHNAN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE SUPREME Court Wednesday told Allahabad High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma who has challenged the Chief Justice of India's power to order an in-house inquiry into the alleged recovery of unaccounted cash from his official residence in Delhi that the 'The Judges (Protection) Act, 1985, "empowers" the top court to order such a probe "for maintaining institutional integrity".

The court told Justice Varma that his conduct did not inspire confidence and also defended the CJI's authority to act on any judicial misconduct saying he cannot be merely a "post office" but has certain duties towards the nation.

"The Chief Justice of India is not just a post office. He (the CJI) has certain duties to the nation as the leader of the judiciary. If materials come to him regarding misconduct, the CJI has the duty to forward them to the President and the Prime Minister," the bench of Justices Deepankar Datta and A G Masih told Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for Justice Varma.



Justice Yashwant Varma

The top court reserved its order on Justice Varma's petition challenging the in-house inquiry procedure and the CJI's recommendation for his removal.

The bench also made it clear that the remit of the in-house inquiry panel was not to find out who the cash discovered at Justice Varma's house during an accidental fire belonged to.

Justice Varma's petition has called the SC's in-house inquiry mechanism that indicted him as "a parallel, extra-constitutional mechanism".

On Wednesday, the bench also questioned Sibal as to why Justice Varma had not taken legal recourse before participating in the in-house inquiry process. Responding, Sibal said, "What happened was that the tape was released... My reputation (was) already damaged. What would I come to court for?"

The bench agreed with Sibal's submission that the tapes

need not have been released, but said that does not indicate any lapse in procedure. Justice Datta said: "We are with you on this for the time being. It should not have been done (made public)."

The top court on March 22 uploaded on its website an in-house inquiry report, including photos and videos, into the discovery of a huge stash of cash at the residence of Justice Varma who was then Delhi High Court judge. The report contains photos and videos of the cash discovered in a store-room at Justice Varma's house during a firefighting operation on the night of Holi, March 14.

Justice Datta added, "...It does not mean that there has been some lapse in the procedure, which affects the powers of the Parliament to take action against you, because Parliament, I need not to say with any emphasis, has its own powers. Parliament is not supposed to be guided by what the judiciary says or what CJI recommends. They are supposed to act independently and if, at all, Parliament admits the motion and if an inquiry committee is set up, you know who can be the members of the committee. Do you think those members, people of high calibre, would be in-

fluenced by a preliminary report where you will have the whole opportunity to demolish what are the findings there. Or would it be a submission that this tape put on the website means everything has been vitiated..."

The judge said that Justice Varma should have questioned the inquiry process beforehand if he was convinced that it involved a constitutional question.

"That, according to you, the in-house procedure empowering the committee to make a recommendation for initiation of removal is beyond the jurisdiction. That challenge was available at that point in time...Your conduct does not inspire confidence. Why did you appear before the committee?"

Sibal said, "that right would occur to me when that recommendation is made, (when) the cause of action arises...Supposing I came to court (then), your Lordship would have said 'How do you know that you are going to be removed, or there is going to be a recommendation?'"

Wednesday, the court also reserved orders on a petition by advocate Mathews J Nedumpara seeking the court's direction to register an FIR against Justice Varma.

### CASH-FOR-JOBS CASE

## Senthil Balaji trial rudderless ship, says SC, slams TN govt



Former TN minister and DMK leader Senthil Balaji

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE SUPREME Court Wednesday said that the cash-for-jobs case against former Tamil Nadu minister and DMK leader V Senthil Balaji was revived only because of its intervention, calling the state's proceedings a "rudderless ship".

"All the FIRs were quashed at the High Court level thanks to a kind of a friendly match made there. Because of the judicial intervention of this court, the matters have been revived," said Justice Surya Kant presiding over a two-judge bench. He asked why the state was opposed to the idea of the top court appointing a special public prosecutor.

Balaji is accused of accepting bribes from job aspirants when he was transport minister in the erstwhile AIADMK government.

The top court is currently hearing a challenge to a March 28 Madras High Court order dismissing pleas against the clubbing of multiple chargesheets in cases related to the alleged scam.

On Wednesday, the court asked the state to submit a complete list of accused and witnesses in the cases. "We want from you clearly and definitely what is your prosecutorial plan? It seems to be a very rudderless ship with 2,000-odd accused, 500-odd witnesses," Justice Bagchi said. "It will perhaps be one of the most populated trials in India...You will need a cricket stadium." The court will hear the matter next on August 11.



## PRESIDENT AT AIIMS KALYANI

President Droupadi Murmu with West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose at the first convocation ceremony of AIIMS Kalyani, on Wednesday. PTI

## Did Centre have power to suggest Udaipur Files cuts? HC to examine

SOHINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE DELHI High Court on Wednesday asked the Centre if it exceeded its powers as a revisional authority and ventured into being an appellate authority by suggesting six cuts in the film *Udaipur Files*. The Centre is expected to respond to the court's query on Friday.

A bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela was dealing with a petition by Mohd Javed, an accused in the murder of Udaipur-based tailor Kanhaiya Lal on alleged communal grounds, on which the film is purportedly based.

Javed is seeking a postponement in the release of the film until the trial ends, stressing that the release will jeopardise his right to fair trial.

Javed, represented by senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy argued before the bench on Wednesday that the Centre has exercised its revisional powers in a manner that contravenes the statutory scheme prescribed under the Cinematograph Act. Guruswamy submitted, "The statute... envisages three kinds of revisional powers that can be exercised by the Central government. The legislature never intended the Central government to be the film board... they could not have suggested cuts."

Under Section 6 of the Act, the Union government while exercising revisional powers over CBFC certification already granted to a film, may either deem it to be an uncertified film in the whole or any part of India, or change the rating of certification, or may suspend the exhibition of the film.

The Centre, represented by ASG Chetan Sharma, argued that it had constituted a panel of five members including members from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Home Affairs and three others, which then recommended six cuts to the film and was also incorporated by the filmmakers.

The court, however, inquired if the Centre had exceeded its jurisdiction given the specific contours in which Centre can exercise its revisional powers as outlined under section 6 of the Act.

The Chief Justice asked Sharma: "The kind of order you passed, suggesting 6 cuts, whether this revisional authority is available with you? The Central government can only pass three (types of) orders, as enumerated under section 6(2) (of the Cinematograph Act)..."

## 'Failed foreign policy': Opp tears into govt over US tariff

ASAD REHMAN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

AFTER US President Donald Trump announced 25% tariffs "plus a penalty" for India on Wednesday, Opposition parties questioned India's "failed foreign policy" and asked if Prime Minister Narendra Modi "will now stand up to Trump". Opposition parties also questioned PM Modi's "friendship" with the US president, and his "silence" on Trump's claims of brokering a ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

Congress MP and general secretary in-charge for organisation K C Venugopal asked if PM Modi "will now grow a spine and stand up to Trump".

"By staying silent on Trump's ceasefire statements and his warmth towards Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir, PM Modi made the grave miscalculation of trying to appease Trump in the hope that India will receive a favourable trade deal," said Venugopal.

"This completely exposes how the Modi government has compromised our national security and sovereignty by linking it to trade... We demand a clear explanation from the PM on how the government plans to navigate this perilous situation they have landed us in," said the Congress leader.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said the tariffs "will be disastrous for the Indian economy" and is a clear sign of "how the BJP government and the PM have compromised India's national interests".

"This comes despite Mr Modi bending backwards to woo Mr Trump... This move will have far reaching consequences on our economy, on our domestic industry, our exports and in turn employment," said Shrinete.

Samajwadi Party MP Rajeev Rai said the imposition of tariffs on India is an example of "another failure of the Central gov-



Cong MP K C Venugopal; CPM's John Brittas



ernment's foreign policy". "Modiji also gave the slogan of 'Ab ki baar Trump Sarkar'. On what scale has Trump kept India is clear after this announcement," said Rai.

TMC Deputy Leader in Rajya Sabha Sagarika Ghose said: "The hollowness of the Modi govt 'abki baar Trump sarkar' slogan has been exposed once again. We bow and scrape before the Americans in the hope of getting special treatment and are re-buffed yet again by the Trump administration. Time to stand up to the US and ensure that we put India first and get the best deal possible for India."

CPI's D Raja said that Trump has claimed "at least 30 times that he 'mediated' a ceasefire between India and Pakistan using trade as leverage". "This is a blatant assertion of arm-twisting India's foreign policy, yet the BJP remains silent," said Raja.

CPI-M member of Rajya Sabha John Brittas said that Trump wants India to be a "slave". "It is quite shocking that the US has imposed tariffs and a penalty on India... The most important aspect is that Trump wants India to be a slave. He has questioned the sovereignty of this country. He wants to dictate where we buy oil and weapons. This is an attack on our sovereignty," Brittas said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi asked where "India's trade minister is" and said: "Share a few words on the progress in the Trade deal? The US President's post on the tariffs deserves a firm response from none less than the PM of India."

## Himachal cancels 172 hydro projects where construction is stalled

SAURABH PARASHAR  
SHIMLA, JULY 30

THE HIMACHAL Pradesh Cabinet Wednesday approved a proposal to cancel 172 small hydro projects of below 5 MW capacity where construction work has been stalled for an extended period. The state will re-advertise these projects that are under Himachal Pradesh Energy Development Agency, a senior official said.

"It has been decided to apply a uniform free power royalty of 12% along with an additional 1% for the Local Area Development Fund for all hydro projects up to 5 MW that will be allotted in the future," an official said.

The decisions were taken in a

meeting chaired by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. The Cabinet also gave its approval to cancel 22 hydroelectric projects above 5 MW, previously allotted by the Directorate of Energy, where implementation agreements have not been signed.

A Department of Energy official told *The Indian Express*, "We had issued show cause notices to the firms, which were given the contact to establish 22 hydroelectric projects above 5 MW. Some of them had submitted their reply. As per our initial assessment, some of the firms failed to obtain permissions and NOCs from various departments. Moreover, the firms are yet to enter into Instrument of Agreement with the state government".



### ACTION REPLAY

N K SINGH, a member of the One Nation One Election panel, and economist Prachi Mishra on Wednesday briefed a Joint Parliamentary Committee on the economic impact of synchronising elections, including their finding that it would boost economic growth by 1.5 percentage points. At the same time, however, Lok Sabha was taking up the resolution to extend President's Rule in Manipur and Home Minister Amit Shah was speaking in Rajya Sabha. So, many BJP members were unable to stay for long and none of the Congress members attended. It is learnt that the committee, chaired by P P Chaudhary, may invite the former Finance Commission chairperson back for another meeting so that all members have a chance to pose questions.

### CONTESTING CONGESTION

EVEN WITH virtual hearings in place, there seems to be no respite from crowding inside the Supreme Court. On Wednesday, soon after a bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and A G Masih finished hearing petitions in connection with alleged recovery of cash from the residence of High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma, a lawyer who was to appear in the next matter pleaded virtually from outside the court to pass it over saying the courtroom is congested and he is unable to enter. "I'm just outside the court. The court is very congested. There is no way to come inside. Kindly pass it over," the lawyer urged. The bench, however, said that it may not sit post-lunch and agreed to take up the case after 10 days.

### WITHOUT PAUSE

PARTICIPATING IN the debate on extension of the President's rule in Manipur on Wednesday, Congress MP from Inner Manipur Bimol Akoijam went on to accuse the Centre and the erstwhile state government of being in "collusion". He even said that former Manipur CM Biren Singh was doing everything with the consent of PM Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. This was immediately objected to by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey who cited parliamentary rules to suggest that the Governor rule could not be discussed in the House. Akoijam, however, chose not to engage on the issue citing paucity of time and continued speaking, making the same allegations.

## Telangana govt plans BC quota, benefits for 14 Muslim groups

REENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, JULY 30

THE REVANTH Reddy-led Congress government in Telangana is considering a proposal to streamline the quota benefits for 14 Muslim groups, which include about 3 lakh Shia families, under the Backward Classes (BC) reservation regime based on their social, educational and economic backwardness.

These 14 socially and economically backward Muslim groups had been given 4% reservation for government jobs and education under a separate category BC (E), which restricts quota benefits for them. Also, due to legal issues over allegations of religion-based quota and lack of

awareness in the Muslim community, it has "not been implemented properly", sources said.

The Revanth Reddy government's social, economic, educational, employment and political caste (SEEP) survey, whose report was made public in February this year, found that the Muslim community accounts for about 12.58% of Telangana's population, of which BC Muslims make up 10.08% and OC (Other Castes) Muslims about 2.5%. This is down from 12.69% Muslim population in the state as per the 2011 population Census.

The expert committee which reviewed the caste survey report found that a number of Muslim women, especially in Old City of Hyderabad, did not wish to interact with the enumerators in



Telangana CM Revanth Reddy

the absence of their families' male members and did not share information about their households, occupation, livelihood, which might have led to about "1-2% under-reporting of the Muslim count", sources said.

The survey report stated that the BCs — including the Muslim caste groups — form 56.33% of the state's population. Based on these findings, the Telangana Assembly passed two key legislation in March, increasing the BC reservation from 27% to 42%

in government jobs, educational institutions and urban and rural local body polls. The Bills were then sent to Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma for his assent, who has referred them to President Droupadi Murmu.

The Telangana government's advisor on the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), minorities welfare, Mohammed Ali Shabbir, told *The Indian Express* that as per the caste survey report, of the state's nearly 12.58% Muslim population, 2.5% are above the poverty line and could be considered as "well off". "The report states that 10.08% of Muslims in the state are socially and economically backward. Like many BC communities, these Muslim groups require support

in employment, education, political representation at micro level, and financial assistance to improve their livelihood chances. Occupation-based castes are at maximum risk of poverty as per the report," Shabbir said.

The report has drawn focus towards the 3 lakh Shia families who are not doing well socially and financially but are also excluded from any government schemes and benefits, he said.

"Purely going by castes, Saiyyeds, Mughals, Pathans, Arabs, Kojja Memons, Agha Khanis, Bohras — all of them are excluded from quotas. The BJP is unnecessarily creating an issue that reservation is being proposed based on religion. These Muslims castes are based on their occupation just like many

BC castes, and they need government support based on their social, educational, and financial backwardness, not on the basis of their religion," Shabbir said.

"Whenever quota for Muslims was proposed, every government or court asked where is your data? This survey has given that data. We know the numerical strength of each Muslim group, and their plight is very dire. Most Muslims living below the poverty line are vegetable and fruit sellers, scrap dealers, drivers, etc just like other BC groups. They need jobs, education, financial support, and political representation," he said, adding that the government is considering extending to the 14 Muslim groups similar benefits and schemes that it is planning for the BCs, SCs, and STs in the state.



# Pune: Mob enters house of Kargil War veteran’s kin, labels them Bangladeshis

**SOHAM SHAH**  
PUNE, JULY 30

A MOB of 60-70 people entered the house of a Kargil War veteran’s relative in Chandan Nagar in Pune around midnight on July 26, called them Bangladeshis, and demanded identity proofs, according to the family. The mob also threatened them, said Shamshad Sheikh, a family member who runs a truck transport business.

Policemen present there in plain clothes did not stop the harassment, Shaikh said, adding that the family members were taken to the police station at night.

Police said the operation was based on a tip-off about Bangladeshis, and said they were investigating the allegation of the mob entering the house.

The family submitted a written complaint to the Chandan Nagar police station. While DCP Somay Munde said an FIR was in the process of being filed, Commissioner of Police Amitesh Kumar said an FIR was already filed.

Sheikh said his uncle Hakimuddin, a resident of Uttar Pradesh, is a retired Kargil War veteran and several other members of his family have also served in the Indian Army.

Describing the events of July 26, Sheikh said, “Around 11.30-



**Hakimuddin, a retired Kargil War veteran, was a member of the Bombay Sappers, his family said**

12 in the night, these people... entered our house demanding our IDs... they even went inside our bedrooms and woke up women and children. We showed them our Aadhaar card, PAN card, and even voter IDs but they kept saying they were fake.”

Sheikh said they were put in a police van and taken to the police station where inspector Seema Dhakne told them to report back the next morning or they would be declared Bangladeshis. Dhakne could not be reached for a comment despite multiple attempts.

Sheikh’s uncle Irshad Ahmad, who resides in the same house, said: “Our family has a 130-year history of serving in the Indian

Army. Our great-grandfather retired as a hawaldar. Our grandfather was a subedar in the army, and his brother was Jamshed Khan DGP Madhya Pradesh. Two of my uncles were subedar majors in the army and now retired — Naimullah Khan joined the army in 1962 and fought in the 1965 war and 1971 wars, Md Salim joined the army in 1968 and he fought in the 1971 war. My own brother Hakimuddin joined the Bombay Sappers in 1982 in Pune and was posted across India after his training. He fought in the Kargil War and retired in 2000. He resides in Pratapgari in UP.”

Ahmad said his uncle moved to Pune in 1961 and his elder brother shifted here in 1978, while Ahmad himself has been residing in Pune since 1996.

According to DCP Somay Munde, “We received information that there were suspected illegal Bangladeshis... Some of their documents were checked and some were brought to the police station. They were released as it was getting late and were called back the next morning... The information was that some of them were from Assam. At that point this was not found (to be true), but we are investigating.” Munde also said the family’s allegation that the mob of Bajrang Dal members entered the house is being investigated.

Ahmad said, “Our family was serving the nation on its borders. *Tamam dushmanon se loha liye* (fought with all enemies of the country)... It is regrettable that we have sacrificed this for the country and are being asked for proof.”

He said, “Why did the police summon us at 2 am to the police station?... Are we history-sheeters, mafias, or do we have terrorist tags or MCOCA or TADA charges against us?”

The family met Pune Police Commissioner Amitesh Kumar Wednesday and requested strict action against the accused. Kumar told the reporters, “An FIR over unlawful assembly has already been registered and we are recording fresh statements from the family today, and if any sections need to be added, we will do that.”

NCP working president of city unit, Pradeep Deshmukh said if police find any substance against the family, then they must take action as required. “...if their (mob) complaint against the family is proved wrong, they should take further action as well,” Dhokne said. He also said the police personnel who supported the mob should also face action. “We will take up the issue with higher authorities on the treatment meted out to the family that has served the Armed Forces.”

## Jammu Police arrests student for reversing Thar into elderly man

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 30

JAMMU AND Kashmir Police Wednesday arrested a 20-year-old engineering student who allegedly tried to run over an elderly businessman with his Thar SUV in the Gandhi Nagar area of Jammu Sunday afternoon.

“Accused Thar driver Manan Anand... has been arrested by Police Station Gandhi Nagar,” the Jammu and Kashmir Police said in an official statement.

Police had multiple teams looking for the vehicle’s driver after a CCTV footage of the incident went viral. The footage shows the vehicle hitting the scooter of businessman Kamal Dutt (68) while overtaking another, causing the latter to fall. The car then drove forward, and when Dutt stands up, reversed onto him.

Subsequently, the driver — alleged to be Anand — is seen coming out of the SUV and standing over an unconscious Dutt before driving away.

While the footage showed passersby watching, no one came to Dutt’s aid. Dutt was eventually taken to hospital by his family members who arrived at the scene after hearing about the incident. On Wednesday, he was moved to Fortis Hospital in Punjab Wednesday after his condition worsened.

## UP IAS officer who did sit-ups before lawyers gets transferred

**MANISH SAHU**  
LUCKNOW, JULY 30

A DAY after a video surfaced online purportedly showing IAS officer Rinkoo Singh Rahee doing sit-ups holding his ears during a protest by lawyers in Shahjahanpur district, the Uttar Pradesh government on Wednesday transferred him to the Board of Revenue in Lucknow.

Rahee’s (43) journey began as a PCS officer who faced a murderous attack in 2009 for his apparent role in exposing corruption while he was posted as Social Welfare Officer in Muzaffarnagar. Rahee, who suffered six bullet injuries, went on to clear the UPSC examination in 2023.

On Monday, Rahee joined his first posting as an IAS officer in Shahjahanpur after having completed his training. He was appointed as the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of the Puwvya tehsil in the district.

Around an hour after taking charge as SDM on Tuesday, Rahee conducted an inspection of the tehsil premises and reportedly found filth, lack of cleanliness and waterlogging. He was dismayed that people were urinating in the open despite the availability of toilets. To sensitise the residents, they were reportedly directed to do five sit-ups, sources said.

He also took similar disciplinary action against the parents of schoolchildren who were found loitering on the tehsil premises with their wards during school



**SDM Rinkoo Singh Rahee did the sit-ups as a 'gesture of accountability' during a protest by the lawyers over administrative 'neglect'**

hours. He said the intent was to “make them realise the harm they were causing to their children’s education by allowing or encouraging such absenteeism”.

Later in the day, the IAS officer approached a group of lawyers who were protesting on the tehsil campus over several issues. During the interaction, the lawyers complained about the unclean condition of the premises, the presence of stray animals, waterlogging, and administrative neglect. They asked whether he would take action against the officials responsible for the poor state of the tehsil.

Acknowledging the administration’s “shortcomings”, Rahee performed sit-ups in front of the gathering. Although the lawyers urged him to stop, he completed the act as a “symbolic gesture of accountability.”

When contacted on Wednesday, Rahee said: “I took responsibility for the shortcomings of the tehsil and its staff. As a symbolic gesture of accountability, I performed sit-ups in front of lawyers and members of the public.”

Hailing from Aligarh, Rahee, during his stint in Muzaffarnagar, was attacked days after he ordered an inquiry into the allocation of government funds.

Singh ordered the probe after a preliminary inquiry, during which he reportedly found anomalies in funds under multiple government schemes.

On March 26, 2009, a group of assailants allegedly pumped six bullets into Rahee’s chest, leaving him with a disfigured face and a damaged jaw. He also lost an eye. A portion of a bullet is still inside his body, he says. The Muzaffarnagar police then filed a case and arrested the accused.

In February 2021, a court in Muzaffarnagar sentenced four persons, including one who was then an accountant with the Social Welfare Department, to 10 years of imprisonment. However, the court acquitted four others in the case for lack of evidence.

At the time, Rahee was in charge of a government-run IAS and PCS coaching centre in Hapur. In 2012, Rahee staged a dharna in Lucknow, demanding a reply to his RTI application seeking details of unused funds by the Social Welfare Department in Muzaffarnagar in 2008-09.



**BJP leader Manhar Patel and others protesting on the national highway in Kaprada town**

protest on Tuesday.

Manhar had set out from Vavad village in Valsad district to lay the foundation stone of a school on Tuesday, but allegedly reached late due to the potholes on NH-848. He told *The Indian Express* that he called up some NHAI officials, but “did not receive a proper response”. Following which he, along with Kaprada taluka Panchayat President Hiraben Mahala, Kaprada village Sarpanch Shantiben Gae-kwad, former Sarpanch Chandrderbhai Gaekwad and others, sat on a dharna on the national highway in Kaprada town.

Videos of the protest were posted on social media.

Manhar said the potholes on

the highway were “one-foot-deep”, and both the front wheels of his vehicle “failed on the way to Vavad”. “A female police officer also fell off her moped and her uniform got soiled.”

Hiraben, who runs a hotel on the outskirts of the town on NH-848, told *The Indian Express* that, “I contacted the NHAI authorities in Valsad several times, but they did not give a satisfactory reply. We have complained about this to our party authorities.”

As per details obtained from the district flood control centre in Valsad, till July 25 last year, the district had received 57.68 inches of rainfall, while this year it was 54.36 inches, and in 2023 it was 71.32 inches.

“I have spotted potholes at 11 places on the 56-km stretch between Valsad and Bhilad,” Valsad BJP MP Dhaval told *The Indian Express*. “I also made representations to the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, and requested him to get a permanent solution.”

Vadodara city Police Commissioner Narsimha Komar, officials of the Vadodara Municipal Corporation and the NHAI, in an attempt to temporarily resolve the 15-km traffic snarl occurring from Bamangam in Karjan to Jambuva on the outskirts of Vadodara city, said that work on widening of bridges, which have become bottlenecks, are underway.

Surat NHAI Project Manager Sanjay Yadav, said, “There is not much of an issue in Bharuch, Surat and Navsari. It is only Valsad. There are industrial areas in... Valsad district. Heavy rain-fall led to the formation of potholes from July 5. We deployed four teams to repair the potholes. By July 20, we had repaired almost 95 per cent of the potholes on NH-48 in Valsad.”

“Work has started at Bhilad, Sonwada and Pardi, bordering Maharashtra. We are hoping that by the end of August, we will get all the roads repaired, if the rain abates,” Yadav also said.

**(WITH INPUTS FROM ADITI RAJA IN VADODARA)**

## KERALA NUNS ARRESTED IN CHHATTISGARH

# BJP caught in a tricky situation as Church body criticises party

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 30

AS THE two Kerala nuns arrested on charges of forced conversion and human trafficking in Chhattisgarh remain behind bars, a powerful body of Catholic bishops in Kerala Wednesday indicated that any prospective “friendship” with the BJP rests on the issue.

Addressing reporters, Kerala Catholic Bishops’ Council (KCBC) President Cardinal Basileos Cleemis expressed unhappiness over the denial of bail to the two nuns, and said: “If no justice is done, then what friendship can there be? How can we speak of perfect brotherhood?”

On Wednesday, the Catholic Church also took out a march to the Raj Bhavan, with bishops, priests and nuns joining in. Elsewhere across the state too, the followers of the Catholic Church held protests against the arrest of the nuns on charges of conversion.

The stand of the KCBC, which comprises heads of all 43 Catholic dioceses in the state, underlines the dilemma the BJP finds itself in — torn between the Sangh Parivar’s anti-conversion narrative, and its own electoral ambitions in Kerala, which rest on the party winning over the substantial Christian vote bank.

In a message directed at the BJP, Cleemis said: “We are closely watching the situation... Do what you say and be sincere in your actions. This is what we are looking for. Our concern is justice for the nuns.”

Addressing the Raj Bhavan march, the Cardinal took on the conversion charges against the Church, saying: “We are not going to close the gospel in the country. Our tongues have strength to proclaim the gospel and that will continue.”

At another event, Palakkad Bishop Peter Kochupurakkal at-

tacked the BJP’s Christian “appeasement”. “There are certain political Dhritrashtras (the blind Mahabharata king) who move in and out of our churches and our liturgical functions. They go to church and donate golden crowns to statues. They are present at all functions. We have to recognise such people. We have to recognise their Dhritrashtra hugs,” Kochupurakkal said, in an apparent dig at BJP MP Suresh Gopi, who donated a golden crown to a church in Thrissur, the constituency from which he won in 2024.

The Catholic Church seems to be hardening its stand against the BJP both because the nuns are from Kerala, and because the Church leadership wants to repudiate the allegation that it has adopted a soft line towards the BJP. Unlike in Kerala, the BJP is viewed largely with suspicion by the Christian community elsewhere, who accuse it of anti-minority bias.

Earlier, when Stan Swamy, a Jesuit priest from Tamil Nadu who was jailed over alleged Maoist links, died behind bars, the subdued reaction of the Catholic Church in Kerala had been remarked upon.

The interaction of Bishops and other Christian dignitaries with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a Christmas event had also drawn flak from a section of the faithful in Kerala as it came months after violence began in Manipur, with Christian tribals seen at the receiving end of violence.

Meanwhile, even within the Sangh Parivar in Kerala, not many are keen on the stance taken by BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar dismissing the allegations against the nuns in Chhattisgarh. Chandrasekhar’s statement has drawn sharp reactions from some Sangh Parivar handles, who said the party ruling the country should not water down its stand for “a few (Christian votes)” in Kerala.



**Congress MPs, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and K C Venugopal, in Parliament on Wednesday. ANI**

## ‘Attack on minorities’: Congress protests, seeks release of nuns

**LALMANI VERMA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE CONGRESS MPs in Lok Sabha Wednesday sought intervention of Centre, demanding release of two nuns who were arrested in Chhattisgarh on July 25.

Before the start of Lok Sabha proceedings, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress general secretary K C Venugopal, RSP MP N K Premchandran and some other Congress MPs from Kerala staged a protest near Makar Dwar of Parliament, demanding the release of the nuns.

Nuns Preethi Merry and Vandana Francis were arrested at Durg railway station on July 25 following a complaint by a local Bajrang Dal functionary, who accused them of forcibly converting three girls and trafficking them.

“Some nuns from Kerala were very badly ill-treated... They were manhandled by Chhattisgarh Police. We are protesting against these kinds of attacks on minori-

ties,” Priyanka said.

Raising the matter in LS during Zero Hour, Congress members K C Venugopal, Hibi Eden and other Opposition MPs called the incident “deeply disturbing”.

“These two innocent nuns are in jail for the last five days... Is the country a banana republic?... We wrote to the CM of Chhattisgarh and Home Minister of India... But the Chhattisgarh CM is repeating the same version of Bajrang Dal,” Venugopal said.

Congress MP Hibi Eden said, “But the Bajrang Dal workers put pressure on the government and jailed them. False accusations have been made... cases of human trafficking and conversion have wrongfully been made.”

BJP Durg MP Vijay Baghel, countered the allegations and said that Congress MPs were doing a conspiracy against a “well-governed” and “sensitive” government of Chhattisgarh by indulging in misleading propaganda and trying to create tension between two religions.

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Date: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025

Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar, Principal Director, Symbiosis



# DEBATE MUST GO ON

Government and Opposition flagged crucial changes in national security even as they also stooped low to conquer

AFTER A LONG time, Parliament came alive and voices of the people’s representatives, across the political spectrum, rang out in the House with urgency and concern on a vital national issue. Ever since Operation Sindoor was carried out in the wake of the terror attack at Pahalgam, there have been unanswered questions. A fuller public debate was waiting to be joined, after the military dust settled. The deliberations in the Lok Sabha over two days broke a silence, filled a gap. At the same time, that the three Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists who extinguished 26 lives on April 22 were killed in Dachigam in the Kashmir Valley on Monday in “Operation Mahadev” brings a needed moment of closure for the families of the victims, and for the nation that shares their grief. Alongside the long-awaited debate in Parliament and the success in Dachigam, mention of The Resistance Front, a proxy outfit of LeT, which has claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack, in a key UNSC report — the first mention of the LeT in the report since 2019 — brings a diplomatic victory for India.

But while Parliament did well to discuss Operation Sindoor — what led to it, how it was conducted, and its aftermath — an overtly partisan and short-term politics also narrowed the scope of the debate in the House. Both the members of the government and Opposition spoke, but it did not always seem that they listened to each other. For Prime Minister Narendra Modi to paint the main Opposition party, Congress, as compromising national interest, and as the spokesman for the enemy, as it were, is unseemly. For him to then connect the dots from Congress’s stance vis-à-vis Pakistan to its alleged “*tushitkaran*” or appeasement of the minority at home is disquieting and uncalled for. As was Home Minister Amit Shah’s reference to the “*dham*” of the terrorist. While BJP criticism of earlier Congress governments on national security is legitimate political thrust and parry, the debate on Operation Sindoor needs a common ground of respect and reciprocity, not labelling and name-calling. At the same time, Rahul Gandhi’s challenge to the government — to lay Pakistan low once-and-for-all — was bellicose, and belonged more in a clumsy insta-reel than in the nation’s highest forum of debate. His show-me-your-guts dare to the PM to call out US President Donald Trump for his claims of choreographing the India-Pak ceasefire was immature.

Yet, the debate flagged crucial changes that will unfold and resonate in times to come. Rahul Gandhi may deny and dismiss it, but a “new normal” has indeed been consecrated by Operation Sindoor, red lines have been redrawn by India vis-à-vis Pakistan. It is true that this recalibration may not always open up space for manoeuvre for Delhi, but may also limit it. India’s challenge will be to ensure that it is not straitjacketed by the recast concept of deterrence. In a global environment where Trump has upended established patterns and certainties, and China is tilting the balance, India will have to move forward carefully, in its neighbourhood and beyond — calling Beijing and Washington names is neither diplomacy nor strategy. In that journey, Operation Sindoor constitutes an important milestone. The debate that has begun in Parliament must go on.

## MOVING THE NEEDLE

Announcements by London and Paris on recognising Palestine signal growing European frustration with Israel’s war in Gaza

OVER A CENTURY ago, the UK helped lay the foundation of the Israel-Palestine dispute with the 1917 Balfour Declaration, pledging support for a “national home for the Jewish people”, while promising to safeguard the “civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine”. The creation of an independent State of Israel in May 1948, and its success in fending off five Arab states, meant that the Declaration’s contradictory promises catalysed a conflict that continues to bring devastation to the West Asian region. Nearly 108 years later, the UK has said that it will recognise Palestinian statehood in September unless Israel agrees to a ceasefire, a two-state solution, and halts its de facto annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank. PM Keir Starmer has also set conditions for Hamas: A ceasefire, the release of hostages, withdrawal from governance, and disarmament. The UK’s move follows France’s announcement that it will recognise Palestinian statehood in September, as it joined Saudi Arabia in co-chairing a high-level UN conference in New York to push for the much-debated two-state solution.

The London and Paris announcements, which could make them the only two G7 nations to recognise the State of Palestine in less than two months, signal growing European frustration with Israel’s war in Gaza, where civilians are facing a humanitarian catastrophe under sustained bombardment and a blockade on aid — now easing under mounting international pressure. Yet, Starmer’s plan has contradictions of its own. If Israel meets all the conditions, would the UK then refuse to recognise Palestinian statehood, after all? Statehood should be framed not as a concession but an inalienable right of the Palestinian people. Britain’s stance appears to be a pressure tactic aimed at curbing the ongoing atrocities in Gaza. But if Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu refuses to stand down, Starmer may be compelled to follow through on his pledge come September.

Today, 147 of 193 UN member states have formally recognised the State of Palestine — a list that includes India. Speaking at the New York conference, India’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Parvathaneni Harish, noting that India was among the first to recognise Palestine in 1988, emphasised that global efforts must now focus on a two-state solution. France and the UK moving the needle marks the first significant step within the West towards a durable resolution of the dispute. Much, however, will depend on the US — both in the long term and when it comes to immediate pressure on Israel for humanitarian relief and a ceasefire.

## SPEAKING FOR VOICELESS

Nandu Ram brought ‘lived experience’ into mainstream sociology and significantly changed Dalit discourse

IN SILENCING THE *Past*, Haitian anthropologist Michel Trouillot showed how diverse histories are silenced during the production and reproduction of mainstream history. These undocumented voices shape the folklore and the everyday narratives of the marginalised. In India, the historical silencing of Dalits, Adivasis, and other communities moved sociologist and former JNU professor Nandu Ram. He documented the unarchived histories — he published the five-volume *Encyclopaedia of Scheduled Castes in India* — and also brought “lived experience” into mainstream sociology, significantly changing Dalit discourse.

Ram, who died on July 13 aged 78, was born to a family of Dalit labourers in Uttar Pradesh. Having grown up in a village where his family was forced to live on the outskirts, he experienced both spatial segregation and inequality. These experiences, coupled with his understanding of ethnographic nuances, led to the publication of *The Mobile Scheduled Caste: Rise of a New Middle Class*, where he identified the emergence of a “Dalit middle class” that was the result of affirmative action and Ambedkarite resistance. His edited anthologies, like *Beyond Ambedkar: Essays on Dalits in India* and *Dalits in Contemporary India*, showed how Dalit politics could be read both through and beyond Ambedkar.

Though his works were sometimes criticised by scholars for failing to delineate Dalit-OBC relations, Nandu Ram was among the first sociologists who brought Ambedkar into mainstream sociological discourse. In his introductory address at the first Dr Ambedkar Memorial Annual Lecture, Ram said, “Both the left and right-wing historians of modern India...have almost siphoned the Dalit movement(s) in their writings.” He devoted his life to retrieving and restoring the balance.



AMITABH MATTOO

THE DEBATE ON Operation Sindoor did not rest on pleasantries. Sixteen hours of verbal combat in Parliament — impassioned, insightful, much of it revealing, followed India’s precision retaliation to the brutal Pahalgam terror attack. Operation Sindoor was a moment of muscular assertion. But what followed in Parliament was no less critical: A vibrant, at times strident, affirmation that India’s democracy has the spine to scrutinise even its sharpest sword. This was no ordinary debate. It was as much a test of India’s strategic reflexes as it was of its democratic sinews.

The strikes themselves were extraordinary. Coordinated across air and ground, targeting more than 100 terror-linked assets, they sent a message not just to Pakistan, but to the wider region. And yet, the Opposition was not content with applause. It demanded answers. Why had intelligence failed to prevent the Pahalgam massacre? What were the exact terms of engagement? And, crucially, were President Donald Trump’s repeated claims that he had “halted” the offensive and the claim that Indian jets were downed entirely baseless? These were not seditious questions. They were democratic ones. In a mature republic, strength is not demonstrated through denial, but through debate. It is here that India revealed the deeper character of its political culture.

To its credit, the government did not flinch. The Defence Minister laid out the operational contours of the strike. The External Affairs Minister dismantled Trump’s outlandish claim that he had halted Indian jets through a call that never occurred.

The Prime Minister, often accused of strategic silence, spoke with gravitas and lucidity: Combining what was described privately by one Opposition leader as “steel with statesmanship”, he affirmed that the armed forces had been accorded full operational autonomy in choosing the moment, method, and magnitude of Operation Sindoor. The result: A calibrated, 22-minute retribution that crippled terror-linked targets. He categorically dismissed the notion of foreign mediation. No leader had restrained India; Pakistan had sought reprieve, not the world. Atmanirbhar Bharat, he declared, is no slogan — it is doctrine. With defence exports spanning over 100 nations, India is shedding dependence and asserting sovereign capability. Finally, in an oratorical flourish that resonated across party



SURJIT S BHALLA

I GOT TO know Meghnad Desai well over the last two decades, and especially over the last 10 years. He had been unwell for some time, but his mind was as acute and incisive as ever. It was a life well lived, and I want to celebrate my good fortune of having known him “closely” over the last decade. In many discussions (arguments) between friends, Meghnad was never at a loss for insight. Gentleness marked his approach to people — but not towards bad ideas.

I had the occasion to visit him often at the House of Lords, dining and even being allowed to sit in on the debates. No visit to London was complete without a joint meal with Meghnad. We had a lot in common — cricket, economics and the difficulty of economic reforms in India, and a passionate interest in politics and films (and he has many books on politics, and one book on films — *Nehru’s Hero: Dilip Kumar in the Life of India*).

His greatest accomplishment is his book *The Rediscovery of India*. It starts with Vasco da Gama and extends to the end of the UPA’s first term. His views on the destructive economic policies of the Congress party, Jawaharlal Nehru to Sonia Gandhi, anticipated what is now conventional wisdom.

Meghnad was kind, a gentle and modest soul, with a lot to be immodest about. In many ways, he had no equal. He obtained his PhD at



# After the strike, scrutiny

Op Sindoor debate in Parliament reaffirmed a conscientious republic unafraid to question, challenge



In the final reckoning, Sindoor may come to symbolise many things: Tactical audacity, calibrated resolve, and the emergence of a more assertive India. But its true significance lies in what followed. A vibrant Parliament, diverse, cacophonous yet conscientious, rose to the challenge of testing statecraft with scrutiny. It did not defer to secrecy, nor did it descend into spectacle. Instead, it engaged. And in doing so, it reaffirmed to the world that India’s strength does not lie in authoritarian silence but in argumentative democracy.

lines, he enunciated a new red line: The distinction between terrorists and their sponsors has dissolved, both will be met with unflinching reprisal. And yet, the shadows lingered.

Trump’s assertions were diplomatically offensive and factually absurd. But in the echo chamber of global perception, even fiction can acquire dangerous resonance. India’s delay in demolishing the claim ceded narrative ground not on the battlefield, but in the global imagination. In today’s strategic environment, perception is as potent as projection. And information is now the fourth domain of warfare.

Operation Sindoor thus reveals two intertwined facets of India’s emerging strategic identity: A capacity to strike with technical finesse and political will, and a parallel maturity to subject those strikes to democratic scrutiny. In a region where strongmen muzzle dissent and silence Parliament, India demonstrated that a strong Prime Minister and a questioning legislature can co-exist, not in contradiction, but in creative tension.

Let us mark five enduring lessons from this episode — shaped not only by military strategy but also by the intensity of parliamentary debate. First, the China-Pakistan nexus is no longer theoretical. It is operational. The coordination in disinformation, drone surveillance, and military posturing points to an emerging twin-front hybrid challenge. India must rethink its security architecture through this prism. Deterrence must evolve from episodic retaliation to a holistic, two-theatre posture.

Second, intelligence remains our Achilles’ heel. The tragedy of Pahalgam was not merely the loss of life. It was the failure of foresight. India’s intelligence architecture is still over-centralised, turf-ridden, and reactive. Reform must focus on fusing human and technological capabilities, decentralising decision-making, and enabling predictive analytics.

Third, doctrine must replace demonstration. Sindoor, like Balakot and Uri before it, was tactically impressive. But deterrence is not built on episodic fireworks. It requires strategic clarity. If we are now in the domain of pre-emptive, precision operations, the red lines, thresholds, and strategic aims must be publicly understood, if not fully disclosed.

Fourth, narrative sovereignty must be institutionalised. The Trump distraction was not just a media sideshow. It was a revelation of our unpreparedness in the information war. In

the age of social media and disinformation, speed and credibility of messaging are as vital as stealth and strength. India must build strategic communication infrastructure that can speak with authority, agility, and global reach.

Fifth, Parliament must become a permanent participant in national security discourse. The Sindoor debate was heartening in being largely civil and substantial. There were no walkouts, no partisan shouting matches, not even many monopoly claims on patriotism. Even the sharpest critics acknowledged the professionalism of the armed forces and the necessity of the strike. What they demanded was transparency, institutional learning, and strategic foresight. That demand must now be met with structure. A standing bipartisan committee on national security, empowered with briefings, oversight, and consultative authority, can bridge the gap between operational secrecy and democratic responsibility. In choosing to deliberate, not defer, Parliament reminded us that scrutiny is not the enemy of strength, but its most durable companion.

In the final reckoning, Sindoor may come to symbolise many things: Tactical audacity, calibrated resolve, and the emergence of a more assertive India. But its true significance lies in what followed. A vibrant Parliament, diverse, cacophonous yet conscientious, rose to the challenge of testing statecraft with scrutiny. It did not defer to secrecy, nor did it descend into spectacle. Instead, it engaged. And in doing so, it reaffirmed to the world that India’s strength does not lie in authoritarian silence but in argumentative democracy.

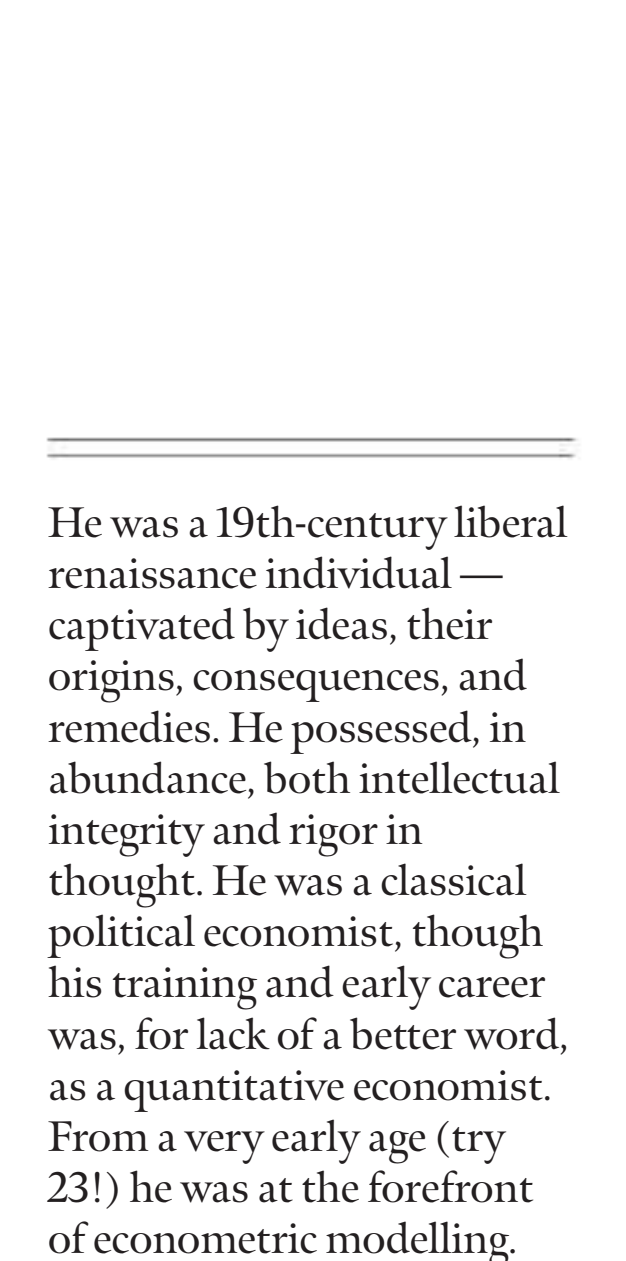
In that sense, the real triumph was not just the success of Sindoor, but the maturity of the republic. India struck. India debated. And in doing both, India reaffirmed its character — not merely as a strategic actor, but as a polity that is as thoughtful as it is forceful not merely as a rising power, but as a thinking republic.

Let others strike in silence. India, still loud, still argumentative, still proud, walks a different path, where the sword and the sceptre speak to each other. That is the Indian idea. And it is, still, worth believing in and with passion.

*The writer is dean and professor, School of International Studies, JNU, and former member of India’s National Security Council’s Advisory Board*

# AN ECONOMIST OF MANY PARTS

Meghnad Desai resisted affiliation to any one school of thought



## JULY 31, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

GOLDEN TEMPLE CLASH

THE AKALI DAL (Longowal) has called upon all Sikhs to observe “Shukrana Diwas” (thanksgiving day) on August 16 to hail the Centre-Akali accord on Punjab. Earlier, gunfire and violence, in which around 30 persons were injured, erupted outside the Teja Singh Samundri hall following a clash between members of the moderate Akali Dal (L) and the extremist “United” Dal. None was, however, seriously injured. The episode lasted around 45 minutes.

HEAT ON BHAJAN LAL

AMIDST NOISY PROTESTS from the Congress-L benches, the Opposition parties in the Rajya

Sabha demanded the resignation of Haryana Chief Minister Bhajan Lal. The Janata Party leader in the House, M S Gurupadaswamy, speaking on behalf of Opposition leaders, provoked a loud chorus of protests when he demanded that Bhajan Lal resign to ensure that the inquiry ordered into the charges against him is fair.

NEW HARYANA CAPITAL

TOPTOWN PLANNING experts from the world will be consulted for Haryana’s new capital, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal told newsmen in Chandigarh. While announcing the setting up of a high-level site selection committee of senior officers, the Chief Minister gave the assur-

ance that the state’s new capital would be beautiful and better than the city of Chandigarh in all respects. The committee has been asked to submit a report within three months.

INDIA DISOWNS MUNNA

THE FESTIVAL OF India authorities clarified that Munna, the dancing bear, was sent to Paris for the festival by the Indian Hotels Corporation — the Taj group. Although Munna, whose recent kidnapping received wide press coverage, attended the inaugural mela in Paris, it was not under the aegis of the Government of India. The Indian Hotels Corporation retained Munna’s services after the event to “amuse patrons” of their restaurant in Paris.



The missing voters

Bihar SIR, data indicates, is not an exercise in revision but large-scale deletion. If carried out across the country, it will lead to mass disenfranchisement



DESHKAAL  
BY RAHUL SHASTRI AND  
YOGENDRA YADAV

THE CONCLUSION OF the first phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar has already offered evidence of mass underenfranchisement of up to 94 lakh eligible adults. The publication of the draft electoral rolls (DER) on August 1 will break many records — all dubious. Compared to all other states, Bihar is set to be a complete outlier, a state with the highest proportion of “missing voters”. This will be the largest one-time deletion of voters at any point in the history of Indian elections. This may well be the largest exercise in disenfranchisement of voters anywhere in the world in the 21st century. And this is just the beginning. Further deletions will follow in the second phase of scrutiny of the enumeration forms, especially those the BLO has marked “non recommended”. We are assured that the same process will be followed in the rest of the country.

The numbers are already alarming. As per the Election Commission of India’s (ECI) press release of July 27, a total of 7.24 crore enumeration forms have been collected. Only these names will be listed in the DER, as compared to 7.89 crore names that existed on the state’s voters’ list on June 24, the day SIR was ordered. The ECI claims that the remaining persons are dead (22 lakh), or have permanently shifted or are untraceable (36 lakh) or were enrolled at multiple places (7 lakh) or were “not willing to register as an elector for some reason or the other”(no numbers given). As per the SIR order, these 65 lakh names will not figure on the DER. Even if there are no further deletions, Bihar’s electorate in 2025 will be smaller than the 7.36 crore electors in the 2020 assembly elections.

The ECI’s counterargument would be that the earlier voter list was severely inflated. All that the ECI has done is prune the list of dead, duplicate and dubious names. Preparing a smaller but more authentic list cannot be an exercise in disenfranchisement. This argument merits a reasoned response based on statistics. For this, we need to focus beyond the figure of 65 lakh and its breakdown offered by the ECI.

Globally, the quality of electoral rolls is judged on three counts — accuracy, completeness and equity. Accuracy is about eliminating false or erroneous entries on the voters’ list. Completeness is about not leaving anyone behind and ensuring that every person who is entitled figures on the voters’ list. Equity is about a fair representation of all social groups in proportion to their share of the eligible population. At this stage, in the absence of a list of names, we are in no position to assess the accuracy and equity of the DER in Bihar. But based on the numbers, we can provisionally evaluate its completeness.

For that, we need to follow a “missing voters’ approach, drawing upon Amartya Sen’s famous argument about “missing women”. He captured this phenomenon by defining it as the shortfall of the actual number of women in a country or region compared to the expected number of women as measured

TABLE 1

ELECTORS TO ADULT POPULATION RATIO IN INDIA, 2024

State	Adult Population	Electors	Electors/Adult Popn Ratio
Andhra Pradesh	4.07 Cr	4.13 Cr	102%
Assam	2.5 Cr	2.45 Cr	98%
BIHAR	7.93 Cr	7.71 Cr	97%
Chhattisgarh	2.08 Cr	2.07 Cr	100%
Gujarat	5.16 Cr	4.8 Cr	93%
Haryana	2.18 Cr	2.01 Cr	92%
Jharkhand	2.67 Cr	2.58 Cr	97%
Karnataka	5.07 Cr	5.47 Cr	108%
Kerala	2.73 Cr	2.77 Cr	101%
Madhya Pradesh	5.81 Cr	5.66 Cr	97%
Maharashtra	9.56 Cr	9.29 Cr	97%
Odisha	3.23 Cr	3.37 Cr	104%
Punjab	2.36 Cr	2.15 Cr	91%
Rajasthan	5.46 Cr	5.34 Cr	98%
Tamil Nadu	5.93 Cr	6.23 Cr	105%
Telangana	2.88 Cr	3.32 Cr	116%
Uttar Pradesh	15.63 Cr	15.41 Cr	99%
West Bengal	7.54 Cr	7.6 Cr	101%
INDIA	98.87 Cr	97.8 Cr	99%

by the natural sex ratio. Similarly, we calculate “missing voters” as the shortfall between the expected number of persons in the voting age population and the actual number in the voters’ list. The Census-based projections (state-wise, year-wise, age-group-wise) in the Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections (2019), by the National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, are the best source for population. These figures are used by the Government of India and by the ECI itself as recently as January 2025.

Table 1 presents the figures for adult population and the number of electors for the country and major states in 2024. The shortfall is indicated by the “Electors to Adult Population Ratio” (EP Ratio, calculated by dividing the total number of electors by the total population of the voting age group. A score of 100 per cent indicates the ideal scenario of a perfect match. It shows that in 2024, the all-India EP Ratio was a healthy 99 per cent, suggesting a shortfall of just 1 per cent. At 97 per cent, Bihar was just below the national average. Its voters’ list was not inflated but slightly deflated. Note that the denominator of the EP Ratio, the official projection of the adult population, is not subject to any inflation on account of inclusion of the dead or migrants, as the Census counts people wherever they happen to be on a given day.

Table 2 presents the same data for the state of Bihar from 2019 onwards. It shows that Bihar has hovered around the national average, with a slight decline from 102 per cent in 2019 to 97 per cent in 2024. The special summary revision completed in January 2025 and subsequent changes till June 24 added many names to the voters’ list, but since the population had also grown, the EP Ratio remained the same.

The last row in Table 2 shows the drastic and adverse impact of the SIR. In July 2025, the adult population of Bihar was projected at 8.18 crore. So that is the number we should expect on the voters’ list, against the actual number of 7.24 crore. The shortfall of 94 lakh

TABLE 2

LIKELY IMPACT OF SIR ON ELECTORS TO ADULT POPULATION RATIO IN BIHAR

Juncture	Adult Population	Electors	Electors/Adult Popn. Ratio
2019 Lok Sabha Election	6.97 Cr	7.11 Cr	102%
2020 Vidhan Sabha Election	7.27 Cr	7.36 Cr	101%
2023 Special Summary Revision (SSR)	7.68 Cr	7.58 Cr	99%
2024 Lok Sabha Election	7.93 Cr	7.71 Cr	97%
2025 January Special Summary Revision	8.07 Cr	7.8 Cr	97%
24 June 2025 before Announcement of Special Intensive Revision (SIR)	8.16 Cr	7.9 Cr	97%
25 July 2025 Closing of Enrolment of SIR	8.18 Cr	7.23 Cr	88%

Note: All Population Projections calculated from the Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections (2019), by the National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Data on electors from ECI website.

would be the number of “missing voters” in Bihar on August 1, 2025. Even if we allow for Bihar’s prevailing EP Ratio, it should still have been around 7.93 crore. This suggests a dramatic and unprecedented fall from 97 per cent to just 88 per cent, a sudden drop of 9 percentage points in the EP Ratio. A comprehensive and de novo writing of the voters’ list such as the SIR should have led to a net addition of about 25 lakh voters. Instead, the SIR has taken a deep dive in the opposite direction by bringing the figure down further by 69 lakh.

We do not know if the SIR will lead to an improvement in the accuracy of the voters’ list, but we do know that it has worsened the completeness and in all likelihood the equity of the voters’ list. If the SIR leads to a Bihar-like drop in the EP Ratio in the entire country, we are looking at the potential disenfranchisement of about nine crore Indians.

As of now, we do not know where these “missing voters” are. Many of these could well be part of the 65 lakh names that are presumed by the ECI to be dead or away or untraceable. But our field experience confirms that a significant proportion of these “missing voters” are adult persons who live in Bihar and have not been included in the previous and current voters’ lists for one reason or another. Even if most of the deletions made by the ECI are genuine, the SIR failed to reach these adult residents who are eligible to vote. Oddly, for such a grand exercise of revision, the ECI has not reported a single case of addition. Clearly, the SIR was not an exercise in revision, but solely an exercise in deletion.

Needless to say, this evidence flies in the face of the Supreme Court’s call for “mass inclusion, not mass exclusion”. We wait to see how the court responds to the mounting evidence of under- and disenfranchisement due to the SIR.

Shastri and Yadav work with the national team of Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan. Yadav has filed a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the SIR

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“In the past month, a wall of secrecy [in Israel] has cracked. The public has begun to learn of the severe psychological effects of the war in Gaza.” — HAARETZ, ISRAEL

Needed: New drivers of growth

Limits of trade as a pathway to prosperity are evident. To become a developed country by 2047 India needs new economic ideas



ISHAN BAKSHI

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INIMICAL to India’s economic interests, such as China’s curbs on the export of rare earths and fertilisers, and the reported withdrawal of engineers and technicians working on Foxconn’s iPhone plants, raise the question: How should India respond? Any immediate response will more likely be geared towards ensuring that supply chain disruptions are minimal. Beyond that, however, there is a larger question: Will shifts in the global order, changes to the trading architecture and the weaponisation of trade, the growing economic imbalance between India and China and Delhi’s economic and strategic realities, be the trigger for much-needed and far-reaching changes in the policy architecture? Will they spawn a new development compact, one that places growth and development front and centre?

Looking back, growth has not always been the top priority. Post Independence, the overriding objective was to ensure the stability of the Union. Partition and the integration of princely states created the grounds for veering towards a strong Centre that prioritised stability. The centralising impulses of the Constitution also flow from this intent. To ensure that this compact held, deals were struck with various pressure groups over the decades. A strong Centre also complemented the overly centralised planning model adopted by governments in matters of economic policy. Sluggish growth over the years did not prompt a re-think of either approach or priorities. While some pro-business policy changes were introduced in the 1980s, increasing economic efficiency was not the predominant objective. As Dani Rodrik and Arvind Subramanian have argued, these changes were less about the economy and more about “garnering political support from existing business groups”.

This framework, however, did not deliver prosperity. Growth was anaemic and poverty was widespread. The crisis in 1991 created the space for a new compact where growth became the overriding objective. Economist Stefan Dercon has argued that the policy shift in the 1990s was a decisive step towards a development bargain. Dercon views development bargain as a commitment by those who wield power — the country’s political and economic elite — “to shape politics, the economy and society to strive for growth and development”.

This bargain — formulated at a time when the political system was transitioning away from a period of one-party dominance to an era of coalitions where power was less concentrated at the Centre — had buy-in from parties across the political spectrum. With a broad consensus on the nature of policies to be pursued, subsequent governments stayed the course. The NDA government under Atal Bihari Vajpayee doubled down on the reforms push, and the UPA under Manmohan Singh trod along the path while adding a slew of welfare programmes to ensure the stability of this compact.

This period coincided with the high noon of globalisation — a time when the rising tide of global trade lifted all boats. The pace of

poverty decline accelerated and new pathways to upward mobility emerged. Investment activities gathered steam, exports surged, capital inflows soared and millions moved out of agriculture. While growth did slow down sharply during the UPA’s second term, in large part due to policy mistakes, steps were taken during its final years to arrest the decline.

In the run-up to the 2014 election, the overriding concern was to shore up the economic momentum. The BJP’s rise to power was largely on the back of a promise to provide good governance and ensure high growth and development. The shift from a coalition era to one where a single party commanded a full majority was also taken as a sign that the pulls and pressures from allies would no longer be a hindrance in fulfilling the compact, which could now be pursued aggressively. The first few years of the new government did see several steps being taken towards this end. There was also a continuity in ideas — ideas that were birthed in earlier governments such as inflation targeting and GST found resonance.

Somewhere along the way, however, the growth imperative weakened. The pandemic made matters worse. And as inequality rose and pathways for upward mobility shrivelled, the compact frayed and the political class pivoted towards populism. Cash transfers, tax giveaways and other populist schemes became the norm across political parties and governments as short-term electoral considerations took precedence over longer-term economic benefits. Few fresh ideas were articulated to reinforce the compact. Perhaps the Production Linked Incentive Scheme and the unstated strategy of promoting a handful of private firms as national champions can be considered new ideas. Even then, the limits of both were apparent.

This weakening of the consensus around the compact comes at a time of significant changes in the global order. In the Trumpian era, trade, a pathway for many nations — from Bangladesh to Vietnam — to climb the ladder of prosperity has become a casualty. At this time, when the tailwinds of “hyper” globalisation are no longer available, a strategy to rely just on trade deals with the developed world, but not seek deeper integration with countries at the heart of global supply chains, will limit the gains that are being envisaged. Alongside, the rapid adoption of AI will impact large swathes of IT jobs. Considering that the IT sector has provided millions with pathways to upward mobility — the great Indian middle class grew on the back of this sector — new drivers of growth are needed.

This new reality is at odds with hopes that the country will become a developed nation by 2047. That goal, in any case, is a tall order, if the economic history of the world is anything to go by. Only a handful of countries have managed to ascend to the high-income category. And even if India manages to sustain its growth over the coming two decades — per capita income has grown at 5.7 per cent in dollar terms over the past 10 years — then average incomes would be just shy of \$10,000 in 2047. The question is whether this or higher growth can be achieved.

Growth does not miraculously endure. It isn’t easy to sustain the momentum over such long periods without a development bargain and without an elite compact. Unless that happens, the goal of becoming a developed country will remain elusive.

ishan.bakshi@expressindia.com



MRIDULA MANGLAM

The politics of care

Building empathy on campus must begin by listening to the dissenting student

HAVE INDIA’S EDUCATIONAL institutions always been sites of silent, systemic violence? Spaces meant for learning, for nurturing questions, and for producing knowledge are turning into graveyards of unrealised dreams. From student suicides to institutional apathy, from unaddressed harassment to symbolic initiatives like “Campus Mothers”, the violence remains constant, structural, and often deadly. The recent suicide of a student in Odisha who set herself on fire after being denied justice for sexual harassment, the tragic case of Darshan Solanki at IIT Bombay, and the long, painful list that includes names like Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadi, are not disconnected events. These are not isolated tragedies, but a reflection of systemic violence. They show how institutional spaces can push students to the brink, and then respond with symbolic gestures instead of accountability. Academic spaces continue to be shaped by patterns of violence that define the everyday lives of students. There are countless students whose names will never be known. Those who live and study within institutions that shame, isolate, and silence them. Those who endure relentless academic pressure, wait months for fellowships to be released, face discriminatory behaviour from faculty, or are punished for simply demanding dignity. Women students who are moral-policed, students from marginalised communities who are made to feel they do not belong and stu-

dents struggling with mental health who are offered no support. They are made to carry these burdens quietly, as though suffering is an expected part of their education.

In this context, the editorial ‘Mum’s not the word’, (IE, June 14), argues that though the intention behind the initiative may be good, its gendered framing is problematic. However, it stops short of questioning the logic of such initiatives. The issue is not only about who is being assigned the task of care but also about what this task is meant to replace. The editorial narrows its critique to the gendered framing of the “Campus Mothers” initiative — it fails to confront a deeper concern that such gestures of care are being used to substitute structural accountability with symbolic empathy.

This initiative at IIT Kharagpur must be seen for what it is: A displacement of responsibility. The institution, in assigning women such as faculty or non-teaching staff as emotional points of contact, has not created support structures. It has rebranded care as an individual act, rather than a systemic responsibility. The burden of care is both feminised and depoliticised. It is taken away from structures with the power to change condi-

tions. It is reinforcing a gendered logic in which women are made responsible for tending to emotional wounds, regardless of where those wounds come from. Their academic expertise, institutional authority, and professional roles are sidelined to make room for a more palatable identity: The ever-giving, ever-listening, ever-available mother.

To imagine care differently, we need to turn to political frameworks that have treated it as a collective right, not a personal burden. Feminist thinkers like Kristen Godee have shown how collectivised care systems, especially under socialist frameworks, allowed women greater freedom, dignity, and autonomy. Care cannot be a temporary plaster over structural wounds. Students need care. They need to be seen and heard. But modelling it into motherhood turns care into something private, emotional, and feminine, rather than collective, political, and structural. It is a redistribution of institutional neglect. The editorial recognises this. It notes that “a more inclusive and thoughtful model that invites faculty, staff and residents of all genders to serve as trained campus mentors would reflect the span of empathy, equality,

and shared responsibility”. But a truly empathetic care system hinges on listening to the student. The editorial overlooks this imperative. Student movements have already imagined what collective care can look like. Through peer support networks, anti-caste collectives, and demands for institutional changes like functioning grievance bodies, these students have built spaces of care grounded in solidarity. Student organisations and collectives are often the only ones demanding structural change. Yet, in several institutions, they are the first to be surveilled, vilified, and punished. This is part of a broader refusal to engage with dissent, to treat students as stakeholders, or to acknowledge the violence embedded in campus hierarchies.

Care, if it is to be meaningful, cannot come from silencing those who resist. It must come from listening to them, learning from them and building with them. To truly reimagine care, institutions must first learn to listen. It is students who have already begun to show what solidarity, support, and resistance can look like. Institutions must follow their lead. It is through their vision that campuses can imagine something better — structures of care rooted not in symbolism, but in justice and shared responsibility.

The writer is a research scholar at the Department of Political Science, AKDC, affiliated to the University of Allahabad

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SKILL GAP

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Cracks in IT’ (IE, July 30). Indian IT jobs are under threat and AI is the prime suspect, with US President Donald Trump’s protectionist regime an incidental accomplice. But the real culprit is the relentless demand for higher skills. What manufacturing faced in earlier decades — automation, process optimisation and the race to move up the value chain — is coming for IT. For years, writing basic code was a passport to prosperity. Now, AI writes it faster, cheaper and often better. The demand has shifted from coders to problem-solvers. Those who upskill will lead. R Narayanan, Navi Mumbai

LATE RESPONSE

THIS REFERS TO the report ‘No world leader asked India to stop Op (Sindoor)’ (IE, July 30). The statement is a much-delayed response to President Donald Trump’s assertion that he forced the two countries to agree to a ceasefire. PM Narendra Modi’s silence on Trump’s claim has given the Opposition ammunition and dealt a blow to his image. Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

WEST’S RESILIENCE

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘West vs Rest, a fiction’ (IE, July 30). C Raja Mohan rightly deconstructs the myth of Western decline. The West’s liberal ideals of individual rights, open science, and secularism remain aspirational globally. The West’s internal churn may suggest decline, but its resilience lies in self-correction. Meanwhile, China’s model, despite growth, still struggles with dissent and democratic legitimacy. The real global contest isn’t military but moral, between openness and authoritarianism. The West, imperfect yet reformative, still leads that moral arc. Zainab Irshad, Patna

GOLDEN AGE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Board of her own’ (IE, July 30). By toppling her illustrious compatriot Koneru Humpy, Divya Deshmukh won the FIDE Women’s World Cup. Her sharp openings, tactical surprises and fearless play left a trail of elite players in her wake. She became a grandmaster at the age of 19. Indian chess is clearly in its golden age. SS Paul, Nadia



FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF LANDSLIDES THAT KILLED 298

At Wayanad ground zero, tears & memories

SHAJU PHILIP  
CHOOALMALA (WAYANAD),  
JULY 30

WITH MUFFLED cries and tears running down their cheeks, they stood in front of a collage of photos of 298 persons who were killed in the landslide of July 30 last year. They saw the pictures of their lost husbands, wives, parents, neighbours and co-workers, who had gone to bed on the night of last July 29, but got wiped out along with debris before the next day break.

As Wednesday marked the first anniversary of the tragedy, survivors and relatives of the victims broke down before the collage, which was put up near the mass burial ground at Puthumala near here.

One of the biggest natural disasters in the country, the Wayanad landslide, which hit villages of Mundakkai, Chooralmala and Attamala in Meppadi panchayat, had claimed 298 lives. Of them, 44 missing had been declared dead. As many as seven children lost both their parents and 14 others lost one of their parents. Besides, 17 families, with 65 members, have been wiped out in the dis-



Survivors and relatives in front of a collage of pictures of Wayanad landslide victims, at Puthumala in Wayanad district of Kerala, on Thursday; (right) relatives pay respects to the victims at the mass burial ground. Express



aster. Right from the morning, survivors of the landslide, who live in various parts of Wayanad after the tragedy, flocked to the burial ground, which has been named 'July 30 heartland', where 56 unidentified bodies and 213 body parts were buried.

The emotionally-charged air culminated with an all-religion prayer and guard of honour for the Kerala Police as a mark of respect to those fallen to the fury of nature. Ministers, people's representatives and officials attended

the function.

Saheesh, who had a miraculous escape in the tragedy, came to pray for his close friends and their families.

"My daughter Jamshira was seriously injured, but she does not have the courage to turn up for the memorial programme. She is yet to recover from the mental trauma. My nine neighbours died and I have to pray for them," said Saheesh, who lives on a rented premise outside the tragedy zone. Pointing to three tomb stones

marked with the house name 'Kallingal', estate worker M Saji said he had lost eight from his extended family. "My wife Ushadevi's sister and her family..." he said as he placed burning sandal sticks near the tomb stones one after another.

Ten-year-old Avanthika, one of the seven children who lost both their parents, came with the family of her paternal uncle, to pay tributes to the departed. "Avanthika was injured. She came to know that her parents and eld-

est brother are no more only three months after the tragedy. She did not believe. Later, we came to this burial ground to convince her. However, she often insists on seeing her parents and it has been a traumatic year for us," said her uncle, Pradeepan.

Aritha Satheesh, who lost her son and eight others in her extended family, said: "I am serving food at an orphanage today. In the afternoon, I will visit my abandoned house at Chooralmala. After the death of my son and

close family members who lived nearby, I had never gone to the village."

After a memorial event at the burial ground at Puthumala, many of the survivors visited Chooralmala, Mundakkai and Attamala, the villages they had fled on that fateful night.

An expatriate for 30 years, Shoukath, 52, found that time had come to a standstill at his village, Mundakkai. "My house and one acre of cardamom plantation were washed out. Weeds have grown over the place where my house stood. I will get a house in the rehabilitation scheme, but I have to start from scratch. I had lost 26 of my relatives," he said.

Meanwhile, Revenue Minister K Rajan said that the state government will provide houses to 49 more people, bringing the total number of families included in the township for rehabilitating the survivors to 451. Traders and owners of buildings will be given compensation. The state has got ₹700 crore in the distress relief fund for the landslide victims. The entire amount will be spent for rehabilitation, he said.

A model house at the township, coming up at Kalpetta municipality, was completed on Wednesday.



One of the convicts in police custody after the court's ruling, in Bulandshahr on Wednesday. PTI

DURING PROTEST OVER COW SLAUGHTER

UP: Five convicted of killing SHO in 2018

Siyana mob violence

33 others convicted of rioting, murder attempt; sentencing tomorrow

NEETIKA JHA

NOIDA, JULY 30

NEARLY SEVEN years after Station House Officer (SHO) Subodh Kumar Singh was killed in a mob violence over cow slaughter protests in Bulandshahr's Siyana area of Uttar Pradesh, a local court on Monday convicted five persons of murder. Thirty-three others were convicted of attempt to murder and rioting.

The sentencing will take place on August 1.

According to prosecution lawyer Yashpal Singh, police had filed chargesheet against 44 people. "Five of them died during the trial and one was a juvenile whose case is pending in a juvenile court. Among others, 38 have been pronounced guilty under several sections and taken into judicial custody," he said.

The five who have been convicted of murder are Prashant Nat, David, Rahul, Johnny, and Lokendra aka Lokendra Mama – all residents of Chingravathi village, where the violence took place. On December 3, 2018, villagers from Mahav and surrounding areas claimed to have found a cow carcass in fields. Protesting against cow slaughter, around 50-60 villagers put the carcass on a tractor-trolley and blocked the highway outside the Chingravati



Subodh Kumar Singh

police outpost.

As SHO Subodh Kumar Singh reached the spot, the mob began to pelt stones and set the local police outpost on fire.

Eyewitnesses and police officials said that as the policemen tried to flee, they were attacked with stones and firearms. Subodh Singh sustained a gunshot wound and was left behind as the officers fled for their lives. "We tried to carry Subodh sir's body, but the situation was too dangerous," Ram Ashray, the driver of the police vehicle, had told *The Indian Express*. SHO Singh died of gunshot injuries. A local youth, Sumit Kumar (20), also died in the violence. Following the incident, the Bulandshahr police registered an FIR based on the complaint of officer Subhash Chandra, who was present during the incident, and named 27 individuals and 50-60 unidentified individuals.

Following the investigation, charges were framed against 44 individuals.

The police had also registered a separate cow slaughter case against 10 individuals.

2 govt teachers washed away as heavy rain pounds Jammu

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, JULY 30

TWO TEACHERS from government school were washed away in a nullah as heavy rain pummeled Jammu Saturday, causing rivers and streams to be in spate in the region. The heavy rain prompted local administrations to close schools in several parts of the region.

The teachers, identified as Sanjeev Sharma and Jagdev Singh, were washed away in Sanasar in Ramban. Originally from Gordi in Udhampur district, they had come down to the area after attending a training programme at DIET in Kud town. According to officials, heavy rain

had caused the water in the nullah to swell. Locals found their motorcycle lying on the road near the Jalebi Morh nullah, and alerted the police, who began looking for the two riders.

A search operation that followed involved the State Disaster Response Force, village defence guards and locals. Rescuers eventually found the bodies at two different spots in the nullah, officials said, adding that a case has now been registered and that the police have launched a probe.

Meanwhile, authorities ordered closure of government and private schools in Rajouri and Poonch districts as well as Kathua's Bani area due to inclement weather.

AFTER HARIDWAR STAMPEDE

Uttarakhand's masterplan for religious sites: crowd control, separate entry, exit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
DEHRADUN, JULY 30

CROWD CONTROL mechanisms, better carrying capacity, separate entry and exit routes, additional waiting areas, and emergency evacuation systems – that is what the Uttarakhand government has planned as part of its "masterplan" for religious sites.

In an order he issued to the tourism department, Uttarakhand Principal Secretary R K Sudhanshu asked them to come up with a plan for religious sites. This comes three days after the stampede at Haridwar's Mansa Devi temple killed eight people and left sev-

eral injured. The plan will focus on sites that attract a large number of pilgrims – including Kaichi Dham, Neelkanth, and Jageshwar – and is expected to make provision for other essential facilities. Taking note of the shops encroaching on the stairway where the stampede took place, the order asks for such encroachments to be removed.

According to officials, the master plan will include nine points, which includes access to clean drinking water, toilets, first aid, well-structured information and guidance systems, parking arrangements, and adequate security.

The divisional commissioners of both Garhwal and Kumaon regions have been directed to provide special assis-

tance in the preparation and implementation of the plan. Director General of Information Department Banshidhar Tiwari said that the government will carry out carrying capacity studies at major sites to ascertain how many people can be hosted per square metre at a time.

Shops in the vicinity of the temples will be reorganised and devotees will be made to register so the number of devotees can be regulated.

"The committees will look into the possibility of improving access and whether new paths can be built to improve crowd control. There will also be a controlled release of the crowd once the carrying capacity is ascertained," he said.

103 days under 'digital arrest', Gujarat doctor sold house, broke FD, took loan to pay ₹19 cr

Cyber criminals told her 'money laundering case' had been filed against her

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, JULY 30

A DOCTOR in Gujarat's Gandhinagar was allegedly placed under 103 days of "digital arrest" and forced to sell her properties, take loan against gold to pay the accused over ₹19.24 crore. The cyber criminals had placed her under alleged 'digital arrest' between March and June this year.

While one of the accused allegedly identified herself as Jyoti Vishwanath from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), another identified himself as Police

Sub-Inspector Mohan Singh, a third identified himself as Public Prosecutor Deepak Saini, a fourth as Public Prosecutor Venkateswara, and the fifth as a Notary Officer Pawan Kumar. The victim was called from different numbers.

"The accused made phone calls, WhatsApp video calls, and sent messages on the victim's WhatsApp. They allegedly told the victim that they would block her mobile numbers as 'offensive' messages were being sent to people from her numbers. They also allegedly threatened the doctor, who is the complainant in the case, saying that a case would be filed against her," said a statement from SP Dharmendra Sharma.

The accused obtained details of the victim's Aadhaar card and allegedly claimed that she was

found involved in money laundering. Later, they even told her that a case of money laundering had been registered against her.

The accused also sent a fake letter in which the complainant had been named as an accused in a case for alleged violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) as well as the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). They also warned the victim against talking to anyone about this matter.

A case was registered in the matter in July. A statement from the State Cybercrime Cell of the CID on Monday said that an investigation has been launched.

As per the State Cyber Crime Cell statement, the accused persons kept the victim under "digital arrest" for 103 days, from

March 15 to June 26 and she was told that a man in plain clothes was keeping an eye on her and if she wanted to get a relief, she would have to provide information about all her properties.

"After the complainant provided the information about the properties, the accused persons made her withdraw her Fixed Deposit (FD), sell the gold in her house and further made her take a loan on the gold in her bank locker. They made her sell her house and shares in her stock market portfolio as well, and made her transfer a total amount of ₹19,24,41,541 to different bank accounts on a fake receipt of 'Financial Supervisory Freezing Certificate' for the same, and falsely promised that the money would be returned to her after investigation."

Porsche crash: Court rejects bail plea of minor's father

Pune: A court in Pune rejected an application filed by the 51-year-old father of the then minor driver in the Porsche crash case seeking a 21-day temporary bail for the spinal surgery of his 78-year-old mother. The court cited "reasonable apprehension of tampering with the witnesses" while rejecting the plea of the accused.

Two young IT engineers – Aneesh Awadhiya and Ashwini Koshta – were killed after the speeding Porsche, allegedly driven by an inebriated 17-and-a-half-year-old from a Pune realtor family, rammed their motorcycle at Kalyani Nagar junction on May 19 last year.

Besides the minor driver, the police have chargesheeted a total of 10 accused. The 51-year-old father, who is a realtor, and 50-year-old mother of the minor have been charged with criminal conspiracy for allegedly orchestrating a swap of his blood sample – collected at Sassoon Hospital – with the mother's. ENS

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय  
**सिंहाई यौंत्रिक प्रमंडल, बाँसी**  
E-Mail ID:- EEIMDBAUNSI@GMAIL.COM  
**शुद्धि –पत्र (Corrigendum)**

इस कार्यालय के ई- निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या- 07 / 2025-26 जो दिनांक 25 / 07 / 2025 को दैनिक समाचार पत्र प्रभात खबर में प्रकाशित किया गया है, जिसका PR No.- 009462 (WRD) 2025-26 है, को अपरिहार्य कारणवश निम्न प्रकार से संशोधित किया जाता है:-

क्र०	विवरण	पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
1.	निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	दिनांक- 12.08.2025 से दिनांक- 21.08.2025 के 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक	दिनांक- 12.08.2025 से दिनांक- 22.08.2025 के 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक

अन्य सभी नियम एवं शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी।

(ई० पी०के० कुमार)  
उक्त सूचना [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) पर भी देखी जा सकती है।  
PR- 009840 (WRD) 2025-26

सिंहाई यौंत्रिक प्रमंडल, बाँसी

**नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार**

**बिहार सरकार**

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**WALK IN INTERVIEW**  
(Advertisement No. 04/2025)

विज्ञान, प्राविधिकी एवं तकनीकी शिक्षा विभाग, बिहार सरकार के नियंत्रणीय मोतिहारी अभियंत्रण महाविद्यालय, मोतिहारी में कम्प्यूटर साइंस एवं अभियंत्रण हेतु वर्तमान में रिक्त पदों के लिए अतिथि सहायक प्राध्यापक एवं अतिथि तकनीकी सहायक की आवश्यकता है। अतिथि सहायक प्राध्यापक एवं अतिथि तकनीकी सहायक से संबंधित आवश्यक योग्यता, मानदेय एवं पदों की संख्या निम्नवत है:-

क्र.सं.	संकाय	आवश्यक योग्यता	मानदेय
01.	अतिथि सहायक प्राध्यापक (कम्प्यूटर साइंस एण्ड इजिनियरी)/ CSE	AICTE/विज्ञान, प्राविधिकी एवं तकनीकी शिक्षा विभाग, बिहार, पटना के नियमानुसार।	विज्ञान, प्राविधिकी एवं तकनीकी शिक्षा विभाग, बिहार, पटना के नियमानुसार
02.	अतिथि तकनीकी सहायक (कम्प्यूटर साइंस एण्ड इजिनियरी)/ CSE	AICTE/विज्ञान, प्राविधिकी एवं तकनीकी शिक्षा विभाग, बिहार, पटना के नियमानुसार।	विज्ञान, प्राविधिकी एवं तकनीकी शिक्षा विभाग, बिहार, पटना के नियमानुसार

इच्छुक उम्मीदवार से निर्धारित प्रारूप में (प्रारूप महाविद्यालय के वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है) सभी प्रमाण पत्रों की स्वप्रमाणित प्रति (PDF file) संलग्न कर Email id ([mcemotihari4@gmail.com](mailto:mcemotihari4@gmail.com)) के माध्यम से दिनांक **12.08.2025** तक आवेदन आमंत्रित किया जाता है। **साक्षात्कार की तिथि माह अगस्त, 2025 के द्वितीय सप्ताह में संभावित है।** उक्त साक्षात्कार की तिथि के लिए संस्थानीय Website का अवलोकन करते रहेंगे। जिसमें साक्षात्कार के दौरान अभ्यर्थी को अपना सभी शैक्षणिक मूल प्रमाण एवं हाल का खीखा हुआ दो पासपोर्ट साइज फोटो लाना आवश्यक है। यह बिल्कुल वैकल्पिक / कार्यकारी व्यवस्था है एवं आवश्यकता अनुसार समय-समय पर कार्य के लिए है, जो बिना किसी पूर्व सूचना के समाप्त की जा सकती है। इस कार्यानुमति के आधार पर सेवा सहायकीकरण / नियमितिकरण आदि का दावा नहीं किया जा सकता है। विभाग द्वारा नियमित / संविदा पर नियुक्ति होने पर कार्यानुमति स्वतः समाप्त हो जाएगी। साक्षात्कार हेतु किसी प्रकार का यात्रा भत्ता देय नहीं होगा। AICTE/UGC/NCVT से मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थानों / सरकारी विभागों / लोक उपक्रम से अनुभवी उम्मीदवारों को प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी। विस्तृत जानकारी, आवेदन पत्र एवं साक्षात्कार की तिथि संस्थान के वेबसाइट ([www.mcemotihari.ac.in](http://www.mcemotihari.ac.in)) पर भी उपलब्ध है।

**नोट- यदि साक्षात्कार की तिथि में कोई परिवर्तन होता है तो मोतिहारी अभियंत्रण महाविद्यालय, मोतिहारी के वेबसाइट- [www.mcemotihari.ac.in](http://www.mcemotihari.ac.in) पर सूचना दे दी जायेगी।**

विस्तृत जानकारी [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

प्रार्थार्थ,  
**मोतिहारी अभियंत्रण महाविद्यालय, मोतिहारी।**

PR- 09996 ( Sci & Tech ) 2025-26

बिहार में शराब का व्यापार, विक्री एवं सेवन अवैध है। संबंधित शिकायत इस नंबर पर दर्ज करायें आपकी जानकारी गुप्त रखी जाएगी।

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**अपेक्षणीय ई-निविदा सूचना**

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि औद्योगिक क्षेत्र चौथे सेक्टर शाहजहाँपुर जनपद शाहजहाँपुर में, औद्योगिक क्षेत्र मेगा फूड पार्क बस्ती जनपद बस्ती एवं औद्योगिक क्षेत्र परसावेड़ा जनपद बस्ती में प्रेषण द्वार के निर्माण के कार्य सं. 32.22, 39.00 एवं 77.93 लाख की अनुमति के कार्य हेतु सहायक विभाग / सार्वजनिक उपकरण / प्रशासन / परिवहन / नगर विभाग में पंजीकृत कर्म / डेवेलरों से ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं जो दिनांक 31.07.2025 को पूर्वान 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 07.08.2025 को सायं 5.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है जिन्हें दिनांक 08.08.2025 को पूर्वान 11.00 बजे खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा केवल राशय पत्रों की मूलप्रतियाँ दिनांक 08.08.2025 को सायं 5.00 बजे तक कार्यालय में जमा की जायेंगी। नोट- ई.एस.टी. दरें अलग से देय होंगी।

निविदा सम्बंधित विस्तृत जानकारी प्राधिकरण की website : [www.onlineupsida.co.in](http://www.onlineupsida.co.in) पर स्थित ई-लिक एवं यूएलसी की website : <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखी जा सकती है। वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (सिखिल)

**बिहार सरकार**

कार्यपालक अभियंता (याँ) का कार्यालय  
**क्षेत्र यंत्र प्रमंडल, भागलपुर**  
Email ID- [mech.bhagalpur812003@gmail.com](mailto:mech.bhagalpur812003@gmail.com)  
**शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum)-II**

इस कार्यालय का पत्रांक-643, दिनांक-11.07.2025, द्वारा आमंत्रित पुर्न ई-निामाई सूचना सं०-10 / 2025-26, जिसका PR No-008556 (WRD) 2025-26 है, जो दैनिक समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित हुआ था, को अपरिहार्य कारणवश निम्न प्रकार से संशोधित किया जाता है:-

क्रम सं०	कड़िका	पूर्व में प्रकाशित कार्यक्रम	संशोधित कार्यक्रम	अभियुक्ति
01	10 (पृष्ठ सं०-01)	Date of Pre-bid Meeting & Place- 01/08/2025 at Office of CE(Mech) WRD Patna.	Date of Pre-bid Meeting & Place-08/08/2025 at Office of CE(Mech) WRD Patna.	
02	11 (पृष्ठ सं०-01)	Period of Sales & Sale of Bid Document, and start of Submission/Receipt of Bid Document on eproc-2 29.07.2025 To 03.08.2025 at (3.00 pm)	Period of Sale of Bid Document and start of Submission/Receipt of Bid Document on eproc-2 05.08.2025 To 12.08.2025 at (3.00 pm)	
03	12 (पृष्ठ सं०-01)	Last date and time for receipt of Bid Document 04.08.2025 at (3:00 pm)	Last date and time for receipt of Bid Document 12.08.2025 at (3:00 pm)	
04	13 (पृष्ठ सं०-01)	Open of Bid Document 04.08.2025 at (3:30pm)	Open of Bid Document 12.08.2025 at (3:30pm)	
05	14 (पृष्ठ सं०-01)	E-auction Bidding schedule & timing(Tentative) Start-20.08.2025 at 11:00am, End-20.08.2025 at 01:00pm	E-auction Bidding schedule & timing(Tentative) Start-26.08.2025 at 11:00am, End-26.08.2025 at 01:00pm	
06	(पृष्ठ सं०-02) के Auction Details: Table No:01 No. 10 & 11	E-Auction schedule (Proposed) Start-20/08/2025 at 11:00 am, End-20/08/2025 at 1:00 pm	E-Auction schedule (Proposed) Start-26/08/2025 at 11:00 am, End-26/08/2025 at 1:00 pm	

तदनुसार पुर्न ई-निामाई सूचना सं०-10 / 2025-26 को इस हव तक संशोधित समझा जाय एवं निविदा के सेष शतें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी।

(ई० अण्णिके कुमार)  
कार्यपालक अभियंता  
क्षेत्र यंत्र प्रमंडल, भागलपुर

PR. No. 010096 (WRD) 2025-26

विस्तृत जानकारी [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

गर्भावस्था की पहली तिमाही में माँ की एच.आई.वी. और सिफलिस की जाँच जरूर कराये।

**AMARAVATI SMART AND SUSTAINABLE CITY CORPORATION LIMITED (ASSCCL)**  
**Lenin Centre, Governerpet, Vijayawada - 520002 (A.P.)**  
**E PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
NIT No. MAU61-USIOHB(BG)/8/2025-HB, Date:30-07-2025  
Name of Work: ASSCCL-Provision of Eco Friendly Modern crematoria GAS (LPG/CNG) Cremation system with Ancillary Units at Multi Faith Funeral Centre at Thullur. Estimate Cost: Rs.1,00,00,000/-  
Ref: NIT approved by the Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada, DT.23.07.2025.  
The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 31.07.2025 to 08.08.2025 up to 14.00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid is 08.08.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs, Technical bid opening 08.08.2025 @16.00 Hrs. For further details Please refer to [www.approcurement.gov.in](http://www.approcurement.gov.in) and [www.crda.ap.gov.in](http://www.crda.ap.gov.in).  
**Sd/- MD & CEO ASSCCL, Vijayawada.**

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
Sr. DEE/EMU/GZB for and on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:	
1	Tender Notice No. RT232-EI-EMU-WC-12-24-25
2	Name of the work Repair and maintenance of Toilet system in MEMU coaches consisting of various activities at EMU Car Shed, Ghaziabad for the period of 03 years.
3	Tender Cost NIL
4	Approximate Cost Rs. 30,60,468.00 Inclusive of GST
5	Earnest Money Rs. 61,200.00 (online payment mode available on IREPS website)
6	Completion Period 36 Months
7	Validity of offer 60 Days
8	Date & Time from tender advertised on IREPS website 30.07.2025, 15:00 Hrs.
9	Date & Time from tender submission start and end 08.08.2025 to 22.08.2025, 11:00 Hrs.
10	Tender closing Date & Time 22.08.2025, 11:00 Hrs.
11	Date & Time of tender Opening (immediately when tender submission ends) 22.08.2025, 11:00 Hrs.
12	Publication cost allocation 06041132

**Note 1:** All participant Tenderer/Tenderers will submit their requisite documents along with their tender offer. "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional document shall be entertained after opening of the Technical & Commercial offer. Even suo-moto post tender letters of the tenders shall be treated as null & void". **Note 2:** Duplicate documents should not be enclosed/uploaded. Tender Notice is available on website of [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
No.: RT232-EI-EMU-WC-12-24-25 Date: 30.07.2025 2326/2025

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**



# 13 EXPRESS NETWORK

UP: Woman cop who filed rape complaint against Constable found dead, probe on

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JULY 30

THE POLICE found the body of a woman constable — who had filed a rape case against a male colleague last year — in Uttar Pradesh’s Barabanki on Wednesday. The body, still in uniform, had head injuries inflicted using a blunt object, police said, adding that the woman had been missing for the past four days.

A case on charges of murder has now been registered against the male constable against whom the woman had levelled rape allegations earlier. The woman was in her 20s, police said.

The postmortem report is awaited. Police said all the circumstantial evidence so far points towards the male constable, who is posted in another district and is on the run. According to police sources, it appears that the woman was “murdered with a motive.”

The sources added that the woman had recently retracted her earlier statement in front of a magistrate, after which the police filed a closure report in the rape case. Police said preliminary investigation indicated that she had possibly been in a relationship with the male constable earlier. “The picture will become clear only after questioning the male constable,” said Inspector General (Faizabad Range) Praveen Kumar.

The woman’s body was found in some bushes on the basis of information provided by a local resident.

A police team soon reached the spot. Her identity was confirmed through the nameplate on her uniform. The area was cordoned off and a forensic investigation was initiated.

A senior police officer said the woman constable had been assigned duty and had left for work on July 27 but did not reach the spot.

LADAKH  
Lt Col among 2 Army personnel dead as boulder falls on vehicle

*Leh:* Two army personnel, including a Lt Colonel, died and three officers were injured when a boulder fell on an Army vehicle, part of a convoy, in a remote area in eastern Ladakh on Wednesday, officials said. They said the accident occurred at Charbagh near Durbuk in Galwan, some 200 km from here, at around 11.30 am.

The Army identified the deceased as Lt Colonel Bhanu Pratap Singh Mankotia and Lance Dafadar Daljit Singh (14 Sindh Horse). Maj Mayank Shubham (14 Sindh Horse), Maj Amit Dixit and Capt Gaurav (60 Armd) have sustained injuries, it said.

The convoy was on a training move from Durbuk to Chongtash, officials said.

Two personnel succumbed to injuries and three other officers were undergoing treatment, they said. **PTI**

Delhi Police denies ‘torture’ claim, Malda woman reiterates charge at TMC presser

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JULY 30

DAYS AFTER Delhi Police rebutted the claims of assaulting a woman from Malda, calling it “fabricated” and “politically motivated”, the TMC on Wednesday presented the woman, identified as Sajnu Parveen, at a press conference in Kolkata, where she reiterated her charges against the Delhi Police.

At the TMC press meet, Sajnu Parveen recounted the alleged incident and said she was falsely accused of being a Bangladeshi, taken to a secluded location, tortured along with her child, and extorted by four people posing as Delhi Police personnel.

“Two men and two women, identifying themselves as Delhi Police personnel, first raided our house on July 25, checked our Aadhaar cards, and searched for

Sacred Buddhist Piprahwa gemstones, put up for auction, repatriated to India after 127 years

DIVYAA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

JEWELS FORMING a portion of the sacred Piprahwa relics of the Buddha, which had recently come up for auction at Sotheby’s Hong Kong, were repatriated to India on Wednesday, 127 years after they were taken away during colonial rule.

Pirojsha Godrej of Godrej Industries Group stepped forward to acquire the collection of 349 jewels, officials from the Ministry of Culture told reporters. The value of the transaction was not disclosed but the collection is estimated to be worth over \$100 million.

Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat called it “an exemplary case of public-private partnership”.

“A large portion of the acquired collection will be on loan to the National Museum for five years, and Godrej Industries has agreed to display the entire gem collection upon its arrival in India for a period of three months,” he



Sacred Piprahwa relics of Buddha. ANI

said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X: “It would make every Indian proud that the sacred Piprahwa relics of Bhagwan Buddha have come home after 127 long years. These sacred relics highlight India’s close association with Bhagwan Buddha and his noble teachings. It also illustrates our commitment to preserving and protecting different aspects of our glorious culture.”

The relics were discovered during the excavation of an an-

cient Buddhist stupa in Uttar Pradesh’s Piprahwa, near the India-Nepal border. They hold immense religious and cultural importance for the Buddhist community.

Besides the ornaments and gemstones that appeared for auction, the Piprawaha tranche comprises bone fragments believed to be that of the Buddha, along with soapstone and crystal caskets, and a sandstone coffer.

The other portions of the Piprahwa relics have been held in

EXPLAINED

Private route

WITH THIS unconventional move by allowing a private industrialist to step in and get back the sacred relics, right from Hong Kong which has a huge Chinese influence, the government has reaffirmed India's bid to establish itself as the birthplace of Buddhism vis-à-vis China. The move also allowed the government to not get into a commercial transaction for the relics, which would have raised ethical issues.

the vaults of Kolkata’s Indian Museum since 1898. These will also be displayed at an exhibition in Delhi’s National Museum along with the repatriated gems.

The gemstones, meanwhile, became part of the private collec-

the testimonies of two doctors who conducted the postmortem examination to reject her plea.

“No suggestion was given to Dr Mukul Sahu that in the absence of scanning of skin through electron microscopy, it is not possible to say that the burns were caused due to electric current. Even Dr D S Badkur, former director of Medico Legal Institute, did not say that without electron microscopy, finding of electric burns cannot be given,” the court opined.

Rejecting the prosecution’s argument of marital discord, Mamta had argued that she was a good mother for her children and produced a greeting card sent by her children on her birthday.

A photograph showing Mamta feeding Dr Neeraj Pathak or showing her in his company “clearly reveals that none of them are of the recent past,” the court said.

tion of William Claxton Peppé, who had conducted the excavation. His grandson and heir Chris Peppé put them up for auction through Sotheby’s Hong Kong.

The auction house postponed the May 7 auction after the Culture Ministry issued it a legal notice. The ministry called upon Sotheby’s Hong Kong to withdraw the relics from auction and cooperate with Indian authorities. Various Buddhist organisations, too, issued calls for adequate measures to stop the auction and get the relics back to India.

The listing on Sotheby’s website in May said: “Sotheby’s is honoured to present the Piprahwa gems, appearing for the first time in Hong Kong. The 1898 discovery of these gems by William Claxton Peppé at Piprahwa in northern India ranks among the most extraordinary archaeological discoveries of all time.”

On May 2, Culture Minister Shekhawat had raised the issue with UK Secretary of State for Culture Lisa Nandy. The UK, however, is leant to have expressed its inability to help.

Sikh religious symbols allowed: Rajasthan after examination row

HAMZA KHAN  
JAIPUR, JULY 30

FOLLOWING ‘ANGER in the Sikh community’ after a baptised Sikh student was allegedly denied entry to the Rajasthan High Court Civil Judge recruitment exam while wearing a kirpan, the Rajasthan government has reiterated that Sikh students be allowed entry to competitive examinations while wearing their religious symbols.

Citing a December 2019 circular issued by former Congress government under Ashok Gehlot, the Bhajan Lal Sharma government has said that “the candidates of Sikh religion should be allowed to appear in the examination wearing religious symbols like Kada, Kirpan and Pagdi etc. in various competitive examinations conducted by Rajasthan Public Service Commission, Rajasthan Staff Selection Board and other departments such as Technical and Higher Education, Medical Education, School Education, Director General of Police, etc.”

The government has said that general instructions can be issued to the candidates of Sikh religion to report to the examination centre an hour before the examination. But, “if during screening, any Sikh candidate is found carrying any suspicious device within the mentioned religious symbols, then they should not be allowed to take it in the examination hall”.

On Sunday, candidate Gurpreet Kaur, a native of Tarn Taran district in Punjab, had made a video outside the exam centre in Jaipur claiming that she was denied entry because she was wearing articles of Sikh faith.

This had led to criticism from various quarters, including from Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj, the Officiating Jathedar of Sri Akal Takht Sahib.

2 infiltrators killed in J&K encounter

Incident occurred in Poonch district

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, JULY 30

TWO TERRORISTS were killed along the Line of Control in the Digwar area on Wednesday as the Indian Army foiled an infiltration attempt from across the Line of Control (LoC) in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to sources, the terrorists were challenged by the troops immediately after they crossed over the LoC. They said the terrorists who tried to cross the LoC from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) were trapped.

“In a successful anti-infiltration operation, alert troops of the #IndianArmy eliminated two terrorists attempting to infiltrate across the Line of Control. Swift action and accurate firepower thwarted the nefarious designs. Three weapons have been recovered,” said Nagrota-based White Knight Corps on the social media platform X. “Synergistic and synchronised intelligence inputs from own intelligence units and #JKP led to a successful operation,” it added. The White Knight Corps added that the operation is currently underway.

Earlier, White Knight Corps said that troops observed the suspected movement of two individuals along the fence in the “gen

‘Don’t allow politics to get into this’: SC says Kerala Governor can appoint 2 varsity V-Cs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

THE SUPREME Court Wednesday said the Kerala Governor, in his capacity as the ex-officio Chancellor, can appoint temporary vice-chancellors to the APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University and Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology, until a permanent V-C is appointed for them.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said this while hearing an appeal by the Governor challenging a July 14, 2025, order of the Kerala High Court, which quashed his notification appointing temporary V-Cs in the two universities. The state had challenged the notifications.

The bench noted that the Kerala Government challenged the constitution of a search committee by the Governor for the selection of the V-C, and that the high court passed an interim stay order on it. “...all we can request today is for the state to work out some mechanism in harmony with the Chancellor for appointment of V-Cs in both universities.”

The bench also advised the

area of #Poonch Sector”.

This comes after three Pakistani terrorists were gunned down by the Army and police in a meticulously planned operation in Srinagar’s Dachigam forests Monday. The terrorists were involved in the April 22 Pahalgam attack in which 25 tourists and a local were killed.

On Tuesday, Nalin Prabhat, Director General of Police, Jammu and Kashmir, said that security forces and the police were continuing with their relentless operations, and that “the terrorists would be killed one by one”.

Meanwhile, in a separate development, police claimed to have apprehended a Kashmiri youth with arms and ammunition on the bye-pass near Nagrota. Police said the suspect, identified as Azan Hameed Gazi from Qamarwari, Srinagar, was intercepted while he was on his way from Jammu to the Valley. Police also claim to have recovered three pistols, three empty magazines, eight live cartridges and two empty cartridges from a handbag concealed under the passenger seat.

Meanwhile, security forces have launched searches in Kathua’s Rajbagh area following reports about the movement of two suspicious people allegedly wearing black clothing and carrying backpacks.

two sides to keep the interests of the students in mind, and cooperate to settle the issue amicably and appoint regular V-Cs. “Don’t allow any politics to get into all this. More particularly when it comes to education...”, the bench said.

The SC said it expects the Chancellor to “extend cooperation and consider whatever falls from state government.” “Ultimately, it’s not a matter of who would exercise powers. It’s to do with the education of students. Why should students suffer in this type of litigation?”

“We impressed upon the Attorney General (R Venkataramani, who appeared for the Governor) that the first step now should be to initiate steps for the appointment of regular V-Cs. This may take some time. However, in the meanwhile, it is open for the Chancellor to issue a notification appointing a person, or allowing a person already appointed, to occupy the office of vice-chancellor,” said the bench.

Pushing for a final resolution of the issue, the bench said, “While keeping the matter pending, we request the Attorney General and senior counsel appearing for the state to work out the necessary mechanism for the appointment of a regular V-Cs at the earliest...”

FROM PAGE ONE

• Was coerced to give adverse statement, says woman

*The Indian Express* that she was threatened and assaulted by Jyoti Sharma, a woman associated with a right-wing outfit, to change her statement, and the police based their FIR on what members of the Bajrang Dal told them.

When contacted, Rishi Mishra, the Bajrang Dal’s Chhattisgarh coordinator, told *The Indian Express*, “A rickshaw driver associated with the Bajrang Dal overheard the conversation between the nuns and the women and suspected they were being trafficked, after which our workers reached the spot and gave a complaint to the GRP.” Jyoti Sharma, he said, is not from the Bajrang Dal but from the Durga Vahini Matrushakti.

Sharma, when contacted, described herself as a Hindutvavadi who turns up “wherever Hindutva needs saving”.

Chhattisgarh DGP Arun Kumar Gautam declined to comment on the Narayanpur

woman’s allegations, saying, “Matter is sub judice.”

The 21-year-old woman, a tribal, reached her home in Narayanpur district Wednesday after spending five days in a shelter home in Durg. “Please release all three (arrested accused), they are innocent,” she said while speaking to *The Indian Express* on the phone. She said she had gone to Durg railway station on Friday to travel with the nuns of her own will, and with her parents’ consent. She alleged that Sharma assaulted her, and the Government Railway Police (GRP) in Durg did not record her statement. Instead, she alleged, the police based the First Information Report on a statement given by Bajrang Dal members. She said she lives with her parents and four sisters, and earns Rs 250 a day as a daily wage. She said she learnt of a job from one of the arrested accused, Mandavi.

The woman said, “I used to cy-

cle for nine kilometres every day for work. I have studied up to class 10. Mandavi offered me a job as a cook for the nuns and to look after patients (at a hospital in Agra). They promised ₹10,000 apart from food, clothes and shelter.”

On the day of the arrest, she said she and two other women from Orcha in Narayanpur reached the Durg railway station around 6 am. They were accompanied by Mandavi. Around 9 am, the nuns, whom she had never met, arrived. Shortly after, a Bajrang Dal worker and the GRP reached the scene and started questioning them, she alleged.

“They took us to the railway police station. We were scolded a lot, and Jyoti Sharma hit me twice on the face. She said that if you do not follow what we say, we will put your siblings in jail and assault them. They wanted us to say that we were brought here forcibly. I told Sharma that I have come of

my own will and have the consent of my parents. I said this inside the police station in the presence of two to three policemen,” she said. Sharma, when contacted, said, “I did not touch any one of them. When I reached, they were already inside the police station. Will the police allow me to touch them? I am hearing this allegation for the first time; earlier, they were saying I beat a nun, which is false.”

Asked how she learnt of the women at the railway station, Sharma said, “One of the workers called me and said one of the women on platform 1 was crying and wanted to go home. He called me and alerted me. I told him to take them to Durg GRP.”

The Narayanpur woman said, “I had met the nuns for the first time. When we were being assaulted, one of the nuns said, ‘do not worry, I am here with you.’ She told the person beating us, ‘hit us, but not them.’”



TOPOF THE WORLD



PM Anthony Albanese

AUSTRALIA  
Govt declares ban on YouTube accounts for children under 16

Melbourne: The Australian government announced YouTube will be among the social media platforms that must ensure account holders are at least 16-years-old from December, reversing a position taken months ago on the popular video-sharing service. YouTube was listed as an exemption in November last year when the Parliament passed world-first laws that will ban Australian children younger than 16 from platforms. Communications Minister Anika Wells released rules Wednesday that decide which online services are defined as “age-restricted social media platforms” and which avoid the age limit. **AP**

AFGHANISTAN  
Taliban slams Pakistan, Iran for expelling Afghans

Islamabad: The Taliban on Wednesday criticised neighbouring countries for the mass expulsion of Afghans, as Iran and Pakistan expel foreigners who they say are living there illegally. The two countries set deadlines and threatened them with arrest or deportation if they did not comply. They deny targeting Afghans, who make up significant numbers in both countries. Abdul Rahman Rashid, the government’s deputy minister for refugees and repatriation, rebuked countries for mass expulsions and described the removal of Afghans as a “serious violation of... humanitarian principles, and Islamic values.” **PTI**

UNITED KINGDOM  
Air traffic control issue disrupts UK’s airports

London: A technical issue in Britain’s air traffic control system disrupted flights for over four hours at major airports in London and elsewhere on Wednesday, though the issue was later resolved. “Our systems are fully operational and air traffic capacity is returning to normal,” NATS, the country’s air traffic control provider, said in a post on X. “Departures at all airports have resumed... we are working with affected airlines and airports to clear the backlog safely.” **REUTERS**



Video grab shows tsunami waves flooding an area in Russia’s far eastern Sakhalin Region on Wednesday. *Reuters*

Massive 8.8 quake hits Russia, tsunami waves reach Japan, Hawaii, California

Several injured in Russia in one of the strongest seismic activities ever recorded

AP & REUTERS  
TOKYO, JULY 30

ONE OF the strongest earthquakes ever recorded struck off Russia’s sparsely populated Far East early Wednesday, sending tsunami waves into Japan, Hawaii and the US West Coast. Several people were injured, but none gravely, and no major damage has been reported so far. Authorities warned the risk from the 8.8 magnitude quake could last for hours, and millions potentially in the path of the waves were initially told to move away from the shore or seek high ground. The worst appeared to have passed for areas including

the US, Japan and Russia. But along South America’s Pacific Coast, new warnings were forcing evacuations in Chile and Colombia. In the immediate aftermath of the quake off Russia’s Kamchatka peninsula, residents fled inland as ports flooded, and several were injured while rushing to leave buildings. In Japan, people flocked to evacuation centres, hilltop parks and rooftops on the Pacific coast with fresh memories of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Unusually strong currents and unpredictable surges were expected in places as far away as New Zealand, and the National Weather Service warned the San Francisco Bay Area could see

“some seriously dangerous currents along beaches and harbours.” Among the world’s strongest recorded quakes The earthquake appeared to be the strongest recorded since the 9.0 magnitude earthquake off northeastern Japan in March 2011 that caused a massive tsunami and set off meltdowns at a nuclear power plant. The International Atomic Energy Agency said initial reports showed Japan’s nuclear plants were not affected Wednesday. The quake occurred on what is known as a “megathrust fault”, where the denser Pacific Plate is sliding underneath the lighter North American Plate, scientists

said. The Pacific Plate has been on the move, making the Kamchatka Peninsula area off Russia’s Far East coast where it struck especially vulnerable to such tremors - and bigger aftershocks cannot be ruled out, they said. With its epicentre near the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, it was the biggest earthquake since the devastating Tohoku event in 2011, which caused a tsunami that sent Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant into meltdown. “The Kamchatka seismic zone is one of the most active subduction zones around the Pacific Ring of Fire, and the Pacific Plate is moving westwards at 80 mm per year,” said Roger Musson, honorary fellow at the British Geological Survey.

Khaleda Zia to contest general polls: BNP leader



BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DHAKA, JULY 30

KHALEDA ZIA, the chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and former premier, will contest the upcoming general election, her party leader said on Wednesday. BNP Vice Chairman Abdul Awal Mintoo said the 79-year-old party chief is doing well and she will contest the election, the *Daily Star* reported. “She will be elected from Feni because she is now in good health,” Mintoo told reporters after a views-exchange meeting organised by the Feni district administration. Mintoo said that they believe the election will be held in the first week of February. “I think, considering the current situation of the country, the election may be held even before February. Because there is a pending case in the Supreme Court regarding the caretaker government. If a caretaker government is introduced, the election must be held within 90 days,” he was quoted as saying by the paper.

Thailand and Cambodia allege violations but ceasefire holds

REUTERS  
BANGKOK, JULY 30

A FRAGILE truce between Cambodia and Thailand held for a second day on Wednesday, despite mutual accusations of violations, and Cambodia took military attaches and diplomats to a border checkpoint destroyed by fighting to verify the ceasefire. The visit took place hours after Thailand’s military accused Cambodian forces of breaching the truce at three separate locations along the disputed frontier. The Cambodian government denied this. The two sides agreed at a meeting in Malaysia on Monday



Kin of people who were killed in Cambodian attacks on Sisaket on Wednesday

to an immediate and unconditional ceasefire to halt the heaviest fighting between the two countries in over a decade.

‘Anyone but Mamdani’: 5 NYC groups raise millions to fight mayoral elections

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
JULY 30

IN THE blood sport of New York City real estate, where comity can be hard to come by, the developers of some of the city’s most prized parcels appeared to be in agreement about one thing when they met in private this week.

Zohran Mamdani, the Democratic candidate for mayor, had to be taken down. “Our goal is anybody but Mamdani,” Marty



New York City Mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani

Burger, the chief executive of Infinite Global Real Estate Partners, wrote in one of two emails sent ahead of the meeting. To help, Burger proposed that his peers start by putting in \$25,000 each to a new super PAC, New Yorkers for a Better Future,

or to seed other groups. He cited potential ad campaigns attacking Mamdani; spending plans to boost specific rivals; and other efforts to register and turn out thousands of voters who typically sit out Election Day. A month after Mamdani’s primary victory stunned New York’s business elite, its leaders have begun cranking open a powerful gusher of spending to try to stop the man whose socialist policies they fear could sour the city’s business climate.

FAILED ATTEMPT TO LAUNCH SMALL SATELLITES BY PRIVATE FIRM  
1ST AUSTRALIAN-MADE ROCKET CRASHES IN 14 SECS

The first Australian-made rocket to attempt to reach orbit from the country’s soil crashed after 14 seconds of flight on Wednesday. The rocket Eris, launched by Gilmour Space Technologies, was the first Australian-designed and manufactured orbital launch vehicle to lift off from the country and was designed to carry small satellites to orbit. **AP**

7 MORE DIE OF MALNUTRITION: OFFICIALS  
Israeli attacks kill 46 in Gaza including 30 waiting for food

Israeli minister hints at annexing parts of Gaza

WAFAA SHURABA & SAMY MAGDY  
DEIR AL-BALAH, JULY 30

ISRAELI STRIKES and gunfire in the Gaza Strip killed at least 46 Palestinians overnight and into Wednesday, most of them among crowds seeking food, health officials said.

Israel has continued to carry out daily strikes as its military offensive and blockade have led to the “worst-case scenario of famine” in the territory of some 2 million Palestinians, according to an international authority on hunger crises. Ceasefire talks appeared to have stalled again last week, with no end in sight to the nearly 22-month war.

Over 30 people were killed while seeking humanitarian aid, according to hospitals that received the bodies and treated dozens of wounded people. Another seven Palestinians, including a child, died of malnutrition-related causes, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

Under international pressure, Israel announced a series of measures over the weekend to facilitate the entry of more international aid to Gaza, but aid workers say much more is needed. The UN is still struggling to deliver the aid that does enter, with most trucks unloaded by crowds in zones controlled by the Israeli military. Israel could threaten to annex parts of Gaza to increase pressure on the militant group Hamas, Israeli minister and security cabinet member Zeev Elkin said on Wednesday, an idea that would deal a blow to Palestinian hopes of statehood on land Israel now occupies.

AP WITH REUTERS INPUTS

US: China tariff truce holds for now but Trump has final say

REUTERS  
STOCKHOLM, JULY 30

US AND Chinese officials agreed to seek an extension of their 90-day tariff truce on Tuesday, following two days of what both sides described as constructive talks in Stockholm aimed at defusing an escalating trade war between the world’s two biggest economies that threatens global growth.

No major breakthroughs were announced, and US officials said it was up to President Donald Trump to decide whether to extend a trade truce that expires on August 12 or potentially let tariffs shoot back up to triple-digit figures. But Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent tamped down any expectation of Trump rejecting the extension. “The meetings were very constructive,” Bessent told reporters after the meetings



A malnourished baby at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis. *Reuters*

West Bank Israeli settler kills Palestinian activist cast in Oscar-winning film  
Suspect released on house arrest: Police

AARON BOXERMAN  
JERUSALEM, JULY 30

AN ISRAELI settler has shot and killed a well-known Palestinian activist whose work was featured in the Oscar-winning documentary *No Other Land*, according to witnesses, the latest deadly episode in the Israeli-occupied territory.

The activist, Awdah Hathaleen, 31, was an English teacher from the southern West Bank village of Umm al-Khair. Footage he filmed was included in the documentary, which depicted the challenges that Palestinians living in the territory face under Israeli rule. Hathaleen was shot on Monday during a confrontation with Israeli settlers, two witnesses said. He was rushed to a hospital in Israel and was pronounced dead, his family said.

The Israeli police said Yinon Levi was the suspect in the shooting and was detained on suspicion of “reckless conduct resulting in death and unlawful use of a firearm.” Levi owns a farm, an illegal settlement near the southern West Bank city of Hebron. An Israeli judge released Levi on house arrest on Tuesday, according to Avichai Hajbi, his lawyer.

Four Palestinians and two foreign nationals were also detained in connection with the incident, according to the Israeli police. It was unclear whether they were still in custody as of Tuesday evening. The Biden administration imposed sanctions on Levi after accusing him of violence and intimidation against Palestinians. Levi also owns an earthworks company, and has worked with the Israeli military to bulldoze at least one Palestinian village in the West Bank. **NYT**

Macron slams US trade deal, sees it as first step: Officials

REUTERS  
PARIS, JULY 30

FRENCH PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday criticised a framework deal struck between the European Union and the United States on Sunday, saying it showed the bloc had not managed to be “feared” by US President Donald Trump.

“To be free, you need to be feared. We were not feared enough,” he was quoted as telling ministers by French officials. Although the deal offers more visibility to French businesses, Macron said it was only a first step and would continue to be negotiated. “Now more than ever, it is important to accelerate the European agenda of sovereignty and competitiveness,” Macron said, according to the officials.



US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent in Stockholm on Tuesday. *Reuters*

wrapped up. “It’s just that we haven’t given the signoff.”

As Trump returned to Washington after visiting Scotland, where he inked a trade deal with the European Union, he said Bessent had just briefed him on the China talks.

“He felt very good about the meeting, better than he felt yesterday,” Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One.

US SINGER AND FORMER CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER BROKE THE INTERNET WITH SPECULATION ABOUT WHETHER THEY WERE ON A DATE

Katy Perry, Justin Trudeau get table for 2 in Montreal, invite a serving of speculation

NEIL VIGDOR  
HELSINKI, JULY 29

IT’S THE dinner pairing that has the United States and Canada buzzing: The newly single pop star Katy Perry and Justin Trudeau, the former prime minister of Canada, dropped by a high-end restaurant in Montreal on Monday for a meal together. Their rendezvous at Le Violon, which specializes in “seafood-forward cuisine” and is featured in the Michelin Guide, set the internet aflame with speculation about whether the American-born singer and the former head of government

were on a date.

Now that would be rapprochement, especially amid the chilly state of affairs between the once mutually aligned countries over President Trump’s tariffs and his frequent hectoring of Canada as being the “51st state.” What a juxtaposition. In Ms. Perry’s parlance? “Hot N Cold.”

Perry, 40, and the actor Orlando Bloom, with whom she shares a daughter, recently broke off their engagement. Trudeau, 53, who resigned earlier this year as prime minister, separated from his wife of 18 years, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, in 2023. They have three children.

In response to questions

from *The New York Times*, the co-owner and co-executive chef of Le Violon, Danny Smiles, said on Tuesday that the restaurant had hosted Trudeau and Perry the previous night.

The restaurant confirmed that they had a reservation, but would not say who had booked the table.

“We can’t say for certain it was a date,” Smiles said, “but they were in great spirits.”

The celebrity website TMZ reported earlier about the sighting of Perry and Trudeau at the restaurant, publishing photos of the two there, taking a walk earlier and having drinks later at a tavern.



The co-owner of Montreal’s Le Violon said the restaurant had hosted Trudeau and Perry on Monday night. *AP*

Perry was in between stops on her concert tour in Canada and was scheduled to perform in Ottawa on Tuesday night and in Montreal on Wednesday, followed by Quebec City on Friday.

Representatives for Perry and Trudeau did not immediately respond on Tuesday to requests for comment.

Smiles went over to the table to greet Perry and Trudeau. He had met the former prime minister before, the restaurant said.

“So it was a friendly exchange,” Smiles said. “They even came to the kitchen to personally thank the staff before leaving.”

Famous for her catchy lyrics,

provocative costumes and hits including *Teenage Dream*, *Roar* and *Firework*, Perry was a judge for several seasons on American Idol, until last year, and was a Super Bowl halftime show headliner in 2015.

In April, she was part of an all-female crew launched briefly into space by Blue Origin, the private spaceflight start-up of Jeff Bezos.

She is known for her liberal political leanings, having campaigned for both Hillary Clinton and Kamala Harris during the 2016 and 2024 presidential elections. The night before the 2024 election, she performed at a rally in Pittsburgh for Harris, who lost

Pennsylvania and all six other battleground states to Trump in November.

In March, Trudeau left office after his nearly decade-long stint leading Canada. His resignation came with polls showing most Canadians were deeply unhappy with the state of their country. As he ended his tenure, Trudeau was defiant in his response to the Trump administration’s treatment of Canada. His father, late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, was a bachelor when he became prime minister. He dated actresses Barbra Streisand and Kim Cattrall and married a 22-year-old woman while in office at age 51.

NYT WITH AP INPUTS




AMID HIGHER MONTH-END DEMAND FOR DOLLARS

Rupee logs biggest single-day fall in nearly 3 mths on Trump tariff shocker

HITESH VYAS  
MUMBAI, JULY 30

THE RUPEE depreciated 61 paise on Wednesday, recording its biggest single-day fall in nearly three months, on concerns over higher tariff announcement by US President Donald Trump on India, month-end demand for dollar, and aggressive selling by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). The domestic currency ended at 87.42 against the US dollar, according to a Reuters report. It opened at 87.12, down 30 paise compared to the previous close of 86.82. Comments from US President Trump which suggested that India could face tariffs ranging from 20-25 per cent weighed on the local currency, analysts said. Later in the day, after Indian market hours, Trump announced on social media platform Truth

DEPRECIATED 161 PAISE IN 11 TRADING SESSIONS



**THE DOMESTIC** currency ended at 87.42 against the US dollar, according to a Reuters report

**THE FALL** in the rupee on Wednesday was the sharpest single-day fall since May 8 when it had tumbled 89 paise to 85.72. In the last 11 trading sessions, the rupee has depreciated by 161 paise, or close to 2 per cent

Social that India would face a tariff of 25 per cent, effective August 1, as well an unspecified penalty for importing energy and defence goods from Russia. Intraday, the currency touched a high of 87.0663 and a low of 87.5125. The fall in the rupee

on Wednesday was the sharpest single-day fall since May 8 when it had tumbled 89 paise to 85.72. In the last 11 trading sessions, the rupee has depreciated by 161 paise, or close to 2 per cent, amid uncertainties related to US tariffs.

“The Indian rupee exhibited its most significant single-day decline since May 8, reaching a five-month low. This sharp depreciation was primarily driven by increased month-end dollar demand and outflows from foreign funds,” said Dilip Parmar, senior research analyst, HDFC Securities. In the past one week, FPIs have sold Rs 16,370 crore of domestic shares, exerting pressure on the rupee as foreign investors continued to buy dollars and offload the local currency. Analysts also attributed the sharp decline in the rupee on Wednesday to the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) absence in the forex market. RBI has always maintained that its intervention in the rupee market is only to contain volatility in the exchange rate, and not to target a specific level. Once the rupee breached the psychological level of 86.9, it triggered higher demand for dollars

from importers, including from oil companies, and triggered short covering. “Rupee traded weak, breaching the 87.4 mark with a decline of 0.72 per cent, as rising crude prices and a stronger dollar index weighed on sentiment,” said Jateen Trivedi, VP research analyst - commodity and currency, LKP Securities. Market participants also remained cautious ahead of the US Federal Reserve’s policy announcement later in the day on Wednesday. Following the substantial rally in the rupee since the start of this month, the immediate support level for spot USD/INR has shifted to 87, while the resistance is now seen at 87.70, Parmar said. Analysts expect the rupee to trade in a broader range of 87–87.70. Once it breaks 87 level, the next resistance for the local currency will be 88, forex market analysts said.

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, JULY 30

IN A major acquisition abroad, Tata Motors to (TML) has proposed to acquire full control of European commercial vehicle maker Iveco Group N.V. – excluding its defence business – through a voluntary public cash tender offer estimated to cost euro 3.8 billion (around Rs 38,000 crore or \$4.35 billion). This is the biggest acquisition by Tata Motors after it acquired Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) from Ford in 2008 for \$2.3 billion in an all-cash transaction. The envisaged voluntary tender offer will be made by TML CV Holdings Pte Ltd or a new limited liability company to be incorporated under Dutch law, which will be wholly owned, directly or indirectly, by Tata Motors. Iveco is based in Turin, Italy, and it forms part of Iveco Group N.V., which is incorporated in Amsterdam. Tata Motors fell by 3.47 per cent to Rs 668.40 on the BSE on Wednesday. Iveco and Tata Motors on Wednesday announced that they have reached an agreement to create a commercial vehicles group with the reach, product portfolio and industrial capability to be a global champion in this dynamic sector.

BIGGEST ACQUISITION BY TATA MOTORS

■ This is the biggest acquisition by Tata Motors after it acquired Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) from Ford in 2008 for \$2.3 billion in an all-cash transaction

The completion of the offer is conditional on the separation of Iveco’s defence business and, as such, the public offer is for all issued common shares of Iveco Group after the separation of that business, at a price of euro 14.1 (cum dividend, excluding any dividend distributed in relation to the sale of the defence business) per share in cash, TML said. The offer represents a total consideration of approximately euro 3.8 billion for Iveco Group, excluding Iveco’s defence business and the net proceeds from the defence business separation. Together, Iveco and the commercial vehicle business of Tata Motors will have combined revenues of euro 22 billion (Rs 2,20,000 crore) split across Europe (50 per cent), India (35 per cent) and the Americas (15 per cent) with attractive positions in emerging markets in Asia and Africa.

Tata Motors Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran said this is a logical next step following the demerger of the Tata Motors Commercial Vehicle business and will allow the combined group to compete on a truly global basis with two strategic home markets in India and Europe. “The combined group’s complementary businesses and greater reach will enhance our ability to invest boldly. I look forward to securing the necessary approvals and concluding the transaction in the coming months,” he said. “We are proud to announce this strategically significant combination, which brings together two businesses with a shared vision for sustainable mobility. Moreover, the reinforced prospects of the new combination are strongly positive in terms of the security of employment and industrial footprint of Iveco Group as a whole.” Suzanne Heywood, chair of Iveco Group. Exor, Iveco’s largest shareholder with approximately 27.06 per cent of Iveco’s common shares and 43.11 per cent of all voting rights, has executed an irrevocable undertaking to support the offer and tender its shareholding and vote in favour of the resolutions that will be proposed at the EGM to be held in connection with the offer. **FULL REPORT ON** [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

BRIEFLY

Nomination framework: Sebi revises deadline

New Delhi: Sebi on Wednesday extended the timeline for implementing the second and third phases of its nomination framework in the securities market citing operational challenges faced by depositories and other stakeholders. In its circular, Sebi said the deadline for Phase II of the implementation, originally scheduled for June 1, has been extended to August 8, while Phase III, earlier set for September 1, has been deferred to December 15. **PTI**

Centre grants 1-year extension to MoSPI Secy

New Delhi: The Centre has extended the tenure of Statistics and Programme Implementation Secretary Saurabh Garg till July next year. Garg is a 1991 batch Indian Administrative Service (retired) officer of Odisha cadre. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension of Garg’s tenure as Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, on contract basis for a further period of one year. **PTI**

Schneider to buy 35% in Indian arm for euro 5.5 billion

Mumbai: Schneider Electric has announced an agreement to acquire the remaining 35 per cent stake in Schneider Electric India Private Limited (SEIPL) from Temasek, taking its ownership to 100 per cent. The all-cash deal is valued at euro 5.5 billion (around Rs 55,000 crore) and is subject to customary closing conditions, including regulatory approvals such as from the Competition Commission of India. “The move underscores Schneider Electric’s strategic commitment to India, positioning it as a key growth market and a central hub in the company’s global multi-hub model,” it said. **ENS** **FULL REPORT ON** [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

Ambanis to inject ₹15,825 cr into Jio Financial

Mumbai: The Mukesh Ambani family is set to increase its stake in Jio Financial Services (JFSL) from 47.12 per cent to 54.19 per cent with a Rs 15,825 crore investment through a preferential issue of convertible warrants. JFSL’s board approved the fundraising plan on Wednesday. The capital will be raised by issuing up to 50 crore warrants at Rs 316.50 each. Every warrant can be converted into one fully paid equity share, with a face value of Rs 10 and a premium of Rs 306.50. **ENS**

Fed holds rates steady despite Trump’s pressure

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, JULY 30

THE US Federal Reserve held interest rates steady on Wednesday in a split decision that gave little indication of when borrowing costs might be lowered and drew dissents from two of the US central bank’s governors, both appointees of President Donald Trump who agree with him that monetary policy is too tight. “The unemployment rate remains low, and labor market conditions remain solid. Inflation remains somewhat elevated,” the central bank said in a policy statement released after the Federal Open Market Committee voted 9-2 to keep its benchmark overnight interest rate steady in the 4.25-4.50 per cent range for the fifth consecutive meeting. The policy statement did note that economic growth “moderated in the first half of the year,” possibly bolstering the case to lower rates at a future meeting should that trend continue. But it also said that “uncertainty about the economic outlook remains elevated” with risks to both the Fed’s inflation and employment goals.

US economy rebounds in Q2

Washington: US economic growth rebounded more than expected in the second quarter, but that grossly overstated the economy’s health as subsidising imports accounted for the bulk of the improvement and domestic demand increased moderately. Gross domestic product increased at a 3.0 per cent annualised rate last quarter, the US Commerce Department’s Bureau of Economic Analysis said in its advance estimate of second-quarter GDP. **REUTERS**

Both Vice Chair for Supervision Michelle Bowman and Governor Christopher Waller, who has been mentioned as a possible nominee to replace Fed Chair Jerome Powell when his term expires next May, were appointed to the board by Trump and “preferred to lower the target range for the federal funds rate by one quarter of a percentage point at this meeting,” the Fed’s policy statement said.

TRUMP’S DECISION ‘UNFORTUNATE’: INDIA INC

WHILE THIS move is unfortunate and will have a clear bearing on our exports, we hope that this imposition of higher tariffs will be a short-term phenomenon and that a permanent trade deal between the two sides will be finalised soon”

**HARSHA VARDHAN AGARWAL**,  
FICCI PRESIDENT

WITH GLOBAL buyers looking to de-risk from overdependence on select geographies, India is emerging as the most credible, democratic, and scalable alternative”

**HEMANT JAIN**,  
PRESIDENT, PHDCCI

CITI REMAINS hopeful that the tariff issue will get resolved once the proposed bilateral trade agreement between India and the US is in place”

CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY (CITI)

MARKETS WILL react negatively to the imposition of tariff on

IT WILL make our products 7% to 10% more expensive than some of our competitors, and it will certainly hurt our Apparel exports to the US ... Fortunately, this setback has come at the time when we have just signed an FTA with UK ...

**ADITI NAYAR**,  
CHIEF ECONOMIST, ICRA

**RAHUL MEHTA**  
CHIEF MENTOR OF CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Aviation regulator DGCA finds 263 safety lapses in audits of various airlines

Assures flyers that higher lapse count ‘entirely normal’ for large carriers

SUKALP SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

AVIATION SAFETY regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) found 263 safety-related lapses across various operators in their annual audits, but underscored that that higher number of lapses—particularly in the case of airlines with extensive networks and large aircraft fleets—is “entirely normal” given the breadth and depth of their operations rather than any unusual lapse. The regulator also reassured flyers that the audits and consequent corrective action by airlines are robust processes and the presence of such findings is a “testament to active regulatory oversight.” “The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), as part of its continuous oversight responsibilities, conducts audits that are an essential instrument to identify and use them for potential improvements. Based on ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) requirements and global best practices, these audits are needed to enhance the safety of operations and ensure compliance, and continuous improvement across all facets of airline operations. These audits findings aid in areas requiring improvement. This is as per Annual Surveillance Plan (ASP)



File

under Safety Oversight Programme,” the DGCA said in a release. Some of the audits happened close to the tragic crash of Air India flight AI 171 in Ahmedabad on June 12, but were not related to the disaster in which 260 persons perished. According to data released by the regulator on Wednesday, government-owned regional airline Alliance Air topped the list with 57 lapses, followed by Air India with 51 findings, regional airline Star Air with 41 findings, cargo airline Quickjet with 35 findings, Air India Express with 25 findings, IndiGo with 23 findings, Vistara—now merged with Air India—with 17 lapses, and SpiceJet with 14 lapses. Akasa Air’s audit process is yet to be completed, it is understood. The lapses have been categorised into level one and level two findings.

Of the total 263 findings, 19 were categorised as level one findings, or relatively more serious lapses. Vistara, Air India, and Air India Express had 10, seven, and two level one findings, respectively. “It should be emphasized that, for airlines with extensive operations and large fleet sizes, a higher number of audit findings is entirely normal. The quantum and scale of their activities mean that such observations reflect the breadth and depth of their operations rather than any unusual lapse. Globally, aviation regulators routinely encounter similar patterns with major carriers due to the diversity and intensity of their undertakings,” the regulator said. IndiGo is the country’s largest airline, with a domestic market share of around 65 per cent, followed by the Air India group—Air India and Air India Express,

The regulator also reassured flyers that the audits and consequent corrective action by airlines are robust processes and presence of such findings is a “testament to active regulatory oversight”

with a share of around 30 per cent. In the medium- and long-haul international segment, Air India is the country’s biggest airline, as IndiGo has very limited presence in that segment. Upon completion of the audit, the relevant airlines are formally notified and are required to submit timely compliance and corrective action taken reports to the DGCA. The regulator closely monitors these responses and ensures that all necessary measures are taken to maintain and enhance safety standards. “The DGCA reassures the travelling public that these processes are robust and that the presence of such findings is a testament to active regulatory oversight. Our commitment to safety, transparency, and continuous improvement remains paramount across the Indian aviation industry,” the regulator said.

Google’s AI summaries are driving down website clicks. Can it reshape Net surfing?

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK & ANIL SASI  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

AS GOOGLE transitions from AI Overviews to AI Mode, which seeks to replace traditional search results altogether and instead a chatbot effectively creates a miniature article to answer a query, the big looming question is — will this change the way people surf the internet? No, claims Google, but its own AI bot Gemini disagrees, saying that there is “significant evidence” to show that AI Overviews — a feature that displays an artificial intelligence-generated result summary at the top of many Google search pages — are hurting website traffic, especially for organic listings. That is now corroborated by a small-sample study conducted by Pew Research. Earlier this year, 900 web-surfing Americans agreed to share their online browsing activity with the Pew Research Center. About six-in-ten respondents (58 per cent) conducted at least one Google search in March 2025 that produced an AI-generated summary. This could be even more consequential as Google recently launched a feature called AI Mode in the American market, which effectively gets rid of traditional search results entirely. Google plans to progressively move from Overviews to AI Mode.

Findings from the Pew study

The analysis found that Google users were less likely to click on result links when visiting search pages with an AI summary compared with those without one. For searches that resulted in an AI-generated summary, users very rarely clicked on the sources cited. Google users who encounter an AI summary are less likely to click on links to other websites than users who do not see one. Users who encountered an AI summary clicked on a traditional search result link in 8 per cent of all visits. Those who did not encounter an AI summary clicked on a search result nearly twice as often (15 per cent of visits).

YES, SAYS GOOGLE AI BOT GEMINI

■ Google AI bot Gemini says that there is “significant evidence” to show that AI Overviews — a feature that displays an artificial intelligence-generated result summary at the top of many Google search pages — are hurting website traffic

Google users are more likely to end their browsing session entirely after visiting a search page with an AI summary than on pages without a summary. This happened on 26 per cent of pages with an AI summary, compared with 16 per cent of pages with only traditional search results. Regardless of whether a page had an AI-generated summary or not, the largest share of Google searches in the Pew Research study resulted in the user either browsing elsewhere on Google or leaving the site entirely without clicking a link in the search results. Around two-thirds of all searches resulted in one of these actions. The most frequently cited sources in both Google AI summaries and standard search results are Wikipedia, YouTube and Reddit. These three sites are the most commonly linked sources in AI summaries and standard search results alike. Collectively, they accounted for 15 per cent of the sources that were listed in the AI summaries examined in the study. They made up a similar share (17 per cent) of the sources listed in standard search results. Last year, Google had signed a content licensing deal with Reddit worth \$60 million to gain real-time access to the data of one of the world’s most visited social media and content-sharing platforms. The typical (median) AI summary in the study was 67 words long, but this varied widely. The shortest was just seven words long, while the longest ran to 369 words. Google searches that contain more words, ask questions or use full sentences tend to produce AI summaries more often. Longer searches are more likely to produce an AI summary. Just 8 per cent of one- or two-word

searches resulted in an AI summary. But that share rose to 53 per cent for searches with 10 words or more. Searches that form questions: 60 per cent of search queries that began with question words such as “who,” “what,” “when” or “why” resulted in an AI summary. Searches that use full sentences: 36% of searches that include both a noun and a verb generated an AI summary. Google did not respond to an immediate response for comment. While announcing the AI Overviews feature in India last month, Google had said the feature was being used by over 1.5 billion users every month, and in its biggest markets like the US and India, it was already driving a more than 10 per cent increase in usage for the types of queries where they appear. Why AI overviews are hurting website traffic There is significant evidence and industry consensus that Google’s AI Overviews are hurting website traffic, particularly for organic listings. Here’s a breakdown of why and what the implications are: AI Overviews aim to provide immediate, comprehensive answers directly on the search results page, with the result that users often find the information they need without ever clicking through to a website, leading to a “zero-click” search. Studies from SEO tool providers such as Amsive and SurferSEO seems to suggest quantifiable declines in click-through-rates for traditional organic listings when AI Overviews are present. AI Overviews appear at the very top of search results, often pushing organic listings further down the page, sometimes entirely below the fold, which reduces visibility, leading to fewer clicks. AI Overviews synthesise information from multiple websites, repackaging it into a snapshot. While they include citations, the key points are often extracted and displayed upfront, reducing the need for users to visit the source. Multiple industries, including fashion, travel, DIY, and cooking, have reported significant traffic declines. Also, non-branded, informational queries are much more likely to trigger AI Overviews and experience the largest CTR drops, as compared to more specific, branded searches. That could possibly change with AI Mode.





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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

## WHY AIRDROPS IN GAZA ARE SEEN AS A RISKY LAST RESORT

THREE COUNTRIES have begun dropping boxes of aid by parachute into the Gaza Strip after Israel announced it would allow airdrops, and more are expected to follow.

Britain's Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, said on Tuesday that "UK aid has been air-dropped into Gaza today". The United Arab Emirates and Jordan started parachuting parcels into Gaza on July 27 in co-ordination with Israel.

The development has come at a time when Israel has been accused of limiting the number of trucks delivering aid to Gaza by road.

Aid agencies working in Gaza, however, say parachuting crates of aid is a risky and inefficient alternative to tackle the widening hunger crisis there.

### How airdrops work

Typically, airdrops are done by military planes carrying bundles of supplies and food. The supplies are loaded on pallets or flat platforms, and wrapped in netting to stay in place. Those pallets are attached to parachutes and pushed from the backs of aircraft to reach delivery sites.

Aid pallets can weigh 1,200 pounds when packed with food and more than 2,000 pounds when packed with water, according to an estimate by The Washington Institute, a foreign policy think tank.

Several countries, in coordination with the Israeli air force, dropped aid in Gaza last year, but stopped after some falling parcels killed and wounded people, and damaged property, and others landed in the sea or Israel.

But getting aid on the ground in Gaza has become far more dangerous. Responding to unrest at some aid sites, Israeli soldiers have repeatedly fired at crowds in the past two months, killing



Humanitarian aid supplies over northern Gaza in March, 2024. NYT

hundreds of people.

"When you're airdropping food, there's supposed to be a lot of preparation, planning and communication," said Jeremy Konyndyk, the president of Refugees International. But in conflict zones like Gaza, it can be difficult to coordinate with those on the receiving end to ensure operations go smoothly, Konyndyk added.

### Limitations of airdrops

Airdrops are expensive and inefficient compared to delivering aid by trucks. While the average plane can fit about two truckloads worth of aid, Konyndyk said, there is a much greater supply of available trucks and people to drive them.

Aid planes require specialised cargo and experienced crews, while any commercial truck driver can deliver aid by land.

While costs vary, Konyndyk estimated that airdropped aid was roughly about 11 times as expensive per commodity as aid delivered by truck.

Also, fragile goods, like certain medicines and water, are difficult to airdrop because they can be destroyed by the impact of landing.

THE NYT

AMITABH SINHA & ALIND CHAUHAN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

AN 8.8 MAGNITUDE earthquake, one of the strongest on record, struck the Kamchatka Peninsula, in Russia's far-east, about 6,500 km east of Moscow, on Wednesday morning, triggering a tsunami that struck several countries on both sides of the northern Pacific Ocean.

The tsunami generated waves as high as 3-4 metres in the Kamchatka Peninsula and some other places, about five feet in Hawaii, and about two feet in Japan. Flooding and damage were reported from several places, but no lives were lost.

The earthquake in Kamchatka was the strongest since the 9.1 magnitude quake that had struck Japan in 2011. That quake too had caused a major tsunami which then led to the nuclear disaster at Fukushima.

### Rare but not unusual

Wednesday's event was rare — only five earthquakes of magnitude 8.5 and above have occurred in the past 20 years — but it occurred in a region that is one of the most earthquake prone in the world.

Kamchatka Peninsula lies on the Circum-Pacific seismic belt, more popularly known as the "Ring of Fire", that witnesses the maximum number of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions on Earth.

This seismically active belt encircles almost the entire Pacific Ocean — on its eastern side is the western coast of the Americas, and on its western side lies the Far East and Oceania. It touches countries like the United States, Mexico, Chile, Peru, New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan and Russia.

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the Ring of Fire accounts for more than 80% of the planet's largest earthquakes. The biggest recorded earthquake, of magnitude 9.5 in Chile in 1960, occurred in this belt, and so did a magnitude 9.2 event in Alaska in 1964. In fact, each of the 23 events of 8-plus magnitude recorded in the last 20 years have happened along this seismic belt.

The nearly 2,000-km long region extending from Kamchatka Peninsula in the north to northern Japan in the south, and includ-

AMAAL SHEIKH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

EARLIER THIS month, a special POCSO court in Mumbai granted bail to a 40-year-old female teacher accused of sexually assaulting a teenage boy, noting the consensual nature of their relationship.

The order comes amid ongoing debates about bail jurisprudence under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, a stringent legal provision which specifically deals with sexual offences against minors (those under the age of 18).

Note that the law departs from the standard criminal law principle of "presumption of innocence" — instead of the prosecution having to prove the guilt of an accused, as is the norm, the accused bears the burden of proving his innocence. Over the years, getting bail in POCSO cases, especially in early stages of an investigation, has been challenging.



Pittsburgh Steeler centre 'Iron Mike' Webster. X/@steelers

Osnato and Vincent Giliberti published a paper in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* that stated that a concus-

## TEN STRONGEST EARTHQUAKES IN THE LAST 20 YEARS

DATE	MAGNITUDE	LOCATION*
March 11, 2011	9.1	Tohoku region, Japan
July 30, 2025	8.8	Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia
February 27, 2010	8.8	Maule, Chile
April 11, 2012	8.6	Northern Sumatra, Indonesia
September 12, 2007	8.4	Bengkulu, Indonesia
September 17, 2015	8.3	Illapel, Chile
May 24, 2013	8.3	Okhotsk Sea
November 15, 2006	8.3	Kuril Islands
July 29, 2021	8.2	Alaska Peninsula
August 19, 2018	8.2	Levuka, Fiji

\*The epicentre of the quakes was near these locations

Source: USGS



ing the volcanically-active Kuril Islands of Russia, has witnessed more than 130 earthquake events of 7-plus magnitude since 1900, USGS data show. In 1952, this region even recorded a magnitude 9 earthquake.

### Process of subduction

The Circum-Pacific seismic belt is home to multiple subduction processes, in which the Pacific tectonic plate is clashing against continental land.

Subduction is a geological process in which one tectonic plate — put simply, a large section of the Earth's crust — presses against another. Usually, the heavier or denser plate, that is, the one with more mass per unit of area, tends to go below the lighter plate. But this process results in deformities and creates a huge stress at the plate boundaries. It is this stress that is released in the form of earthquakes.

The Himalayas were created due to subduction, as a result of the Indian plate pushing against the Eurasian plate. This is also the reason why the Himalayan region is one of the most earthquake-prone in the world.

Vineet Gehlot, director of the Dehradun-based Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, says that the region is one of the very few areas where subduction is being observed over land. "A majority of the subduction zones are under the sea," he told *The Indian Express*.

"The Pacific Ocean, particularly the so-called Ring of Fire region, is witnessing several such processes. The Pacific plate is denser, and is subducting under the continental plate at several places on both sides... There is no other place on Earth where so many subduction processes are happening. And this is why the region produces so many earthquakes," Gehlot said.

### Other active regions

The Circum-Pacific seismic belt is one of the three large earthquake zones of the Earth. The Alpine belt — spanning from Indonesia through the Himalayas and further to Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkey — which runs mostly over the land, is the second-most earthquake-prone zone in the world.

But unlike the Ring of Fire, which accounts for around 80% of all big earthquakes, the Alpine belt contributes only 15-17%, according to USGS. However, this belt traverses some of the most heavily populated areas on the planet, which makes earthquakes in the region extremely deadly. In general, while the strongest earthquakes often take place under the ocean, the ones on land, even if they are weaker, are often more deadly due to their proximity to population centres.

The Kamchatka quake stuck off the coast of the peninsula, which is sparsely populated. Official statistics from 2023 put the

population density in the Kamchatka Krai of the Russian federation to be roughly 0.62 persons per sq km, which is why the quake did not result in any casualties, even though the much weaker 7.6 magnitude earthquake in Nepal in 2015 killed more than 15,000 people.

The third most prominent seismic belt is what is known as the mid-Atlantic ridge, which runs north-south through the middle of the entire Atlantic Ocean, from the Arctic to the Antarctic region. This subduction zone is in the middle of the ocean, deep underwater, and far away from land. This zone produces relatively moderate earthquakes, and their impact is minimal considering their distance from land.

The strength of an earthquake is, in part, dependent on the length of the faultline, that is, the extent of the plate boundaries that clash against each other. A larger faultline is more likely to produce a stronger earthquake. A 9.5 magnitude earthquake, the largest that has been recorded, is essentially the limit to how strong an earthquake can be. To produce anything stronger, say an event of magnitude 10 or more, a faultline extending to almost the entire Earth would be required. No current faultline is capable of producing a quake that strong.

RELATED REPORTS  
[indianexpress.com/explained](https://www.indianexpress.com/explained)

# Judicial discretion & bail in POCSO cases

### Bail in POCSO cases

POCSO offences are cognizable and non-bailable: arrests can be made without a warrant, and bail is not automatic. But the law does not contain specific statutory guidelines on bail.

Under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Section 439 of the erstwhile Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973), factors under consideration for bail include the nature and gravity of the offence, severity of the punishment, risk of flight, and likelihood of tampering with evidence or influencing witnesses. Over the years, courts have carved additional thresholds for bail in POCSO cases.

The Delhi High Court in *Dharmander Singh* (2020) identified the age of the victim, the age of the accused and the age gap, the relationship between the two parties, elements of coercion, conduct of the accused post-offence, etc. as factors to be considered

in POCSO cases. But the court clarified that this list is not exhaustive, and serves as a "non-binding guide".

The Supreme Court in *Deshraj @ Musa vs State of Rajasthan & Anr* (2024) granted bail to an 18-year-old boy who had been in jail for five months in a POCSO case involving a 16-year-old girl. The relationship appeared to be consensual. Since the trial would take time, and given the the age gap and the time already spent in custody, the court granted bail to the accused.

These decisions reaffirm that bail under POCSO remains a matter of judicial discretion where courts weigh constitutional liberties against the risk to the victim.

### Consent under POCSO

POSO does not recognise consent below the age of 18. Any sexual act with a teen, even if voluntary, is treated as an offence. This creates a legal grey zone in cases where teenagers enter into consensual relation-

ships that later attract criminal charges.

In recent years, courts have begun considering these nuances while granting bail. Bail may be considered favourably if the relationship appears to be consensual, and especially where the victim has recorded a statement before the magistrate to that effect.

Nonetheless, securing bail is often difficult in the early stages of POCSO cases. Courts tend to wait until the victim has recorded her statement and the prosecution has collected key evidence, even if it means prolonged pre-trial custody for the accused.

In an ongoing case, Senior Advocate Indira Jaising has requested the SC to bring down the age of consent from 18 to 16. The criminalisation of adolescent relationships, she argued, is a direct infringement of fundamental rights of the person. The Centre's response stated that "such changes, even in the name of reform or adolescent autonomy, would undermine the legal protections designed to safeguard minors and potentially increase the risk of child abuse".

# CTE, 'brain commotion' caused by sports injuries that NYC shooter had

ARJUN SENGUPTA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 30

IN A note that police found in his wallet, the gunman who killed four people in New York on Monday claimed he had chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) — a result of playing [American] football in high school.

CTE is a degenerative brain disease linked to repeated brain trauma. It can lead to debilitating symptoms such as depression, memory loss, aggression, impaired judgment, erratic behaviour, suicidal tendencies, anxiety, and dizziness.

The disease is most commonly diagnosed among athletes, especially those in contact sports, and has been referred to in recent years as a "silent epidemic" because it often goes undiagnosed and its causes are underplayed.

### Accumulated trauma

CTE is not caused by a single blow to the head — rather, it is the result of the accumulation of years of concussive and sub-concussive impacts that lead to noticeable and progressively debilitating symptoms over time. (Concussions cause the brain to move rapidly within the skull, potentially stretch-

ing and damaging brain cells.)

The "repeated blows to the head... injure the brain's cells and blood vessels, [creating] areas of microscopic bleeding and abnormal protein deposits called tangles, which kill brain cells", says an article on the website of the Harvard Medical School.

Researchers have estimated that around 17% of people with years of repetitive concussions or sub-concussive incidents will develop CTE, the article says. The disease can only be definitively diagnosed after death, during autopsies.

### 'Punch drunk' in boxing

Greek physician-philosopher Hippocrates (460-377 BCE) described *commotio celebri* — 'commotion of the brain' — as a vigorous shake or blow to the head that caused temporary loss of speech, hearing, and sight.

In the 16th century, the Italian physician Jacopo Berengario da Carpi proposed that this 'brain commotion' was caused by the brain getting 'bruised' after hitting the skull.

While da Carpi's understanding of what we now refer to as a concussion was largely accurate, scientists remained unsure until the early 20th century whether such injuries had any long-term impacts.

Then, in 1927, neuropsychiatrists Michael



Pittsburgh Steeler centre 'Iron Mike' Webster. X/@steelers

Osnato and Vincent Giliberti published a paper in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* that stated that a concus-

sion was not a "transient state" — it could lead to "structural cerebral injury", causing significant "secondary degenerative changes".

Harrison Martland, a forensic pathologist and boxing enthusiast, immediately linked these findings to the antics of many popular boxers at the time. "Fans called them 'cuckoo', 'goofy', or 'slug nutty', and people enjoyed screaming at them as they staggered around the ring like intoxicated fools," an article in *The Atlantic* said.

Martland coined the term "punch drunk" to describe this disease that afflicted pugilists. "Punch drunk most often affects fighters of the slugging type...who are usually poor boxers and who take considerable head punishment, seeking only to land a knockout blow," he wrote in his 1928 submission to *JAMA*.

Martland's claims would be clinically proven in 1973, when neuropathologist J A N Corsellis cracked open the skulls of 15 former boxers and studied their brains under a microscope. In his paper, 'The Aftermath of Boxing', published in *Psychological Medicine*, Corsellis provided detailed descriptions of damage to the brain tissue of the deceased boxers, and coined the term "dementia pugilistica" to refer to the disease.

## EXPLAINED SCIENCE

### The Webster case

But there was still not much mainstream conversation about CTE. Also, the condition was framed as being explicitly boxing-specific. It was not until the 2000s that the scale of the problem began to be understood.

A pivotal moment in this story was the death — and subsequent diagnosis — of the legendary Pittsburgh Steelers centre Mike Webster in 2002. Webster died after a heart attack, but he had displayed years of erratic behaviour after his retirement from pro football.

"One day he peed in the oven... He would walk up to strangers and rant. 'Kill' em! I'm gonna kill 'em!... His teeth started falling out. He got Super Glue, squirted each fallen tooth, and tried to stick them back in...," *The Atlantic* article said. When pathologist Bennet Omalu examined Webster's brain under a microscope, his findings echoed those of Corsellis some 30 years back.

The Webster case triggered a lot of CTE research, and eventually led to the National Football League (NFL) acknowledging the link between football and the disease. As research expanded beyond traditional combat sports like boxing, researchers found

that even seemingly minor hits had major long-term repercussions.

"When you expose your head to long-force trauma with or without a helmet, with or without symptoms, there is a significant risk of permanent brain damage 40 years later," Omalu told the *BBC* in 2015.



### No silver bullet

Growing awareness of CTE has led to many reforms in sport. NFL rules have been modified to better protect players from head trauma, England's Football Association (FA) has banned youth players from deliberately heading the ball, and cricket has introduced the concept of a "concussion substitute".

Based on our current understanding, however, the risks of CTE can at best be mitigated, not eliminated. Over the past couple of decades, researchers have experimented with all kinds of equipment from helmets to mouthguards to mitigate the risk of CTE among players. Research has looked at woodpeckers, birds that drill into trees without getting concussions.



There is currently no treatment or cure for CTE. Athletes in certain sports remain at high risk. In 2023, Boston University's CTE Center studied 376 former NFL players, and diagnosed as many as 345 with CTE.



**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA**

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED	NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF IMMUNO ASSAY ANALYZER ON 2 YEARS RATE CONTRACT AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT	29.07.2025 18.08.2025	2.55 CRORES	www.hmsd.org.in	8929299829 equipmentgpn2020@gmail.com
2	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED	NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF OPERATING MICROSCOPE EYE ON 2 YEARS RATE CONTRACT AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT	29.07.2025 11.08.2025	1.80 CRORES	www.hmsd.org.in	8929299829 equipmentgpn2020@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) No. 37148/HRY

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA**

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE ROHTAK CO OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED ROHTAK	SUPPLY OF ACB (MAKE: SIEMENS) MODEL NO. 3WT8165-2AA03-5AB2 WITH LOCK & KEY,1600 AMP., 4 POLE, OR EQUIVALENT MODEL	30.07.2025 07.08.2025	AS PER DNT	vitaindia@gmail.com	9896401185 vitarohtak@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) No-37149/HRY



## कार्यालय छावनी परिषद्, दानापुर

### दानापुर छावनी परिषद वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए छावनी क्षेत्र में दुपहिया वाहन पार्किंग (मार्शल बाजार अन्तर्गत)

सूचित किया जाता है कि दानापुर छावनी क्षेत्र में दुपहिया वाहन पार्किंग (मार्शल बाजार अन्तर्गत) हेतु दानापुर छावनी परिषद् कार्यालय ईच्छुक निविदाकार से ई-निलामी माध्यम से निविदा आमंत्रित करती है। ई-निलामी संबंधित प्रक्रिया दिनांक 29 जुलाई 2025, अपराह्न 05:00 बजे से प्रारम्भ है। ईच्छुक निविदाकार संबंधित वेबसाइट <https://eauction.gov.in/eauction> अथवा कार्यालय के वेबसाइट <https://danapur.canntt.gov.in> से जानकारी प्राप्त कर यथानुसार प्रक्रियोपरांत इस ई-निलामी में भाग ले सकते हैं। यह बिलामी, ई-निलामी है जो केवल ऑनलाईन माध्यम से ही होगा। अन्य सहायता अथवा जानकारी हेतु कार्य अवधि में कार्यालय के संबंधित शाखा अथवा व्यक्ति से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

हस्ता/-

मुख्य अधिशासी अधिकारी

पत्रांक सी.बी.डी./टी.एस./अन्य/473

छावनी परिषद् कार्यालय, दानापुर

दिनांक 31 जुलाई, 2025


**SECTION 1**  
**Superintending Engineer 14th Circle HPPWD Rohru**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)**

Sl. No.	District.	RID/F	Name of work	Estimated Including GST Const. Cost (in lacs)	Mainst. Cost (in lacs)	Total cost (in lacs)	Period of completion on (in lacs)	Bid Security (in lacs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Shimla	XXX	Up gradation of Rohru Chirgaon Dooda Kavar road km 0/0 to 15/0 (SFI-Formation Cutting, Passing Places, R/wall, Cross Drainage work, GSB, WBRI-II, WBRI-III, MT Interlocking Paver, Side drain and Parapets km 0/0 to 15/0) under NABARD RIDP-XXXX.	1589.13	117.35	1706.48	18 month	34.13

1. Date of release of invitation for bids through e-procurement 30.07.2025  
2. Cost of bid from Rs.20,000/-per job (Non-refundable)  
3. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:- The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <http://www.hppwdtenders.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost.  
4. Last date/ Time for receipt of bid through e-tendering last date/time for receipt of bids through e-tendering on dated 06.08.2025 up to 6:00PM  
5. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 11:00 A.M. on 07 August, 2025.  
6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.  

(Pranod Kumar Upreti)  
Superintending Engineer  
14th circle HPPWD Rohru

No.2136/2025-2026/HP

**KIDWAI MEMORIAL INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY,**  
Cancer Research & Training Centre  
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION  
(Regional Centre of Cancer Research & Treatment Member of International Union Against Cancer)

Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, Bangalore-560029 Ph: +91 080-2656 0722/2656 0723, 080-6669 7999

**No: KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/CMC AC/394/2025-26** **Date: 30.07.2025**  
**e-1625378/e-1749854/e-1666645/e-1666793/e-1670760/e-1729144/e-1655750/**  
**e-1780671/e-1666320/e-1618553/e-1666295/e-1722112/e- 1550079/e-1736783**

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
Online Tenders are invited in Two Bid System for the following through GOK KPP Portal tender for Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology.

Sl No.	Tender No. & Date	Name of the Items
1	KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/CMC AC/ 394/2025-26 dated: 30.07.2025 (Call-4)	Providing CMC Services for Split Air Conditioners Installed At KMIO Bengaluru and VTSM PCC Kalburgi (Estimated Cost: Rs. 20 Lakhs)
2	KMIO/MNT/ELECTRICAL/446/ 2025-26 dated: 30.07.2025	Providing CAMC (Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract services) services for Air conditioning units, Air Handling units (AHU, s) 24x7 at various Units including BMT (Bone Marrow Transplant unit) at KMIO (Estimated Cost: Rs. 90.32 Lakhs)
3	KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/M.EQUIP/ 447/2025-26 Dt:30.07.2025 (CALL-2)	Supply and Installation of Semi Automated Microtome to pathology at KMIO (Estimated Cost: Rs. 22 Lakhs)
4	KMIO/MNT/Vehicle Parking/ 448/2025-26, Dt: 30.07.2025	Maintenance of Vehicle Parking stand at KMIO (Estimated Cost: Rs. 15 Lakhs)
5	KMIO/MNT/ELECTRICAL/439/ 2025-26, Dt: 30.07.2025 (CALL-2)	Supply and Installation of Split Air conditioners and ductuable air conditioners to PCC kalburgi. (Estimated Cost : Rs. 19.33 Lakhs)
6	KMIO/Tender/Journals/449/ 2025-26, Dt: 30.07.2025	Supply of Medical Books Journals to KMIO (Estimated Cost: Rs. 45 Lakhs)
7	KMIO/SME(1)/TENDER/MEDICAL EQUIPMENT/435/2024-25, DT: 30.07.2025 (CALL-2)	Supply & Commissioning Of Supply of Single Channel/Multichannel Analyzer along with check sources + Medical Physics Laboratory equipments & Mammography QA Testing module to the department of Radiation Physics at KMIO (Estimated Cost: Rs. 40 Lakhs)
8	KMIO/TND/Accounting-Services /450/2025-26, Dt: 22.07.2025	Providing Accounting and Financial Services to Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology Hospital, for the financial year 2025-26,2026-27,2027-2028. (Estimated Cost: Rs. 55.60 Lakhs)
9	KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/AMC Generators / 401/2024-25 dated: 14.02.2025, Dt: 30.07.2025 (CALL-4)	Providing AMC Services for Diesel Generators sets at KMIO., Bengaluru and VTSM PCC Kalburgi. (Estimated Cost: Rs. 12.00 Lakhs)
10	KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/Laundry/ 451/2025-26, Dt: 30.07.2025	Out Sourcing of Laundry services at KMIO., (Estimated Cost: Rs. 90 Lakhs)
11	KMIO/MNT/Tender/CMC Water purifiers /450/2025-26, Dt: 22.07.2025	Providing Comprehensive Maintenance contract services (CMC) for the water purifiers installed at various Depts. (Estimated Cost: Rs. 9.23 Lakhs)
12	KMIO/SEM(1)/Tender/DPT Chemicals/454/2025-26, Dt: 30.07.2025	Supply of Chemicals, Reagents and Consumables to the Dept. of Pathology at KMIO (Estimated Cost: Rs.2.31 Cr)
13	KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/Diet Food/ PCC/456/2025-26 Dt: 30.07.2025	Supply of Diet Food to the patients at PCC Kalburgi (Estimated Cost: Rs.31.75 Lakhs)
14	KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/M.Equip/ 430/2025-26,Dt: 30.07.2025 (Call-2)	Supply & Commissioning Of High Energy Linear Accelerator to the department of Radiation Oncology at KMIO, Bengaluru (Estimated Cost: Rs.25.00 Cr)
15	KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/M.Equip/ 452/2025-26, Dt: 30.07.2025 (Call-2)	Supply & Commissioning Of Low Energy Linear Accelerator to the department of Radiation Oncology at KMIO, Bengaluru (Estimated Cost: Rs.18.00 Cr)
16	KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/M.Equip/ 453/2025-26, Dt: 30.07.2025 (Call-2)	Supply & Commissioning Of Surface Guided Radiotherapy system to the department of Radiation Oncology at KMIO, Bengaluru (Estimated Cost: Rs.9.00 Cr)

The Bid Document will be available in online for **Sl. No. 01 to 13** from **06.08.2025 to 21.08.2025** and for **Sl. No. 14 to 16** from **06.08.2025 to 08.09.2025**. Bidders can view and download the Bid Document from the Website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> Bids have to be submitted through e-Procurement Portal and e-procurement Portal fees. The last date and time of Receipt of Bid through e-Procurement Portal is **Sl. No. 01 to 13** from **21.08.2025 & Sl. No. 14 to 16** from **08.09.2025 till 4-00 P.M.** Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereof.  

Sd/-  
Financial Advisor

DIPR/SI/2101/2025-26

**ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना का प्रारूप**  
मध्यप्रदेश शासन,  
नागर पालिक निगम, खालियार  
दिनांक : 29-07-2025

**जलसंस्क ३० क्रमांक 509**  
**//निविदा सूचना//**  
दिनांक : 29-07-2025

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली में पंजीकृत क्षेत्रवार से ऑन लाईन निविदाई आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <http://gmc.mptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

क्र.	टेंडर क्र./ जारी तिथि	कार्य का नाम	एच की सम्भावित एवं लागत	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य एवं ई.एच.डी.	निविदा की अंतिम तिथि
1	2025 UAO 439553.1 24.07.2025	नागर निगम सीमांतगत विभिन्न स्थानों पर भूत पशु उठावे एवं निस्तारण कार्य।	12 माह 1,96,68,000/-	12500/- 98,340/-	25.08.2025

नोट: निविदा सम्बंधित किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन का प्रश्नार्थक ऑनलाईन <http://gmc.mptenders.gov.in> की वेबसाइट पर ही किया जाएगा, पृथक से उम्मावार्थक पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जाएगा।  
कार्यालय नागर निगम, खालियार

**कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड**  
(एक भारतीय कंपनी)


"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd [www.coalindia.in](http://www.coalindia.in) / respective Subsidiary Company. CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>"

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Notice inviting Expression Of Interest (EOI)

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/ ECR/Sonpur invites Expression Of Interest (EOI) for Construction and Operation of Gali Shakti Multi-modal Cargo Terminal in Entirely or Partially on Railway Land (Schedule-II) at any place near to any station of Sonpur Division OF EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY (THROUGH PRIVATE INVESTMENT). EOI Notice/documents may be seen or downloaded of the website link shown below-<https://ecr.indianrailways.gov.in>> Sonpur Division > Commercial Department. last date of submission of EOI is up to 12:00 hrs on 19.08.2025.  
Sr. DCM/ECR/Sonpur  
PR/0699/SEE/Comml/EOI/N/25-26/28

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE

CSTE/CON/ECR/Mahendraghat/Pathna for & on behalf of president of India are invited Open online E-Tender. E-Tender No.: Snt-C-DHN-24R Name of work: Alteration in existing Kyosan make distributed (1+2 architecture) Electronics Interlocking system (Indoor and Outdoor) at Pathardih station for connectivity to Sindri Block Hut in connection with twin single line in Dhanbad Division of East Central Railway, Approximate cost : ₹2,27,25,613.39, Earnest Money ₹2,63,800/-, Cost of Tender document : Nil, Completion Period : 06 Months, Last Date & Time of submission of online E-Tender : 19.08.2025, 15:00 Hrs. For details information, may kindly see the tender notice and tender documents which are available at Indian Railways website <http://www.irops.gov.in>.  
Dy. Chief Sig. & Tele. Engineer/ Construction IECR/Dhanbad  
PR/0698/CON/DHN/S&T/T/25-26/32

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. DNR/S&T/Sig/2025/15

Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom), East Central Railway, Danapur Division, for and on behalf of President of India invites tenders on web portal [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) for the following work: (1) Name of work with its location: Provision of fuse monitoring and indication system with Self restoring/Auto change over system at Stations/IBH/Relay Hut in DNR division. (2) Approximate cost of work: Rs. 29478339.35 (3) Bid Security: Rs. 297400.00 (4) Last Date & Time of Submission: Up to 15:00 hrs. on 18.08.2025 (5) Opening of tender: 15:00 hrs. on 18.08.2025 (6) Website particulars where: detail of the work and criteria can be seen: [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) (7) Address of the office from: where detail information can be obtained: Sr. Divnl, Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, East Central Railway, Danapur. Note: Any corrigendum if required will be uploaded on above website before 14 days  
ASTE/DNR  
PR/0689/DNR/S&T/T/25-26/32

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
E-AUCTION NOTICE No. IZN/C/ e-Auction/2025/08 Date: 30.07.2025

The bids are invited from registered entities on IREPS by Sr.DCM/IZN (ACO) through e-Auction for award Advertisement and Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJKs) contracts. The Catalogue has already been published on IREPS website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in). The detail of upcoming e-Auctions of Izzatnagar division is as under: Category:- NFR, Catalogue No.:- IZN-NFRADV-25-8, Asset Detail:- Commercial publicity rights to display advertisement at 07 locations i.e. station, station area/LC Gate/LC Gate Area for three (03) years., Auction Start:- 05-08-25 12:00:00, Auction End:- 05-08-25 13:00:00, Category:- NFR, Catalogue No.:- IZN-PMBJK-KPV-1, Asset Detail:- Establishment of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJAK) at Kashipur station., Auction Start:- 05-08-25 12:00:00, Auction End:- 05-08-25 12:30:00, 1. Bidders are advised to visit website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) for more information related to e-Auction. 2. The bids have been invited through e-Auction Leasing module of IREPS website. 3. All the e-Auction related information as eligibility, scope of work, contract period terms & conditions of contract etc. are available on IREPS. 4. Bidders can participate in e-Auction only as per the date & timing as indicated above. 5. All the prospective bidders are requested to visit website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) regularly for any corrigendum related to above e-Auctions. CPRO/C-100 ACM/IZN  
Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE


Tender Notice No.: EL-50-DNR-OPEN-15-2025-26, Danapur  
The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C. Railway, Danapur for and on behalf of the President of India is inviting online (E-Tendering) Open from the reputed contractors working in State/Central Govt. having valid Electrical contractor license for the required voltage level(as per scope of work) issued by State/Central Govt. licensing board for the following work: Tender No. EL-50-DNR-OPEN-15-2025-26  
1. Name of work with its location : Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) of quick watering system installed at Patna Jn. for period of the three years. 2. Approx cost of the work (NIT value) : ₹63,30,000/- (Rs. Sixty Three Lakh Thirty Thousand). 3. Earnest money to be deposited : ₹1,26,600/-. 4. Date & time for online submission and closing of all above tenders : Date & time for online submission of tender- 20.08.2025 up to 12.00 Hrs. 5. Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where all the above tender form can be seen : CRIS website <http://http://www.irops.gov.in> in Office of the Sr. DEE (G)/E.C. Rly, Danapur, D.R.M. Building, 1st Floor, East Central Railway, Danapur. NOTE: All corrigendum will be uploaded on website before 15 days if required. Divn. Railway Manager (Electrical)/G/ ECR/Danapur  
PR/0696/DNR/ELECT/T/25-26/44

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
**See Section 82 CrPC**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Harpreet S/o Bakhasis Singh R/o H.No. Sainik Colony, Rohtak, Haryana, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 400/16 U/S 392/397/411/482/34 IPC & 25/54/59 A. Act, PS Mundka, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Harpreet cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Harpreet has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant); Proclamation is hereby made that Harpreet the said accused of FIR No. 400/16 U/S 392/397/411/482/34 IPC & 25/54/59 A. Act, PS Mundka, New Delhi, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.08.2025.  

By Order  
Ms. Pooja Talwar  
Additional Sessions Judge (FTC)-01,  
West Distt., Room No.-313,  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

DP/10133/WD/2025  
(Court Matter)

**TAMILNADU POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED**  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-tender through e-procurement platform at <https://ntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> as per the instructions in the tender specification mentioned below for time chartering of One no. Self-Trimming Panamax / Kamsarmax gearless vessel for coastal movement of coal by TNPGL:


Sl No.	Specification No.	Period of Charter	Day days	Date & Time for download of Tender Specification	Due Date & Time for submission & closing of download of e-tender
1	Coal (Ship) - 196 Dated: 28.07.2025	6 months + 3 months ch + 3 months ch +/- 15 days ch	01.10.2025 to 15.10.2025	17:00 Hrs. on 31.07.2025	29.08.2025 Up to 14:30 Hours.

Submission of E-Tender: Through this Hyperlink <https://ntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>  
Soft copy of Tender Specification: The tender specification can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website [www.tangedco.co.in](http://www.tangedco.co.in), from Tamil Nadu Government Website i.e. [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) and from National Information Center website <https://ntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> free of cost. Tender will be opened: Through the NIC portal <https://ntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>  
CHIEF ENGINEER / MECH / COAL / TNPGL / CHENNAI - 2  
DIPR/4015/Tender/2025

**"IMPORTANT"**  
Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

**यू. पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि.**  
(उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का उपक्रम)  
कार्यालय महाप्रबन्धक जोन-2, 14-चन्द्रशेखरनगर कालोनी, तुला शेखर, संजयनगर बाईपास, बरेली-231122, ई-मेल: [gpn2.upcblby@gmail.com](mailto:gpn2.upcblby@gmail.com)  
पत्रांक- 286 / पीसीएल / जी.एम. / जोन-2 / प्रकाशन दिनांक-29.07.2025

**अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना**  
इस कार्यलय द्वारा जनपद रामपुर में जिला विक्रीस्थालय एवं जिला महिला विक्रीस्थालय में अग्निशमन व्यवस्था के कार्य हेतु अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना का <http://14/PCL/GM/ZONE-2/BLY/2025-26> दिनांक 29.07.2025 आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त निविदा <http://etender.up.nic.in> की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 01.08.2025 से दिनांक 12.08.2025 के अपराह्न 01:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड / अपलोड की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा से सम्बंधित अन्य विवरण, नियम एवं शर्तों कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट [www.upprojects.org](http://www.upprojects.org) पर दिनांक 01.08.2025 से देखी जा सकती है।  
महाप्रबन्धक जोन-2, बरेली

**TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)  
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600008.  
Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259  
Website: [www.tnmsctn.tn.gov.in](http://www.tnmsctn.tn.gov.in) E-Mail: [gmdrug.tnmsctn@tn.gov.in](mailto:gmdrug.tnmsctn@tn.gov.in), [mngprdrug.tnmsctn@tn.gov.in](mailto:mngprdrug.tnmsctn@tn.gov.in)

Online Tenders is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai - 600008, from the bidders meeting the eligibility criteria indicated in the tender document for the supply of Consumables to Mudhalvar Maruthagam under rate contract system for two years from the date of acceptance of the tender.

Sl. No.	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1	Online Tender for the supply of Consumables to Mudhalvar Maruthagam to TNMSCL Limited under rate contract system for two years from the date of acceptance	e-021/M(P)/MM-CONS/ TNMSCL/2025, Dated, 31.07.2025	31.07.2025 at 11:00 AM to 21.08.2025 upto 10:00 AM	14.08.2025 at 10:00 AM to 21.08.2025 upto 10:00 AM	21.08.2025 at 11:00 AM

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at <https://ntenders.gov.in/>. The tender document can also be downloaded at [www.tnmsctn.tn.gov.in](http://www.tnmsctn.tn.gov.in) for reference purpose.  
Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)  
DIPR/3993/Tender/2025


**ALIGARH SMART CITY LTD**  
**Notice Inviting Tender**  
**NIT No: 7183/NIT/ASCL/2025-26** **Date: 29.07.2025**

Aligarh Smart City Limited (ASCL), Aligarh invites e-Tenders through a Single stage two bid system through e-procurement portal<https://etender.up.nic.in> from eligible bidders for the work given below;

S. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Tender Fee
1	Design, Engineering, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Comprehensive operation and Maintenance of 120 kWp Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar Power Plant at Kalyan Singh Habitat Center, Aligarh	Rs. 1,00,000/- (INR One Lacs only)	Rs. 2000 + 18% GST = Rs. 2360 (Rs.Two Thousand Three Hundred Sixty only)

1. Detailed NIT & Bid Documents shall be downloaded from the website <https://etender.up.nic.in>  
2. Date & Time of Downloading bid Document: 30.07.2025, 3:00 pm  
3. Last Date for Submission of Pre-bid Queries: 12.08.2025, 3:00 pm  
4. Date of Pre-Bid Meeting: At 03:00 pm on 12.08.2025 at Aligarh Smart City Ltd. Office 5th Floor, Kalyan Singh Habitat Centre, Lal Diggi Aligarh.  
5. The last date of bid submission: 19.08.2025, 04:00 pm  
6. Date of Technical Bid Opening: 19.08.2025, 04:30 pm.  
7. ASCL reserves right to reject any or all Tenders and/or cancel/Annual/keep in abeyance the Tendering Process.  
8. Any subsequent addendum/corrigendum shall be published at the Website <https://etender.up.nic.in> only.  



Sd/-  
Chief Operating Officer

**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH**  
**CORRIGENDUM**

Ref : Global Tender Enquiry Notice No. PI(E/P)/24-25/G/09  
Following changes are made:-

Sr. No	Equipment/Item Name	Original Bid submission Date	Revised Bid Submission Date	Original Bid Opening Date	Revised Bid Opening Date	Deptt. Name
13	Polymerase Chain Reaction Machine (Multi-Loop/Gradient/Droplet Digital/Real Time	29.07.2025	13.09.2025	30.07.2025	15.09.2025	Immunopathology

All other details shall remain the same. Professor In-Charge (EP)

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA**

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	KURUSHETRA UNIVERSITY KURUSHETRA	1. PROVIDING AND LAYING OF INTERLOCKING PAVER BLOCK OF 80MM THICK FOR WAY OF DUMPING YARD NEAR RR TYPE HOUSES AT KULJ. 2. RENOVATION OF HOUSE NO. D-104(B) AND D-106 AT KURUSHETRA UNIVERSITY KURUSHETRA. 3. RENOVATION OF HOUSE NO. E-55 AT KULJ. 4. SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF LIFTS IN THREE BUILDINGS AT KUK	01.08.2025 12.08.2025	96 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	946410848 xcm.off@ku.ac.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) No. 37145/HRY

**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)



The Executive Engineer HP.PWD., Division Naudan District Hamirpur HP on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class for the works as detailed below on the table below:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (In Rs.)	Starting Date for downloading Bid	EMD (Rs.)	Deadline for Submission of Bid
1	Construction of Construction of additional block-C for Government ITI Naudan at Rail, District-Hamirpur (HP), (SH- Building project including Water Supply & Sanitary Installation, Septic Tank, Rainwater Harvesting Tank, etc.) (Deposit Work) Time Limit:- 12 Months Cost of tender form:- 10000/-	6,89,36,707/-	04-08-2025 from 10:30 AM	5,30,000/-	11-08-2025 upto 10:30 AM

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website.  

Executive Engineer,  
Naudan Division,  
HPPWD, Naudan, Pin Code 177033  
Telephone No. 01972-298570  
e-mail: ee-pwdndn-hp@hp.gov.in  
On behalf of Governor of Hima, chal pradesh.

No. 2143/2025-2026/HP

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA**

SR. No.
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# Classifieds

## PERSONAL

It is for general information that I,ROSHAN TIGGA,S/O-ROMAN TIGGA,R/O,H.NO.E-362 GALI.NO 36,RATAN LAL PROPERTY TOMAR COLONY KAMAL-PUR MAJRA BURARI,DELHI-110084,declare that Name of my father has been wrongly written as RAMAN TIGGA in my 10TH, 12th-class certificate and graduation degree-certificate.The actual-name of my-father is ROMAN TIGGA respectively,which may be amended accordingly.

0040802447-7

It is for general information that I,MOHAMMAD ASIF,S/O MOHAMMAD TAHIR,R/O-1065,LAXMI BAI-NAGAR,NEW DELHI-110023,declare that name of mine my-father and my-Mother has been wrongly-written as MOHAMMED ASIF,MOHAMMED TAHIR and THAISNUM JHAN in my educational-Documents.The actual name of mine,my-father and my-mother are MOHAMMAD ASIF,MOHAMMAD TAHIR and TARANNUM JHAN respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

0040802458-8

I,hitherto known as Meenakshi Tondon,D/o-Mohan Lal Tondon,R/o-28/9,Nagia Park,Shakti Nagar,Shakti-Nagar (north-Delhi),Malika Ganj,North-Delhi,Delhi-110007,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Meenakshi Tandon.

0040802467-6

I,hitherto known as Manoj,S/o-Hari Chand,R/O-497,Kabir-Basti Malika Ganj,Delhi,North-Delhi,Delhi-110007,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Manoj Sonkar.

0040802467-5

I,YUNUS SALEEM S/o-KHALIL AHMED,R/O-33 Vishwakarma Park,Laxmi Nagar Delhi,have changed my name to YUNUS SALIM,for all purpose

0040802474-3

I,Virendra Singh,S/o Bhola Ram R/O,Alamgirpur(Rajpura) Khatawali Rewari(Haryana)-123401,have changed my name to Virender Singh.

0040802458-1

I,Ujjwal Kumar S/o Sri Ashok Kumar R/o House No-452, Sector-37, Amarnagar, Faridabad, Haryana-121003,have changed my name to Ujjwal Kumar Garg.

0040802474-4

I,Subhash Chand Katyal,S/o Lt. Ganesh Dass Katyal R/O-B-93,Derawal Nagar,Delhi-110009 changed my name to Subhash Chander Katyal.

0040802447-2

I,Shikha Chandan Jaiswal,W/o Chandan Jaiswal,R/o Plot.No.5, New Plot No.-136,Third-Floor, Rajendra Park-Ext.Nangloi, West Delhi-110041,have changed my name to Shikha Kumari.

0040802458-3

I,SUNIL KUMAR,S/O-SHYAM LAL, R/O-3943-44,2nd floor, ward-no.2, Arya-puri,Subzi mandi,Malka Ganj,North Delhi, Delhi-110007, inform that SUNIL and SUNIL KUMAR,one and the same-person.

0040802447-9

I,SNEHA MATHUR W/o Azad Singh R/o H.No.523,Near Satghara,Karala, Karala Po. Karala Delhi-110081,have changed my name to SNEH MATHUR

0040802468-2

I,Rubeena Khan,W/O-Haji Salim Khan,R/O,H.No.A-126,MAIN Road,Indira-Vihar,Delhi-110094,have changed my name to RUBINA,Permanently.

0040802447-5

I,Puja W/o Sh.Mukesh Darmora, R/O,RZ-26P/39,GALI. NO-40 Indra Park,Palam Colony,South West Delhi,Delhi-110045 inform,that Diya Darmora is,my daughter,and,in her school-record,my name is,mentioned as Pooja Darmora instead,of Puja.

0040802469-2

I,Pawan Kumar S/O Bhagwat Swaroop Gupta R/O C-5/35,Sector-11,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Pawan Kumar Gupta.

0040802469-1

I,Mubina,W/O-Mohd Irfan,H.No-922,Gali.No-11,Rajiv-Gandhi Nagar,New Mustafabad, Delhi-110094,have changed my name to MUBINA BEGUM.

0040802458-5

I,Mohammed Ayub,S/O-Anwar Ahmed,R/O-B-2 K.H.S-24/20,Gali.No-1 Rajiv-Nagar,Mandoli Delhi-93,have changed my name to Mohd Ayyub,S/o-Anwar Ahmed,For all the,future purposes.

0040802467-4

I,Md Irfan,S/O Shamshad Ahmad,H.No-922,Gali.No-11,Rajiv Gandhi Nagar,New Mustafabad, Delhi-110094,have changed my name to MOHD IRFAN.

0040802458-4

I,Manoj Kumar,S/o-Roshan Lal,R/O-H.No.109,Second Floor,Kapil Vihar,Pitampura, Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Manoj Aggarwal for all Purposes.

0040802467-2

I,Mohd Khurshid Anwer, S/O-Mohd Dayanat Hussain, R/O.House.No-16/57 Street.No-4 Tank-Road Karol-Bagh, New Delhi-110005, Have Changed My Name To Mohd Khurshid Anwar

0040802474-2

I, Anita Devi,D/o-Hari Chand Address-WZ-1,B Plot-49,New Sahib Pura CRPF-Camp Tilak-Nagar,New Delhi-110018,changed my name to Anita

0040802380-1

I,MOHSIN KHAN,S/O-ABDUL WAHID KHAN,residing at,4355, THIRD FLOOR, SHAHGANI, AJMERIGATE,MIRZA-AHMED ALI MARG,DELHI-110006,have changed my name to MOHD MOHSIN KHAN,for all,future purposes.

0040802467-7

I,MANOJ KUMAR,S/O-OM PRAKASH,R/O-118,KILOKARI VILLAGE,JANGPURA,NEW DELHI-110014,inform that my,son's name AKUL or AKUL MUKHIJA & by my name MANOJ KUMAR,MUKHIJA of my name MANOJ KUMAR,both names are same person.

0040802447-4

I,Krishan Lal Wadhwa,S/o Ram Rang,R/O-30,Nangloi Extention-3,Nilothi,New Delhi-110041,have changed my name to Krishan Lal

0040802447-6

I,Harjinder Singh Aag/S/o Rajinder Singh R/O WZ-39,Gali No.6,Sant Nagar Ext.Tilak Nagar Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Harjinder Singh.

0040802468-1

I,Dharam Pal Chaddha,S/o Roshan Lal Chaddha,R/O S-1,Naveen Shahdara,Shahdara Delhi-110032,Have Changed My Name To Dharam Pal Chaddha.

0040802467-1

I,Deepak s/o-Bhupinder Kumar Arora,R/O WZ-80A,Sant-Nagar, Tilak Nagar,Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Deepak Arora,Permanently

0040802458-7

I,Chetna Chahar,D/O Sh.Ashok Kumar,R/O VPO Machhrauli, Machhrauli,Jhajhar,Haryana-124108,have changed my name to Chetna,for all,future purposes.

0040802458-6

I,Chander Parkash,S/o-Vijay PalAdd- F-204 near-tomb Katwaria Sarai -110016,changed my name to Chander Prakash.

0040802447-3

I,Chandan Jaiswal,R/o Plot.No.5, New,Plot.No.136,Third-Floor, Rajendra-Park Ext.,Nangloi,West Delhi-110041,have changed my Minor Son name,from Reyansh to Reyansh Jaiswal.

0040802458-2

I,Anu Dev, D/o Devraj Singh,R/O A-1401,GardeniaGeetanjali, Sector-18, Vasundhra, PO:Vasundhra,DIST: Ghaziabad,Uttar Pradesh -201012,have changed my,name to Padmalaya Prathyusha Punthali.

0040802469-3

I,Amrish Kant S/o Narpat Singh R/O C-83, Rajat Vihar,Sector-62, Noida(U.P.) have changed my minor son's name from Raman Deep Shash to Raman Deep Singh for all future purposes.

0040802369-1

I,ANJU DEVI,W/O-SUNIL KUMAR, R/O-3943-44,Arya puri,Subzi mandi,Malka-Ganj,North-Delhi, Delhi-110007,inform that ANJU and ANJU DEVI,one and the same-person.

0040802447-8

I,Pradeep Gulia,S/o Raj Singh,R/O Flat No-001,Tower-2 Gurgaon-122001,have changed my name to Pardeep Gulia.

0040802447-1

I, hitherto known as SHUBH AYUSHI D/O ARJUN PRASAD CHAURASIA S/O GAURAV CHHAABRA R/O RAMA STORES BUILDING, CHHAABRA ROAD, TARA TAND, VTC: JHUMRI TELAIYA, PO: JHUMRI TELAIYA, SUB DISTRICT: KODERMA, DISTRICT: KODERMA, JHARKHAND-825409 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AAYUSHI CHHAABRA.

0070981271-1

I, Sumit s/o Bharat Bhushan r/o B-162/1, Hari Nagar, Clock Tower, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to SUMIT GOMBER.

0040802360-1

I, SUBHASH GARG S/O BISHAMBER DAYAL R/O 1415/97, GANESH PURA, TRI NAGAR, DELHI-110035 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUBHASH CHANDER FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

0070981276-1

I, SHAYED MOHD S/O BABU KHAN R/O A-1389, RAJEEV COLONY, KAREHARA, MOHAN NAGAR, GHAZIABAD have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MO. SHAHID.

0040802411-1

I, SANTOSH KUMAR JHA S/O Digamber Jha, R/O H-NO-30, Block-D, GaliNo-5, Sangam Vihar, Hamdard Nagar, Delhi-62, have changed the name of my minor son TANISHQ, aged 14yrs and he shall hereafter be known TANISHQ KASHYAP.

0040802439-1

I, Poornima Pahuja w/o Jatn Narang, R/O 222, Fourth Floor, Raja Garden, New Delhi-15, have changed my name to Poornima Narang.

0040802442-1

I, Nafisa W/o Babu Khan R/o H.No-325, Pasunda, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005, have changed my name to Nafisa Begum

0040802474-1

I, MOHAMMAD NADEEM S/O MOHD HANEEF R/O A1/6C, DDA FLATS, INDERLOK, DELHI-110035 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NAVEEN SOLNKI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

0040802394-1

I, Ajit Singh and Kawal Singh Both the names are mine. For all future purposes, I should be known as Ajit Singh alias Kawal Singh, resident of village Palla, Tehsil Dadri, District Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201306.

0070981349-1

I Bindumati Giri W/O, Mr.pramod Giri R/o B-21B, Kalynkundipuri Barola,sector -49,noida,up-201301 have changed my name to Bindumati Bharti.

0040802380-1

I, Kavita Gupta W/o Rajiv Kumar Sharma R/o House No-1/4790-A, Gali No-10, Balbir Nagar Extension, Shahdara, North East Delhi-110032, have changed my minor daughter name from Dhriti Sharma Aged 14 years to Navya Gupta forever

0070981306-1

I, Kauseer Parveen W/o Sheikh Abdul Salam R/o Ward 17, Sherganj, Sasaram, Rohtas, Bihar-821115 have changed my name to Kausar Parveen

0070981320-1

I, HAMIDA BANO, W/O MD NASIM AKHTAR, R/O HOUSE NO-31-B, FIRST FLOOR, CHURCH ROAD, BHOGAL, JUNGPURA, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110014, have changed my name to HAMIDA PRAVEEN for all future purposes.

0070981272-1

I, Chhotel S/O Upendra Prasad R/O E-304 D, Sector-11, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201009, have changed my name to Chhotelal Singh.

0040802469-4

I, Bharat Bhushan Gombser s/o Madan Lal r/o B-162/1, Hari Nagar, Clock Tower, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to BHARAT BHUSHAN.

0040802360-2

I, A SONUPRIYA, Spouse of No.14673189Y(HAV) ARUN KUMAR M, resident of 6/1A, Near Police Quarters, Perumanguppam Kootu Road, Palayakrishnapuram, Vellore, Tamilnadu-632209 have changed my name from A SONUPRIYA to SONUPRIYA K, vide affidavit IN-DL2693740234364X dated: 30/07/2025, before Notary, Advocate: Rajkumar, Regd.No.-6536, New Delhi.

0070981343-1

I Meenakshi W/o-Dinesh Kumar R/o-Plot No.8, First Floor, near Blk-D-13A, Model Town-III, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Minakshi Gupta for all purposes.

0040802402-1

I ZAFARUL ISLAM, S/O Badrul Islam, R/O E-13/6 G/G/F, HAUZ RANI, MALVIYA NAGAR, New Delhi DELHI-110017, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ZAFRUL ISLAM FOR ALL PURPOSES

Mobile: 8700938946

I Suraj Singh S/O Ramji Lal R/O 67 Lakhnawali Surajpur Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh. Have Changed My Name To Suraj Nagar For All Future Purposes.

0070981275-1

I Shradha Singh D/o Late. Pawan Singh R/o B-4, Block-B, Khanpur Extn., Pushpa Bhawan S/O, Delhi - 110062, have changed my name to Tanya Singh

0070981311-1

I Sanjeev S/O, Anand Sarup Anand R/O H. No -438 Sector-8 Pocket C-8 Rohini Delhi -110085 have changed my name to Sanjeev Anand.

0040802358-1

I Rahul S/o Laxmi Narayan Garg R/O D-270, Phase-1, Ashok Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052, have changed my name to Akshay Garg

0070981274-1

I Krishan Mahto S/O Parmeshwar Mahto R/o Dahibhatta, Usmanchak, Masaurhi, Patna, Bihar - 804452, have changed my name to Sri Krishna Mahto

0070981315-1

## LOST & FOUND

My original BBA Agreement of property-No.L5/1604, Amrapali-Golf Homes, Society, G-82,Sec-4, Greater-Noida, U.P., has been lost. Finder-contact:Ashok Bajaj S/o H.L.Bajaj R/O,Flat-No.14, Sandild Vihar-Apartment, West-Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 Mobile-No.9871568103.

0040802474-9

Lost all DDA original Documents i.e. Allotment Letter, Electricity, Water NOC against My property No.D-4/82, Sector-15, Rohini Delhi-99. Finder may Contact-Murli Dhar at above noted address.

0040802371-1

I,Rajeev Gulati s/o Dharampal Gulati have lost original Death Certificate of my brother (Regd. No.30 dated 11.01.1993) and Mother (Regd. No.775 dated 29.11.1992) alongwith Property House Tax receipt of property 9/44, Kirti Nagar Indl Area New Delhi,if found Pls. Contact: 9811544330

0040802409-2

I,Amit Kaushik,S/O V K Kaushik, R/O-B2-041,Spaze PrivyTa 74, Sector-84, Gurgaon, Haryana-122004,lost builder buyer agreement of F7-0901,Amrapali Centurion Park,Terrace House, Noida. U.P.

0040802467-8

I, R,K Arora S/o Mr. O.P Arora, Flat No-410, B-8 Maryatan Vihar, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-110096, have lost My property Document, Share Certificate and Allotment letter, I have lodged FIR/NCRVide LR NO-3036155/2025 on dated-22.07.2025. founder please contact 84488718713.

0040802394-1

I, Madan Gopal S/O Laxmi Dass, have lost my Original Lease Deed of Property No.31/11-12, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-08, duly Regd. Document No.3715 Add Book No-1. Vol No.656 Pages 132 To 135 dated 30/5/1961. If found Pls. Contact: 9810956655.

0040802409-1

I, Balbir Singh S/o Nirmal Singh R/O Near Paddi Darwaja, Y & PO Bara Pind, Phillaur, Jalandhar, Punjab 144418 have lost my original allotment letter, lease deed, and possession letter of my plot no B- 698 sector -surajpur site - residential housing greater noida gautam buddha nagar. its use elsewhere would be illigel. if found please call 9815852120.

0070981319-1

Lost: Allotment and Possession letter for Flat 10031, Rajnigandha CGHS Society, Plot 4, Sector 10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075. Finder pls contact Richa Pant on the above address or on 9811112068

0130054520-1

## PROPERTY

### PROPERTY FOR SALE

Platinum-9 World Tower, Wakad, Pune's Tallest Commercial, Iconic Award Winning Project & India's 1st 3 Level 360° Revolving Restaurant, Dream Investment in Premium Showrooms, Retail Shops, Food Court, Smart Corporate Offices & Multipurpose Spaces 15Ft. Height, Your Legacy Starts Here- Once in a Lifetime Opportunity. Contact: 7205970999. 0090379661-1

**PROPERTY FOR SALE**  
Plot of land along with Plant and Machinery at Plot No. B-123 & Plot No. B-123-1, adm. 8494 sq. mtrs & built up 4319.83 sq. mtrs at Marangul (Bk.), Addl. MIDC, Latur.  
For further details call Pradeep Vishwakarma +91 9821400990 or Sahajpal Kapoor +919049315353

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**  
It is, hereby notified to all the general public on behalf of my Client Sh. Ramesh Kumar S/o Late Sh. Babu Ram & Smt. Sita Kumari Wo Sh. Ramesh Kumar, both R/O H-NO-97A, Block-B, Gali No-18, Yadav Enclave, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059, have debarred their own sons namely Mr. Vijender Kumar & Mr. Jagmohan & Daughter-in-law Smt. Savita from all their moveable and immovable properties and have also severed all their relations with them, due to their misbehavior, cruelty, & out of control. My Client shall not be responsible for any type of their activities & they are dealing with any person regarding property in future. It is your own risk and consequence.  
**S.K. Shrivastava (Advocate)**  
Chamber No-825, 8th Floor, Dwarka Court, New Delhi-110075

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform that my client Ms. Chitra Sharma W/o Sri. Rishi Parkash Swami R/o Flat No.201, Plot No. U/1A, Kh.No.925, Vihub Vihar Phase-1, C-Block, Chhivawa, New Delhi-110074, wants to be declared to her daughter Ms. Rishita Sharma, from all moveable and immovable property/assets etc. due to her mis and bad-behavior, and does listen to my client. That Ms. Rishita Sharma has broken all relations with her and in future my client or her family member have no any concern with her daughter. That my client or any of her family members are not liable & responsible for her activities, any of her transactions etc. She is free to enjoy her life as she likes. **Prav Prakash (Advocate)** Ch.No.749, Dwarka Courts, Delhi-110075.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**BWARE OF UNAUTHORISED OCCUPANTS AND FRAUDULENT SALE**  
This is to inform the general public on behalf of my clients Mr. Ajay Goel and Mr. Ankit Goel, sons of Late Sh. Raju Kumar Goel, residents of House No. 32, East Avenue Road, East Bengal Bagh, New Delhi - 110028, that they, along with their lawful co-owners, are the rightful joint owners of agricultural land addressed as 550/1, sub, comprised in Haryana Nos. 2717/2/04 and 2719/2/04, situated in Village Kalkata, Pappan Kalan, New Delhi (hereinafter to be called "Property"). It is brought to public notice that in the year 1981, Late Suraj Bhan Goel, grandfather of my clients and father of the said Plaintiff No. 1 & 2, defendants No. 5 and 6, and in the year 1983, Plaintiff No. 3, defendant No. 4, and Plaintiff No. 4, defendant No. 5, bearing No. CS-32 No. 60788/1981 (CNR No. DLJY1000500200) had lawfully purchased the above said property. Under the said Order No. 60788/1981, a Registered Instrument/Deed dated 07.02.1990 was executed jointly by Smt. Kamla Devi (widow of Late Suraj Bhan Goel) and grandfather of my clients and Smt. Meena Kumari (deceased) & daughter of Late Suraj Bhan Goel (defendant No. 1 in the suit bearing No. CS-32 No. 60788/1981, relinquishing all rights in favour of the said legal heirs of Late Suraj Bhan Goel. Thereafter Smt. Meena Kumari (deceased) and her LRs namely Mr. Paras Aggarwal and Mr. Sandeep Aggarwal (both deceased) and Smt. Meena Kumari (deceased) & daughter of Late Suraj Bhan Goel (defendant No. 1 in the suit bearing No. CS-32 No. 60788/1981, relinquishing all rights in favour of the said legal heirs of Late Suraj Bhan Goel and his LRs namely Mr. Paras Aggarwal and Mr. Sandeep Aggarwal (both deceased) and Smt. Meena Kumari (deceased) were not produced in court, as the alleged witnesses were not produced in court.

Accordingly, the Hon'ble Court observed that Defendant No. 1, namely, Smt. Meena Kumari (deceased) and her sons, Mr. Paras Aggarwal and Mr. Sandeep Aggarwal, in respect of the property comprised in Haryana Nos. 2717/2/04 and 2719/2/04, Village Kalkata, Pappan Kalan, New Delhi (2-15), Village Kalkata, Pappan Kalan, New Delhi-110028, have lost their right to the said property. Any person dealing with them shall do so at their own risk, cost and consequences. My clients shall not be responsible for any loss suffered by any third party arising out of such transactions. My clients reserve their right to initiate appropriate civil and criminal proceedings, including the application of an FIR under Section 471(a), 471(b), 471(c), 471(d), and 471(e) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, and 471(f) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, against anyone found involved in forging or abetting any document or deed relating to the said property. Issued in Public Notice through Counsel Deewar Singh Advocate Chamber No. 363, Civil Wing, The Hazrat Courts, Delhi Advocate for Mr. Ajay Goel & Mr. Ankit Goel

Mr. Niket Goel has approached ICICI Bank Ltd., Rohini, Delhi (Bank) to avail a Loan for purchase of Property No. 11, (470 Sq. Yds), Block-A, Model Town, Delhi from M/s. Venor Pharma Ltd. (Vendor no. 1). Mr. Inder Mohan Singh & Mr. Satinder Singh (Vendor nos. 2 & 3) who have represented that they are the absolute owners of the said property by virtue of Sale Deed dated 15.07.2021 (Document No. 8581) (Vendor no. 1) & Regd. Partition Deed dated 11.03.1988 (Document No. 1386) (Vendor nos. 2 & 3). If anybody, person, body corporate has any right, lien or claim whatsoever on the said property, then he/she/it may contact the undersigned with documentary proof of claim within 15 days of publication of this notice, otherwise it shall be deemed that either there are no claims or the same have been waived off. No claim or objection shall be entertained thereafter and Bank shall proceed to advance the loan on mortgaging of the said property.

**SURESH BHARTI ADVOCATE**  
ENRL.D/529-A/1996(R)  
Advocatebharti70@gmail.com  
Mobile: 8800152164

## PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL THAT MY CLIENTS SH. ANIL BHUSHAN VISHNOI AND SMT. RENU BALA VISHNOI, W/O SH. INDU BHUSHAN VISHNOI, R/O H.NO.355, SUNLIGHT COLONY-II, HARI NAGAR ASHRAM, NEW DELHI-110014, HAVE REVOKED AND WITHDRAWN THE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLISHED ON DATED 09.09.2020 IN NEWSPAPER "THE INDIAN EXPRESS" AND "JANSATTA" FOR DEBARRED AND DISINHERITED THEIR SON LAKSHAY VISHNOI & LUCKY. NOW MY CLIENTS HAVE OWNED AND RE-INHERITED THEIR SON NAMELY LAKSHAY VISHNOI & LUCKY ONLY WITH ALL THEIR PROPERTIES, BOTH MOVEABLE AND IMMOVABLE. NOW MY CLIENTS HAVE CONTROL OVER THEIR ABOVE SAID SON WHO HAS RESPECT AND REGARD FOR MY BILHAR-821115 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KAUSAR PARVEEN

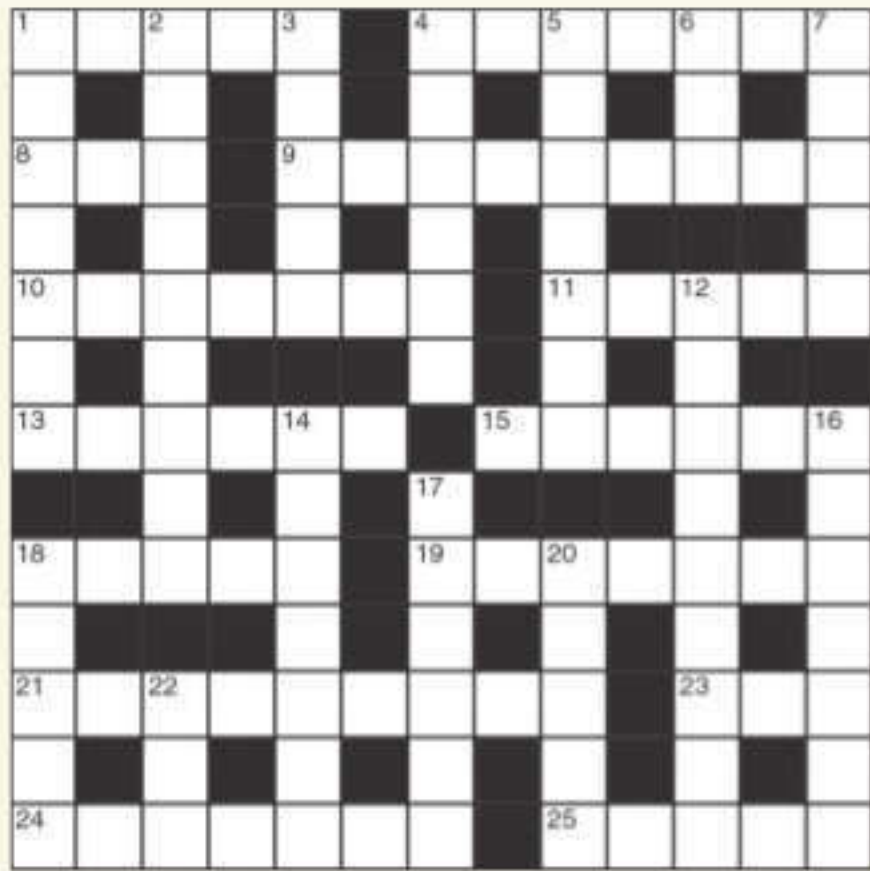
0070981320-1

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
GENERAL PUBLIC AT LARGE IS INFORMED THAT MY CLIENT Mrs. Savita Punia Wo Rajesh Punia (Director M/s. Oriental Bulidmat Exports Private Limited) R/O-12/10, Block-12, Old Rajinder Nagar Distt- Central Delhi -110060 do hereby declare that she is lawful owner of the property described Right Side Portion of Second Floor without roof terrace rights, area measuring 622 sq. ft. i.e. 69.11 sq. yds., "said roof" built on Property Bearing No. 26/25, along with proportionate, undivided, indivisible and impartible ownership rights of the underneath area measuring 622 sq. ft, with super structure out of total area measuring 88.1 sq. yds., situated at Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi and that no dispute, litigation, is pending in any court of law in India and elsewhere.

**SURESH BHARTI ADVOCATE**  
ENRL.D/529-A/1996(R)  
Advocatebharti70@gmail.com  
Mobile: 8800152164



CROSSWORD 5742



ACROSS

- 1 Spot on the screen about a thousand aircraft (5)  
4 Fashion arbiter of Welsh taste (7)  
8 Contend it's a quarter past six (3)  
9 She helps her mistress transform dismal day (5,4)  
10 Gives no answer (7)  
11 Native love call stirred (5)  
13 They are bound to hold different views for instance (6)  
15 A girl graduate about to burst into tears (6)  
18 A light across the ship (5)  
19 A failure as a fast dye? (7)  
21 Cannon to right and left of one by decree (9)  
23 She is partly able to read and write (3)  
24 A sorry speech? (7)  
25 Weary of being told to go around quietly (5)

DOWN

- 1 Moving via Arab state in Europe (7)  
2 Unusually fine story with moral defying description (9)  
3 They may be driven to support things (5)  
4 Is unusually hard on the outside but edible (6)  
5 Not a silent thief (7)  
6 Creature that creeps around one's neck perhaps (3)  
7 Coming in before going out again? (5)  
12 Hostile fire one can and does get involved in (9)  
14 A reminder men hold me to (7)  
16 Be good at drawing? (7)  
17 Not a musical score (6)  
18 Perfume from far Oman (5)  
20 Appears to understand the manuscript (5)  
22 It's less arduous for two (3)

Solutions Crossword 5741 Across: 1 Desolation, 8 Polka, 9 Quartet, 10 Termini, 11 India, 12 Agency, 14 Relief, 17 Reign, 19 Patella, 21 Sitters, 22 Tract, 23 Widescreen  
Down: 2 Enlarge, 3 Okapi, 4 Acquit, 5 Imagine, 6 Noted, 7 At half-mast, 8 Puts across, 13 Contend, 15 ill fame, 16 Spasms, 18 In tow, 20 Tutor

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 quip.  
It is harder to \_\_\_ than to obtain liberty. - John C. Calhoun (8)

EESPB



EMMURS



BELER



AORUPV

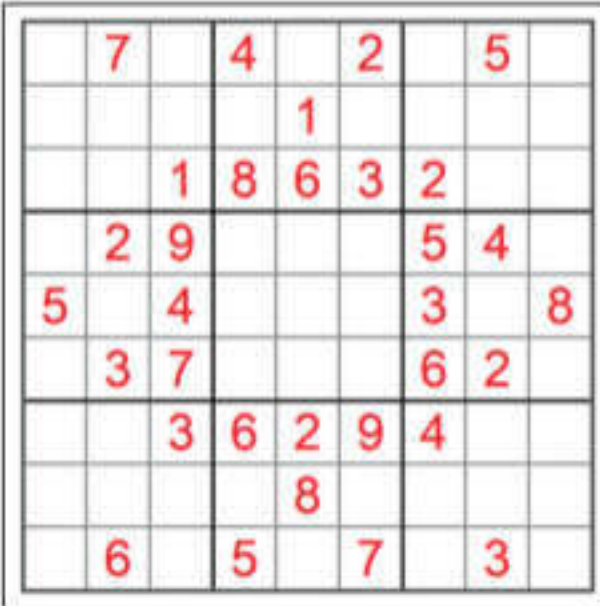


Solution: It's harder to preserve than to obtain liberty. - John C. Calhoun

SUDOKU 6032

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 6031



CERTIFICATION—REC

REC has been provided with 'Independent Opinion Statement' by BSI (British Standards Institution) for compliance with ISO 31000:2018 (Enterprise Risk management — Guidelines). This significant achievement marks REC as the first Indian Public Sector Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) to receive this accreditation from the BSI. The ISO 31000:2018 is an internationally recognized standard that provides principles and guidelines for effective risk management.



MOU—PUNJAB & SIND BANK

PSB has signed a MoU with the Indian School of Business. The MoU signing ceremony was held in the esteemed presence of SK Saha, MD & CEO of PSB & Prof. Prasanna Tantri, Associate Prof, Fin. & ED, Centre for Analytical Finance at ISB, along with senior officials from both institutions. The collaboration aims to strengthen socio-economic development by supporting entrepreneurship, skill enhancement, & employment generation across the country.

BIDDING—THDCIL

Demonstrating strong market trust and investors' confidence, THDCIL, a Premier schedule-A, Mini Ratna, PSU, successfully concluded the bidding for its Corporate Bonds Series XIII of Rs.600 Cr on July 18, 2025. The bidding for the Series XIII Bonds issue took place at THDCIL's Corporate Office in Rishikesh & a competitive coupon rate of 7.45% p.a. was discovered through bidding on the BSE—Electronic Bidding Platform.



INAUGURATION—DDA

Lt. Governor, Delhi, VK Saxena, recently inaugurated 'Aarambh Library' at Sector 16-B, Dwarka, the third in the series at the first anniversary of the tragic incident in July 2024, where three students preparing for civil services lost their lives in flooded basement reading rooms in Rajinder Nagar. MLA, Matiala, Sandeep Sehrawat & other senior DDA officials were present on the occasion. The library is developed by the DDA.

EXPO—CANARA BANK

Canara Bank, Asset Recovery Branch had conducted a PROPERTY EXPO of the different NPA accounts which are put on AUCTION SALE in this Month of July & in the Month of August 2025. 12 property dealers & agents from different regions attended the Expo which was presided over by PV Hari, DGM Canara Bank CO Agra. The Expo was duly conducted by TK Dash, CM Asset Recovery Branch Agra.



PROGRAMME—PNB

PNB has organised Mega MSME Outreach Programme across the country at 200+ locations recently, reinforcing its commitment to empower the MSME sector & boost entrepreneurship at the grassroots level. PNB's top leadership actively participated in the outreach, with MD & CEO Ashok Chandra leading the charge from outreach program at Ludhiana, EDs & other Senior Officials from CO.

MEETING—CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA

Central Bank of India's Delhi Zone Office organized a Town Hall Meeting at IIC Center, in which all the staff members of Delhi NCR participated. The main objective of this meeting was to make the employees aware of the new policies & schemes of the bank & to discuss issues related to the workplace. In the meeting, Zone Manager Sheeshram Tundwal welcomed everyone & called upon them to make customer service the best & encourage customers to use digital banking.



HUMAN RESOURCE WEEK—UNION BANK OF INDIA

The Union Bank of India organized HR Week recently, during which a walkathon was conducted on 21st July 2025 under the leadership of Regional Head M Singh, as part of the Regional Office's initiative. On this occasion, bank officials/employees enthusiastically participated in the walkathon & displayed various messages using placards. The Regional Head Manohar Singh & Dy Regional Heads Ashish Kumar & Prashant Katkar extended their best wishes to all participants & employees on the occasion of Human Resource Week.



CORPORATE BRIEFS



FOUNDATION STONE—POWERGRID

PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Transmission System being built by POWERGRID for evacuation of power from Kudankulam Unit-3&4 (2x1000 MW) power plant in a function held at Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu on 27 th July 2025. The scheme being implemented by POWERGRID Kudankulam Transmission Limited under Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) project includes construction of 400 kV D/C (quad) Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (3&4) – Tuticorin-II GIS PS Transmission Line & two 400 kV GIS Line Terminal equipments at Tuticorin-II GIS. RN Ravi, Governor, Tamil Nadu, Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, M/o Civil Aviation, Dr. L Murugan, MoS Information & Broadcasting & Parliamentary Affairs, Thangam Thengarasu, M/o of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu, Smt. P Geetha Jeevan, M/o Social Welfare & Women Empowerment, Tamil Nadu, Smt. Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, MP & senior officials from the central & state government & POWERGRID were present during the ceremony.

ANALYST MEET—PETRONET LNG LTD.

Petronet LNG recently announced the successful conclusion of its scheduled maiden Analyst Meet on July 28, 2025 at New Delhi. Organized by ICICI Securities for PLL, the engagement provided an opportunity for the organisation to interact with key analysts from the financial community. "PLL is pleased to interact with the analysts & fund managers for the first time and it gives us immense satisfaction, having such an insightful discussions", said Saurav Mitra, Dir (Fin.) & CFO, Petronet LNG. PLL remains committed to maintaining transparency & fostering strong relationships with its investors & the broader financial community.



MEETING—SCOPE

Fostering global employer relations, SCOPE leadership, KP Mahadevaswamy, Chairman, SC-OPE & CMD, NBCC, & Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE held strategic meeting with Roberto Suárez Santos, Secretary General, International Organisation of Employers, Geneva: Ms. Michiko Miyamoto, Director, International Labour Organization South Asia & Ravindra Peiris, Senior Specialist, ILO in presence of senior representatives from ILO & SCOPE. During the deliberations, it was identified that SCOPE, ILO & IOE need to work closely on developing capacities of the employers in India through micro credentials.



YOUTH FESTIVAL—NSUT

NSS NSUT Cell, in collaboration with National Preparatory Committee India (Haryana & Delhi Region), successfully hosted the World Youth Festival. The event was graced by several distinguished guests, including P Kan-oongo, Member, National Human Rights Commission; D Gautam, National GS, BJP; Ms. Sonia Yadav, Councillor, Gurugram, BJP & NPC student representatives.



SWACHHTA CAMPAIGN—NDMC

NDMC has announced a month-long celebration of Independence Day 2025 with the central theme "Swachhta se Swatantrata tak" from 1st to 31st August 2025. NDMC's this comprehensive initiative aims to foster a sense of national responsibility, environmental stewardship, & citizen engagement across all sectors of society. NDMC's Swachhta Campaign on the occasion of Independence Day.



HOSTED—YASHODA MEDICITY

Yashoda Medicity was honoured to host a distinguished delegation of Members of Parliament from South Sudan. The visit included a guided hospital tour showcasing Yashoda Medicity's world-class infrastructure, cutting-edge technology, & specialised medical services. Comprehensive health check-ups were conducted for all delegates as part of the visit.



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Relaxation is all very well, but maintain your guard. There is a great deal that can go wrong. This is a time of extremes and there is little room for moderation. You're on top of your troubles, but you can be just a little too sensitive.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

It is impossible to say whether today's lunar influences will soothe your troubled brow or further obscure your view of reality. So much depends on your skill in handling difficult people. Your best course now is to take the path of maximum flexibility.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The truth of the matter, whether professional or personal, will be obvious next week, so just hold on a little longer. There's probably no respite from hard work. Don't exhaust yourself, though. After all, you're no use if you're worn out.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Emotional difficulties brought about by the relationships of Venus, Mars and Pluto are enough to try the patience of a saint. But there is no reason why you shouldn't walk away from responsibilities which are no longer worthwhile.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You may still be a little shocked or surprised, and nobody can blame you for being resentful. Pay more attention to financial affairs under today's confusing lunar influences. The upside is represented by an increasingly adventurous attitude.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Your ideas are fine, but it may take someone else to stiffen your resolve and make you commit yourself to a particular course of action. The Sun's alignment with a secretive region of your chart may make information difficult to come by, though.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The Moon's influence over a sector of your horoscope ruling work and self-sacrifice, indicates that this is not the time to abandon your responsibilities or renege on commitments. Stick to your guns, at least until you know exactly what is happening.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

I don't want to keep harking on about the same old things, but you're still passing through an emotional minefield which could set off fireworks in almost any area, personal or professional.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Offer an olive branch to partners and associates. Remember the old saying about how it is not good enough just to forgive. One should forgive seven times, and then turn the other cheek. High principles should win out over self-interest.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Venus and Jupiter are offering you generous help via close partners, but you may have to ask first. This is no time for reticence. The Capricorn who thrives will be the one who shows a bit of cheek.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Although certain individuals are quite pleasant to your face, you might not have been told the entire truth. Relationships at work are quite profitable. Can you make an honest living? I think you can.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Others may have used emotional ties to force you into a particular situation. However, lunar alignments indicate that you have the advantage and that Piscean wit, subtlety and sensitivity will win out. You really are doing well, so don't blow it.

**PETRONET LNG LTD** During the current quarter ended 30 th June, 2025, Dahej terminal processed 207 TBTU of LNG as against 189 TBTU during the previous quarter ended 31 st March, 2025 & 248 TBTU during the corresponding quarter ended 30 th June, 2024. The overall LNG volume processed by the Company in the current quarter was 220 TBTU, as against the LNG volume processed in the previous and corresponding quarters, which stood at 205 TBTU & 262 TBTU respectively. The Company has reported PBT of Rs 1,136 Cr in the current quarter, as against Rs 1,446 Cr in the previous quarter & Rs 1,520 Cr in the corresponding quarter. PAT of the current quarter is reported at Rs 851 Cr as against the PAT of the previous & corresponding quarters of Rs 1,070 Cr & Rs 1,142 Cr respectively.

**SAIL** The Company has recorded a strong growth of 273% in the Profit before Exceptional Items & Tax during the first quarter of the current financial year. The sales volumes, revenue from operations and saleable & crude steel production have recorded a healthy growth over CPLY. CMD, SAIL, A Prakash said "SAIL's Q1 FY26 performance shows improved operational efficiency, better cash flow and strong growth in sales volume in domestic market, supported by government safeguard duties".

**BANK OF BARODA** Operating Profit grew by 15% YoY to INR 8,236 crore in Q1FY26. Bank reported a Net Profit of INR 4,541 crore for Q1FY26 as against INR 4,458 crore in Q1FY25. The growth in operating profit was supported by 88% YoY growth in Non-Interest Income to INR 4,675 crore in Q1FY26. Growth in Non-Interest income was primarily driven by ~7x growth in Treasury Income which stands at INR 2,226 crore. Steady growth in operating income and contained growth in operating expenses led to a YoY reduction of 30 bps in Cost to Income ratio which stands at 48.87% for Q1FY26.

**Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women**, in association with the NSIC, inaugurated a fifteen-day national training program on "Industry 4.0 Support to New Era MSMEs of India" on 21st July 2025. Organized by the university's Anveshan Foundation, the program brings together industry experts, faculty members, researchers, & aspiring entrepreneurs to foster innovation & digital transformation in the Micro, Small, & Medium Enterprises sector. Held at the university's Seminar Hall, the inaugural ceremony witnessed the presence of distinguished guests including OP Singh, Senior Consultant at NSIC, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Prof. (Dr.) Ranjana Jha, VC of IGDТУW, presided over the event, along with Dr. Prashant Kumar, Registrar of the university.

**REC** The Board of Directors of REC approved the limited reviewed standalone & consolidated financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2025. Operational & Financial Highlights: Q1 FY26 vs Q1 FY25 (Standalone) Disbursements: Rs.59,508 cr vs. Rs.43,652 cr, up by 36% out of which disbursement to renewable sector is up by 35% Total income: Rs.14,734 cr vs. Rs.13,037 crs, up by 13% Net interest income: Rs.5,247 cr vs. Rs.4,474 cr, up by 17% Net Profit: Rs.4,451 cr vs. Rs.3,442 cr, up by 29% Return on net worth: 22.63% vs 19.51%, up by 312 bps Owing to growth in all the verticals, REC is able to maintain its spreads at 2.96% & NIM at 3.74%, resulting in robust quarterly profit after tax of Rs.4,451 cr.

**TDI INFRASTRUCTURE LTD.** has announced that it is now entirely debt-free, having cleared all outstanding obligations amounting to Rs.2,000 cr without any restructuring, settlement, or waiver. This milestone marks a significant strategic shift and positions the company for its next phase of expansion. The company also confirmed that its External Development Charges dues stand fully paid, further strengthening its financial and operational standing. The company is currently focused on asset consolidation, township development, and commercial rollouts across its core markets. The debt-free transition is the result of multi-year operational & financial restructuring efforts, including internal accruals and key land transactions.



ANDERSON-TENDULKAR TROPHY: FIFTH TEST PREVIEW

# Stranger Tests, Season V

In a series that has seen many twists and turns, the final match at The Oval sees England miss their cult hero in Stokes as India hope for light at the end of tunnel



EXPRESS IN ENGLAND

SANDEEP DWIVEDI  
LONDON, JULY 30

IT'S BEEN a somewhat strange series. Some in these parts consider it a thrilling affair, almost similar to the epic Ashes series of 2005 and offer as proof the denouement at Lord's in the third Test when Ravindra Jadeja watched in agony the ball trickling from the middle of Mohammed Siraj's bat onto the stumps. They also point out India's great fighting effort to get a draw in Manchester from 0/2 in their second innings, against all odds. Or the first Test in Leeds when England chased down a huge total on the last day. Or how India won the second Test without Jasprit Bumrah. Essentially, all four games have been propped up as proof of greatness for this series.

And yet, it can also be argued the other way. Because of the flat pitches and middling quality of both bowling units, the games at times have tended to move along on predictable lines until bursting open on the final day near the finish line.

At the core of this issue is England's Bazball approach. It dictates placid tracks to accommodate their attacking style of play; barring Joe Root, none of their top order can be confidently backed to do well against seaming balls with pace. Or against quality spin.

But again, this has been a strange series of last-minute twists, turns, and drama. On Tuesday, it was the Indian head coach Gautam Gambhir versus the curator at The Oval. On Wednesday, when England named their playing XI, missing from the list was Ben Stokes. The captain had run too many extra miles during the series, and the body had finally given up – the shoulder strain he suffered at Old Trafford made his Oval outing risky and thus he'd be sitting out.

There was another surprise. Everyone who saw the pitch, starting with Stokes and India captain Shubman Gill, vouched that the Test would be played on a lively track. From a distance, the wicket had a uniform shade of green, the kind that makes captains pile their carts with pacers.

India would be tempted to play the world's No 1 pacer for the game. He would be an ideal weapon to intimidate a subdued England team after Manchester, playing under a new captain in Ollie Pope.

But skipper Gill gave only a short answer when asked about Bumrah. "The wicket looks pretty green so we will see how it turns out." Though it was pre-decided before the series that workload compulsions would see

Bumrah play just 3 Tests in England, the extra game would be a tricky call.

India can claim that they have worthy replacements – since the only Test they have won was without him – but England can't say the same about their larger-than-life captain Stokes. He has been the heart, soul – also the legs and shoulders – of this team. Without him on the field, England will either have to change their philosophy or play a diet Bazball.

Like it happens with most personality cults, teams struggle when the man deciding everything for everyone isn't around. Stokes's captaincy approach is not replicable. He is known for bizarre and aggressive field positions. To take them from the drawing board to the field of play needs unflinching conviction. Will Pope do the same or come up with his own Bazball methods?

The energy Stokes brings to the field is impossible to match. This England team is used to their captain clapping wildly when leading them on the field. A hyper-active cricketer, he is all over the central square talking to players, shuffling fielders, conversing with umpires and asking batsmen to shake hands even when the game isn't over. Stokes has aura and authority. Like it happened at Lord's, Jofra Archer wanted the cover to go deep, the skipper didn't think so and he prevailed without any discussion.

There is a certain buzz around Stokes, he keeps the team on its toes. Pope will have a tough time being Stokes. Plus who will England lean on when the shoulders are dropping? Stokes would take the ball in his hand and bowl those inspired 10-over spells in search of breakthroughs. In most games, he has been able to do so. Pope can't do the same. But wants to have a mind of his own, and not be Stokes. Will England then be playing Bazball?

Indeed, this has been a strange series. Both teams think that this is a series they should have won by now. England come to The Oval with the trauma of not winning a game that they seemed to have sealed around lunch on Day 4 in Manchester. India also have the angst of letting their advantage slip in Leeds and being so near to win at Lord's, adrift by a mere 22 runs. England's wounds are fresh and the turnaround between the fourth and fifth Test too is very short. Under Pope, they have to regroup, readjust and recalibrate their plan.

For India things are easier. They finally look like a settled side. After the draw in Manchester, there were too few questions to Gill about India's obsession with playing all-rounders. Briefly the perennial question of Kuldeep Yadav too cropped up. But again it was not an urgent inquiry and sounded like a formality that had to be completed.

On what is set to be the first green pitch of the tour, the meanest pacers – Bumrah and Archer – are unlikely to be in the playing XI. This is a strange series. England seems to be groping in the dark, and India sees light at the end of the long tunnel.



Members of the Indian team at nets on Wednesday on the eve of the fifth Test against England at The Oval. PTI

NUMBER PLATE

21

Since April 2023, teams winning the toss at The Oval have chosen to bowl first – including India vs Australia in the WTC final – for 21 consecutive first-class matches. Shubman Gill is also yet to win a toss in this series.

722 Shubman Gill's phenomenal series with the bat has seen him score four centuries as captain and cross the 700-mark. Gill could also be in line to become the first Indian batter to cross 800 runs. The Indian record is currently held by Sunil Gavaskar, who scored 774 runs against West Indies in 1970-71.

2 Having started playing there in 1936, India have competed in 15 Test matches at The Oval and have won only two so far. The first win came in 1971, and the next in September 2021.

9 Rishabh Pant, who has been ruled out of the fifth Test, will be a hard man to replace. During his half-century at Old Trafford, the wicketkeeper brought up his ninth score of 50+ runs in England (four of those have been centuries). According to Opta, that is now the highest tally of 50+ scores by any wicketkeeper in away games in any country, overtaking MS Dhoni's record of 8, also in England.

## Can understand why Washington & Jadeja wanted to stay, admits Stokes

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE  
JULY 30

THE FINAL dramatic moments of the Manchester Test have now taken on a different hue. England, led by mercurial captain Ben Stokes, had perhaps let the frustration at not closing out the game get to them and had a spray at Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar for not accepting their offer of a draw.

Now their worst fears have come true. Stokes has been ruled out of the final Test due to a shoulder injury and England have chosen not to risk Jofra Archer either. Had they won at Manchester, England would have pocketed the series 3-1, and not worried about not having their captain and the strike bowler on a pitch that reportedly has more live grass than any other track this series. The post-game injury developments help in understanding their late-evening actions at Old Trafford a tad better.

On Wednesday, there was a conciliatory line from Stokes about understanding the Indian batsmen's decision to bat on. Asked if he had any regrets about the final day of the Old Trafford Test, Stokes tried to put matters in perspective.

"No regrets, but I think it's one of those where when you've not been there in the field for 250 overs, you do have a bit more of an understanding towards both sides. Two lads, Jadeja and Washington, played incredibly well up until that point, so you sort of understand why they wanted to stay out there and get the hundreds," Stokes said. "We're over it. I think India are over that whole thing."

Time will tell, but in the here and now,



Ben Stokes said that a 'decent tear' meant he wouldn't be part of the fifth Test at The Oval starting Thursday. PTI

England have to grapple with Stokes's absence. "Disappointed to not be able to finish the series. I've got a decent tear in one of the muscles ... Obviously, a bit of emotion goes into this kind of stuff when you find out what you've done."

Stokes had bowled through pain during the final day of the last Test, often clutching his shoulder in between deliveries. "I came down here this morning to give myself every chance. Obviously, just to play as a batter, bowling was ruled out as soon as we got the scan results."

The England captain had a chat with head coach Brendon McCullum, and spent another 20 minutes ruminating over the decision, he said.

"It's one of those where you're weighing up the risk and reward. The risk was way too high for damaging this any further than it cur-

rently is. I wouldn't expect to put anyone else, any of my other players, at risk with an injury like this. "So I'll start rehabbing now and focus on what we've got coming up in the winter (The Ashes in Australia). Once this series was done, I was feet up anyway, so it doesn't make too much difference."

But in the here and now, it has the potential to make a huge difference. Not just because of Stokes's leadership, but for his outstanding bowling through the series. In the last game, he had also returned to batting form with a hundred.

Not just Stokes, England have other worries to deal with for the final game. Besides Stokes, Archer, Liam Dawson and Brydon Carse will also miss the series-decider. Their replacements are Jacob Bethell - set to bat at No. 6 - Jamie Overton, Gus Atkinson and Josh Tongue with Ollie Pope captaining the team.

Stokes tried to put a positive spin on the changes.

"That's the benefit of having a very strong squad and some pretty good cricketers to be able to choose from when we find ourselves in a situation like this. That's going to give us a very good chance of winning this game and winning the series," he said. "We're very confident that we've got the ability to be able to win this game and hopefully win the series. Jacob Bethell comes in, bats down at six. There's been a lot of talk about him, a lot of hype about him."

**ENGLAND XI:** Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope (**captain**), Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jacob Bethell, Jamie Smith (wicketkeeper), Chris Woakes, Gus Atkinson, Jamie Overton, Josh Tongue

## The silent wars: Cricketers and the unseen personal fights they wage

SANDEEP DWIVEDI  
LONDON, JULY 30

ONE OF the most arresting images of this Test series would be Rishabh Pant walking in to bat despite his fractured foot and Old Trafford giving him a standing ovation. This act of courage to battle on one foot would have inducted him in the yet to be built cricket's Hall of Fame of the Walking Wounded. Other pictures expected to be placed on the proposed Wall will be those of Anil Kumble bowling with a strapped jaw and Malcolm Marshall batting with a plastered hand.

These are wounds the world can see and can also connect to. Who hasn't experienced a scratch or bruise and not known physical pain? But this isn't the only suffering known to man or endured by the sportspersons.

Like Pant, Kumble and Marshall, there have been equally courageous cricketers, if not more, who have dealt with much deeper wounds that even painkillers can't extenuate. Not everyone knows, or understands, the weight of carrying a deep worry or some pain deep inside when walking on the field. Those who battle the pain inside aren't eulogised enough.

During the next Test at The Oval, there would be acknowledgement of internal conflicts, angst, guilt and mental trauma that players endure on cricket's unbearably long tours. The long and storied cricketing tale of England and Surrey player Graham Thorpe

will be remembered and celebrated during the final Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar series.

He was a family man and the immensely likeable Thorpey for his team mates. The middle-order batsman once scored a gritty 118 runs off 301 balls at Lahore to give England a rare win in Pakistan. It was hailed as a tenacious knock of a mentally-strong batsman, little did the world know that the batsman was dealing with anxiety and depression for several years.

Even after his playing days, he remained on the circuit. Thorpe was England's batting coach but was sacked after the 2022 Ashes tour where a video of him, in company of cops, at a drinking session emerged. This incident, and the sacking, would spiral him into depression. Now it has emerged that during this period, Thorpe had asked his wife Amanda to "to help him end his life".

A few weeks later, Thorpe, 55, took his life, hit by a running train. His one-time teammate Michael Atherton, in a touching piece in the Times on his late friend he grew up with, would recall the mental breakdown Thorpe suffered during the Lord's Test of 2002. About that period Thorpe had later written: "There came a time when I would have given back all my Test runs and Test caps to be happy again".

Former England opener Marcus Trescothick too dealt with the demons in his mind during a glittering career of 76 Tests and an average of 43. Missing home and being absent when the family needed him were



Former England player and assistant coach Graham Thorpe will be celebrated and remembered at The Oval Test starting on Thursday. AP

the reasons for his trauma. But like Thorpe, on the field, he was the trusted solid opener. A tough wicket for the opposition and a reassuring presence for his team. Incessant tour-

ing saw him torn between his professional commitments and family responsibilities. He once had to rush home as his wife was dealing with postpartum depression and a seriously ill close relative. When Trescothick rushed home only to be received by his baby who failed to recognise him, he couldn't take it anymore. He quit international cricket and played for his country so that he can be back home to catch "Peppa Pig" or "Dora the Explorer" with his kids.

### Suffering in silence

Players over the years have walked to the turf distracted by worrying news from home – an ailing child or hospitalised relative. They didn't wear bandages, they didn't hobble to the ground, their scans didn't make it to the headlines and they didn't get a standing ovation. Many times the world didn't even know about it.

Babar Azam's mother was on a ventilator when he was opening the innings, stitching the unbeaten partnership with Mohammed Rizwan, in the 2021 T20 World Cup game against England. His father, in an Insta post, revealed that "on the day the match was against India, Babar's mother was on a ventilator. He played all three matches in severe distress."

For Indian batsman Cheteshwar Pujara during the 2018-19 historic series of Australia, where India won the series, he too had got disturbing news. For a while his wife hid the doctor's advice after his father's heart condition. But on the day of the sur-

gery, she did inform her husband. It was a surreal experience for the Pujara family. When his wife and father were in the hospital lobby, watching on the television, he was on the way to the most difficult hundred of his career.

On Pakistan's 2019 tour of England, Pakistan batsman Asif Ali was going through hell. He was making arrangements for his daughter's treatment on the phone, arranging for her travel to the US. It was on this tour, he hit a career-best score. Tragedy struck Asif towards the end of the tour when he was told that his daughter had moved to the other world.

On rare occasions, the world gets to see a player dealing with mental trauma. During the 1995 Australian Open, Pete Sampras was on court playing his arch rival Jim Courier. This was just a day after his long-time coach Tim Gullikson had to go home after scans had shown he had brain cancer. He seemed to be gulping down the lump in his throat and the pain inside with water. That's when someone from the crowd shouted: "Do it for your coach, Pete". Sampras broke down, he was wiping his tears between rallies. Courier would offer help from the other side of the court – "We can do this (the match) some other time." Sampras acknowledged his rival's sympathy but continued playing to win the thrilling five-setter.

This was triumph much bigger than any of his Slams. This was an athlete achieving a far tougher test than winning the battle on one foot.

### Thorpe's battles

*An inquest into the death of Graham Thorpe revealed that the former England batsman asked his wife "to help him end his life" in the period leading up to the incident when he was hit by a train.*

■ Thorpe died on August 4, 2024, aged 55. The batsman's family confirmed soon after that he had taken his own life. Amanda had said then that he had made 'a serious attempt on his life in May 2022, which resulted in a prolonged stay in an intensive care unit.'

■ His dismissal as England assistant coach in 2022 after a leaked drinking video saw Thorpe spiral into depression, the court heard.

■ During the inquest, the coroner revealed that Thorpe had missed appointments with healthcare professionals in the lead-up to the incident last August.

■ Reading Geoff Thorpe's statement, the coroner said: "You felt those who were responsible for Graham's safety and care could've done more to intervene."



BRIEFLY

Mhatre to lead India men’s U19 team

*Mumbai:* India have retained several key players, including skipper Ayush Mhatre, vice-captain Vihaan Malhotra and charismatic opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi — fresh from a successful tour of England — for the upcoming away Under-19 series against Australia later this year. India will play three one-dayers and two four-day games against the Australian U-19 side, beginning with the first limited-overs match on September 21.

**India U19 squad:** Ayush Mhatre (c), Vihaan Malhotra (vc), Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Vedant Trivedi, Rahul Kumar, Abhigyan Kundu (wk), Harvansh Singh (wk), R S Ambrish, Kanishk Chouhan, Naman Pushpak, Henil Patel, D Deepesh, Kishan Kumar, Anmoljeet Singh, Khilan Patel, Udhav Mohan, Aman Chauhan. **Standby players:** Yudhajit Guha, Laxman, B.K. Kishore, Alankrith Rapole, and Arnav Bugga. *PTI*

Arun joins LSG as bowling coach

*Lucknow:* Former India bowling coach Bharat Arun, who recently ended his ties with Kolkata Knight Riders, has been roped in by Lucknow Super Giants in the same capacity even as the official announcement is awaited. Arun for the past few years was associated with KKR but after a poor eighth place finish in 2025, the Shah Rukh Khan-owned franchise is in the process of rejigging its coaching staff with Abhishek Nayar and Dwayne Bravo all set to call the shots. *PTI*

Second-half strikes give Namdhari win

*Kolkata:* Namdhari FC scored two late goals in the second half to script a 2-0 win over South United FC in their debut outing at the 134th IndianOil Durand Cup here on Wednesday. Bhupinder and Brazilian forward Cledson DaSilva were on target for Namdhari. The result ended South United FC’s maiden Durand Cup campaign with just one point from three matches. *—PTI*

Hardeep, 16, king of U-17

Orphaned at 8 and hailing from crime-ridden Haryana village, youngster comes from behind to win gold

MIHIR VASAVDA  
MUMBAI, JULY 30

WHEN HARDEEP Singh stepped on the mat at a sparsely-crowded arena in Athens, he was one of the many thousand teenagers slugging it out in akharas across Haryana, dreaming of following in the footsteps of wrestling legends from the North India hotbed. Four minutes later, the 16-year-old, orphaned at eight, had carved his reputation and now stands out in a crowd.

On Tuesday night, Hardeep became India’s first under-17 world champion in the 110kg weight class of Greco-Roman style, recovering from a 0-2 deficit after the first round to beat Iran’s Yazdan Delrouz 3-2 in a nail-biting final. In doing so, the young wrestler also put Haryana’s Mandothi village, notorious as a hub of wrestler-turned-gangsters, in the spotlight for the right reasons. Originally from Bannoli, Hardeep has been living and training in Mandothi for four years at an akhara run by Arjuna Awardee wrestler Dharmender Dalal.

According to United World Wrestling, this ‘is the heaviest weight class India has ever won a gold medal at the World U17 level’.

These are still early days of a fledgling career. But an under-17 gold medal, though not a guarantee of senior-level success, is a sign of talent and promise, especially in a wrestling style – Greco-Roman - in which freestyle-crazy India has had an underwhelming history.

“He is only 16 but his strength belies his age. He is very strong and it is exciting to think how much he can improve, especially in his lower-body strength, in the coming years,” Dalal, a former Greco-Roman wrestler who is now Hardeep’s coach, says. “I am not talking about just physical strength. He came back from losing positions in the semifinal and final, which speaks a lot about his mental toughness too.”

Jasjit Singh, Hardeep’s paternal uncle, attributes the mental strength to the ‘circumstances’ that the grappler confronted from a young age. “When Hardeep was eight years old, he lost both his parents. Can there be a bigger test for anybody, be it a young child or grown adult, than that?” Jasjit asks, his voice mournful.

Hardened by setback

Satish, Hardeep’s father, was a wrestler



Hardeep Singh defeated Iran’s Yazdan Delrouz 3-2. UWW/Special arrangement

employed with the Border Security Force. “However, he became a victim of drug addiction, which had a terrible impact on the whole family,” Jasjit says. Eight years ago, Hardeep’s parents — his mother, Asha Devi, who was with the education ministry, died in a ‘tragic incident’, Jasjit adds without sharing details.

The responsibility for his elder brother’s two children, Hardeep and his elder sibling Sameer, fell on Jasjit’s shoulders. “Only we know the kind of difficulties we faced during that period. My brother left a note saying they did not have a single penny to leave for the children... we had to sell the family land to ensure that all of us could survive,” he says.

Even in those dark days, Jasjit was determined that Hardeep and Sameer would continue the family tradition in wrestling. “My

grandfather,” Jasjit says, “was a wrestler. My father, too, was a wrestler and so was my brother, Hardeep’s father.”

Initially, he enrolled the two brothers at a local akhara in the village. But when Hardeep turned 12, Jasjit took them to Dalal’s academy in Mandothi. It was a decision fraught with risk. As much as a wrestling hotbed — home to several international wrestlers — Mandothi, in the last few years, has become infamous as a crime hub.

In 2019, an officer at the Mandothi police station had told *The Indian Express* that they found a pattern in the crimes committed in the region. “Those who wanted a particular job done actively looked for wrestlers who failed to make it big,” the officer had said. They came to this conclusion while investigating the background of Naveen Dalal, a for-

Sept 1 deadline for gender tests before Worlds

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MONACO, JULY 30

CLARIFYING PROMISED rules on female eligibility, track and field’s governing body on Wednesday set a September 1 deadline for athletes to pass a gene test for competing at the world championships. World Athletics had said in March that it would require chromosome testing by cheek swabs or dry blood-spot tests for female athletes to be eligible for elite level events.

The next Worlds open on September 13 in Tokyo and September 1 is “the closing date for entries and the date the regulations come into effect,” World Athletics said in a statement. The latest rules update gives certainty for the 2025 championships in an issue that has been controversial on the track and in multiple courts since Caster Semenya won her first 800 metres world title as a teenager in 2009.

Semenya won a ruling at the European Court of Human Rights three weeks ago in Strasbourg, France, in the South Africa star’s years-long challenge to a previous version of track and field’s eligibility rules affecting athletes with medical conditions known as Differences in Sex Development (DSD). That legal win, because she did not get a fair hearing at the Swiss supreme court, did not overturn existing rules. World Athletics drew up rules in 2018 forcing two-time Olympic champion Semenya and other athletes with DSD to suppress their elevated natural testosterone levels to be eligible for international women’s events. Semenya refused to take medication.

Now, the Monaco-based track body requires a “once-in-a-lifetime test” to determine athletes it says are biologically male with a Y chromosome. “We are saying, at elite level, for you to compete in the female category, you have to be biologically female,” World Athletics president Sebastian Coe said.

The governing body is covering up to \$100 of the costs for each test with the protocol overseen by its member federations at national level. Test results should be ready within two weeks. “The SRY test is extremely accurate and the risk of false negative or positive is extremely unlikely,” World Athletics said.

World Athletics has combined its eligibility framework for DSD and transgender athletes, with transitional rules that let “a very small number of known DSD athletes” continue competing if they are taking medication to suppress natural testosterone.

Sen makes solid start at Macau Open Super 300

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
JULY 30

IN HIS assessment of Lakshya Sen’s second-round exit at the China Open last week, coach Vimal Kumar was hyper critical. The veteran mentor wanted Lakshya to stop making the same mistakes over and over — the odd flick serve that costs dear, making tactical mistakes at critical junctures, and overthinking to name a few.

The World Championships are not far away, and Lakshya’s been making early exits from tournaments too frequently to get the right match fitness. “He needs match practice. In badminton, you can’t say too many matches if you are losing early. They hardly play 40-50 a year. Tennis players have it more gruelling. Yes, the badminton circuit is tough, but you can crib if you reach quarterfinals consistently. Not if you lose early. You have to convert such matches,” was coach Vimal’s advice.

At the Macau Open — a Super 300 event — this week, Lakshya is the second seed, despite being world No 17. But more than the field he is a part of, the India No 1 just needs to put together a string of good performances. From that perspective, his 21-8, 21-14 win against Korea’s Jeon Hyeok Jin in the round of 32 on Wednesday was a solid start. The Korean can be a tricky customer with his solid defensive style, as he has shown in team events in the past.

Lakshya dominated the opening game but was pushed to the limits in the second as Jin controlled the shuttle better, but the Indian still managed to come through in 38 minutes. He next faces Indonesia’s Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo.

Joining Lakshya in the second round of men’s singles are Ayush Shetty, who has made the Super 300 stage a happy hunting ground this season, including the title win at US Open, and Tharun Manneppalli. The latter defeated a fellow Indian shuttler in Manraj Singh 21-19, 21-13 while Ayush overcame Chinese Taipei’s Huang Yu Kai 21-10, 21-11.

It was, however, another early exit for HS Prannoy who ran out of steam against Indonesia’s Yohanes Saut Marcellino after taking the opening game, going down 21-18, 15-21, 15-21. Sathish Kumar Karunakaran went down to Malaysia’s Justin Hoh 19-21, 12-21 in 37 minutes, and Hoh now faces Ayush. For Tharun, the second-round test comes in the form of top seed Lee Cheuk Yiu.

Rakshitha impresses

On a day when six Indians were in action in women’s singles, the solitary winner was Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj as she outlasted Thailand’s Pornpicha Choeikeewong 18-21, 21-17, 22-20. Up against the world No 35 — five places above her — the 18-year-old Indian faced a significant deficit in the de-



Lakshya Sen. FILE/BAI

cider, down 2-10 at one point. But she hung in there, cut down her errors, and kept clawing her way back. As she saw a down-the-line smash brush Choeikeewong’s racquet and not come back, her shoulders relaxed in relief as she prevailed in 63 minutes.

The rest of the matches were defeats that one could see coming: Aakarshi Kashyap went down against former World Champion Nozomi Okuhara, Tasnim Mir was no match for top seed Chen Yufei, while Anmol Kharb would rue the missed game-point opportunities against second Busanan Ongbamrunphan in the opener but was eventually outclassed in straight games. Even Anupama Upadhyaya had a tricky test against former junior World Champion Riko Gunji.

But the frustrating result of the day was Unnati Hooda — who had stunned two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu at the China Open last week — losing to a player now ranked below her, going down 21-16, 19-21, 17-21 against Denmark’s Julie Dawall Jakobsen in 59 minutes. Rakshitha will next face Ongbamrunphan.

In mixed doubles, fifth seeds Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto, ranked 18th in the world, defeated Thailand’s Ratchapol Makkasasithorn and Nattamon Laisuan 21-10 21-15 in a 26-minute clash. In an all-Indian men’s doubles clash, P Krishnamurthy Roy and S Pratheek K prevailed 21-18 21-19 over D Konthoujam and Amaan Mohammad to enter the second round.

Earlier on Tuesday, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, second seeds, made it to the second round of men’s doubles while top seeds in women’s doubles — Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand — suffered early exits.

(With Reuters inputs)

Marchand breaks Lochte’s World Record

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A FULL second. Even **Leon Marchand** couldn’t quite believe what Leon Marchand had just pulled off. The four-time Olympic gold medallist, who was the home hero of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games last year, returned to the global stage with a bang on Wednesday by shattering the 200 metres individual medley world record to light up day four of the world championships in Singapore.

Marchand blasted through the World Aquatics Championships Arena in one minute, 52.69 seconds in his semi-final, shaving more than 1.3 seconds off Ryan Lochte’s long-standing 1:54.00 from the 2011 event in Shanghai.

“I actually can’t really believe it right now,” said Marchand.

“I knew I was going to get close to my PB (personal best) because I felt really good today, and the preparation has been pretty good, so I was really excited to race. It’s unbelievable for me. What’s crazy is that it’s a whole second (ahead of Lochte). A 1:52 on the 200 — that’s insane. I’m so happy, it’s just incredible.”

The 23-year-old from Toulouse also owns the 400 IM world record of 4:02.50. That record, originally held by Micahel Phelps since 2008, was broken in 2023 when Marchand clocked 04:02.50 at World Aquatics Championships in Fukuoka.

Exhausted after the Paris Games where he won four individual golds, Marchand skipped the short-course world championships in Hungary last December and suffered injuries before returning to the pool for the TYR Pro Series in Florida in May. He is swimming a reduced programme in Singapore, focusing on the 200 and 400 IM alone for individual events, as he works through what he calls a “transition year”.

If this is his transition year, his rivals might wonder what he has in store for them in a normal season. “I went out hard from the start, but I stayed super relaxed,” Marchand was quoted as saying World Aquatics. My underwaters were hitting 15 metres every time, and I didn’t make many mistakes. I didn’t realise I was going that fast, but I gave it absolutely everything — arms at full speed to the wall.”

“The 100 has become my strength, which is wild, because it used to be my weak point. Over the last 50, I still had people to chase. I tried to build that last lap well and went all out. It was really tough, obviously, because I was going at such a fast pace.”



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