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STALKING ACCUSED OUT OF HARYANA LIST OF LAW OFFICERS
PAGE 8

Why did you wait for the inquiry to be over: SC to Justice Varma



Justice Yashwant Varma

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

THE SUPREME Court on Monday asked Allahabad High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma why he decided to challenge the legality of the in-house inquiry against him after appearing before the committee and participating in the inquiry process.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DEBATE ON OP SINDOOR, PAHALGAM ATTACK IN LOK SABHA

Govt says no pressure on ceasefire, targets met; Opp raises Trump claims

New Lakshman Rekha: Rajnath; no link to US trade talks: Jaishankar; Cong trusts foreign narratives but not EAM: Shah

VIKAS PATHAK, DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

STRONGLY DENYING any link between the trade talks with the US and the ceasefire with Pakistan, the government told Lok Sabha on Monday that there was no pressure to pause Operation Sindoor, and that it was halted only because "we had fulfilled our objectives". The operation will resume if Pakistan again tries "any misadventure", it said.

Initiating a 16-hour special debate in the House on Operation Sindoor and the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Lok Sabha during the debate, Monday. PTI

underlined that Operation Sindoor has been paused and has not ended and that India would again give a befitting reply to Pakistan if it sponsors another terror attack, as a "new

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED Along expected lines

THE GOVERNMENT sought to debunk the Opposition's charge that US President Donald Trump used the trade deal as a leverage for a ceasefire. The Opposition red-flagged security and intelligence failures, Trump's claims, IAF's alleged losses.



PAGE 6

Opp seeks answers on security lapses, asks if India lost any jets

ASAD REHMAN, DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

THE SECURITY lapses that led to the Pahalgam attack, the failure to apprehend all the attackers, the claims by US President Donald Trump of having brokered peace between India and Pakistan, and the supposed losses of aircraft suffered by the armed forces — the Opposition raised all these issues during the debate on Operation Sindoor in the Lok Sabha Monday.



Congress deputy leader Gaurav Gogoi in LS. ANI

Starting the debate on the Opposition's behalf, Congress Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi said the Centre

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BIHAR SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION

Consider Aadhaar and voter card, SC tells EC again; no stay on draft roll

Should be en masse inclusion, not en masse exclusion, says top court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

THE SUPREME Court Monday refused to stop the Election Commission (EC) from publishing the draft electoral roll for Bihar, drawn up following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), adding that the petitioners' concerns had been taken care of by its July 10 order asking it to also consider Aadhaar and Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) for the exercise.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi said



WHAT WILL NOT COUNT IN BIHAR

the EC can continue to consider Aadhaar and voter cards for the enumeration, and told the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Divya beats Humpy, takes World Cup route to GM title: 'It was fate'

AMIT KAMATH & MAYANK
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, JULY 28

IN GEORGIA, a country that birthed some of the earliest pioneers of women's chess, India has discovered its own world-beater: Divya Deshmukh, aged just 19, became the FIDE Women's World Cup champion by defeating the veteran, Koneru Humpy, 38, in the final via the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Divya Deshmukh, 19, after winning the FIDE Women's World Cup, Monday. Anna Shtourman/FIDE



Security personnel during a search operation after the encounter on the outskirts of Srinagar. Shuaib Masoodi

3 militants killed in J&K, security agencies check for Pahalgam link

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, NEW DELHI, JULY 28

AT LEAST three militants were killed in the Dachigam forest area on the outskirts of Srinagar, the Army said on Monday. While the identities of the dead are yet to be officially declared, officials from various security agencies said they are in the

process of ascertaining whether one of them is Suleiman Shah, a Pakistani terrorist suspected of being behind the April 22 Pahalgam attack that left 26 civilians dead.

In a post on X at 1:32 pm, the Army's Chinara Corps wrote: "Op Mahadev update: Three terrorists have been neutralised in an intense firefight. Operation continues."

The Northern Command

process in response: "Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, #ArmyCdrNC compliments Chinara Corps for their swift action and precise execution in neutralising three terrorists in the ongoing Operation Mahadev in Lidwas. Indian Army stands by its commitment to keep Jammu and Kashmir terror-free."

As speculation stirred over the identities of the three men,

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FROM PAGE ONE
No pressure on ceasefire: Govt

FULL REPORTS ON
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Lakshman Rekha has been drawn". He asserted that India would not accept any nuclear blackmail as well.

Referring to the ceasefire announced between India and Pakistan after four days of the military action, Singh said, "Operation Sindoor was halted because we had fulfilled our objectives. To say it was done under any pressure is wrong. The aim was not to capture territory but to destroy their terror nurseries. The aim was not to go to war... Pakistan accepted defeat and requested that hostilities be stopped... We accepted with a caveat. If Pakistan attempts any misadventure we will again begin this operation."

Taking part in the discussion, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar sought to dismiss the Opposition's questions on US intervention in the ceasefire. "I want to make two things very clear: at no stage in any conversation with the US was there any linkage with trade and what was going on. Secondly, there was no call between the Prime Minister and President (Donald) Trump from April 22 [the day Pahalgam attack took place] — when President Trump called up to convey his sympathy — till June 17, when he called up the PM who was in Canada, (and) explained why he (Trump) could not meet him," he said. President Trump has repeatedly claimed that he got India and Pakistan to agree to a ceasefire in May using the trade deal with the US as leverage. India has consistently denied the claim. Jaishankar reiterated that the call for the cessation of hostilities came from the Pakistan DGMO.

He said it was a success of India's diplomatic efforts that The Resistance Front (TRF) — a proxy of LeT that claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack — has been designated as a global terrorist organisation by the US.

As Opposition MPs repeatedly interrupted Jaishankar's speech, Union Home Minister Amit Shah intervened to say that the Congress appeared to give more weight to foreign narratives than to the statement of India's External Affairs Minister. "Do you not trust your own Foreign Minister, who has taken a constitutional oath?" Shah asked. "It's unfortunate that they don't believe what India's Foreign Minister is saying but are quick to believe narratives from abroad. I understand that the word 'foreign' holds value in their party's name — but that doesn't mean it should override national interest."

Defence Minister Singh also targeted the Opposition. Taking a dig at it for asking questions regarding losses to the IAF during the operation, he said, "In any exam, the result matters. We should see whether a student is getting good marks in an exam and not focus on whether his pencil was broken or his pen was lost."

"The Opposition asks about planes shot down. Their question does not represent India's sentiments. They have not yet asked how many Pakistani planes were shot down. They should ask: did India destroy terror bases? Yes. Was Operation Sindoor successful? Yes. Were the masters of terrorists who wiped off sindoor from the foreheads of our sisters destroyed? Yes. Did our soldiers

face any losses? No. Focus on big things, not small ones — else we lose focus on big issues and the honour of our soldiers."

"We asked in 1962 why another country captured part of our territory. We asked why we lost. We did not ask how many machine guns were damaged. We asked about territory, not equipment. In 1971, Atal Bihari Vajpayee praised the leadership of that time. We did not ask how many Indian planes fell or equipment got damaged in the process of teaching the enemy a lesson."

Singh said that as per an estimate of the military action, more than 100 terrorists were killed in the strikes at the terror hubs across the border.

Singh said India always wanted peace with its neighbours, as it is part of its civilisational values. He recalled Vajpayee's attempts for peace, and then the break-out of Kargil War in 1999, when Pakistan did not understand the language of peace. Singh said PM Narendra Modi also started with his attempts for peace and visited Nawaz Sharif in Lahore, but since Pakistan did not understand the language of peace, India undertook a surgical strike in 2016, an air strike in 2019, and Operation Sindoor in 2025.

He expressed disappointment that the Congress-led UPA government did not do any such thing after the 2008 Mumbai terror attack. Under the Modi government, he said, "dossiers have been replaced by decisive actions".

Singh likened the policy of the Modi government to the strategy of Lord Ram and Lord Krishna. "We haven't occupied any terri-

tory. We also know that one should fight only equals. Lions should not kill frogs — the message it sends is not good. Our Army is a lion. Pakistan is nowhere close to us in size or strength. What competition do we have with them? They are reliant on others for aid. Our strategy is against terrorism emanating from there," he said.

"We have learnt from Krishna that one can forgive Shishupala 100 times but the Sudarshan Chakra must be used to protect Dharma. Now we have decided to wield the Sudarshan Chakra. Our policy is based on the strategy of Ram and Krishna, which teaches both dhairya (patience) and shourya (valour). Pakistan did not understand what we were saying; so, we will answer them in this way."

"Our stand is clear that terror and talks cannot co-exist. A country that has no democracy, sponsors terror, and hates India cannot be engaged in dialogue. Blood and talks do not go together," he said.

He said there was a global condemnation of the Pahalgam attack, adding that he refused to sign a draft statement at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meet in China that omitted a reference to Pahalgam. "Our PM went to Brazil for the BRICS summit and created magic. The joint declaration that came out of the meeting in presence of China condemned the terror attacks in J&K."

He said the UPA government could not make the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks a global issue.

Underlining that the multi-party delegations sent across the world after Operation Sindoor did remarkable work, Singh expressed gratitude to all political parties for standing united with the government during Operation Sindoor keeping aside all ideological differences. "This is the beauty of our democracy," he said.

● Opp seeks answers on lapses

had withheld critical details, and asked how the terrorists had managed to carry out the killings on April 22. "This is a war of information," Gogoi said. ("Defence Minister) Rajnath Singh gave a lot of details, but couldn't say how five terrorists reached Pahalgam. Twenty-six innocent people were killed and we still don't know who helped the terrorists or how they fled... You have Pegasus, satellites, CRPF, BSF, CISF, and yet no answers after 100 days?"

Union Home Minister Amit Shah should take "moral responsibility" for the killings, Gogoi said. "You can't hide behind the L-G (J&K Lieutenant Governor). And this government, rather than accepting lapses, blamed four operators!" He also criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not visiting Pahalgam after cutting short his visit to Saudi Arabia and flying back, contrasting it with Rahul Gandhi. "Our leader went there. He is demanding martyr status for those killed," the Congress MP said.

Questioning the government's claim of having "dismantled the terror infrastructure" inside Pakistan, Gogoi said it did so after every terror attack, be it the 2016 Uri killings or the 2019 Pulwama attack, or now. "If Operation Sindoor is not complete (as the government has said), how can you call it a success?"

He said the government decision to announce a ceasefire on May 10 had squandered an opportunity India had for territorial gains. "You say war, territorial gain were not your intention. Why not? When will we take PoK (Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)?" Why did you stop if Pakistan was ready to get on its knees? Before whom did you surrender?"

Quoting Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Rahul R Singh's remarks, Gogoi said China had supported Pakistan during the conflict. "Why didn't Rajnath Singh even mention China?" He also claimed that the government cut back on the decision to strike 21 targets, and alleged political constraints. "Why were only nine targets chosen out of 21?" If India had lost Rafale aircraft, Gogoi said, "it's a serious issue". "Trump has claimed that five or six jets fell. How many did we lose?"

SP's Ramashankar Rajbhar accused the government of failure in border management, saying: "Aakash bandho, paatal bandhi, lekin apni taati to baandho (Control the skies and the ground, but first secure your belongings). If the boundary was sealed, terrorists wouldn't have entered." He said the government failed to give an adequate response. "The country wanted Operation Tandoor (the destruction of terror bases) within three days (of the attack), not Operation Sindoor after 17 days."

Raising Trump's claims, he said: "We felt proud that our PM is Vishwaguru. But we found that Vishwaguru is sitting in America."

TMC's Kalyan Banerjee said: "No one can take credit for Operation Sindoor except our soldiers. It is surprising how four terrorists

came and killed 26 people. What were the BSF and CISF doing? What was the Home Minister doing?" Questioning Modi's "silence" on Trump's claims, he said: "Why are you so afraid of the American President?" He sought to know from the government "when it was going to take PoK".

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant sought a probe into the security lapse leading to the Pahalgam terror attack, and referred to then J&K Governor Satypal Malik's claim that his request that flights be provided for movement of soldiers had been ignored, resulting in the death of 40 CRPF personnel in an attack on a convoy in Pulwama in 2019.

Sawant also questioned why the PM was yet to visit Pahalgam since the incident, comparing it to his "absence" from Manipur since the crisis began there in 2023. He asked why "no country was standing with India" despite Pakistan's role in Pahalgam being clear. "We kept telling the IMF not to give money to Pakistan as it would use it for terror. Yet it got the funds?"

Congress MP Deepender Singh Hooda focused on the timing and rationale of the ceasefire. "If Pakistan was on its knees, why stop? Who brokered the ceasefire and on what terms?" he asked. He questioned the government's strategy in declaring that only terror camps were hit and not military targets. "That was a strategic mistake. You ended up giving the Pakistan Army a clean chit," he said, going on to ask why the government felt the need to send all-party delegations across countries in a bid for support in the wake of the attack, if our foreign policy was as robust as claimed.

Congress MP Praniti Sushilkumar Shinde sought to draw a link between terror attacks and polls. Referring to Rome's Colosseum which, she said, was built to keep the public involved in sports and entertainment, and divert their attention from core issues, Shinde alleged the government appeared to be doing the same. "Just before an important election, a terrorist attack takes place, followed by a retaliatory action by the government. The government has no idea where the terrorists came from or where they went. But we want to attack a neighbouring country and use that as a basis to gather votes."

In her speech, the NCP (SP)'s Supriya Sule said, "Justice will not be done till you don't nab the terrorists. We cannot celebrate." She also said that Amit Shah is seen as an "assertive" Home Minister and hence people have expectations with him. Sule suggested that just as the A B Vajpayee government had set up a committee after Kargil War, the Modi government should seek a report on Operation Sindoor and table it in Parliament.

RJD MP Abhay Kumar Sinha raised questions over local law enforcement. "Did the government probe why police security was not available when the incident happened at Pahalgam, and who was responsible for that?"

● Consider Aadhaar, voter card: SC

petitioners that the Court can always step in and strike it down if there is any illegality.

In its July 10 order, the apex court had asked the EC to consider Aadhaar, voter ID and ration cards for the purpose of updating the rolls, but left it to the discretion of the poll body whether to accept or reject them.

Asked about the Court order, EC sources said no directions had been issued to it, so the SIR procedure, including the documents mentioned in the indicative list, remained unchanged.

Addressing Senior Advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, who appeared for the EC, Justice Kant said: "In the last order, there is a very good suggestion to consider Aadhaar and EPIC... As of now, the two documents (Aadhaar and EPIC) have a presumption of correctness, because these are authenticated documents. So you proceed with these two documents..."

Cases of forged documents can be dealt with on a case-to-case basis, the Court said. "Wherever you find forgery, that's on a case-to-case basis. Any document on Earth can be forged," Justice Kant said, adding that there "should not be en masse exclusion", but "en masse inclusion".

At the very outset, Justice Kant said he had an administrative meeting scheduled and might not be able to hold court for the rest of the day. He asked the parties to inform how much time they would need to argue, and said the Court would fix a date for hearing.

Senior Advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for petitioner Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), said the EC "had violated the Court's order" as far as considering Aadhaar and EPIC cards went.

Justice Kant referred to the counter affidavit filed by the EC and remarked that the poll panel has not rejected the two documents.

Sankaranarayanan replied that "factually, on the ground, they are not accepting".

Justice Kant said: "It seems their stand is that the list of documents which initially excluded Aadhaar is not exhaustive, and following this Court's direction or advice, these documents will also be accepted."

Dwivedi, appearing for the EC, said: "What we have said is that as far as ration cards are considered, we have difficulty in accepting... (due to) large-scale (forgery)... As far as the EPIC card is concerned, the pre-filled enumeration form includes the EPIC number... EPIC is being considered, but since the electoral roll is being revised, EPIC cannot be conclusive... because this is a Special Intensive Revision."

Justice Bagchi said the EC can take it into account if someone submits an enumeration form with Aadhaar and, if necessary, issue a notice thereafter.

"Maybe one in a thousand cases, you will find this EPIC card

is also forged, that can be (dealt with) on a case-to-case basis," said Justice Kant. "For that matter, any document on this Earth can be forged. Then Aadhaar can also be... So, as of now, the two documents (Aadhaar and EPIC) have a presumption of correctness, because these are authenticated documents. So you proceed with these two documents..."

Dwivedi said the EC was allowing Aadhaar, adding: "What we are saying is that under the Aadhaar Act, Section 9 says that, by itself, it is not proof of citizenship." He added that the enumeration form mentioned Aadhaar.

Justice Kant said, "Tomorrow, not just Aadhaar, may be out of the 11 other documents, 10 are found forged. Wherever you find forgery, that's (to be dealt with on an) individual case-to-case basis."

Dwivedi said, "That's what will happen."

"Where the mechanism which you have provided, that you issue a showcase notice, that they will have to come and give an explanation, that part will take care (of it). (Not) En-masse exclusion, rather it should be en-masse inclusion," said Justice Kant.

"You ask for their Aadhaar also. If someone is coming with Aadhaar, you entertain them also," the judge added, and asked the parties to give a timeline for hearing.

Sankaranarayanan, representing the ADR, urged the Court to direct the EC to "not finalise the roll" in the meanwhile. But Justice Kant pointed out that "earlier order is very clear." "You were not asking for interim relief. Interpretation, we will decide at the earliest. Tomorrow morning at 10.30 we can tell you, when is the earliest we can hear"

Dwivedi said what will be released on August 1 is only a draft roll, and people can file objections.

Justice Kant said: "It's only a draft exercise. It doesn't take away our power. We will take care of that. We can assure you, yes we will quash everything the moment we agree with you."

Sankaranarayanan urged the Court to say in its order that it will be subject to the outcome. "It is always subject to outcome," said Justice Kant.

The senior counsel said, "But the problem is, once the draft is published, objections come. You are inconveniencing 4.5 crore people to go and look at the list and give objections on a statutory process."

Justice Bagchi said that, according to the EC affidavit, "even if the enumeration forms are not uploaded with relevant documents, they are going to put up your name with these objections".

The court asked the parties to submit the timelines for submission of arguments Tuesday morning, after which it would fix the date of hearing.

● 3 militants killed in J&K

the Kashmir Zone Police posted at 8:16 pm: "The identification of the neutralised terrorists is being done! Please await further details." Sources in J&K said identification was taking time, and it was possible one of the three terrorists killed was Suleiman Shah. But since NIA was investigating the case, police would wait for it to confirm. L-G Manoj Sinha, meanwhile, said the "police will provide all details regarding the operation". "Several such kinetic operations are being conducted by the J&K Police, Army and CAPFs. I congratulate the security forces for this successful operation," he said.

As reported by *The Indian Express* last month, the NIA had concluded that all three Pahalgam attackers were from Pakistan. This was a departure from what was previously believed about the identities of the attackers. Two days after the attack, the J&K police had released three sketches — Pakistan nationals Hashim Musa and Ali Bhai alias Talha, and Kashmiri local Adil Hussain Thoker. Sources in the NIA had, however, said the three men in the sketches are not the Pahalgam at-

tackers. According to NIA officials, one of the attackers, Suleiman Shah alias Musa, was also involved in the Z-Morh tunnel attack on October 20 last year.

PTI quoted officials as saying that the Army launched the operation in the forests of Harwan following a technical signal that was similar to the device used by terrorists in Pahalgam.

According to the Army, after an early cordon and search operation in the upper reaches of Harwan, contact was established as initial firing ensued between militants and security forces.

The last major encounters in the Kashmir region were in the Shopian and Awantipora areas of South Kashmir in May, with three militants killed in each.

One M4 carbine rifle, two AK rifles and other munitions were recovered from the site.

IGP (Kashmir Zone) V K Birdi said the operation is still underway. "Three bodies have been sighted. It will be premature to comment on other details," Birdi said, adding that full details will be made public after the operation is over. **With PTI**

● Why did you wait for the inquiry to be over: SC to Justice Varma

The committee was set up by the then Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on March 22, a week after burnt currency notes were found at Justice Varma's official residence in New Delhi when a fire broke out on March 14. The panel found credence in the allegations against Justice Varma, who was then with the Delhi High Court.

On Monday, the Supreme Court was hearing Justice Varma's plea seeking invalidation of the inquiry committee's report. The plea does not reveal Justice Varma's identity and is titled, "XXX v. The Union of India".

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for Justice Varma, told a bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and A G Masih that whatever had happened till now was unconstitutional. "All that has happened is completely contrary

to the Constitutional scheme. The release of tapes, putting it on website, and a public furore consequential thereto, public discussion media interaction, accusations against the judge... is all prohibited... The whole procedure has now become political. I (Justice Varma) have already been convicted," he said, referring to the video clip which purportedly showed the recovery of burnt currency notes.

Justice Datta said that impeachment is also a political procedure. Sibal responded that it is so in Parliament, not outside.

The government has made clear its intent to act on impeaching Justice Varma. Last week, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju said the notice for removal of Justice Varma was likely to be taken up in the Lok Sabha in the ongoing Monsoon Session.

Justice Datta asked Sibal why he had not challenged the release of the video and the constitution of the committee before the inquiry. "Did you come to the court to request that the video be removed? Why did you wait for the inquiry to be completed and the report to be released? Why did you not challenge when the committee was appointed? Why did you wait? Judges have abstained from attending these proceedings in the past. You could have approached us earlier as well," Justice Datta said. "Because it was all in public, I (Justice Varma) thought the committee will find who it (the money) belongs to," Sibal told the bench.

At the very outset on Monday, Justice Datta raised a procedural objection. "This petition should not have been filed. There are three respondents (in the petition), your

main issue is with the Supreme Court," he said. Sibal said he would make the required changes. He submitted that a judge can only be removed as per the terms of the procedure laid down in Article 124 of the Constitution.

In his plea filed in the SC on July 18, Justice Varma said: "Primarily, the In-House Procedure, adopted via a 1999 Full Court Resolution to handle complaints against judges and preserve judicial independence while maintaining public faith, unjustifiably extends beyond the intended scope of self-regulation and fact-finding. By culminating in recommendations for removal from constitutional office, it creates a parallel, extra-constitutional mechanism that derogates from the mandatory framework under Articles 124 and 218 of the Constitution, which exclusively

vest powers for removal of Judges of the High Courts in Parliament through an address supported by a special majority, following an inquiry under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968."

"There is a process under Article 124. Before that, a judge can't be subject matter of public debate. Motion is filed through Speaker or Chairman of LS or RS... till that stage, that process is not of the House, the process is outside and Speaker acts as a statutory authority. Judges' conduct can't be discussed. What happened, tape is released on March 22, the whole country talks about it, man already stands convicted," Sibal argued.

Sibal also asked how the then CJ Sanjiv Khanna could have recommended Justice Varma's removal to the President and Prime Minister, saying the CJ has no such power. Justice Datta said the recommendation was done for

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the initiation of due process. "It could not have been done by the CJL. That's contrary to the constitutional scheme," Sibal said.

To his argument that it was wrong to forward the inquiry committee's report to the President and the Prime Minister, Justice Datta pointed out that the matter has to be placed before the President who is the appointing authority for Judges of constitutional courts. He said that as the President acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, there is nothing objectionable in forwarding it to the PM either.

Sibal contended that the committee had not found out who the cash belonged to. The court said it would have to see the report if he wanted to argue on its contents and pointed out that the report must be annexed with the petition. Sibal agreed to do so. The court will now hear the matter on Wednesday.

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● Divya beats Humpy, takes World Cup route to GM title: 'It was fate'

tiebreakers on Monday.

Divya winning the Women's World Cup also makes her eligible to be India's fourth woman to become a grandmaster, which is significant because before the event started, she had none of the three norms required for it. But in one fell swoop, thanks to a regulation in the FIDE rules, Divya has now bypassed the criterion to earn three norms and is now a grandmaster as well. India's 88th. By reaching the final, along with Humpy, Divya ensured that at least two Indians will play the Candidates tournament next year, where eight players fight it out to earn the right to play in the women's World Championship against current world champion Ju Wenjun.

"I think it was fate, me getting

the grandmaster title this way," an emotional Divya said after her win. "Before the tournament, I didn't even have one norm to be GM. I was thinking that I could maybe earn a grandmaster norm here. And in the end, I became a grandmaster."

Since Humpy became a grandmaster, just two women — Harika Dronavalli and Vaishali Rameshbabu — from India have followed suit. Divya now joins that list.

"This title means a lot. But there's a lot more to achieve. I'm hoping this is just the start," Divya said.

The Divya vs Humpy finale was a battle of generations, with the 19-year-old Divya being half the age of the veteran Humpy, who is India's first woman to be-

come a grandmaster. But more importantly, it was a battle between two Indians while two Chinese stars, Tan Zhongyi and Lei Tingjie, fought for the third spot. Having two Indians make it to the final from a field of 107 players was an indicator that just like in the open section, where the likes of Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa have started to assert themselves, India could drive women's chess in the immediate future after decades of dominance by Chinese and Russian grandmasters.

While Divya's path to the title went through the likes of World No.6 from China, Zhu Jiner, the veteran Indian Harika Dronavalli, and former women's world champion from China, Tan Zhongyi, before the final, Humpy had also defeated two strong

Chinese players on way to the title clash — Lei Tingjie and Song Yuxin — besides taking down Alexandra Kosteniuk, the Russian-Swiss grandmaster.

On Monday, after their first rapid game ended in a draw, Divya won the second tiebreak game, thanks to a series of errors from Humpy.

Over the weekend, the first two classical games between them had ended in draws. The first game, which was played on Saturday, was where Divya had the best chances to win, while playing with white pieces. She came with a plan and got a sizeable advantage on the board. But then at the end, she scuffed her lines and allowed Humpy to equalise.

Divya had said that the draw

on Saturday had "felt like a loss" to her. "I had seen everything (beforehand). So I was disappointed by that," she said. "But I got ready for the second game (on Sunday) by telling myself that I have my whole life to feel sorry for that game. I needed to prepare for the second game."

Divya, who was an International Master when the tournament started 25 days ago, was the underdog coming into the tiebreaks, because the games were played in the rapid format and Humpy became the World Rapid Champion for the second time in her career in December last year. Humpy is also currently ranked world No.5 in the FIDE ratings list for women while Divya is world No.18 (which makes her the fourth ranked Indian on the list).

In other formats, Humpy is ranked much higher than the

teenager from Nagpur. In rapid, Humpy is No.10 in the world while Divya is No.22. In blitz, while the veteran is No.10 in the world among women, Divya is No.18.

Just like Divya, Humpy was also a prodigy back in the day. In fact, Humpy was once the youngest woman to achieve the grandmaster title, when she beat Judit Polgar's record by three months to reach there at the age of 15 years, one month and 27 days.

Lifting the FIDE Women's World Cup is a significant leap for Divya. It was just last year that she was crowned the world junior champion in the girls section. She was also the inspiration behind the Indian women's team winning a gold medal at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest last year where she claimed an individual gold as well for her board.

Woman SI among 5 held for taking Rs 20 L bribe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

A WOMAN sub-inspector, two of her subordinates, and two civilians were arrested on Sunday for allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 20 lakh from a complainant, an officer said.

According to the police, Sub-Inspector Neetu Bhist, posted at Paschim Vihar East police station, was caught red-handed on the station's premises after the Outer District police laid a trap on the request of the complainant. The two other police personnel arrested include a head constable and a constable. A senior police officer

said the process to suspend the accused officers will be initiated as soon as the preliminary inquiry is complete.

Officers said the complainant, who runs an educational consulting firm, told them that he was in his office on Saturday when a police officer from Paschim Vihar East station arrived and accused him of running his business illegally. The complainant was then forced to board an SUV and taken to a police booth in Peera Garhi.

The complainant alleged that the police personnel asked him for Rs 50 lakh, and the sub-inspector called him and threatened dire consequences if he lodged a complaint.

STUDENT'S SUICIDE AT SHARDA UNIVERSITY NCW seeks report from varsity, urges UP top cop to conduct timely probe

NEETIKA JHA
NOIDA, JULY 28

THE NATIONAL Commission for Women (NCW) has taken suo motu cognizance of media reports on the death of a second-year BDS student allegedly by suicide following harassment by faculty members at Sharda University. The NCW has directed the university to submit an Action Taken Report (ATR) within three working days.

"The university has been given time till Tuesday to submit the action report, as the order was issued on Friday by the women's commission. Only after the given time for report submission, any further decision will be taken by the commission," said an official of the NCW.

In a letter addressed to the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh, NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar called for a fair and timely probe and demanded immediate support for the student's family.

Meanwhile, officials at the university said on Monday that the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) is expected to share its report on the matter on Tuesday.

CM SHRI schools: Admission process starts tomorrow



Students from classes VI to VIII can apply. *File*

KEY DATES

JULY 30 - AUG 15: Applications to be accepted online for entry into Classes 6, 7
AUG 23: Admit cards to be issued
AUG 30: Admission test
SEP 10: Result to be announced

ABOUT TESTING

OMR-BASED multiple-choice bilingual paper
100 QUESTIONS covering Hindi, English, GK, mental ability, Math
NO NEGATIVE marking
CHILDREN WITH special needs will receive extra time

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

COME WEDNESDAY, students in Delhi will be able to apply to the government's flagship CM SHRI Schools for lateral entry into classes VI to VIII through a common admission test. Students who live in Delhi and are currently enrolled in a recognised school will be eligible to apply, according to a circular by the Directorate of Education (DoE).

The schools are part of a plan announced by the BJP government in the Capital to upgrade public schooling and "create model educational institutions with modern infrastructure and advanced teaching methodologies".

The shortlisted schools are expected to open around September, as per officials.

Of the 75 CM SHRI Schools identified this year, 33 have seats vacant in Classes VI, VII, and VIII. These include schools in areas such as Surajmal Vihar, Khichripur, Civil Lines, Shalimar Bagh, Dwarka, Kalkaji, and Madanpur Khadar.

The July 23 circular issued by the DoE described the CM SHRI Schools as institutions that "aim at ensuring greater autonomy and flexibility with a focus on promoting excellence and equity in public schooling".

These schools are being developed as fully digital campuses with smart classrooms, AI-powered libraries, robotics labs, solar power systems and zero-waste facilities. Some are being rebuilt from the ground up, while others are undergoing major upgrades,

as per officials.

The DoE circular highlighted that the schools are "designed to serve as model educational institutions, equipped with modern infrastructure and advanced teaching methodologies aligned" with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the National Curriculum Framework for School Education and the National Curriculum Framework.

The admission process, the circular stated, will prioritise "talented and deserving meritorious students with high potential, thereby enabling them to access high-quality education and fulfill their academic and career aspirations".

At least 50% of the seats are reserved for children studying in government and government-aided schools, including those run by the DoE, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and the New Delhi Municipal Council, as well as Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas. Students from Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Classes (non-creamy layer) backgrounds and children with special needs will receive a 5% relaxation in eligibility marks.

While the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi had unveiled the schools of specialised excellence (SOSEs) to admit students from Class 9 onwards, the new model will cater to students from Class 6 onwards.

This marks a shift in the Delhi government's school reform strategy with modern tools such as AI-enabled libraries, robotic lab infrastructure available for an early-stage academic development, said officials.

ACCUSES PREVIOUS AAP GOVT OF CORRUPTION, PARTY HITS BACK

Delhi CM orders ACB probe into Barapullah Ph-3 'irregularities'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

DELHI CHIEF Minister Rekha Gupta Monday directed the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) to probe "irregularities in construction of the Barapullah Phase III elevated corridor" while accusing the previous AAP government of "corruption" in the matter.

The CM issued the directions during the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) meeting. The meeting was also attended by Public Works Department (PWD) minister Parvesh Sahib Singh and senior officials from the Finance and other departments concerned.

In response, the AAP said the BJP's 'four-engine' government has failed to take "even a single meaningful step to address the concerns of ordinary citizens" despite being in power for six months. "Instead of governing, BJP has focused its energies on delay, deflection, and distraction — flooding the system with raids, investigations, and baseless cases that have yielded no evidence," it added.

Gupta highlighted that the project, scheduled for completion in October 2017, was repeatedly delayed and eventually ran into arbitration.

"The ruling favoured the contractor with an award of Rs 120 crore. When the payment was withheld, the company approached the High Court, which,



At the Barapullah flyover. *File*

in May 2023, ordered the PWD to pay Rs 175 crore, including interest and GST. The sum was subsequently paid during the tenure of then-PWD Minister Atishi," said a statement from the CM's Office (CMO).

"During the (EFC) meeting, concerns were raised over the PWD's negligence and prolonged delays in the project. The Chief Minister instructed senior officials to ensure its timely completion, noting that the payment was necessitated because the previous government had prevented the company from executing the work," the CMO said.

Gupta also accused the previous AAP government of "not filing a review petition and taking action against officials responsible for the cost overruns". The CM

said the contractor had initially offered to settle the dispute for Rs 35 crore, but the proposal was ignored, resulting in the escalation of the matter to the High Court.

According to officials, the CM said "the payment to the contractor hampered other PWD schemes". Gupta further noted the possibility of PWD officials being complicit in the irregularities and said their actions would also be scrutinised under the vigilance enquiry. Assuring that the investigation will not hinder further progress, the CM said the project, which also faced delays due to pending approval for cutting trees, will be completed on time.

An amount of Rs 1,260.63 crore was allocated for the project in December 2014.

Construction work began in April 2015, with a stipulated completion period of 30 months. The original estimated cost of the project was Rs 1,260.63 crore, out of which Rs 1,238.68 crore has been spent so far, said officials, adding that the new cost of the project is estimated to be Rs 1,330 crore.

Officials said Rs 150 crore has been allocated for this year, of which Rs 86.43 crore had already been spent. "No further delays would be tolerated and assured adequate budgetary support to complete the project, which is expected to significantly ease traffic between South and East Delhi," said the CM.

In May, the PWD minister had said the target is to operationalise the flyover by December.

How new mother-newborn care unit at Safdarjung Hospital is saving lives

ANKITA UPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

LAUNCHED A year ago, the Mother Newborn Care Unit (MNCU) under the Paediatrics Department at Safdarjung Hospital has helped reduce mortality rates in sick infants born outside the hospital.

According to a study published in the Indian Journal of Paediatrics, titled Mother Newborn Care Unit: An Innovation for Improving Survival of Small and Sick Babies at Tertiary Level Facility, the mortality of outborn neonates was 28.3% before the initiation of the MNCU. After the centre was set up last year, it dipped to 18.7%.

It was conducted by doctors from Safdarjung Hospital and covered 1,980 newborns. Following the study, Safdarjung Hospital has now been designated as the nodal centre for MNCU implementation.

The hospital — a multi-speciality tertiary care centre — has been providing care to sick neonates referred from across Northern India — but these newborns were admitted

to paediatric wards alongside older children. In February 2024, the hospital operationalised the 40-bed Level III MNCU, offering comprehensive critical care for premature and sick newborns — including those with complex medical or surgical needs — regardless of birth weight or gestational age.

This unit specifically caters to outborn neonates.

The MNCU is equipped with advanced facilities, including mechanical ventilation (both invasive and non-invasive) and other Level III intensive care services for critically ill newborns.

Additionally, Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) garments, binders, and chairs were procured to enable immediate KMC for newborns weighing less than 2,500 grams, without waiting for full stabilisation. KMC is often referred to as a skin-to-skin contact intervention and frequent breastfeeding for premature or low birth weight infants.

The unit's infrastructure also includes dedicated washrooms, bathing facilities, and a dining area

for mothers and surrogates.

Key findings of study

■ When newborns were admitted to paediatric wards, 35% were discharged after exclusive breast milk feeding. In contrast, after the MNCU was set up, the number increased to 87%.

■ According to the study authors, before the establishment of the MNCU, outborn low-birth-weight newborns were unable to receive KMC support.

After the MNCU was launched, 78% of eligible low-birth-weight babies received effective KMC during their hospital stay.

■ According to Dr Harish Chellani, former head of the Paediatrics Department and one of the authors of the study, when mothers become active partners in nursing care, in Level III care support, which involves ventilator support, the chances of mortality reduce. "This study suggests that mothers can become active participants in tertiary-level support care as well," said Dr Chellani.

UP Police gets custody of fake ambassador

Noida: The Uttar Pradesh Police has taken custody of Harshvardhan Jain, the man accused of running a fake embassy from a bungalow in Ghaziabad. He has been sent on a five-day remand by the Chief Judicial Magistrate of the Ghaziabad court, starting Tuesday. The STF's Noida unit, which is probing the case, will question Jain till August 2 to uncover the alleged financial and international racket he was believed to be operating. **ENS**

DEENBANDHU CHHOTU RAM UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, MURTHAL, SONEPAT, HARYANA (INDIA)-131039,

[NAAC Accredited 'B++' Grade University
Established by State Legislative Act 29 of 2006 & Approved under Section 2(F) & 12 (B) of U.G.C. Act, 1956]
Website: www.dcrustm.ac.in
Advt. No. - 13/ 2025

Online applications are invited w.e.f. 26.07.2025 to 14.08.2025 upto 11.59 P.M. for admission in B.Ed., B.Ed. Special Education (HI) & (ID), M.Ed., M.Ed Special Education (HI) & (ID), B.P.E.S. and B.P.Ed in Education Colleges affiliated to this University for the Academic Session 2025-26. Detailed eligibility conditions, schedule of admission and rules for admissions are available on the University Website www.dcrustadmission.org/www.dcrustm.ac.in
Note: - For candidate residents of Haryana, the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) is mandatory while applying online.
No.37044/HRY

Registrar

Computer # 3010045
F.No. A-11011/1/2020/REWARD
भारत सरकार/ Government of India
ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय /Ministry of Rural Development
भूमि संसाधन विभाग / Department of Land Resources
वाटरशेड प्रबंधन प्रभाग / Watershed Management Division

Dated 21 July. 2025

The Department of Land Resources invites applications for following posts on contractual deputation basis for the World Bank Assisted Project 'Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD):

S.No.	Name of Post	No. of Post	Method of recruitment
1.	Institute & Capacity Building Expert	One	Contractual / Deputation
2.	Hydrologist/Water Resources Expert	One	

2. For eligibility criteria, i.e. educational qualification, experience, bio-data proforma etc. the applicants are advised to refer to the official website of this Department <https://dolr.gov.in>.

3. Interested candidates may send their application duly signed (scanned/PDF) through e-mail at recruit.reward-dolr@gov.in only The last day of receiving application is 15th day from the date of publication of Advertisement.

Sd/-
(प्रेमनाथ)
अवर सचिव भारत सरकार
दूरभाष 011 23344602
Email: prem.n@nic.in

CBC-35201/11/0003/2526

TORRENT PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED
Registered Office:
Torrent House, Off Ashram Road,
Ahmedabad - 380 009, Gujarat, India.
Ph. : + 91 79 26599000
Fax : + 91 79 26582100

Extract of Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter ended June 30, 2025
[₹ in crores]

Particulars	Quarter Ended June 30, 2025	Year Ended March 31, 2025	Quarter Ended June 30, 2024
	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited
Total Income from operations	3178	11516	2859
Net profit/(loss) for the period before tax and exceptional items	738	2697	656
Net profit/(loss) for the period before tax and after exceptional items	738	2673	656
Net profit/(loss) for the period after tax and exceptional items	548	1911	457
Total comprehensive income	546	1818	423
Paid up equity share capital	169.23	169.23	169.23
Other equity excluding revaluation reserve		7422	
Earnings per share (Face value of ₹ 5 each) (not annualised):			
Basic (in ₹)	16.19	56.47	13.51
Diluted (in ₹)	16.19	56.47	13.51

Notes :
1 Summary details of standalone audited financial results of Torrent Pharmaceuticals Limited:
[₹ in crores]

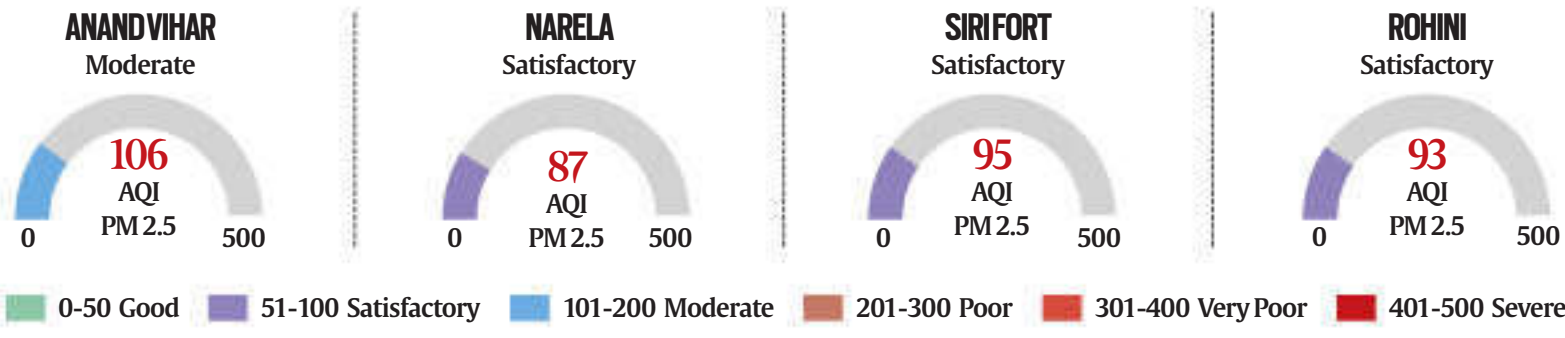
Particulars	Quarter Ended June 30, 2025	Year Ended March 31, 2025	Quarter Ended June 30, 2024
Total Income from operations	2616	9682	2438
Profit before tax	742	2610	667
Profit after tax	551	1888	469
Total comprehensive income	524	1847	469

2 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2025 filed with Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the same, along with the notes, are available on www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website (URL: www.torrentpharma.com/investors/financial-info/quarterly-results/). The same can be accessed by scanning the QR code provided below.

For TORRENT PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED

SAMIR MEHTA
Executive Chairman
DIN: 00061903

Place : Ahmedabad, Gujarat
Date : July 28, 2025



SKY WATCH

FORECAST: July 30
Generally cloudy sky; light to moderate rain with thunderstorm/lightning

MAX: 29-31
3.9°C below normal

MIN: 23-25
2.3°C below normal

Gurgaon leads state’s liquor vend auctions, rakes in Rs 3,875 crore

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, JULY 28

THE GURGAON district led Haryana excise department’s revenue collection with Rs 3,875 crore, contributing 27% to the state’s total of Rs 14,342 crore in liquor vend auctions that concluded in July under the 2025-27 policy, officials said.

The figure marks a proportionate rise of 13.25% from the Rs 7,025 crore collected in last year’s auctions.

The department successfully auctioned all 1,194 retail liquor zones, issuing licences for 2,388 vends, with each zone allowing two vends per licensee. In the 2024-25 fiscal, liquor vend licences were issued for a one-year term, unlike 22 months this time.

“The auctions concluded in July, a month earlier than last year’s August timeline, due to the attractive provisions of the 2025-27 Excise Policy,” said Vinay Pratap Singh, Commissioner, Excise and Taxation. A transparent web portal facilitated high participation, he added.

The Haryana government has set a revenue target of Rs 14,064 crore under the new excise policy. In 2024-25, the government had collected Rs 12,700 crore against a target of Rs 12,650 crore.

“Prompt and strong action by state law enforcement against criminal elements, under the directions of the Hon’ble Chief Minister, ensured faster auctions and substantially higher revenue,” the commissioner stated.

He highlighted that these measures underscored the state’s commitment to the safety and security of its residents, contributing to the auction’s success.

Earlier, the third phase of liquor vend auctions, held on May 31, was a bonanza for the Haryana government’s exchequer as bids fetched Rs 1,270.40 crore, exceeding the reserve price of Rs 1,198.90 crore by 5.96 per cent.

Bristol Chowk on the city’s elite Golf Course Road saw the highest bids at Rs 98.6 crore by G-Town Wines against a reserve (base) price of Rs 94.6 crore.

Last year, the same zone had seen the highest bid by the same winning bidder at Rs 48.28 crore against a base price of Rs 36.75 crore. The state excise department had, in that phase, completed the auctions of 50 out of 79 liquor retail zones in Gurgaon (East) under the Excise Policy 2025-27.

DLF-3 zone had fetched Rs 63 crore against a reserve price of Rs 60 crore, the second highest in the district.

The third highest had been for Shankar Chowk zone, which had gone at the base price of Rs 62 crore.

Nawada zone saw winning bids that were 30% higher than the base price, while the same for South City was 25%, followed by American Express on Southern Peripheral Road (24.3% higher), Badshahpur (20.9%), Shikohpur and Kankrola (20.5% each), Sohna Road (16.9%), and Baani Square (12%).

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EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

AMID AN outcry over rising cases of stray dog bites, the Supreme Court on Monday took suo motu cognizance of a report about infants in Delhi falling prey to the menace.

Stressing that the incidents are “very alarming,” Justice J Pardiwala, presiding over a two-judge bench also comprising Justice R Mahadevan, said the news report has some disturbing facts. The court, while referring to the report, said hundreds of dog bites in Delhi and nearby areas are leading to rabies, and ultimately, children and the elderly are falling prey to the dreadful disease.

Directing that the facts be taken on record, the bench said, “We take suo motu cognizance. Registry shall register the petition and register it as suo motu.” The bench directed that the matter,

along with the news report, be placed before Chief Justice of India B R Gavai for appropriate orders.

The remarks by the bench come after the SC, earlier this month, had come down heavily on a woman in Noida who had alleged that she was being harassed for feeding community dogs.

A bench of Justices Vikram

Nath and Sandeep Mehta was hearing an appeal on July 15 moved by one Reema Shah, whose plea to the Allahabad High Court to issue directions to the Noida Authority and others to not to harass her was turned down.

The bench asked Shah’s counsel, “Should we leave every lane, every road open for these

large-hearted people?”

Making its displeasure evident, the court added, “There is all space for these animals, no space for humans.” It then asked, “Why don’t you (appellant) feed them in your own house? Nobody is stopping you.”

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Standing committee chairperson Satya Sharma said the panel would prepare a complete action plan for the construction and operation of these shelter homes, adding that it will submit its report to the Standing Committee within a month.

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The team continued its technical monitoring and distributed the suspect’s photograph to a network of informers across Delhi and the NCR, said police.

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In a state of panic and despite his family’s pleas to stop, he fled the scene. He later dropped his children at Rajokri and went into hiding in Noida in an attempt to avoid arrest, said police.

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“The pilot announced some technical issues after boarding... After that, we heard there was an issue with the wheels,” recalled Shikha Sinha, 65, a passenger.

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“One of our flights from Hindon is operating with a delay as it could not take off following a technical issue and subsequent watch hour limitations at the airport,” an Air India Express spokesperson had said.

Watch hour limitations are time restrictions notified by the Airports Authority of India for flight operations at an airport. For Hindon Airport, it’s sunrise to sunset.

Sinha recalled being taken to

the Delhi Airport with other passengers. “Around 7 pm, passengers were deboarded from the plane, and sent in a bus to take another flight from IGIA. But then, they were turned back midway, and told there were no alternative aircraft available at the Delhi airport,” she claimed.

The airline then provided accommodation to all 200 passengers in hotels near Hindon Airport. Around 3 am Monday, the passengers were taken to the Hindon Airport again after being told that the flight was expected to take off around 6 am.

However, passengers said the plane only took off around 11.41 am on Monday, 19 hours after the scheduled time. The flight reached its destination, Kolkata, around 1.48 pm.

“Since Sunday, we have gone through security checks multiple times. We waited endlessly... I am a heart patient, I had an appointment on Monday in Kolkata,” said a 78-year-old passenger.

There was no statement from Air India Express on Monday after the 19-hour delay.

Creating a Rabelaisian carnivalesque environment, Bhil dramas are filled with fun, dance, parody, and humour, subverting the notion of caste and class hierarchies. Some playlets even lampoon kings and gods.

Mehta says: “Through successive iterations of this festival, you see a dramatic change and improvement in the status of Bhils. A few generations ago, they were considered untouchable and not allowed to enter certain parts of upper caste homes... They are actually considered to be gods (during the festival)... However, after the Gavri, after the carnival, they go back to reality.”

The Bhils, one of the biggest Adivasi tribes in India, consider themselves direct descendants of Lord Shiva and his wife, Goddess Parvati. They organise

and to my surprise, the peon was among them. He was a khelya. That’s when I realised how deeply meaningful this ritual is to the people.”

Mehta first encountered this centuries-old traditional art form when she was posted as an IAS officer in Rajasthan. Enthralled by the bhava or trance-like state of the khelyas or performers during the festival, she carried out a three-decade-long research which culminated in a three-volume cultural memoir-cum-ethnography text titled, ‘Playing with the Goddess: Gavri of the Mewar Bhils’.

She recounts: “Back then, I had a small office and five or six staff. One of them, a peon, kept disappearing, and no one seemed to mind. Though his behaviour bothered me, I was caught up in my own work and life. Then came a turning point: we were travelling by a jeep to conduct a census,

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SC takes suo motu cognizance of rising cases of stray dog bites

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

AMID AN outcry over rising cases of stray dog bites, the Supreme Court on Monday took suo motu cognizance of a report about infants in Delhi falling prey to the menace.

Stressing that the incidents are “very alarming,” Justice J Pardiwala, presiding over a two-judge bench also comprising Justice R Mahadevan, said the news report has some disturbing facts. The court, while referring to the report, said hundreds of dog bites in Delhi and nearby areas are leading to rabies, and ultimately, children and the elderly are falling prey to the dreadful disease.

Directing that the facts be taken on record, the bench said, “We take suo motu cognizance. Registry shall register the petition and register it as suo motu.” The bench directed that the matter,

along with the news report, be placed before Chief Justice of India B R Gavai for appropriate orders.

The remarks by the bench come after the SC, earlier this month, had come down heavily on a woman in Noida who had alleged that she was being harassed for feeding community dogs.

A bench of Justices Vikram

Nath and Sandeep Mehta was hearing an appeal on July 15 moved by one Reema Shah, whose plea to the Allahabad High Court to issue directions to the Noida Authority and others to not to harass her was turned down.

The bench asked Shah’s counsel, “Should we leave every lane, every road open for these

large-hearted people?”

Making its displeasure evident, the court added, “There is all space for these animals, no space for humans.” It then asked, “Why don’t you (appellant) feed them in your own house? Nobody is stopping you.”

The last stray dog census was held in 2016 in Delhi. The estimated population is expected to have reached around 70 lakh.

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WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT

FUELING UP'S GROWTH STORY

Uttar Pradesh is witnessing a transformative era where women are no longer on the sidelines of development—they are leading it. Guided by the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the state has launched a wave of reforms, policies, and missions that are empowering crores of women with access to education, employment, safety, digital access, and property rights. Whether through over 10 lakh SHGs, landmark initiatives like Mission Shakti, Kanya Sumangala, or Mission UNNATI, or targeted interventions in police, transport, farming and finance—this is a decisive shift. Empowering women means empowering Uttar Pradesh.



1% Stamp Duty Exemption for Women Buyers (Property up to Rs. 1 Cr)

Sambhav Abhiyan 4.0 achieved a 7.5% reduction in underweight children and improved maternal-child health; 5.0 phase now begins.

1.75 lakh+ women have reportedly secured government jobs in 8 years

Foundation Stone laid for Women's Hostel at Mahayogi Gorakhnath University, Gorakhpur

Rs. 3,000 transferred via DBT to 35.78 lakh women under the Nirashrit Mahila Pension Yojana in Q1 FY26

10 lakh Self-Help Groups: employment to 1 crore+ women



MISSION UNNATI

Launched by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Udaiti Foundation, Mission UNNATI aims to empower women through a structured policy and data-driven approach. The Women Economic Empowerment Index (WEEI) evaluates all 75 districts using 49 indicators across 15 departments, focusing on entrepreneurship, employment, education, livelihood, safety, and mobility. The mission supports women micro-entrepreneurs, promotes vocational training (especially in ITIs), and aligns with UP's \$1 trillion economy goal, unlocking transformative potential by integrating women into the economic mainstream.

Districts are categorized into five tiers based on their performance on the WEEI: Champions to Aspirants.

Women's labour force participation rose from 14% (2017-18) to 36% (2023-24)

53% of e-Shram registrations are women



- **Beti Bachao- Beti Padhao Yojana:** 2 crore daughters benefitted
- **Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana:** More than 4.76 lakh couples married
- **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:** Free LPG connections to 1.86 crore families & free LPG cylinders on Diwali & Holi
- **Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana:** Over 23.40 lakh daughters benefitted, Rs. 25,000 in phased financial assistance per girl—from birth to Class 12th (up to 2 daughters) in Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.
- **Bhagya Lakshmi Yojana:** Rs. 50,000 bond at birth + staged support until class 12.
- **Rani Lakshmi Bai Self-Defence Training Programme:** 60 lakh+ girls trained
- Ranks first in the country in conviction rate for crimes against women
- 7.17 lakh women received assistance through the 181 Women Helpline Scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana: 60 lakh+ women benefitted



Over 27,178 women police personnel have been appointed across the state

10,378 dedicated women police beats allocated for enhanced safety

75 Women Police Stations and 78 Women Counselling Centers are operational

346 Women PRVs deployed to provide night escort and emergency security

2.03 lakh women benefited from One Stop Centers (OSC)

Women PAC battalions named after valiant icons Veerangana Avantibai, Veerangana Uda Devi & Veerangana Jhalkari Bai have been established in Budaun, Lucknow & Gorakhpur, respectively.

Establishment of 218 new Fast-Track Courts, 81 Magistrate-Level Courts, and 81 Additional sessions courts

Women Power Line 1090: 99.55% of complaints resolved

Establishment of Shakti Mobile & 10,417 women police beats in all 1584 police stations.

Establishment of women's cyber cell across 18 regional headquarters



UP CHARTS WOMEN'S PROGRESS WITH WEE INDEX

The Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) Index tracks women's advancement in employment, education, safety, and self-reliance. Lucknow, Kanpur, and Varanasi topped the index. Special drives under the ODOP Margin Money Scheme to boost women's inclusion secured 10% quota in industrial park auctions. Women now get preference in Home Guard and teacher recruitment, along with expanded access to technical, vocational, and paramedical training. Re-enrolment units will help dropouts return to skill programs. The participation of women in public transportation roles should be actively encouraged and promoted.

Financial Inclusion via 'Sakhis'

Banking Correspondent (BC) Sakhis:

- 50,000+ trained, managed Rs. 31,626 crore in transactions.
- Earned over Rs. 85.81 crore in commissions.

Vidyut Sakhis & Surya Sakhis

- Vidyut Sakhis collected Rs. 169 crore in just the first two months of FY 2025-26, following a total collection of Rs. 1,045 crore during FY 2024-25.
- In the last 5 years, 14,105 Vidyut Sakhis in Uttar Pradesh have collectively earned commissions exceeding Rs. 26 crore.
- Uttar Pradesh to appoint 57,702 Surya Sakhis—one per Gram Panchayat - to promote, maintain solar products and empower rural communities.

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) & Livelihood Promotion

- 10+ lakh SHGs formed, linking over 1 crore women to income-generating activities.
- 17.09 lakh women became 'Lakshmi Didis' under the central WEE schemes with UPSRLM support.
- The state aims to scale this initiative to reach 28.92 lakh women by FY 2026-27 through sustained livelihood promotion and support to self-help groups (SHGs).
- 7.17 lakh SHGs received revolving funds; 7.26 lakh SHGs received credit-linked.
- Under the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission, 873,534 self-help groups, 57,482 village organizations, and 3,137 cluster-level federations have been formed, connecting over 95 lakh women from rural areas.
- Under PM Matsya Sampada Yojana, rural women adopt scientific fish farming with grants, training, becoming self-reliant.

Women's Employment Boost via MGNREGA

- Female participation reached 45.05% in FY 2025-26 Q1, up from 35% in 2018-19.
- Driven by wage hikes and women-friendly workforce policies.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan: 2.77 crore toilets and 4,500 pink toilets constructed

WOMEN HELPLINE

Women Power Line - 1090
Women Helpline - 181
UP Police - 112
Child Helpline - 1098
Cyber Crime - 1930



6 IN PARLIAMENT MONSOON SESSION

House debates Pahalgam, Op Sindoor



Members of the Treasury benches on the left and the Opposition on the right during proceedings in Lok Sabha on Monday. *ANI*

BJP & ALLIES

flag India's 'aggression and assertive deterrence' against terrorism, while accusing previous Cong govt of 'inaction' after such attacks

OPP QUESTIONS

Govt on a range of issues — from alleged security lapses that led to April 22 attack, failure to arrest the terrorists and Trump's claims of brokering truce

New normal in fight against terror, world support: Jaishankar lists wins

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

OPERATION SINDOOR against Pakistan in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 civilians, marked a "new normal" in how India responds to terror and showed "we will never bow down to nuclear blackmail," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in the Lok Sabha Monday.

Calling for a united approach within the country in dealing with terror, Jaishankar said, "The challenge of cross-border terrorism continues, but Operation Sindoor marks a new phase. There is now a new normal."

The new normal has five points, he said. "One: terrorists will not be treated as proxies, two: cross-border terrorism will get an appropriate response, three: terror and talks are not possible together and there will only be talks on terror, four: not yielding to nuclear blackmail and finally, terror and good neighbourliness cannot coexist,



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Lok Sabha. *PTI*

blood and water cannot flow together. This is our position."

On the foreign policy dimension of Operation Sindoor, Jaishankar said that thanks to India's diplomacy, The Resistance Front (TRF) — a proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba that claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack — was designated as a global terrorist organisation by the US on July 18.

He said the focus of India's diplomacy (in the wake of Pahalgam attack) was directed at creating a global understanding of Pakistan's involvement, espe-

cially at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), of which Pakistan is presently a (non-permanent) member and India is not. "Our goals in the Security Council were two: to get an endorsement from the Security Council on the need for accountability, and to bring to justice those who perpetrated this attack," he said.

Jaishankar also said that a result of India's diplomacy post-Pahalgam attack was that only three of the countries that are part of the UN opposed Operation Sindoor. Underlining that India's response to Pahalgam was "focused, measured and non-escalatory," he said it was important to send a "clear, strong and resolute" message that "our red lines had been crossed".

In response to the Opposition's question on why India chose to stop the military action (on May 10), he accused the then Congress-led government of "inaction" after the 2008 Mumbai attacks. "People who did nothing have the temerity to ask a government which did so much, which brought down

Bahawalpur and Muridke, to say why didn't you do more — it's extraordinary," he said.

He also took on the Opposition for warning the government on a two-front challenge coming from Pakistan and China, saying it was their doing over the last six decades. "We are getting warnings about Pakistan-China collaboration, when this has been going on for 60 years," he said.

Jaishankar also slammed the Opposition leaders' visits to China "when the Chinese were issuing stapled visas to people from Arunachal Pradesh and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's meeting the Chinese Ambassador in the days of the Doklam standoff eight years ago.

"I did not go to China for Olympics, secret agreements; I went to make India's stand clear on terrorism, trade restrictions and de-escalation," he said. "The very people who are cautioning us on China are the people who allowed 3G and 4G to come from China. It was this government which ensured Made in India 5G."

Owaisi: When water, blood can't flow together, why play cricket?

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

AIMIM LEADER Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday asked in the Lok Sabha how the Centre can allow the national cricket team to play against Pakistan in the Asia Cup tournament on September 14 when the government had asserted after the Pahalgam attack that "water and blood cannot flow together" and had imposed various restrictions.

Owaisi said his own conscience will not allow him to watch that cricket match between India and Pakistan.

Participating in the special discussion on Operation Sindoor in Lok Sabha, Owaisi said when Indian airspace is closed for Pakistan's aircraft, their boats cannot enter India, trade is stopped, "with what face India will play a cricket match with Pakistan"?

"Does this government have so much courage to make a phone call to (families of) those killed (in Pahalgam attack) and



AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi in Lok Sabha. *PTI*

say that we have taken revenge in Operation Sindoor and you now watch Pakistan's cricket match? This is regrettable," he said.

Owaisi also asked the government to point out who was accountable for the terror attack. "If the accountability is fixed on L-G (Lieutenant-Governor), then dismiss L-G. If accountability is on IB or the police, then take action... accountability will have to be fixed," he said.

The Hyderabad MP urged the government to not make na-

tional security and foreign policy issues of politics and not make unity of the country a medium of getting votes.

Owaisi said unity and amity will have to be maintained in the country to defeat forces like Pakistan Army, ISI and others whose aim of life is to weaken India.

Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) MP Chandrashekar asked the government to clarify who helped the terrorists in crossing the border and entering Pahalgam. "Had the security

agencies received any input about this attack? If yes, then what action was taken on that input? Is the government implementing a standard operating procedure (SOP) for ensuring the safety of tourists? When the security review of sensitive places like Pahalgam was done last time, what shortcomings were found, and why did the Prime Minister not visit Pahalgam after the terror attack?"

Chandrashekar demanded the government should reinstate Chamar regiment and also form Gujar, Mahto and Yadav regiments in view of rise in terror activities.

Revolutionary Socialist Party's N K Premachandran said when the success stories of Operation Sindoor are being discussed, a critical analysis should also be done of the failures faced during Operation Sindoor and Pahalgam terror attack. He said there were three major failures on part of the government — "intelligence failures, tactical failure and failure of Indian foreign policy".

DOWNED JETS TO TRUMP ROLE IN TRUCE

Opposition's three questions & how Rajnath responded

VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh initiated the debate in the Lok Sabha on the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor, saying the Opposition was not asking the right questions. Here is how he dealt with three questions the Opposition has been raising.

1 How did the attack occur? Was there an intelligence failure?

Singh chose not to discuss the circumstances leading to the attack or information about the perpetrators that the probe had yielded so far.

2 How many jets did the Air Force lose?

The Opposition has been raising this question since June 1, when CDS Anil Chauhan said on the sidelines of the Shang-Ri La Dialogue in Singapore that the Air Force lost fighter jets on May 7 but quickly changed tactics to inflict major damage on Pakistani airbases.

The Defence Minister did not provide a specific answer to this question, saying the question itself was wrong. "In any exam, the result matters. If a student is getting good marks in an exam, the marks

should matter to us. We should not focus on whether his pencil was broken or the pen was lost during the exam. Ultimately, the result matters, and the result is that our forces achieved fully the goals of Operation Sindoor."

He added, "Their question does not represent India's sentiments. They have not yet asked how many Pakistani planes were shot down. If they want to ask questions, their question should be: Did India destroy terror bases? The answer is yes... Were the masters of terrorists who wiped Sindoor off the foreheads of our sisters and daughters destroyed? The answer is yes. You should ask whether our soldiers faced any losses. The answer is no... When the goals are big, we should not focus on comparatively small matters..."

3 What role did the US play in the ceasefire?

Singh dismissed the Opposition's question about whether pressure from the Trump administration played a role in the government's decision to halt the Operation on May 10. "Operation Sindoor was halted because we had fulfilled our political and military objectives. To say it was done under any pressure is totally baseless and wrong..." he said.

Decisive action has replaced 'politics of appeasement': NDA MPs target Cong

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

UNDERLINING INDIA'S "new normal" in response to cross-border terrorism, the BJP and its allies on Monday threw their weight behind the replacement of "dialogue and cooperation" with "decisive action" as displayed under Operation Sindoor launched in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

During the debate on Monday, the NDA leaders listed instances of the Congress "surrendering" India's national interest due to reasons ranging from "lack of courage" to "politics of appeasement" during its rule for decades. "The India of today is not the

India of 2008...this turnaround, this new normal is because of our changed policies. We must give full credit to our armed forces..." in the past, Pakistan-sponsored terrorists were attacking India and killing Indians almost on a daily basis,"

Kendrapara BJP MP Bajjayant Panda said.

Citing terror incidents during the Congress-led UPA's tenure, Panda listed various instances when India sought dialogue with Pakistan in the aftermath of such attacks. "What is most shameful is that retaliation was considered, it was planned by our armed forces but the then-government did not permit," he said.

"We kept appeasing them... Putting no pressure on them to

stop terror funding...Our approach in the past was only to co-operate... not to teach them a lesson," he said.

Terming Operation Sindoor "strong, successful and decisive", Narasaraopet TDP MP Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu called it (Operation Sindoor) a befitting reply to the Pahalgam "slaughter".

"More than violence, it was an assault on the soul of India...tourists were asked about their religion and shot dead in front of their children... wives... it is slaughter..." Devarayalu said.

"With Operation Sindoor, India has sent a very strong message... India will wait, but will never forget. This is not aggression, this is assertive deterrence," he added, crediting PM Narendra

Modi for moving from "reactive to resolute, from strategic silence to strategic sovereignty".

Panchayati Raj Minister and Munger JDU MP Rajiv Ranjan Singh also attacked the Congress for not having done enough to counter terrorism when it was in power. "Between 2004 and 2014 during the UPA's tenure, the terror attacks which took place claimed 615 lives...what action did you take...nothing happened," Ranjan said, citing the 2008 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

Samastipur LSJP (PV) MP Shambhavi said: "...This is the new Bharat that does not light candles after a terrorist attack, it sets fire to their pyres. India wants peace but on its own terms."

Tharoor, Tewari not in Cong list of speakers

ASAD REHMAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

THE CONGRESS has left out its leaders who were part of multi-party delegations that travelled to various countries in the wake of Operation Sindoor from its list of speakers for the debate on it in Parliament.

"The delegations represented India abroad and spoke in favour of the government. Now, it is time to voice the concerns of the Opposition and people of India, and hence, the party has picked new people to speak in the House," a Congress MP said.

Among the leaders who were part of the delegations are former Union ministers Salman Khurshid and Anand Sharma, who are currently not MPs. However, MPs like Shashi Tharoor, Manish Tewari and Amar Singh were also not picked by the Congress to speak in the debate.

Sources said the Congress did approach Tharoor through the party's floor leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi and MP Kodikunnil Suresh, but he declined and instead expressed a desire to speak on The Indian Ports Bill, 2025. "He said that participating in the debate was avoidable as he cannot deviate



Were part of delegations that travelled to countries in the wake of Op Sindoor

from the line he had taken when he travelled abroad as part of a delegation. Tharoor believes he will have to be consistent but that would perhaps be a violation of the party line. Hence, he

chose silence," a source said.

Tewari, on the other hand, wanted to speak. Sources said he had even written a letter to the party expressing his desire to participate in the discussion, but the party chose not to field him.

The Congress had been at loggerheads with the Centre over the constitution of the delegations that travelled abroad after Operation Sindoor, accusing it of doing "cheap politics" by not picking its choices like Gogoi and Amrinder Singh Raja Warring. It was particularly upset over the Centre choosing Tharoor as it followed several issues on which the MP was at odds with his party.

Shut Donald's mouth or close McDonald's: Hooda to Govt on Trump's truce claims

NC MP urges Shah: Punish murderers, release innocents arrested after attack

PTI & ENS
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

ATTACKING THE Government, Congress MP Deepender Singh Hooda demanded that India should not play cricket with Pakistan at a time when Operation Sindoor is going on.

He also demanded modernisation of Indian defence forces and increase in the defence budget. He said that US President Donald Trump claimed "28 times" that he brokered peace between India and Pakistan, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi has never contradicted him.

The government has to decide its relationship with the US, he said, adding: "Donald ko chup karao, Donald ka muh band karao ya phir Hindustan mein McDonald's ko band karao. (Silence Donald, shut Donald's mouth, or shut down McDonald's in India): that either India should ask Trump to stop speaking on India-Pakistan issues or the government should shut McDonald's in India."

The Rohtak MP added that the government should disclose the terms of ceasefire with Pakistan. He also said no country has condemned Pakistan and the Indian government also failed to stop loans granted to Pakistan by IMF and ADB.



Cong's Deepender Singh Hooda speaks in LS. *PTI*

During the debate, J&K National Conference MP Mian Altaf Ahmad demanded the government take notice of "innocent killings" in police firing in the UT and release "innocent people" arrested after the Pahalgam attack.

Ahmad said he belongs to the area where the attack was carried out. "Home Minister (Amit Shah) is here and I am sure that all the murderers will be punished. Our demand to you is to give stringent punishment to them," he said.

Taking on the government, NC's Srinagar MP Ruhullah Mehdi said that after the Pahalgam incident, "a war had started with the people of Kashmir too". He said people from J&K were "defamed" on social media so much that more than 11 cases of violence against them took place in UP, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

BIHAR

Jooto se mareng:
MLA threatens
panchayat secy,
clarifies later

HIMANSHU HARSH
PATNA, JULY 28

A RECORDING of a recent phone conversation, in which RJD MLA Bhai Virendra is allegedly heard telling a local panchayat secretary from his Maner Assembly constituency that he would "beat him with a shoe (*joota se maareng kheenchkar*)", has gone viral on social media, prompting the MLA to issue a clarification.

Bhai Virendra, a four-time MLA from Maner known for his close association with former Bihar chief minister Lalu Prasad and current Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav, had contacted the panchayat secretary, Sandeep Bharati, regarding the matter of a death certificate. The panchayat secretary initially failed to recognise Virendra by name during the call, which led to a dispute over protocol and respect.

After an audio clip of the call went viral, Virendra issued a statement on his Facebook page, acknowledging the use of strong language during the call but attributing this to the panchayat secretary's tone, which he described as dismissive and disrespectful. He claimed that the official neither greeted him nor took the matter seriously, which led to the exchange escalating.

The RJD leader further criticised Sandeep Bharati for recording and leaking the call without consent, arguing that it was a violation of privacy laws and government conduct rules. He also assured his constituents that he remained committed to helping the public and holding officials accountable for their performance.

Bhai Virendra has long been a prominent and controversial figure in Bihar politics, frequently drawing attention for his blunt and outspoken ways.

Last week, he drew criticism during the Monsoon Session of the Bihar Legislative Assembly for allegedly using unparliamentary language. Despite repeated objections and calls for an apology from the Speaker, Virendra stood by his comment and categorically refused to apologise.



Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur
भारतीय अभियान्त्रिकी विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, शिवपुर
ভাৰতীয় অভিযান্ত্রিক বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তিবিদ্যা প্রতিষ্ঠান, শিবপুর
(An Institution of National Importance under MOC, Govt. of India)

Admission to M.Tech./M.Plan. Programme, Academic Session 2025-26 for Non-GATE Self-Sponsored (without scholarship)

Advt. No. RO/JL/25/12 Date: 28.07.2025

Applications are invited for admission to M.Tech./M.Plan. Programme 2025-26 for Non-GATE Self-Sponsored (without scholarship) through online mode. For eligibility criteria, submission deadlines, seat matrix and other details please visit at www.iiests.ac.in.

Last date of online submission of application is August 10, 2025 upto 11.59 P.M.

Registrar

EXPRESS
Careers



Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi
Nursing Officer Recruitment
Common Eligibility Test (NORCET) 9
Notice No.A.12019/02/24-Estt. Date: 25.07.2025

It has been decided to fill up the vacant posts of Nursing Officer at Level 07 in the Pay Matrix (Rs. 44900-142400) Group-B for **Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi** through the Nursing Officer Recruitment Common Eligibility Test (NORCET)-9, to be conducted by AIIMS New Delhi as per available vacancies in the Institute.

Eligibility Criteria for appearing in NORCET

Essential Qualification

I a. B.Sc. (Hons.) in Nursing from a recognised University or Institute; or Regular Course in B.Sc Nursing from a recognised University or institute; or Post Basic B.Sc Nursing from recognised University or Institute;

b. Registered as a nurse or nurse and mid-wife with State Nursing Council.

OR

II a. Diploma in General Nursing Mid-wifery from a recognised Board or Council;

b. Registered as a nurse or nurse and mid-wife with State Nursing Council; and

c. One year experience in a minimum fifty bedded Hospital after acquiring the educational qualification.

Age Limit:

1. **Not exceeding thirty years. (Relaxable for Government servants upto five years in accordance with instructions or orders issued by the Central Government.)**

2. Age shall be counted on the last date of closing of the application form.

APPLICATION FEES:

A) General/OBC Candidates - Rs.3000/- (Rupees Three Thousand only)

B) SC/ST Candidates/EWS - Rs.2400/- (Rupees Twenty-Four Hundred only)

C) Persons with Disabilities - Exempted

- The candidate can pay the prescribed application fee through DEBIT CARD/CREDIT CARD/ NET BANKING. Transaction / Processing fee, if any, as applicable, will be payable to the bank by the candidate.
- Application fee, once remitted, shall not be refunded under any circumstances.**
- Applications without the prescribed fee would not be considered and summarily rejected.
- Application Fees of SC/ST candidates who appear in the Examination will be refunded after the declaration of results in due course of time after verification SC/ST certificate to be uploaded at a later stage.**

Online (CBT) for Stage I: NORCET Preliminary, Date: 14th September, 2025 (Sunday),
Online (CBT) for Stage II : NORCET Mains, Date: 27th September, 2025 (Saturday)
Related details can be seen on our website www.cipranchi.nic.in and AIIMS website www.aiimsexams.ac.in

Sd/-
Director




कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड
(एक महारन कंपनी)

Coal India Limited (CIL) has launched **NIRMAN (Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of National Civil Service Examination) 2025** scheme as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility activities to provide financial support of Rs. 1 lakh each to candidates hailing from its mining districts who qualify the preliminary round of Civil Service & Forest Service Examination 2025 conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

The last date of application for the scheme has been extended to 1800 hours on 03.08.2025.

For further details regarding the scheme including its Eligibility, Application Process etc., please visit the link <https://nirman.cmpdi.co.in/>

CIL encourages eligible candidates to apply and take benefit of the scheme.



AHMEDABAD JANMARG LIMITED
(A 100% Subsidiary of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation)
Regd. Office : AMC West Zone Office, Ground Floor,
Dr. Ramanbhai Patel Bhavan, Usmanpura, Ahmedabad-13

Advertisement No : 18 Date: 29-07-2025

Ahmedabad Janmarg Limited invites applications for the following post is purely on contractual basis for 24 months which can be extended further considering the requirement and performance.

Name of Post	No. of Vacancies	Qualification & Experience	Remuneration (Monthly Basis)
Transport Expert	02	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Graduate Degree in Transport planning, Urban Transport system, Transport Management or any other course in Transport Section.5 Years experience in Public Bus Operations with 3 Years in an urban public transport environment.	Rs.1 Lakh (Negotiable)

Important Notes: (1) Attested copies of all the testimonials must be sent with the application. (2) Applications which are incomplete, not in prescribed application form and received after the last date of application shall be rejected. (3) Applicants if called for interview will have to come at their own cost. (4) Canvassing in any form shall be a disqualification. (5) Age of the applicant should not be more than 40 years. (As On Dt.01/07/2025). (6) Interested candidate are advice to study BRTS project, take ride in BRTS bus before coming to interview. (7) Application should reach to the General Manager, Ahmedabad Janmarg Ltd., AMC West Zone Office, Dr. Ramanbhai Patel Bhavan, Usmanpura Cross Road, Ahmedabad - 380013, Gujarat on or before Dt. 14-08-2025, before 5.00 pm by post/ by Courier / In Person. (8) Management will not be responsible for delayed receipt/non-receipt of applications. (9) For application form & more information, please visit to our website <https://www.ahmedabadbrts.org/updates/Advertisements>



MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnem Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001.
CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period Up to 30.09.2024 & MSGL, SPL, 16, One Plus, Guide prepaid, Super value, ADGL and all other 6 months tenure gold loans upto 31.12.2024 and MSGB, SME Suvarna & EMI due upto 30.06.2025. Also those gold loans where interest is due and not paid up to 30.06.2025 are also included in this auction, which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so far inspite of repeated notices, will be auctioned on 27.08.2025 from 10 am onwards.

BARREILLY DISTRICT- PRIYADARSHANI NAGAR-BAREILLY: 2455000385, 2455000396, 2455000415, 2455000433, 2455000440, 2455000506, 2455000512, 2455000539, 2455000560, 2455000562, 2455000608, 2455000611, 2455000642, 2455000671, 2455000704, 2455000728, 2455000762, 2455000775, 2455000794, 2455000797, 2455000808, 2455000808, 2455000837, 2455000839, 2455000843, 2455000845, 2455000850, 2455000854, 2455000862, 2455000882, 2455000915, 2455000916, 2455000926, 2455000945, 2455000946, 2455000959, 2455001009, 2455001038, 2455001146, 2455001160, 2455001204, 2455001208, 2455001290, 2455001291, 2455001292, 2455001293, 2455001299, 2455001306, 2455001310, 2455001319.

MATHURA DISTRICT-MATHURAS: 4318000503, 4318000512, 4318000522, 4318000538, 4318000570, 4318000614, 4318000620, 4318000646, 4318000655, 4318000657, 4318000662, 4318000672, 4318000679, 4318000695, 4318000700, 4318000731, 4318000743, 4318000789, 4318000790, 4318000796, 4318000802, 4318000808, 4318000827, 4318000832, 4318000852, 4318000856, 4318000866, 4318000867, 4318000876, 4318000880, 4318000916, 4318000917, 4318000925, 4318000943, 4318000946, 4318000952, 4318000982, 4318001061, 4318001075, 4318001085, 4318001139, 4318001818, 4318002028, 4318002040, 4318002068, 4318002072, 4318002076, 4318002077, 4318002083, 4318002085, 4318002100, 4318002136, 4318002139, 4318002159, 4318002160, 4318002181, 4318002183, 4318002185, 4318002192, 4318002226, 4318002255, 4318002257, 4318002266, 4318002310, 4318002324, 4318002339, 4318002357, 4318002363, 4318002374, 4318002414, 4318002440, 4318002448, 4318002453, 4318002456, 4318002460, 4318002463, 4318002467, 4318002472, 4318002475, 4318002483, 4318002487, 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DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



SUITABLE SPACE

A WEEK after Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi conceded that the Congress “fell short” of understanding the issues faced by OBCs, and that the party would work at “double speed” for the community going forward, the OBC department of AICC has got an electric display board proclaiming the department and its headquarters. The design of the board has become a topic of discussion at the party office as it features symbols like the Ashoka Chakra and the Gandhian Charkha. The department is looking for a suitable space to install the board so it can grab maximum eyeballs.

TASTE OF BENGAL

TMC MPs are “delighted” with a change of menu at the Parliament cafeterias. The reason: ‘grilled Bhетки fish’. Sharing the “good news”, MPs of the West Bengal-based party said ‘grilled Bhетки’ was a welcome change at the Parliament cafeterias as so far only Basa fish was served, which most Bengali fish eaters found “flavourless”. The rate of the Bhетки dish — ₹350 per plate — also meant TMC MPs could enjoy it at an “affordable price”.

SURPRISE INVITE

UTTAR PRADESH Horticulture Minister (Independent Charge) Dinesh Pratap Singh has written to PM Narendra Modi, inviting him to lay the foundation stone of the International Potato Centre’s (CIP) South Asia Regional Centre (CSARC) in Agra. The letter has taken several officials at the Centre by surprise. The Union Cabinet had only approved the proposal to establish CSARC on June 25, and Singh sent the letter to the PM the very day. The minister extended the invitation even before the formal MoU between the Union Ministry of Agriculture and CIP was signed, and without any formal proposal yet from the UP Chief Minister’s Office for such a ceremony, it is learnt.

BJP MP’s son, accused of stalking, dropped as law officer in Haryana AG’s office

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, JULY 28

THE HARYANA government Monday dropped Vikas Barala, who is facing charges of sexual harassment for allegedly stalking and attempting to kidnap the daughter of an IAS officer eight years ago, from its list of recently appointed law officers, reportedly after he failed to join the post.

A notification, signed by Additional Chief Secretary Dr Sumit Misra, confirmed the development. “The Governor of Haryana is pleased to delete the name of Sh Vikas, mentioned at Sr. No. 4 on page 9 of order of the engagement of law officers dated 18.07.2025,” read the order.

The order did not mention the surname of the law officer whose name has been deleted. However, the July 18 order, issued after being approved by then Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, listed Vikas Barala at Serial Number 4 on page 9.

Sources in Haryana AG’s office said that Barala, who was appointed by the state government as an assistant advocate general along with 96 other law officers,

did not join the post. Advocate General Pravindra Singh Chauhan said if an appointee does not join within a week to 10 days, then the state government is informed. “Vikas didn’t join,” he said.

AG Chauhan had earlier told *The Indian Express* that “there was some confusion, because there were two Vikas on the list” and that he was not aware of Barala’s background. He had said that Barala, son of BJP Rajya Sabha MP Subhash Barala, had not joined and would not join. The Haryana government’s July 18 notification listed appointments for the posts of assistant advocate generals, deputy advocate generals, senior deputy advocate generals, and additional advocate generals.

The Indian Express was first to highlight that of the 97 law officers selected, at least 23 have connections to politicians, bureaucrats, judges, and IAS/IPS officers. On the appointment, A G Chauhan had said it was “wrong to see all from one lens”. “They have not made it to these posts due to their surnames, but only due to their competence,” he had told *The Indian Express*.

Employees can’t criticise govt policies on social media, says Maharashtra

VALLABH OZARKAR MUMBAI, JULY 28

THE MAHARASHTRA government Monday issued a detailed government resolution (GR) prohibiting government employees from making critical comments on any policies of the state or central government — current or previous — on social media platforms.

The GR, issued by the General Administration department, states, “Government employees are strictly prohibited from making critical or adverse comments on the functioning, actions, or policies of the state or central government — be it current or recent. Such acts will be treated as a violation of the Maharashtra Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1979, and will invite disciplinary action.”

The circular states that “posting, sharing, or forwarding of any objectionable, hateful, defamatory, or discriminatory content is strictly prohibited. No confidential or official documents — either in part or whole — may be shared, uploaded, or forwarded on any platform without prior authorisation or approval.”

The GR asked officials and personnel to maintain separate personal and official social media accounts, avoiding any overlap between private opinions and official duties. Adding that social media should not be used for self-promotion, the GR said, “While employees are permitted to share updates about collective efforts or successful implementation of schemes, care must be taken to avoid any form of self-praise or individual glorification.”

LAUNCHES TMC’S ‘BHASHA ANDOLAN’ IN BIRBHUM DISTRICT

Mamata links ‘SIR and linguistic terror’, slams ‘backdoor NRC’ bid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, JULY 28

WEST BENGAL CM Mamata Banerjee Monday hyphenated the issues of detention of Bangla-speaking migrants in several parts of the country with the Election Commission’s plan to roll out the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) across the country, including in poll-bound West Bengal. She also accused the BJP and the EC of trying to implement the NRC in the country “through the backdoor”.

Launching her party’s Bhasha Andolan (language movement) campaign from Bolpur — the karmabhoomi of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore — the TMC supremo alleged that the BJP-led Centre, in collusion with the EC, was targeting minorities, OBCs, the poor, and Bengali-speaking voters through the SIR to strike off genuine names from the voter list in a “covert” NRC-like exercise.

The CM, who took part in a 3-km march in Bolpur, holding a portrait of Tagore, asserted that



CM Mamata Banerjee in Birbhum on Monday. Express

she would not allow the setting up of detention centres in Bengal and dared the EC to delete names of genuine voters.

Accusing the EC of acting at the behest of BJP government at the Centre, “They (EC) are finalising the voters’ list, while sitting in Gujarat. Gujaratis are not my enemies. BJP’s agency (EC) is doing this... They have already set up detention camps in Haryana and Assam. I will not allow NRC in Bengal as long as I am alive. I

won’t allow detention camps to be built here... Have our Hindu brothers forgotten how 7 lakh names were removed in Assam?”

“We will stop this conspiracy to jeopardise our existence in the name of linguistic terror and an attempt to implement NRC through the backdoor... The EC, with due respect, are you playing the government’s NRC game?” she added.

Banerjee declared she would “give up her life but not her lan-

guage”, and vowed to stand against attempts to erase Bengali ‘asmita’ (pride), disenfranchise the poor, or drive out migrants under the guise of electoral roll revision. “We have no enmity with any language. I believe that unity in diversity is the foundation of our nation. But if you try to erase our language and culture, we will resist peacefully, powerfully, and politically,” she said.

Targeting PM Narendra Modi, Mamata said, “When you travel to Arab nations and hug the sheikhs, do you ask whether they are Hindus or Muslims? Did you ask the Maldives President his religion before hugging him and donating \$5,000 crore, while depriving Bengal of its dues?”

Stating that Bangla is world’s fifth-most spoken language and the second-most in Asia, she said, “Yet, Bengalis are being tortured across states. Why this hatred? If Bengal can accept and shelter 1.5 crore migrant workers from other states, why can’t you accept 22 lakh Bengali migrants working elsewhere?”.

WITH PTI INPUTS

Chidambaram questions Pahalgam terrorists’ identity, BJP hits back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 28

AS PARLIAMENT debates Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, former Union Minister P Chidambaram’s recent remarks on the terrorists involved in the killings have kicked up a row.

In an interview to *The Quint*, uploaded on Saturday (July 26), Chidambaram said the Pahalgam attackers “for all we know could be homegrown terrorists” and “why do you assume that they came from Pakistan”? He also said that “there is no evidence” that the terrorists came from Pakistan.

To a question on “what they (government) are trying to hide”, Chidambaram said: “They are hiding the fact. I think. And this is speculation. The CDS hinted at that — that we made tactical mistakes, we re-strategised. So, what tactical mistakes were made? What was the re-strategising? Those questions either they (government) are incompetent to answer or they are unwilling to answer... They are unwilling to disclose what the NIA has done all these weeks.”

“Have they identified the ter-



P Chidambaram

rorists, where they came from? For all we know they could be homegrown terrorists. Why do you assume that they came from Pakistan? There is no evidence of that. They are also hiding the losses,” the Congress leader said in the interview.

He said he wrote in a column that in a war, losses occur on both sides. “I understand that India would have suffered losses. Be upfront. Winston Churchill in World War 2 made a statement every other day. Whatever losses Britain suffered, they made it plain... They (government) are reluctant to admit the losses... I think they think they can put a large shroud on Operation Sindoor.”

BJP’s national information and technology department in-charge Amit Malviya hit out at

Chidambaram over his statement. “P Chidambaram, former UPA-era Home Minister and the original proponent of the infamous ‘safron terror’ theory, covers himself with glory yet again.”

Quoting his interview, Malviya said: “Once again, the Congress rushes to give a clean chit to Pakistan — this time after the Pahalgam terror attack.”

“Why is it that every time our forces confront Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, Congress leaders sound more like Islamabad’s defence lawyers than India’s Opposition,” asked Malviya.

“When it comes to national security, there should be no ambiguity. But with the Congress, there never is — they always bend over backwards to protect the enemy,” Malviya said on X.

Asked about BJP’s reaction, Chidambaram said: “I saw a troll and I have responded to the troll.” In a post on X on Monday, the Congress leader said: “Trolls are of different kinds and use different tools to spread misinformation. The worst kind is a troll who suppresses the full recorded interview, takes two sentences, mutes some words, and paints the speaker in a black colour!”

Rahul to ‘adopt’ 22 children who lost their parents in Pak shelling during Op Sindoor

ARUN SHARMA JAMMU, JULY 28

LEADER OF Opposition in LS Rahul Gandhi has decided to “adopt” nearly two dozen children who lost their parents during the India-Pakistan conflict following the Pahalgam terror attack.

According to Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Tariq Hamid Karra, Gandhi will bear the educational expenses of 22 children in Poonch, who lost both their parents or the family’s



Rahul Gandhi at Christ Public School in Poonch in May

sole bread-winner in Pakistani shelling.

Poonch town was one of the worst-hit by cross-border shell-

ing, with around half a dozen children injured. Among the victims was Vihaan Bhargav who was killed by shrapnel while his family was trying to leave the town.

Karra said the first instalment of the aid would be released on Wednesday to enable the children to continue their studies. “The assistance will continue till these children graduate,” he added.

Gandhi, during a visit to Poonch in May, asked local party leaders to compile a list of affected children. Subsequently, a survey was conducted and names of the

children were finalised after cross-checking government records.

Gandhi had also visited Christ Public School, whose students — 12-year-old twins Urba Fatima and Zain Ali — were among the casualties. “I feel very, very proud of you. You miss your little friends. I’m very sorry about that. Now, you feel a little bit of danger, a little frightened, but don’t worry, everything will go back to normal... Your way of responding to this should be to study really hard, play really hard and make a lot of friends in school,” he told the kids.

WILL SPEED UP TIME TAKEN TO OPERATIONALISE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

India’s 1st private test facility for heavy water upgrade opens

AMITABH SINHA NEW DELHI, JULY 28

IN A small but significant step towards speeding up the operationalisation of nuclear power plants, India’s nuclear establishment has, for the first time, roped in private players to carry out a key process that was so far handled entirely in-house.

Mumbai-based TEMA India has been entrusted with testing the equipment required for up-gradings of depleted heavy water, a crucial requirement at all Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors in India. Until now, the testing was done by the country’s main nuclear research, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

TEMA India inaugurated its test facility two days ago at Ach-



Mumbai-based TEMA India will test the equipment required for upgrading depleted heavy water. Express

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had in Palghar district, about 100 km north of Mumbai, where it will manufacture equipment such as distillation columns and integrate and test them before sending them to reactor sites for installation.

The Department of Atomic Energy said the facility was designed and built by TEMA India’s nuclear vertical under technology transfer from BARC and a ‘pur-

chase order’ from Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL).

“What we have built is a single-point solution for the upgrading of heavy water. Earlier, the distillation columns and modules used to be manufactured by other vendors, then assembled and tested by BARC. The entire process was perhaps taking seven to eight years. We will be able to reduce this time period by at least one to two years,” said Sunil Kubal, Executive Director-Nuclear at TEMA India.

Heavy water (D2O) is a form of water (H2O) with deuterium, a heavier isotope of hydrogen, instead of regular hydrogen, and is used as a coolant as well as moderator for slowing down fast-moving neutrons during a chain reaction, essential for sustaining the nuclear fission process.

Modi: NEP making big contribution towards holistic growth of students

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JULY 28

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi said there have been many positive changes in education during the last five years and the new National Education Policy (NEP) is making a significant contribution to the holistic and multidimensional development of students by encouraging research and innovation.

In a message on the completion of five years of NEP, Modi noted that the Ministry of Education is organising Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) Tuesday and new initiatives will be launched in the field of education during the event.

“Education is the medium that makes a person self-reliant and a nation strong. Our aim is to ensure such an education system in which students can move forward according to their interest, ability and dreams. Today, the country is moving on the path of progress by equipping



Education makes a nation strong: PM Narendra Modi

the education related to the glorious Indian culture with technology and global standards.

The PM noted that in Amrit Kaal, India is rapidly moving towards the creation of a grand and developed country.

“During this period, the role of NEP 2020 will be important in promoting the confidence, curiosity and creativity of our youth. The shiksha samagam is a symbol of our shared resolve and spirit of cooperation.

“I am confident that this event will not only give educational institutions an opportunity to share their best practices, strategies and achievements, but will also strengthen the continuous efforts for the successful implementation of the NEP,” he said.

Dimple’s mosque visit: NDA MPs try to put SP in a spot, rush to her defence

LALMANI VERMA NEW DELHI, JULY 28

SP MP Dimple Yadav found herself in the middle of a political row Monday over her visit to a mosque in Delhi last week.

While the BJP’s minority cell chief objected to Dimple not covering her head during the visit, a group of women MPs from the NDA showed solidarity with the SP leader following a Delhi-based cleric’s allegedly offensive comments about her. The Mainpuri MP, in response, said the show of solidarity would have been “more meaningful” had the ruling alliance leaders “stood with the women of Manipur”.

On July 21, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, Dimple, and 10 other party MPs visited the Parliament Street mosque after LS was adjourned for the day. The SP’s Rampur MP, Mohibbullah Nadvi, is the mosque’s imam. According to BJP minority cell chief Jamal Siddiqui, it was a political meeting that did not conform to mosque rules.

“Akhilesh Yadav was wearing a Samajwadi cap at the mosque, his wife, behan (sister) Dimple Yadav, was sitting in an area where entry of women is prohibited. And her attire did not conform to mosque rules. We opposed all that. And we objected to Maulana (SP MP Mohibbullah) taking them there and making the mosque an undeclared office of SP. So, he should be removed as Imam of that mosque,” Siddiqui told *The Indian Express*.

Asked why he thought Dimple did not follow the rules with regard to her attire, he said she did not cover her head. “No one can enter a mosque wearing a saree,” Siddiqui said.

NDA MPs, meanwhile,



NDA MPs protest in solidarity with SP MP Dimple Yadav. PTI

protested against remarks by a cleric, Maulana Sajid Rashidi, about Dimple during a television debate last week.

“We are raising our voice against the way a woman’s dignity was targeted based on communalism,” said IJP (RV) MP Shambhavi Choudhary. “The party may have any ideology, but we must come together for dignity of women. What is most shameful is that Akhilesh Yadav did not raise his voice in support of his wife for the sake of his politics... The way Sajid Rashidi has spoken about Dimple Yadav is not acceptable... SP’s politics is completely on appeasement... NDA always stands for the cause of women’s dignity.”

BJP MP Bansuri Svaraj said, “Why is the Opposition silent? Why is Dimple Yadav’s party silent? Why has her husband (Akhilesh Yadav) not yet spoken against this statement?... Is the politics of appeasement more important than the dignity of a woman MP?” Responding to them, Dimple said: “It would have been better had they staged demonstrations and stood with the women. And, the way BJP leaders and senior ministers made statements from the stage on our Army officers during Operation Sindoor, it would have been better if they (NDA) stood with them,” she said. — WITH PTI

Haryana and two at Kaiga in Karnataka. “We are hoping to get more orders in the future. The Indian nuclear industry is set to expand rapidly, and we hope to play an important role in its growth,” Kubal said.

India has set its eyes at achieving 100 GW of installed nuclear energy capacity by 2047. There are 24 nuclear reactors operational in India, with an installed capacity of 8,780 MW. The government had approved construction of 10 more nuclear reactors in 2015, of which one has come onboard, while the rest — with a combined capacity of 13.6 GW — are under construction. The immediate target is to achieve 22.4 GW of installed capacity by 2032. The government has also launched a ₹20,000-crore Nuclear Energy Mission to develop Small Modular Reactors.

EXPRESS NETWORK

2 ‘electrocuted’, 5 injured in Barabanki temple

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JULY 28

TWO DEVOTEES, including a minor, were electrocuted to death while five others were injured due to electric shock at a temple in the Haidergarh area of Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki district on Monday, the district administration said.

When the injured were being rushed to hospital, the rumour of electrocution caused a stampede-like situation with people running out of the temple, officials said.

The deceased were identified as Ramesh Kumar, 28, and Prashant Kumar, 17.

The incident occurred at the Awsaneshwar temple when a wire broke off and fell on the temple's tin shed, under which a crowd of devotees had assembled to offer 'jal abhishek' (offering water and milk to Shivalinga) at 2.30 am, the administration said in a statement. The wire, which was used for lighting inside the temple, broke off after a group of monkeys jumped on it, the officials said.

Barabanki District Magistrate (DM) Shashank Tripathi told The



People undergoing treatment at a hospital in Barabanki on Monday. *PTI*

Indian Express, "The autopsy confirmed that the two deaths were caused due to electrocution. The cremation of the two victims was held in the afternoon at their villages."

"Both Ramesh Kumar and Prashant Kumar belonged to the Haidergarh area of the district. The Chief Minister has announced Rs 2 lakh each to the kin of both the deceased," Tripathi added. Tripathi said a spot verification was done and there was

no need for an investigation since there was no negligence behind the incident.

"This is a Shiva temple and devotees from nearby areas had started gathering since night for the 'jal abhishek'. The queue of the devotees was moving in and out of the temple when monkeys suddenly started jumping on the tin shed while hanging on the wires. A wire fell on the shed and two of the visitors came in contact with the shed. Five oth-

ers close to them also suffered electric shocks," Tripathi said.

DM Tripathi said the two electrocuted were declared dead at the hospital while five others were discharged after the treatment. "There was no law and order problem after the incident and devotees have been visiting the temple throughout the day since early morning," he added.

The Awsaneshwar is another prominent temple in Barabanki after Lodheshwar temple of Lord Shiva where kanwariyas offer 'sacred water' brought from nearby districts.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of an event, DGP Rajeev Krishna said senior officials, including the zonal and range-level officers, visited the spot. "Two people unfortunately died in the incident, which was caused due to electrocution and not because of any stampede. Almost all of the injured have been discharged from hospital after treatment. Some are under observation," he said.

Expressing "deep sorrow" over the loss of lives, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath extended his condolences to the bereaved families. "He (CM) has directed the district administra-

tion officials to expedite the proper treatment of the injured and relief operations," Adityanath's office posted on X in Hindi.

Meanwhile, the Opposition parties demanded compensation for the victims. The Samajwadi Party posted on X, "The government should give a compensation of Rs 1 crore each to the families of the deceased devotees, ensure proper treatment and compensation for those injured and disclose the correct number of deaths." The UP Congress described the incident as "extremely tragic".

"The news of the death of two devotees due to an electric shock and several others being injured is distressing. We express our deep condolences to the grieving families and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," it posted on X. "This incident points to serious deficiencies in the arrangements. Robust security and crowd management measures are extremely necessary at religious sites. We demand that the government provide appropriate compensation and all possible assistance to the affected families," the Congress state unit said.

— WITH PTI INPUTS

TN Dalit techie hacked to death in ‘honour killing’, police couple’s son held

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JULY 28

A 27-YEAR-OLD Dalit software engineer was hacked to death in broad daylight on Sunday in what police and family members described as a case of caste-based honour killing. The victim, Kavin Selva Ganesh, was allegedly murdered by the brother of a woman he had been in a long-term relationship with.

The accused, 21-year-old S Surjith, surrendered to police shortly after allegedly attacking Kavin near a private Siddha hospital in KTC Nagar, Tirunelveli, where the woman, Subashini, works as a consultant. Surjith is the son of two police officers — sub-inspectors Saravanan and Krishnakumari — both of whom have also been named as co-accused in the case for allegedly inciting the crime and threatening Kavin in the past.

Kavin, a native of Arumugamangalam in Thoothukudi district and an engineering graduate employed with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in Chennai, had maintained contact with Subashini since their school days. According to sources,



The victim, Kavin Selva Ganesh worked with TCS.

their relationship was amicable but had faced escalating hostility from the woman's family, who belong to a Most Backward Class (MBC) community. Kavin's family, who belong to a Scheduled Caste (SC), say they had been threatened multiple times.

On Sunday, Kavin visited KTC Nagar to consult Subashini about his grandfather's deteriorating health. There, Surjith allegedly approached him and said their parents wished to speak with him. Trusting Surjith, Kavin got on his two-wheeler and they rode towards Astalakshmi Nagar.

According to Kavin's mother, S Tamizhselvi, who filed the complaint with the Palayamkottai police, Surjith stopped the vehicle abruptly and shouted at her

son, demanding how he could dare love a girl from a different caste. Surjith then reportedly pulled out a sickle hidden on his back and attacked Kavin repeatedly. Eyewitnesses say Kavin attempted to flee, but was chased down and hacked to death barely 200 metres from the hospital.

The police have arrested Surjith and registered a case against him and his parents under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with provisions from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 2015. CCTV footage from the crime scene has been secured, and the victim's body was sent for post-mortem at the Tirunelveli Government Hospital.

Kavin's family has refused to accept his body and is demanding legal action against Surjith's parents, who they allege were instrumental in the murder. "They objected to the relationship from the beginning and repeatedly harassed my son. Even now, they may use their positions to influence the case," Tamizhselvi said in her complaint. Protests erupted in parts of Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts, demanding justice.

Security forces recover huge arms cache from Manipur hills

Imphal: Security forces have recovered a large cache of arms and ammunition in several hill districts of Manipur over the past few days, police said. According to police, the recovery was made during search operations in the interior parts of Churachandpur, Pherzawl, Kangpokpi, Chandel and Tengnoupal districts.

As many as 155 weapons were recovered including 8 AK series rifles, two INSAS, a sniper rifle, eight 9 mm pistols, 21 single-barreled guns, among others. Along with the weapons, the security forces also recovered 39 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), 13 hand grenades and over 1,600 assorted live ammunition, police said.

"These continued intelligence-led operations in the hill districts represent a major accomplishment for the Manipur Police, Assam Rifles and other security forces in their continued mission to restore peace, uphold public order, and safeguard the lives and property of citizens," a senior police official said.

ENS

Monsoon at mid-season: India sees 8% above normal rain, good kharif yield on the cards

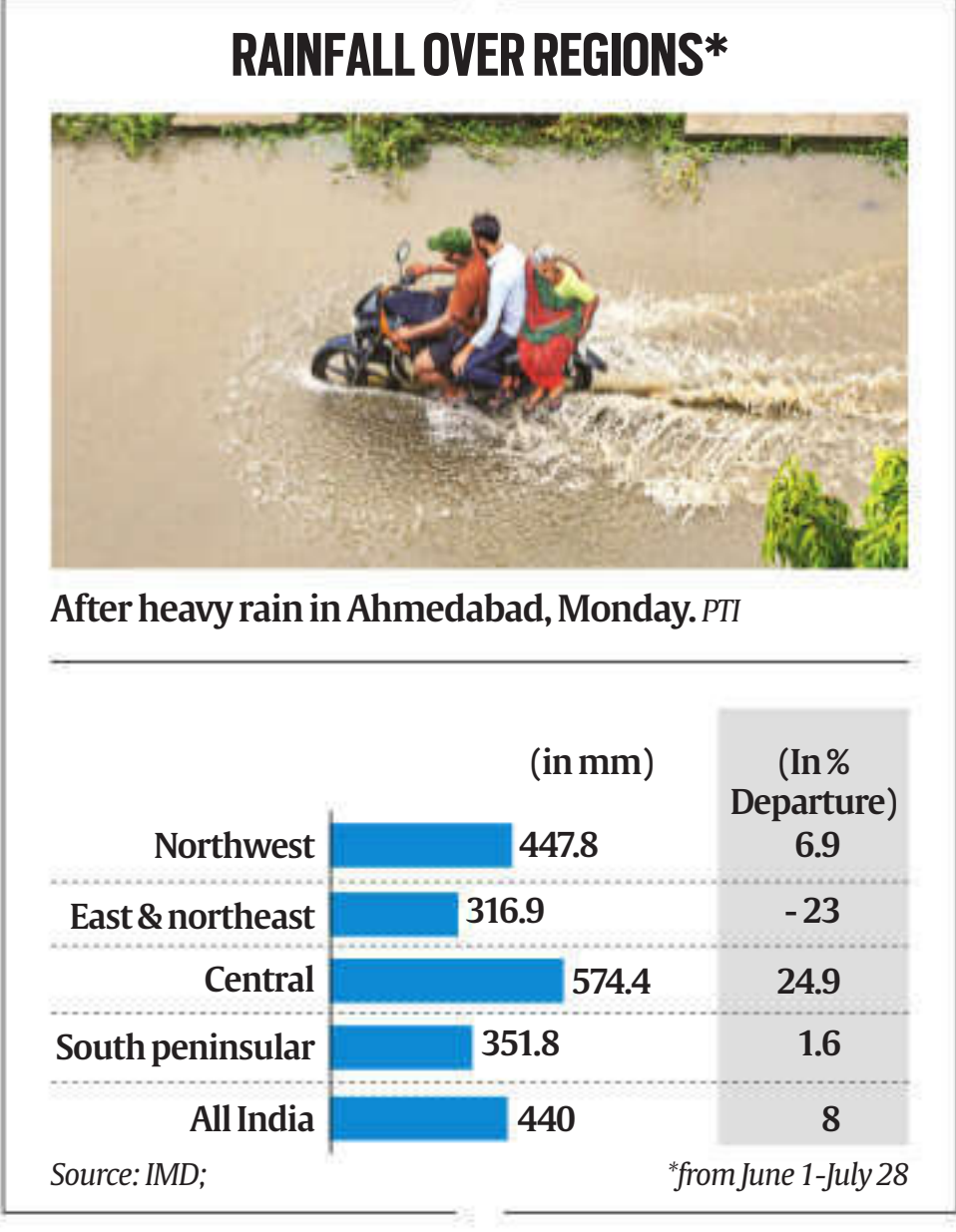
ANJALI MARAR
BENGALURU, JULY 28

AS THE southwest monsoon inches towards the season's half-way mark, the rainfall performance over the country has been appreciably good, both spatially and quantitatively.

From June 1-July 28, the all-India rainfall stood at 440.1 mm — 8% above normal for this period. The region-wise rainfall, as per IMD data, suggested that all meteorological regions have received normal or above rainfall, barring east and north east India (minus 28% in July, minus 23% in this season).

Punjab, Bihar, Sikkim, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya have remained rain deficient this season so far.

Among the four monsoon months, July brings the highest all-India rainfall and is crucial for the season's rainfall. Rainfall in July across the country is expected to be near normal this year after an above normal rainfall in June. This has raised hopes for a good kharif yield and re-



plenishment of water resources. Of 28 days this month so far, the all-India mean rainfall

Canine gets residential certificate in Patna, FIR registered

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JULY 28

THE PATNA administration has been left red in the face after its Masaurhi block office issued a residential certificate in the name of a dog, complete with name, address details, a photograph and a QR code as a mark of authentication. Issued on July 24, the certificate now stands cancelled.

This assumes significance at a time when residential certificates have become the most sought-after document of the 11 required for Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

Patna District Magistrate Thiyyagarajan SM told The Indian Express that "the certificate was cancelled two minutes after it was issued".

"An FIR is being filed. We will identify the applicant through the cyber cell and take strict ac-

tion. The revenue karmachari and their manager are being suspended," he said.

On their part, officials at the Masaurhi office put it down to a "gross lapse" on account of a surge in applications.

The certificate carried the digital signature of the revenue officer. Typically, the manager of the Right to Public Service Centre (RTPS) at any block office is required to match address details on an online application with an attached document, Aadhaar cards, EPIC, or bank passbook copy showing the applicants' address while issuing such certificates.

The now-cancelled residential certificate shows an image of a dog. The text in Hindi reads: "This is to certify that Dog Babu, father: Kutta Babu, mother: Kutuya Devi, is a permanent resident of village/mohalla: Kaulichak, ward number-15,



The certificate was digitally signed by a revenue officer.

post office: Masaurhi, PIN-804452, police station, block-Masaurhi, sub-division-Masaurhi, district-Patna, Bihar."

The certificate was digitally signed by a revenue officer, with a QR code on the bottom left to mark its authenticity under the Bihar Right to Public Services Act, 2011.

The official was not available for comment. With the certificate now standing cancelled, a scan of the QR on the certificate no longer throws up results.

According to officials, the Masaurhi revenue officer and RTPS centre manager are "prima facie found guilty of not verifying the name, address, and photograph on the application clearly showing the image of a dog in the photograph box".

"They also did not check the attached document, Aadhaar card image, and the address mentioned on it. The details obviously did not match," one official said.

A Masaurhi police officer said: "The accused seems to have applied through a cyber cafe using someone else's Aadhaar number. The cyber cell will help us identify the source from where the application form was filed. As of now, an FIR will be filed against unknown persons under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and Information Technology Act, 2000".

Details will be dealt with dur-

ing the police investigation, the Patna DM, Thiyyagarajan SM, said.

Typically, anyone can apply for a residential certificate online through RTPS with or without logging in as a registered user. In most cases, people apply through cyber cafes, often without logging in to the RTPS site.

For a residential certificate, one has to fill out a form with one's complete address. Once the form is filled, it asks for one's photograph, and a photocopy of either Aadhaar or bank passbook. Once the form is submitted, it takes 6-15 days to process.

The RTPS centre has to match details in the form — including one's photo — with supporting documents. Although it's usually the manager who issues the certificate, the final issuing authority is the digital signatory revenue officer, who has to check each certificate before it's uploaded online.



The rejuvenated Noon flows through Kanpur district's Rampur Narua village. *Vishal Srivastav*

work) or under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Sources said divisional-level committees, comprising technical officers and divisional offi-

cials from nearly 10 departments, including forest, agriculture, irrigation, horticulture, fisheries, etc., started being formed in the state since 2024. In case of the rivers flowing through two or more districts, a joint action plan was prepared.

The Noon had mostly dried up due to a *jal kumbhi* infestation. Ramesh Kumar, 55, a farmer who owns a 2.5-bigha field next to the Noon adds, "The infestation dried up years ago, blocking the flow of water. During the monsoon, the water would overflow into all nearby fields. The receding flood water would leave silt behind, rendering the fields useless for nearly four months annually from June onwards."

However, reviving the Noon

was easier said than done, said Pandey, whose attempts were initially rebuffed as a "futile exercise".

She said, "I managed to convince a group of women from the village about the importance of reviving the Noon... Walking along the dry riverbed, these women would sing slogans like 'Hum sabne milke thana hai, Noon nadi ko fir se jeevanta karana hai' (we are all determined to revive the Noon)," she said.

Explaining the revival process, CDO Diksha Jain said, "After studying the old maps available with the irrigation department, experts were able to pinpoint the Noon's starting point."

Ground surveys by MGN-REGA, irrigation and panchayati raj officials, and old records re-

vealed that the Noon once flowed through three blocks — Shivrajpur, Chaubeypur and Kalyanpur — that span the 34 panchayats, she said, adding that the entire river was then mapped by a drone.

"To adopt the correct methodology, we approached the Remote Sensing Centre. Satellite imagery by the centre showed that the problem areas (dry patches or shallow riverbeds) mostly lay in the river's upper channel. In case of the lower stretch, just clearing that channel could help restore the natural flow of water," said Jain, adding that Noon's restoration cost the district about Rs 1.22 crore, with a major portion comprising wages under the MGN-REGA.

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MALÉ OUTREACH

PM Modi's visit to the Maldives marks a significant turnaround in bilateral relations after a period of strain

WHEN PRESIDENT MOHAMED Muizzu, riding the “India Out” campaign, rose to power in the Maldives in September 2023, he signalled a clear intent to politically distance Malé from New Delhi. His January 2024 visit to China and his call for India to withdraw troops from the Maldives complicated ties with India. In this context, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the island nation to attend its Independence Day celebrations, during which several economic agreements were signed and projects inaugurated, marks a significant turnaround in bilateral relations after a period of strain.

The Maldives is a key pillar of India's “Neighbourhood First” policy. Beyond deep-rooted cultural ties and a history of friendly relations — India was among the first to establish diplomatic ties following that country's independence in 1965 — it sits atop critical sea lanes in the Indian Ocean, through which a major share of global trade and India's energy imports pass. It is an integral part of India's maritime security architecture. India provides economic support and assistance to the Maldives in infrastructure and health-care. Tourism, which accounts for nearly a third of the Maldivian economy, saw Indians as the largest group of visitors for several consecutive years up to 2023. This trend was disrupted in 2024, after derogatory remarks by three Maldivian junior ministers (suspended subsequently) triggered a diplomatic row and led to a sharp decline in Indian tourist arrivals. In a bid to reverse this, President Muizzu, speaking to reporters over the weekend, acknowledged that “India is one of the major countries that helps the Maldives with tourism. With PM Modi's visit, it is going to increase a lot.”

Apart from meeting senior government officials, PM Modi also held separate interactions with the main Opposition party and leaders from across the political spectrum in the Maldives. These engagements reflect New Delhi's effort to insulate bilateral relations from the ebb and flow of politics between and within both countries. On the China question, it would be unrealistic to expect Malé to avoid doing business with Beijing. As the world's second-largest economy, China presents significant opportunities for the Maldives, and the latter is entitled to make its own choices. Talks on loan restructuring with China, however, initiated during President Muizzu's state visit in January 2024, have seen little progress so far. As a key neighbour and regional power, India can counterbalance Beijing's influence by making better offers — especially given that Maldives's external debt burden has worsened as a result of China's lending practices. New Delhi, therefore, should keep using its leverage to further its interests and maintain close relations, while keeping a watchful eye on Malé's political environment.

A BEAUTIFUL DRAW

At the end of five days in Manchester, it felt like a win — for India and Test cricket

SPORTS FANS NOT immersed in the ways of Test cricket would be intrigued at how a contest can end without a clear winner and loser, and how there can be celebration of a stalemate. In Test cricket, too, the draw has become pretty rare of late, and often happens only when a considerable amount of time is lost due to weather. That's why India's feat of batting 143 overs in Manchester was all the more special. It is a rare performance in this era of T20 cricket, where strike rates are everything and most batsmen have forgotten the art of defending.

A hard-fought draw, which witnesses two teams fighting it out for the full five days before finishing with shared honours, is still one of the sublime joys of the longest format of the game, as could be seen at Old Trafford over five days. Shubman Gill, K L Rahul, Washington Sundar and Ravindra Jadeja batted with skill, patience and composure to deny England a win. If India manages to level the series 2-2 at the Oval next week, the doggedness shown in the fourth Test will be a big reason. Test cricket is the severest examination of the mental, physical and emotional attributes of a player. Almost anything can happen over a period of five days. There's hope, even if a team is 0/2 facing a deficit of 311 with more than five sessions left in the game.

A five-match Test series leaves players with no place to hide. All their strengths and weaknesses are exposed as the same set of players have a go at each other week after week. It allows someone like Gill to start the tour like a run-machine, lose his bearings for a while in the middle, and still have the time to regain his mojo before it's too late. It forces Ben Stokes to push his battered body through the pain barrier in regular long and incisive spells, after doing his bit with the bat and on the field, leading his team by example. It's understandable when tempers fray, as was seen at Lord's and in the final stages at Old Trafford. After having frustrated England for such a long time and tiring them out, Jadeja and Washington wanted personal milestones for celebration. That it ended up getting under the opposition's skin was a bonus. Stokes's reaction was churlish. When his initial offer of a draw was refused, he and his team would have done well to grit their teeth and carry on, rather than make an issue of it. At the end of five days, however, the draw in Manchester felt like a win — for India and Test cricket.

BE A POOKIE

How IIT-Ropar's convocation became a masterclass in connection — a reminder that joy belongs on campus

APOOKIE, BY any other name, is someone who gets it. What it means to be young and vulnerable; to crave joy in unexpected places, or to question why solemnity must always march in step with ceremony. At IIT-Ropar's recent convocation, director Rajeev Ahuja, professor of Computational Materials Science, showed he hasn't forgotten the feeling of wavering between hope and anxiety, standing on the cusp of change. The 60-year-old didn't just hand out degrees. He doled out dabs, fist bumps, and Korean finger hearts. Formal, it wasn't. But memorable? Absolutely.

The videos of the ceremony on social media, clocking over 30 million views, have earned Ahuja the affectionate moniker of “pookie professor”. His moves may not have had the Gen Z chutzpah — Boomer shoulders can only shimmy so much — but what mattered was the spirit. In a space often weighed down by formality and hierarchy, Ahuja brought presence, play, and a rare emotional intelligence. He didn't just preside over a convocation, he participated in it. Ahuja met students where they were, and in doing so, made the stage feel a little less daunting and a lot more empathetic.

The moment may have been light, but its resonance is far from trivial. Higher education in India is often weighed down by stress, burnout and a sense of alienation. In the end-less jugglery of exams, deadlines, institutional pressures and existential dread, a small gesture of warmth — a shared laugh, a playful photograph — can feel like a moment of levity; an affirmation that learning isn't just about instructions, it is also about connections. Ahuja's gesture symbolised a rare kind of academic leadership that institutions could do more with: One that is committed to creating spaces where students can thrive as more than the sum total of their grades; one that values joy over ceremony. Because long after the degrees are framed and the marks forgotten, what stays with students is someone who made them feel seen and heard. Someone like a pookie, on their side.



ASHOK K KANTHA

ON JULY 19, Chinese Premier Li Qiang travelled to Nyingchi in Tibet to launch the construction of a 1.2 trillion yuan (\$167.8 billion) mega hydropower project on the Yarlung Tsangpo River. This massive project is being constructed without prior consultation with lower riparian India, though its likely location in Medog County is barely 30 km from the place the river enters India and becomes the Siang, the main channel of the Brahmaputra River system. The project has several ominous implications for India, but the Government of India has not commented publicly on its construction.

While the project details have not been made public by China, except its cost and that it will involve five cascade hydropower plants, Chinese media reports suggest that it will generate nearly 300 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity annually, more than thrice the designed capacity (88.2 billion kWh) of the Three Gorges Dam in China, currently the largest in the world. It would involve drilling four to six 20-km tunnels and diversion of half of the river's flow.

India ought to be deeply concerned about the downstream impact, which will manifest in many ways. First, a project of this magnitude will inevitably interfere with the flow of waters in the Brahmaputra. The contribution of glacier melt, snow melt and precipitation in Tibet to the waters in the Siang could range from 25 per cent to 35 per cent. There will be significant impact downstream of any diversion or pounding of water in Tibet, particularly in the lean season. The construction of five massive hydropower plants in cascade is likely to involve reservoir-like structures, even though it is claimed to be a run-of-the-river project. Altering natural river flows will harm aquatic ecosystems, fisheries, sedimentation, and biodiversity hotspots.

Second, even more worrying is the risk of flooding. While reservoirs can regulate floods, unannounced or sudden releases of water during heavy rainfall, or in a natural disaster like an earthquake, to protect the structure, can exacerbate downstream flooding, causing immense damage to life and property.

Third, this massive project involving tunnelling through fragile and young mountains is being undertaken in an area classified as Seismic Zone V (very high risk), which has seen major deep and shallow earthquakes in the past. Medog County lies within the Join FREE Telegram Channel chat.whatsapp.com/HDvqPnxvwWb3Agy98nValQ

Delhi must talk tough with Beijing over China's construction of a dam on Brahmaputra

Eastern Himalayan Syntaxis, a highly seismic region influenced by the Himalayan Frontal Thrust and local faults like the Medog Fault. Challenges such as reservoir-induced seismicity, tunnelling, geological miscalculations, and previous Chinese lapses in construction quality (for instance, in the Neelum-Jhelum project in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir) leave zero margin for engineering error — post-construction, there will be an ever-present danger of disasters.

Fourth, China has leveraged its advantage as a predominantly upper riparian vis-à-vis its neighbours and has mostly withheld meaningful cooperation with downstream countries. For instance, China's development of a cascade of 12 smaller hydropower projects on the Mekong (called Lancang in China) has led to irregular fluctuations, drying out of areas, and depletion of fish catches and fertile sedimentation in the Lower Mekong Basin, affecting Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. This pattern of behaviour presages foreseen and unforeseen consequences of the proposed dam for India and Bangladesh.

Fifth, China's track record of cooperation under three MoUs with India over the past two decades has been unsatisfactory. China has suspended the supply of wet-season hydrographic data for the Brahmaputra and the Sutlej from time to time. It has not agreed to provide lean-season data, let alone discuss broader cooperation like the sharing of waters of trans-border rivers. Not one collaborative project has been undertaken under the umbrella MOU for cooperation signed in 2013.

Finally, neither China nor India is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (1997). However, two key principles of the Convention, “equitable and reasonable utilisation” of shared waters and the “obligation not to cause significant harm” to downstream states, are a part of customary international law. India has been a responsible co-riparian state, including with Pakistan, even after the Indus Waters Treaty was put in abeyance after the Pahalgam terrorist outrage. The same cannot be said of China.

The present strategy of quiet diplomacy with China is not working. Strangely, none of our readouts on recent high-level conversations with China have even mentioned the Medog project. Looking ahead, there must be

strong signalling of our deep concerns about this project to China, both through diplomatic channels and in public comments. If the roles were reversed, there is absolutely no possibility of China being similarly circumspect. It is also worthwhile recalling how forceful Pakistan has been in dealings with India as a lower riparian, even though we had given generous terms under the Indus Waters Treaty.

The scope of the dialogue with China must be expanded beyond the issue of hydrographic data. As an affected party, we have every right to insist on full visibility on the technical specifications of the project, its environmental impact studies and how China proposes to tackle the seismic challenge. We must push for transparent and broader trans-boundary cooperation, similar to China's engagements with Kazakhstan on rivers like the Ili and Irtysh, to protect our existing and proposed user rights and other interests as a co-riparian. Indeed, we should seek suspension of work on the project until the relevant issues have been addressed. There should be a clear message that China undertaking a massive project like this without taking on board our legitimate concerns will have consequences for bilateral relations.

We must undertake a series of activities on our own. Considering the danger of floods and reduction in lean-season flows, India has no alternative but to create storage structures to moderate the risks in the immediate downstream. India should reassess the quantum of water contributed by major tributaries and local hydrological systems using its remote sensing datasets, geospatial modelling tools and legacy hydrological data to reduce dependency on upstream data from China. We have the means and expertise to monitor the project and make the findings of those studies public.

Finally, it is important to build a sustained narrative about China's unilateral actions in the upstream and escalate the issue bilaterally as also in our broader messaging on India-China relations. Our NGOs should raise this matter in relevant international platforms.

We must appreciate that India's circumspection could be seen by China as a sign of weakness. This wouldn't help in pursuing our larger agenda of rebuilding bilateral relations with our northern neighbour.

The writer is former ambassador to China



SUHAS BORKER

SUMIT CHAKRAVARTY, EMINENT journalist and editor of *Mainstream Weekly*, passed away in Kolkata on July 26. He was 79. Chakravarty is survived by his wife, Gargi, historian and CPI leader, and his son, Sagnik, editor with Prasar Bharati's DD India. Chakravarty had been ailing for some time. He had moved to Kolkata in September 2023 to be with family and close associates.

As a young man, Sumit had the unenviable task of living up to his parents' legacy. His mother, Renu Chakravarty, was elected thrice to the Lok Sabha and emerged as a “striking” parliamentarian and trade union leader. She was the niece of B C Roy, first Chief Minister of West Bengal, who inspired her to take up political work. Both parents shared the Oxbridge connection and had joined the British Communist Party as students. His father, Nikhil Chakravarty, founded *Mainstream* in 1962. Over the years, it became a platform for critical discourse in the country. He was the “father figure” for the press freedom movement; whether it was the Emergency (1975-77) or the Defamation Bill (1989), he always led from the front. He declined the Padma Bhushan in 1990, saying “journalists should not be identified with the establishment”.

Sumit's legacy brought high expectations, and public scrutiny. He was *Patriot's* Moscow correspondent and worked with *The Daily* be-

GENTLE CRUSADER

Sumit Chakravarty practised journalism with courage, conviction and generosity

fore joining *Mainstream*. He came out with flying colours by combining journalism and activism. His journalism fostered informed debate and gave space to diverse viewpoints, while his activism was driven by values of democracy, secularism, scientific temper and Gandhian *antodyaya*. From Singur to Bhima Koregaon — statements, appeals, reports and documents were featured in *Mainstream*.

Sumit was a one-man army. We had launched the Working Group on Alternative Strategies (WGRAS) — a voluntary civil society initiative — in March 1992 to work on policy alternatives for an equitable development paradigm. Sumit was a founder member of its core group, and I was its convener. But we were soon overtaken by events. With the destruction of the Babri Masjid, our full attention turned to communal harmony. Senior journalist Dileep Padgaonkar had appealed for the Prime Minister to lead a citizens' march on Rajpath on January 26, 1993, for communal harmony, similar to the one held on January 26, 1963, after the Chinese aggression. We waited, but nothing was happening. So, on the night of January 25, 1993, WGRAS issued an appeal, calling for a citizens' march. It was successfully completed from Vijay Chowk to Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate, and we sent out a very positive signal across the country.

In 2004, I experienced Sumit's incredible integrity as an editor. He published an article I had written about a top-notch politico's about-turn from his professed views. Notwithstanding the bitterness it caused in his relationship with the politico, Sumit remained resolute in my defence even when he came under vehement personal attack.

In 2008, a documentary film project of mine was facing rough weather. One day we met at the India International Centre and he said he wanted to talk to me. We walked to Lodhi Garden and sat on a bench. Sumit took out his chequebook and wrote out a cheque of Rs 2 lakh for me. I protested, but he would not listen. “I know the problem you are facing; give it back when you can,” he said. That was the man, helpful to a fault, and one who would internalise the problems of his close associates as his own.

Sumit donated the print issues of *Mainstream* from 1962 to 2020 to the Archives of Contemporary India at Ashoka University. His spirited journalism-activism, in which he invested his gentle, simple, sensitive, grounded and noble lifeblood, has now moved into the digital space and is published every week.

The writer is editor, *Citizens First Television*, and convener, *Working Group on Alternative Strategies*, New Delhi



JULY 29, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

PUNJAB ELECTIONS

THE PUNJAB GOVERNOR, Arjun Singh, said elections in the state were in the offing. When asked whether the atmosphere was ripe for elections, after the widely hailed accord for Punjab, he said that the word “atmosphere” was vague. The elections would depend on the “totality of circumstances” in the state.

AISSF TALKS

ALMOST ALL MEMBERS of the All-India Sikh Students Federation who are not facing charges of violence or waging a war against the government may be released soon. The

government is considering their cases. Following the agreement between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Akali Dal chief Harchand Singh Longowal, the release of all such persons will help the Akali leadership in pacifying the youth and also in implementing the accord. Former CM Parkash Singh Badal and SCPC chief G S Tohra had objected to the accord on multiple grounds.

LOOTING IN KAMPALA

THE NEW MILITARY rulers of Uganda on Sunday suspended the constitution, dissolved Parliament, closed the borders and warned civilians to remain indoors as looting intensi-

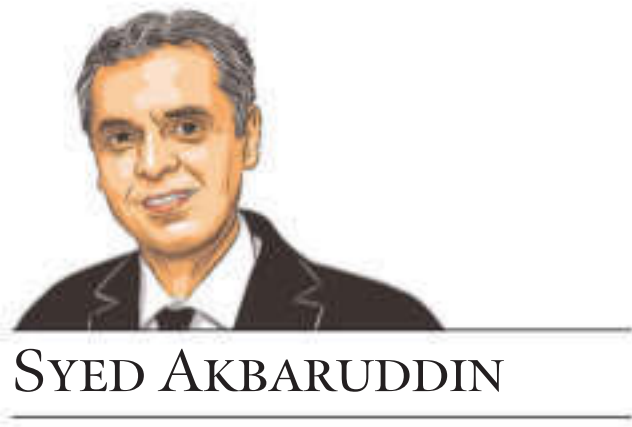
fied in the capital. There was no estimate of the monetary loss. Several shops of Asians have also been affected.

J&K CM SUMMONED

A change of government in Jammu and Kashmir appears to be in the offing. The Chief Minister, G M Shah has been summoned to Delhi along with his wife, Khalida Shah, president of the NC(K). According to circles close to the ruling party, the Chief Minister has been summoned by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to apprise him about the views of Congress(I) MLAs who have been openly demanding withdrawal of support to Shah's government.

A compass, not a verdict

ICJ’s advisory opinion invests global climate obligations with more than moral weight. India must navigate litigation risks, enforcement gaps, and fossil fuel dilemmas; align duty with dignity



SYED AKBARUDDIN

FOR ONCE, A ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague is making waves in Hyderabad. In a rare instance of policy resonance, the advisory opinion on climate change delivered by the 15-judge panel of the ICJ on July 23 has sparked conversation far beyond decision-makers in India. The ICJ’s unanimous declaration of climate change as an existential threat is being discussed not only in think tanks in Delhi and boardrooms in Mumbai, but also among environmentally conscious students in Patancheru, Telangana, where I teach public policy.

The case was initiated by Vanuatu, a Pacific island nation with a population of just 3,00,000. In March 2023, it led a coalition of small island states to secure consensual approval from the United Nations General Assembly to ask the ICJ two questions: What are states legally required to do to address climate change, and what are the consequences if they do not fulfil these duties?

Over 130 countries joined as co-sponsors. India did not join, but it did not oppose it either. This cautious posture reflects India’s complex position in global climate diplomacy.

India’s hesitation did not stem from disinterest. Rather, it reflected clear-eyed realism. As a developing nation still working to ensure universal access to electricity, healthcare, and employment, India undertakes a difficult balancing act. Unlike industrialised countries, India has not benefited from centuries of fossil fuel-powered growth. Although its total emissions are rising, per capita emissions remain among the lowest globally. Many households still rely on biomass for cooking and face irregular power supply.

Despite these constraints, India has taken ambitious climate actions. By 2030, it aims for half its electricity to come from renewables. Emissions intensity has declined, afforestation has expanded, and electric buses now run in several Indian cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. India leads the International Solar Alliance and the Mission LiFE campaign promoting sustainable consumption. During its G20 presidency, it ensured that climate finance remained in the global spotlight.

These are not peripheral gestures. They are structural shifts. By any fair measure, India has done more with less. By contrast, Canada emits seven times more per capita and continues to expand its oil sands production. Australia, a major coal exporter, sets modest domestic targets while profiting from global emissions. Considering historical responsibility, economic capacity, and present-day ambition, India’s efforts stand out.

Yet, the sweeping ICJ opinion, though not legally binding, will have consequences for India. It draws not only on climate treaties but also on the United Nations Charter, customary international law, the law of the sea, and human rights law. The Court affirms that states have obligations to prevent environ-

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CR Sasikumar

mental harm, reduce emissions, adapt to climate impacts, and cooperate internationally. These duties are no longer moral appeals. They carry legal weight.

The Court also ruled that climate change violates rights to life, health, and housing. States must act based on the best available science, adopt ambitious national plans, and may be legally compelled to strengthen them. Failure to act could invite claims for climate damage. Subsidies for polluting fuels are now within legal scrutiny. The opinion does not just outline obligations, it opens the door to legal consequences.

For communities that have long suffered without recourse, this is a potential game changer. It affirms the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. India has long argued that those who contributed most to climate change must do more to address it. The ICJ has now given that argument legal grounding. It will bolster developing countries in global negotiations.

Yet, the new legal terrain raises at least three public policy challenges for India.

First is legal preparedness. Indian courts already interpret the right to a healthy environment as part of the right to life. The ICJ ruling may spur a wave of litigation demanding stronger climate action or even compensation. The Indian state could also face lawsuits from within or from affected neighbouring island states. Anticipating such claims will be vital for legal and policy stability. Otherwise, a torrent of litigation could emerge without clear legal standards.

Second is enforcement. India’s environ-

Yet, the sweeping ICJ opinion, though not legally binding, will have consequences for India. It draws not only on climate treaties but also on the United Nations Charter, customary international law, the law of the sea, and human rights law. The Court affirms that states have obligations to prevent environmental harm, reduce emissions, adapt to climate impacts, and cooperate internationally. These duties are no longer moral appeals. They carry legal weight.

mental laws are strong on paper but patchy in practice. Pollution control agencies remain underfunded and compliance varies widely across different states and sectors. The ICJ has reinforced the importance of due diligence. Strengthening regulatory capacity must now become a national priority.

Third is the issue of fossil fuel subsidies. These remain crucial for economically vulnerable households, especially for cooking gas and kerosene. But they also delay the shift to cleaner alternatives. The ICJ opinion, including the separate declaration appended by Judge Dalveer Bhandari of India, makes clear that subsidies have legal as well as fiscal implications. India must rethink how it provides support to the poor without locking them into polluting fuels. That will demand both financial resources and policy innovation.

The diplomatic challenge lies in aligning climate ambition with fairness. India must continue taking climate action while defending the context of its development needs. Climate justice must not become a new form of injustice.

The milestone ICJ opinion is not just a verdict from afar, but a compass. It signals the end of voluntary climate ambition and invites all countries to chart a harder, but fairer course. For India, the challenge now is to align duty with dignity and ambition with justice.

The writer is former permanent representative of India to the United Nations, and dean, Kautilya School of Public Policy, Hyderabad

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Macron is right: Only a two-state solution, in which a Palestinian state is established, will enable a normal life for the two nations living between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River.”

— HAARETZ, ISRAEL

Swordplay in the dark

A Vice President’s exit that could have been about bigger things. An Opposition whose best hope is that government’s cracks have started showing



VANDITA MISHRA

WHY DID VICE President Jagdeep Dhankhar resign suddenly, at the end of the first working day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament? The question is riveting. But unfortunately, as we look for answers, l’affaire Dhankhar allows us a very limited range of wondering.

As Vice President and Rajya Sabha chairman, and as Governor of West Bengal before that, Dhankhar spoke the lines scripted by the Narendra Modi government, almost as if they had written them out for him. In West Bengal, he took on the elected Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, every day, firming up a template for the disabling politics practised by other BJP-appointed governors in Opposition-ruled states. At the Centre, he confronted the Opposition and the Judiciary loudly and persistently, and weaponised the Rajya Sabha rule book to stifle debate. There seemed to be little or no daylight between the positions of Dhankhar and the Modi government. Up till now.

So, now that a crack is showing, wide enough for Dhankhar to have made his unceremonious exit, or for him to have been eased out abruptly — no one seems to be taking the health reasons he cited for his resignation seriously — in a so far unbroken facade, there is an opening.

All the fevered speculation in the last week about why the former V-P quit his job, however, boils down to this: Perhaps, hidden in plain sight, Dhankhar had overplayed the hand he had been dealt by the Modi government, and a regime that maintains tight control over its ministers and MPs and also over constitutional authorities, could not let it be.

The story of the V-P’s exit could have been more interesting than this. Arguably, it could still be.

It could have been that Dhankhar has done something that has not been done so far to a third-term government with a messianic self-image, which gives no quarter to the dissenter and lays all its opponents low, a government that loses no opportunity to assert its absolute power absolutely. It could have been that Dhankhar has spoken truth — or even better, the Constitution — to power, from within. And that, having successfully subdued the Opposition, and its own ministers and MPs, the government has now come up against a pushback from the less bendable constitutional authority.

That’s a tantalising possibility, still. But there is a problem, and it is this: Nothing in Dhankhar’s public record till now, in the state or at the Centre, supports this theory. A modicum of publicness and transparency — completely missing from this episode so far — would also have been intrinsic to a power-drunk government being shown

the red lines by a constitutional authority.

What we are left with, then, is a drama, less real and more imagined, of mincing moves on the chessboard of power and politics that ostensibly led to the V-P’s exit. This shape-shifting drama is set against the backdrop of the newly reconvened Parliament, where large issues and fundamental concerns have lined up — from unanswered questions about Operation Sindoor to fears of disenfranchisement of large numbers of voters touched off by the Election Commission’s ongoing Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

As the Monsoon Session enters its second week, on one side is the shadow-play over Dhankhar’s exit, and on the other side an Opposition clutching at opportunities for small point-scoring even as it struggles to get a grip on the larger story.

Leaders of the Opposition have proposed to host a farewell dinner for Dhankhar, ostensibly to embarrass the government, twist the knife in. But on the SIR in Bihar, the Congress-led Opposition’s legitimate criticisms of the Election Commission’s impractical timelines in a poll-bound state are in danger of being clouded by its internal disunity. And by Rahul Gandhi’s loose and lurching pot shots at the EC.

In Gujarat, on Saturday, Gandhi reportedly said the EC was like a “cheating cricket umpire” and that Congress defeats in the 2017 and 2022 assembly polls in the state also had to do with manipulated voter lists — this is blame-laying in retrospect, Gandhi never said so earlier. To be sure, there is room for overblown rhetoric when a leader speaks to his party — Gandhi was addressing the newly appointed presidents of the Congress’s district and city units. But by lashing out at the EC so widely in an attempt to let Congress off the hook, he also risks undermining the substantive case his party and others in the Opposition are making on the haphazard conduct of the SIR in Bihar by the EC.

In Gujarat, Congress has failed to stanch the flow of Congressmen to the BJP camp, to an extent that voters distrust the party’s ability to hold its own in the state, quite literally. As in many other states, it has failed to challenge BJP dominance through new ideas, or through a new set of leaders. Its messaging has been inconsistent, lacking follow-up on the ground. It has not been able to live down the shortcomings and mistakes of its own governments in the past. Not one of those issues can be fixed by turning the focus to voter lists.

The ongoing SIR in Bihar is a different story, where the EC is stumbling visibly. But by setting up the fight with a constitutional authority so indiscriminately, Congress makes it harder for itself to ask the more pointed questions to the EC.

Both the V-P exit drama about shadowy things, and the loose balls Congress is throwing at the EC, are part of the same story. For an Opposition still flailing to seize the initiative, the best hope is that, in its third term, the government’s cracks have started showing.

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ASHWANI KUMAR

THE UPCOMING HEARING in the Supreme Court of the Presidential Reference arising from the Court’s judgment in *The State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025) is of seminal constitutional significance. This is because of the perceived encroachment of the states’ defined sovereign functions and the troubling non-observance of conventional discipline in the exercise of high constitutional power. The Court’s advisory opinion, though not binding, will have significant persuasive value for the exercise of sovereign power by the states and the central government in the future.

In its adjudicatory decision, the Court has indicted the Tamil Nadu Governor for withholding assent for an unreasonably long time to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly. It held that his conduct was unconstitutional and it was permissible for the Court to read into the silences of the Constitution an implicit obligation on the Governor’s part to exercise constitutional discretion reasonably and impartially. Relying on government circulars, the Court held that decisions by the Governor and the President concerning assent to bills are required to be taken within three months of the date of receipt of the government’s recommendation for assent.

The judgment is unexceptionable for its constitutional logic as far as the Governor’s conduct is concerned. However, the extension of the Court’s reasoning to the exercise of presidential prerogatives and its

A just equilibrium

Presidential Reference to SC can help redraw boundaries between institutions

suggestion to the President to seek the Court’s advisory opinion “when deciding on bills reserved by the Governor” is fraught and open to interrogation for judicial overreach. This is because the President’s prerogatives were not directly in question before the Court and because the President’s sovereign power operates in a different realm and on a different plane in our constitutional scheme. As the repository of the highest sovereign power, the President is entitled to the fullest presumption of regularity in the performance of constitutional duties, unaffected by the assumed possibility of an irregular exercise of power. Inspired by national imperatives generally not amenable to judicially manageable standards, the nature of the President’s functions place the head of state in a unique position that does not warrant equivalence with the Governor, who holds office at the pleasure of the President as her representative in the state. It is not surprising, therefore, that in a clear disapproval of the Court’s judgment, the President has sought the Court’s advisory opinion on the key constitutional issues that emanate from its decision.

The core question raised in the Reference concerns the “constitutional boundaries of executive and judicial authority”, which are fundamental to the republic’s constitutional arrangement. Pertinently, because the Court’s advisory opinion cannot displace a

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binding judicial precedent, the Reference is seen as an opening for a review of the judgment or justification for a possible legislative initiative to insulate the President from the restraints imposed by the Court, should the advisory opinion be at variance with the ratio and reasoning in the Tamil Nadu case in so far as it relates to the President.

The Reference also seeks the Court’s view on several specific and substantial questions of public importance. These include whether “... the judiciary can modify or override constitutional powers exercised by the President or Governor through Article 142”, which confers upon the Supreme Court judicial power of the widest amplitude. Despite its internal coherence and unimpeachable logic in relation to the conduct of the Governor, the Court’s decision can be questioned for its directions (cloaked as a suggestion) to the President to seek its advice under Article 143 on legal issues impinging on the legality of bills requiring presidential assent. This has been critiqued, not unreasonably, as an unwarranted judicial intervention in the exercise of sovereign discretion, not necessitated by the scope of the legal challenge that was limited to the conduct of the Governor of Tamil Nadu. This part of the judgment can also be faulted in view of the established processes of decision-making by the President, including those pertaining to legal counsel.

Judicial intervention in policy choices of the government/Parliament and in the exer-

cise of sovereign power, unless palpably malafide, has raised questions about the balance of constitutional power. The necessity of restraint in the exercise of judicial power has been reiterated by the Court in the Tamil Nadu case itself, holding that [in] “the exercise of self-imposed restraint... courts do not venture into areas of governance in which the Constitution gives a prerogative solely to the executive.” Chief Justice B R Gavai, in his recent address at the Oxford Union, is reported to have endorsed a balanced exercise of judicial power.

Judges, made wise by experience, disciplined by law and elevated by knowledge, are expected to weigh and balance competing values, a function central to their role. The nation trusts the sagacity of the highest court to configure a just constitutional equilibrium of power so that the country’s democratic order is not held hostage to the unfettered impulses of any single branch of the Indian state. As the nation’s conscience-keeper, the Court is expected to vindicate this trust by the consistency and moral integrity of its judgments and by guarding against the “juridification of politics and politicisation of the judiciary”. We know that it is in the wisdom of the wise that enduring answers to some of the vexed questions of our time will be found.

The writer is senior advocate, Supreme Court and former Union Minister for Law and Justice. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CLIMATE ACTION

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘A welcome nudge’ (*IE*, July 28). Recently, the ICJ delivered a landmark advisory opinion holding nations accountable for their greenhouse gas emissions, recognising the urgent and existential threat being faced by the world. While the ICJ opinion is not binding, it could influence nations to push for stronger climate action. A polluted environment, owing to changes in the physical, chemical, and biological conditions, directly affects mental and physical health, making survival difficult. Article 12 of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Article 6(1) of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provide the right to enjoy the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health.

Vaibhav Goyal, Chandigarh

UK FTA TEMPLATE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Carry it forward’ (*IE*, July 28). India made concerted efforts to negotiate a trade deal with the UK and arrived at a Free Trade Agreement. This agreement will boost trade practices beneficial to both countries. A similar process may be adopted to encourage good economic relations with other nations. This will help promote our economic growth, enhance employment opportunities and strengthen international ties. At present, there is a significant trade imbalance with many countries, which needs

review and corrective measures. Emphasis should be laid on increasing exports by maintaining proper balance.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

DIVERSIFY TRADE TIES

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Be uncertainty-ready’, (*IE*, 28 July 2025). The use of tariffs by the Trump administration and its numerous warnings to India and other BRICS nations should be a wake-up call for Indian foreign policy. The tariffs might still be uncertain but what is certain is that a trade deal won’t be as easy as the FTA India just signed with the UK. India must have flexible diplomatic relations with small or developing nations as well in order to have access to their markets. Even though it may not substitute the forex received from major developed countries, it will at least absorb the damage caused by high tariffs.

Daksh Solanki, New Delhi

RURAL TALENT

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘The creativity curriculum’ (*IE*, July 28). It rightly highlights the need to nurture creativity for Viksit Bharat, 2047. But if we are truly aiming for transformation, we must go beyond CBSE. State boards and government schools must be integrated into this creative vision. In the fading classrooms of rural India lies raw talent, silenced by outdated pedagogy and a lack of resources.

Zainab Irshad, Patna



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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

Five years of NEP: Taking stock of the transition

A few reforms proposed in school and higher education have made their way into classrooms. Others are stuck in Centre-state tussles & institutional delays

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

IT IS five years since the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 — the country's third such policy since Independence — was cleared by the Union Cabinet. The NEP promised a sweeping reset of both school and higher education. Some of that vision has made its way into classrooms. But a lot remains on paper, slowed by state-Centre frictions, or held up by institutional delays.

What has worked

School curriculum is changing, slowly: The 10+2 system has been replaced with a new structure — foundational (pre-primary to class 2), preparatory (classes 3-5), middle (6-8), and secondary (9-12). In 2023, the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) laid out the learning outcomes and competencies for each stage.

NCERT has produced new textbooks for classes 1-8 based on this framework. Social science, for example, is now taught as a single book covering history, geography, political science, and economics, replacing sepa-

rate textbooks for each subject. New books for classes 9-12 are expected next.

First steps of early childhood learning: The NEP aims to make pre-primary learning universal by 2030. NCERT's Jaadui Pitara learning kits are already in use, and the Women and Child Development Ministry has issued a national ECCE curriculum.

Delhi, Karnataka, and Kerala will soon enforce the minimum age of six for class 1 entry. 2023-24 data show a fall in class 1 enrolments to 1.87 crore from the 2.16 crore of previous year, likely due to this age cutoff. About 73% of those enrolled had attended some form of preschool. The big hurdles are better training for Anganwadi workers, and improving infrastructure and teaching quality in early education centres.

National focus for foundational skills: NIPUN Bharat, launched in 2021, seeks to ensure every child can read and do basic math by the end of class 3. A recent government survey found average scores were 64% for language and 60% for math — a start, but well short of universal proficiency.

Credit-based flexibility starts to take shape: The NEP suggested the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC). This, and a National

Credit Framework (NCRf) have been developed. UGC rules published in 2021 allowed students to earn and store credits digitally, even across institutions, making it possible to move between courses or exit and re-enter. The system allows students to earn a certificate after one year, a diploma after two, or complete a four-year multidisciplinary degree.

The NCrF brings similar flexibility to school students, where learning hours (including skill-based ones) translate into credits. CBSE invited schools to be part of an NCrF pilot last year.

Common test for college entry: The Common University Entrance Test (CUET), introduced in 2022, is now a key route to undergraduate admissions. NEP 2020 had suggested that multiple college entrance exams should be replaced with a single national test.

Indian campuses abroad and vice versa: IIT Madras, IIT Delhi, and IIM Ahmedabad have set up international campuses in Zanzibar, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai respectively. University of Southampton recently opened in India, after two other foreign universities at GIFT City, Gujarat. Another 12

foreign universities are in the process of being approved under UGC regulations, plus two more at GIFT City. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said earlier this month.

What's in progress

Changes in board exams: The NEP envisages less high-stakes board exams. Starting 2026, CBSE plans to allow class 10 students to sit for board exams twice a year. Karnataka has experimented with this; other boards are waiting to see how it plays out.

The NEP idea of offering all subjects at two levels (standard and higher) is limited to class 10 math, which CBSE introduced in 2019-20.

Holistic report cards, so far on paper: PARAKH, a unit under NCERT, has developed progress cards that go beyond marks, and include peer and self-assessment. But some school boards are yet to make the shift.

Slow progress for four-year UG degrees: Central universities are rolling out NEP's idea of four-year undergraduate degrees with multiple exit options, and Kerala has followed. But in many places, colleges don't yet have the faculty or infrastructure.

EXPLAINED
EDUCATION

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

WHAT ARE THE KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE U.S.-EU TRADE DEAL?

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen have announced a sweeping trade deal that imposes 15% tariffs on most European goods, warding off Trump's threat of a 30% rate if no deal had been reached by August 1.

The tariffs, or import taxes, paid when Americans buy European products could raise prices for US consumers and dent profits for European companies and their partners who bring goods into the country.

Unresolved details

The trade deal announcement leaves many crucial details to be filled in.

The headline figure is a 15% tariff rate on about 70% of European goods brought into the US, including cars, computer chips and pharmaceuticals. It's lower than the 20% that Trump initially proposed, and lower than his threats of 50% and then 30%.

The remaining 30% is still open to further decisions and negotiations.

Von der Leyen said the two sides agreed on zero tariffs for a range of "strategic" goods such as aircraft and aircraft parts. Specifics were lacking.

EU companies would purchase what Trump said was \$750 billion worth of natural gas, oil and nuclear fuel over three years to replace Russian energy supplies that Europe is seeking to exit in any case.

Steel tariff remains

Trump said the 50% US tariff on imported steel would remain. Von der Leyen said the two sides agreed to further negotiations to fight a global steel glut, reduce tariffs and establish import quotas — that is, set amounts that can be imported, often at a lower rate or tariff-free.

Trump said pharmaceuticals, a major import from the EU to the US, weren't in-



Donald Trump with Ursula von der Leyen in Scotland on Sunday. Reuters

cluded in the deal. Von der Leyen said the pharmaceuticals issue was "on a separate sheet of paper".

'Best we could do'

The 15% rate removes Trump's threat of a 30% tariff. But it effectively raises the tariff on EU goods from 1.2% last year to 17% and would reduce the 27-nation's gross domestic product by 0.5%, said Jack Allen-Reynolds, deputy chief eurozone economist at Capital Economics.

Von der Leyen said the 15% rate was "the best we could do" and credited the deal with maintaining access to the US market.

Car prices

Asked if EU carmakers could still profitably sell cars at 15%, von der Leyen said the rate was much lower than the current 27.5%. That has been the rate under Trump's 25% tariff on cars from all countries, plus the preexisting US car tariff of 2.5%.

The impact is likely to be substantial on some companies, given that automaker Volkswagen said it suffered a \$1.5 billion hit to profits in the first half of the year from the higher tariffs.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANAGHA JAYAKUMAR &
ARJUN SENGUPTA
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

AFTER DAYS of deadly fighting, Cambodia and Thailand on Monday agreed to an "immediate and unconditional ceasefire". The ceasefire was negotiated by Prime Ministers Hun Manet of Cambodia and Phumtham Wechayachai of Thailand at a meeting hosted by Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim in Kuala Lumpur.

The clashes followed months of tensions over a century-old border dispute between the Southeast Asian neighbours. What is the history of this dispute, and what happens now?

Tensions come to a boil

Tensions between Cambodia and Thailand had been simmering since May, when they skirmished at a contested area of the border, leading to the death of a Cambodian soldier.

Nationalist rhetoric in both countries and a series of tit-for-tat actions followed. Cambodia banned the import of Thai fruits and broadcast of Thai films and soap operas; Thailand closed all land crossings.

Last Wednesday, Thailand withdrew its ambassador from Cambodia and expelled the Cambodian envoy after a Thai soldier lost a leg in a land mine blast. Thailand claimed the mine was laid by Cambodian troops in Thai territory. Cambodia responded by downgrading diplomatic relations and recalling all Cambodian staff from its embassy in Bangkok. Clashes broke out at half a dozen places along the border between the Thai provinces of Surin and Sisaket, and Cambodian provinces of Oddar Meanchey and Preah Vihear.

On Thursday, Thailand launched air strikes on Cambodian military sites, and Cambodia responded with rocket and artillery fire. Exchanges of artillery and machine gun fire followed, in which at least 35 people were killed and more than 2.6 lakh civilians were displaced on both sides of the border, Reuters reported.

Making of a conflict

The 817-km land border between Cambodia and Thailand was drawn in 1907 by France, then the colonial power in Cambodia. Like many other borders drawn by colonial administrators, this too has long been disputed.



(From left) Hun Manet, Anwar Ibrahim, Phumtham Wechayachai after truce. Reuters

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The two predominantly Theravada-Buddhist neighbours are more alike than any other country in the region, sharing ethnic and linguistic ties, social norms, culinary traditions, and cultural activities. But both claim to be the "original" owners of their heritage. This is what drives the animosity between them.

The competing claims of cultural ownership are rooted in contesting readings of history, which, scholars say, are purposely propped up by governing elites of the two countries to strengthen their domestic positions.

"Countries fabricate history to celebrate their past, using nationalism as a political tool in the manipulation of public opinion... It is evident that contemporary Thai-Cambodian relations have become a casualty of the remade past," wrote Charnvit Kasetsiri, Pou Sothirak and Pavin Chachavalpongun in *Preah Vihear: A Guide to the Thai-Cambodian Conflict and Its Solutions* (2013).

Every skirmish in the border thus has the potential to devolve into a much larger conflict. This has happened now, and earlier.

Case of Preah Vihear

At the centre of the border dispute is the Preah Vihear temple, which is called Phra Viham in Thai. "The temple has meaning — both as a cultural symbol and a religious place of worship — to people on both sides of the border," John D Ciorciari, a professor

of international politics at Indiana University, wrote in his 2009 paper "Thailand and Cambodia: The Battle for Preah Vihear". The temple was built in the 11th and 12th centuries during the golden age of the Khmer Empire, who at the time ruled much of South Asia, including Siam (Thailand). But beginning in the 15th century, as the Khmer Empire declined, Siam gradually chipped away at Cambodian territory. In 1867, Cambodia officially handed the area around Preah Vihear to Siam. But by this time, France had entered the picture. After colonising Cambodia and Laos, it reduced the Siamese kingdom to a weak position in the neighbourhood. Siam and France signed a treaty in 1904 that said the northern frontier of Cambodia would run along the watershed line of the Dangrek Mountains.

While this principle would put most of the Preah Vihear complex in Siam, the official map, drawn by the French in 1907, put the temple in Cambodia. Siam's objections were muted then — but in 1941, after entering into an alliance with Japan, it seized Preah Vihear, only to return it to France at the end of World War II.

After Cambodia's independence, Thai troops once again occupied Preah Vihear in 1954. Cambodia moved the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which in 1962 upheld its claim over Preah Vihear. But this did not put the issue to bed.

Tensions flared up in 2008 after



Cambodia sought to list the Preah Vihear temple as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Thai opposition used the issue to attack the government, accusing it of "forfeiting Thai heritage".

Cambodian leaders too used the issue to rally nationalist sentiment in the country.

Over the next several years, Cambodian and Thai troops frequently skirmished at the border. In 2013, the ICJ re-affirmed Cambodia's position vis-à-vis Preah Vihear, creating a demilitarised zone around the temple, although this was never implemented. Thailand has since rejected the ICJ's jurisdiction.

What happens now

Preah Vihear temple is the most famous of many disputed sites at the Cambodia-Thailand border which hold cultural significance for both countries. Another such temple, called Prasat Ta Moan Thom by the Cambodians and Prasat Ta Muen Thom by the Thai, witnessed fighting during the recent hostilities.

The ceasefire does not fundamentally address issues of cultural inheritance and ownership. It will take a lot more to bring down temperatures in both countries, and for them to permanently iron out the border issue.

For the time being, however, analysts expect an uneasy peace to hold. This is primarily because of pressure from outside, notably China and the United States, both of whom oversaw the negotiations in Kuala Lumpur.

In fact, the talks were held after US President Donald Trump set the two countries agreeing to a ceasefire as a precondition to their respective trade talks with Washington.

Power of rebasing: How Nigeria's GDP jumped from No. 58 to No. 55 in a day

SIDDHARTH UPASANI
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

ON JULY 20, the West African country of Nigeria was the 58th largest economy in the world. The very next day, it jumped to No. 55, having added more than \$50 billion, or roughly 30 per cent, to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2024. On its way up, Nigeria overtook Ukraine, Qatar, and Hungary.

On July 21, Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) published the results of its GDP rebasing exercise, in which the base year of the indicator was changed to 2019 from 2010, among other changes.

The result? Nigeria's GDP in 2024 is now estimated at \$243 billion in nominal terms, rising from \$187 billion forecast by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Change in methodology

A new base year — which essentially means measurement of GDP, or the final

value of goods and services in any particular year, with respect to the prices prevailing in that year — does not automatically lead to a larger economy.

However, Nigeria's base-year revision exercise included other, more meaningful changes in the manner in which the country calculates GDP. Among them was increasing the scope of the methodology to include previously undercounted sectors such as digital services, pension fund operations, and e-commerce activities among others.

Technological development, structural changes, and changes in production and consumption patterns meant that "the methods and data used in estimating GDP must change with the times to reflect current economic realities", the NBS said.

A previous rebasing

The exercise, the NBS said, was "by far the most comprehensive rebasing" it had ever carried out. However, this is not the first time that Nigeria has seen such a huge

increase in its GDP due to a revision in the base year.

More than a decade ago, a change in the base year from 1990 to 2010 had helped propel the country to the position of Africa's largest economy, thanks to an even larger increase of 89 per cent in its GDP — to \$510 billion in 2014.

But wait — \$510 billion? Does that mean the Nigerian economy has shrunk by half in the last 10 years to \$243 billion now?

Well, sort of. At least in US dollar terms.

Significant concerns

While this month's rebasing has brought Nigeria \$50 billion closer to its goal of becoming a \$1 trillion economy by 2030, actually hitting that target is well nigh impossible following the sharp devaluations of its currency naira in 2023 and 2024. As a result, on an annual average basis, the official naira/US dollar exchange rate weakened by

130 per cent from 645 naira/US dollar in 2023 to 1,479 naira/US dollar in 2024, according to the IMF. (For comparison, 17.5 nairas make 1 Indian rupee.)

"Even using the new series, currency devaluations in 2023 and 2024 mean that Nigeria's economy has not recovered its previous position as Africa's largest economy," a note by research firm BMI, a part of the Fitch Group, said on July 23.

The GDP rebasing exercise has spotlighted changes in the Nigerian economy that point to significant concerns.

One, the share of agriculture in the country's GDP has increased to almost 26 per cent in 2019 from 22 per cent estimated earlier, while that of industry has declined to 21 per cent from 27.65 per cent.

Two, the contribution of the informal sector to the GDP has increased to 42.5 per cent from 41.4 per cent.

And while a larger GDP has helped reduce the debt-to-GDP ratio to 38 per cent from 51

EXPLAINED
ECONOMICS

per cent, it does little change the outlook for Nigeria, whose GDP grew 3.13 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2025, data released on July 21 showed.

A day later, the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank of Nigeria left the Monetary Policy Rate unchanged at 27.5 per cent. Headline retail inflation, which declined for the third straight month in June, remains above 20 per cent.

"Long-running issues that have plagued sectors like agriculture from insecurity to climate risk remain. And President [Bola] Tinubu's ambitious 6 per cent per annum [growth] target will require significant improvements in human capital levels as well [as] reforms to help lift the persistently low investment rate. And while the rebasing exercise may have helped to lower the debt-to-GDP ratio, the government's revenue-generating capacity and capacity to repay the debt hasn't changed. Fiscal discipline and tax reforms are still needed to keep public finance risks in check," David Omojomo, Africa

Economist at the global insights and analyses firm Capital Economics said on July 22.

The Indian experience

India is no stranger to GDP revisions; in fact, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is currently in the process of updating the GDP base year to 2022-23 from 2011-12. The rebased GDP numbers will be released in February 2026.

The last time India's key macroeconomic indicator underwent a major revision was in 2015. At the time, questions were raised about the accuracy of the numbers even by the Reserve Bank of India after the GDP growth rate for 2013-14 was revised upwards to 6.9 per cent from 4.7 per cent.

Then Governor Raghuram Rajan had said the central bank found it "hard to see the economy as rollicking in 2013-2014".

According to latest IMF data, India's nominal GDP in 2024 in US dollar terms was \$3.91 trillion, putting it in fifth place in the world, just \$117 billion behind Japan in fourth.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Kim Yo Jong, AP file

NORTH KOREA
Kim's sister rejects outreach by South leader

Seoul: The influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un rebuffed overtures by South Korea's new liberal government, saying Monday that its "blind trust" in the country's alliance with the US and hostility toward North Korea make it no different from its conservative predecessor. Kim Yo Jong's comments imply that North Korea sees no need to resume diplomacy with South Korea and the US anytime soon. "We clarify once again the official stand that no matter what policy is adopted and whatever proposal is made in Seoul, we have no interest in it and there is neither a reason to meet nor an issue to be discussed," Kim Yo Jong said in a statement. **AP**

BANGLADESH

Govt sets up panel to probe school jet crash

Dhaka: The Bangladesh government has formed a nine-member commission to investigate last week's crash of its Air Force training jet into a school here that killed 34 people, mostly students, according to a media report. The F-7 BGL aircraft, a training fighter jet manufactured in China, experienced a "mechanical fault" moments after takeoff and crashed into a two-storey building of Milestone School and College in Dhaka's Uttara area on last Monday. The probe commission headed by former secretary AKM Zafar Ullah Khan has been asked to submit its report within four weeks. **PTI**

UNITED STATES

2 killed in Nevada casino shooting, suspect arrested

Reno: At least two people were fatally shot and at least three more hospitalized after shooting Monday morning at a casino in Reno, Nevada, officials told AP. The gunman who opened fire just outside the Grand Sierra Resort casino shot multiple people before being taken into custody, police said. "Officers immediately located the suspect at which time an officer involved shooting occurred," police said in a statement. "The suspect was taken into custody... The suspect's condition is unknown at this time," police said. **AP**



Palestinians at a charity kitchen amid a hunger crisis in Gaza City on Monday. Reuters

Israeli forces allow minimal aid to Gaza as UN body says steady supply needed

REUTERS & AP
DEIR AL-BALAH, JULY 28

THE ISRAELI military Sunday began limited pauses in fighting in three populated areas of Gaza for 10 hours a day, part of measures including airdrops as concerns grow over surging hunger and as Israel faces criticism over its conduct in the 21-month war. The military said the "tactical pause" from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in Gaza City, Deir al-Balah and Muwasi, all with large populations, would increase humanitarian aid entering the territory. United Nations humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher welcomed Israel's decision to sup-

port a "one-week scale-up of aid" and said "some movement restrictions appear to have been eased." But he said action needs to be sustained, vast and fast. "Whichever path we choose, we will have to continue to allow the entry of minimal humanitarian supplies," PM Benjamin Netanyahu said.

Trump vows to set up food centres

President Donald Trump said on Monday many people were starving in Gaza and suggested Israel could do more on humanitarian access. Describing starvation in Gaza as real, Trump's assessment put him at odds with Benjamin Netanyahu, who said

on Monday "there is no starvation in Gaza" and vowed to fight on against the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

"We're going to set up food centers," with no fences or boundaries to ease access, Trump said.

Israel has restricted aid to Gaza's population of over 2 million because it says Hamas siphons it off to bolster its rule.

The World Food Programme said 60 trucks of aid had been dispatched but this amount fell short of Gaza's needs.

"Our target at the moment, every day is to get 100 trucks into Gaza," WFP Regional Director Samer Abdeljaber said. "I cannot say that in a week we will be able

to really avert the risks. It has to be something continuous and scalable," he said.

Israeli rights groups accuse Govt of genocide

Two Israeli human rights organisations, B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights, Israel said Monday Israel was committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, the first major voices in Israeli society to level the strongest possible accusation against the state, which vehemently denies it. In a report released in Jerusalem, the groups said Israel was carrying out "co-ordinated, deliberate action to destroy Palestinian society in the Gaza strip".

ABDUCTEE SAYS DETENTION CENTRE OPERATED UNDER HIM

LANKA NAVY EX-CHIEF HELD IN KIDNAPPING CASE

Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne, the former commander of the Sri Lankan Navy, was Monday arrested over an investigation into a kidnapping incident, officials said. The incident that took place in the north-western region of Pothuhera dates back to the period when he served as the Director of Naval Intelligence, they said. The abductee has complained that the illegal detention centre was operating under his watch. **PTI**

FIGHTING DISPLACED OVER 3 LAKH PEOPLE

Thailand, Cambodia agree on ceasefire deal after five days of battle

REUTERS
PUTRAJAYA, JULY 28

CAMBODIA AND Thailand agreed to an "immediate and unconditional ceasefire" from midnight (1700 GMT) on Monday, in a bid to halt their deadliest conflict in more than a decade after five days of fierce fighting that has displaced more than 300,000 people.

After days of efforts by Malaysia, chair of the ASEAN regional bloc, the United States and China to bring both sides to the table, the two countries' leaders agreed to end hostilities, resume direct communications and create a mechanism to implement the truce. At least 36 people have been killed in the fighting, mostly civilians.

Following more than two hours of talks at his official residence in Putrajaya, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, flanked by Thai and Cambodian leaders, said he was ready to deploy a team to observe and ensure implementation. "This is a vital first step towards de-escalation and the restoration of peace and security," he told a press meet. "All parties shared a commitment to peace."

The Southeast Asian neighbours have wrangled for decades over border territory and have



(From left) Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet with his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim and Thailand's acting PM Phumtham Wechayachai in Putrajaya on Monday. AP

Join FREE Telegram Channel chat.whatsapp.com/HDvqPnxvwWb3Ag been on a conflict footing since the killing of a Cambodian soldier in a skirmish late in May, which led to a troop buildup on both sides. A full-blown diplomatic crisis brought Thailand's coalition government to the brink of collapse. They accuse each other of starting the fighting last week, both quickly deploying heavy artillery at multiple points along their 800-km (500-mile) land border. Thailand flew air raids with an F-16 fighter jet. US President Donald Trump called both leaders at the weekend, warning he would not con-

clude trade deals with them unless they ended the fighting. Both sides are facing a steep import tariff of 36% on their goods in the U.S., their top export market. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet thanked his acting Thai counterpart Phumtham Wechayachai for what he said was a positive role and said he deeply appreciated Trump's "decisive mediation" and China's constructive participation. "We agreed that the fighting will stop immediately," he said, expressing confidence that both sides could rebuild trust and confidence.

Pak forces kill 3 TTP militants including brain behind 2024 attack on Chinese team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI, JULY 28

THREE TEHREEK-E-TALIBAN Pakistan (TTP) militants, including the mastermind behind an attack on Chinese engineers last year, were killed in an encounter in the southern port city of Karachi, officials said on Monday. Raja Umer Khattab, a Senior Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) official, said the operation was carried out Sunday night jointly by the CTD and personnel of intelligence agencies, Dawn reported. "The teams raided a house in the Manghopir area in Karachi," he said.

He said that terrorists opened fire when they spotted the police teams approaching them, triggering a gunfight that lasted over an hour.

All three terrorists were killed during the operation, he said, adding that they belonged to the TTP. A suicide jacket, three grenades, a Kalashnikov rifle, two pistols and a large cache of ammunition were recovered from the site, he added.

Additional Inspector-General of Police, Counter-Terrorism Department, Azad Khan, said the terrorist, who carried a Rs 20 million bounty for plotting the 2024 Liberty Textile attack targeting Chinese nationals, was among those killed during the operation.

The TTP militant, identified as Zafraan, was also linked to the Karachi Police Office assault.

Trump eyes 'world tariffs' of 15-20% for most countries

REUTERS
TURNBERRY, JULY 28

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump said on Monday most trading partners that do not negotiate separate trade deals would soon face tariffs of 15% to 20% on their exports to the United States, well above the broad 10% tariff he imposed in April.

Trump told reporters his administration will notify some 200 countries soon of their new "world tariff" rate. "I would say it'll be somewhere in the 15 to 20% range," Trump told reporters, sitting alongside British Prime Minister Keir Starmer at his luxury golf resort in Turnberry, Scotland. "Probably one of those two numbers."

Trump, who has vowed to end decades of U.S. trade deficits by imposing tariffs on nearly all trading partners, has already announced higher rates of up to 50% on some countries, including Brazil, starting on Friday.

The announcements have spurred feverish negotiations by a host of countries seeking lower tariff rates, including India, Pakistan, Canada, and Thailand, among others.

The US president on Sunday clinched a huge trade deal with the European Union that includes a 15% tariff on most EU goods, \$600 billion of investments in the U.S. by European companies, and \$750 billion in energy purchases over the next three years.



Chinese Vice PM He Lifeng in Stockholm, Monday. AP

US, China hold new trade talks, easing path for Trump-Xi meet

Stockholm: Top U.S. and Chinese economic officials resumed talks in Stockholm on Monday to resolve longstanding economic disputes at the centre of a trade war between the world's top two economies, aiming to extend a truce by three months.

US Treasury Chief Scott Bessent met China's Vice Premier He Lifeng at Rosenbad, the Swedish prime minister's office in Stockholm. China is facing an August 12 deadline to reach a tariff agreement, it reached preliminary trade deals with the US in May and June. Trade analysts said a 90-day extension of tariffs and a meeting between Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping were likely. **REUTERS**

At Starmer meet, Trump gives Russia less than two weeks to end its war in Ukraine

REUTERS
TURNBERRY, JULY 28

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump set a new deadline on Monday of 10 or 12 days for Russia to make progress toward ending the war in Ukraine or face consequences, underscoring frustration with Russian President Vladimir Putin for the 3-1/2-year-old conflict.

Trump has threatened both sanctions on Russia and buyers of its exports unless progress is made. The fresh deadline suggests the US president is prepared to move forward on those threats after previous hesitation to do so.

Speaking in Scotland, Trump said he was disappointed in Putin and shortening a 50-day deadline he had set on the issue



President Donald Trump with British PM Keir Starmer at the Trump Turnberry golf course in Turnberry on Monday. AP

earlier this month.

"I'm going to make a new deadline of about ... 10 or 12 days from today," Trump told reporters. "There's no reason in waiting... We

just don't see any progress being made." There was no immediate comment from the Kremlin. Ukraine welcomed the statement. Andriy Yermak, President

EXPLAINED Ball in Moscow's court

RUSSIA HAD largely shrugged off President Trump's previous 50-day deadline, noting that his past deadlines had come and gone with little consequence. Nevertheless, new threats of tariffs on Russia's trading partners could put more diplomatic pressure on Moscow.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff, thanked Trump in a social media post for "standing firm and delivering a clear message of peace through strength."

Gunman kills five in Bangkok, shoots himself

REUTERS
BANGKOK, JULY 28

A GUNMAN killed five people at a market in Thailand's capital Bangkok on Monday, attacking security guards and a merchant before fatally turning the gun on himself, a Thai police official said.

The gunman initially killed three security guards, and then a fourth with whom he had a personal quarrel, Siam Bunsom, commander-in-chief of the Metropolitan Police Bureau said. "He reloaded and ran into the market, killing a female merchant and injuring another,"



People at the crime scene in Bangkok on Monday. Reuters

Siam told reporters.

In video footage shared by police, a suspect in a white hat

and a backpack slung on his chest is seen walking through a parking lot at the Or Tor Kor Market.

Duangnapa Yeerunsiri, 38, who was at the market to buy groceries with her boyfriend and sister, was about to leave when she heard the shots ringing out.

"He fired many shots in rapid succession," she said, referring to the gunman. "So we ducked down in the car and quickly called the police."

No tourists were killed or injured, said Sanong Saengmani, a police official in Bangkok's Bang Sue district, where the market, which mainly sells agricultural

produce, is located.

Tourism is a key economic driver in Thailand, Southeast Asia's second largest economy, where growth has been sluggish and such incidents can potentially dampen sentiment.

Gun violence and gun ownership are not uncommon in Thailand. In October 2023, a 14-year-old suspect used a modified handgun to kill two people and injure five others at a luxury mall in central Bangkok.

A year earlier, a former police officer killed 36 people, including 22 children, in a gun-and-knife attack at a nursery in eastern Thailand.

NYT WITH REUTERS INPUTS

SHI YONGXIN, WHO TURNED THE FABLED TEMPLE INTO GLOBAL TOURIST ATTRACTION, HAD HIS CLERGY CERTIFICATE REVOKED

Shaolin temple's celebrity 'CEO monk' accused of embezzlement, affairs with women

LILY KUO & VIVIAN WANG
TAIPEI, JULY 28

CHINESE AUTHORITIES are investigating the longtime head of China's Shaolin Temple on suspicion of embezzling funds, maintaining "improper relations" with women and fathering at least one child outside marriage, the temple said.

It is the latest scandal to embroil one of the country's most famous monks, Shi Yongxin, also known as China's CEO monk for his work turning the temple, a fabled 1,500-year-old monastery complex in central China, into an international tourist attraction

and global brand.

A short notice posted on Sunday by the Shaolin Temple's official account on the Chinese messaging app WeChat said that Shi Yongxin, the temple's abbot, was under investigation by "multiple departments" for criminal offenses related to the misuse of funds and assets owned by the temple, as well as for "seriously violating" Buddhist principles. The temple did not provide specifics.

The Buddhist Association of China said Monday that it had revoked the abbot's clergy certificate. The organization described his behavior as "completely vile" and damaging to the

reputation of the broader Buddhist community and other monks.

Shi Yongxin and the Shaolin Temple could not immediately be reached for comment.

Known as Liu Yingcheng before he joined the Shaolin Temple in Henan Province as a monk in 1981, Shi Yongxin has been alternately praised for reviving the ancient temple complex, which had been left neglected for decades, and criticized for commercializing it.

In 2015, a former apprentice of his accused him of embezzling funds from the Shaolin Temple, while an anonymous letter claimed that he had sev-



Shi Yongxin at the Great Hall of the People for a plenary meeting of the Chinese parliament in Beijing in 2016. Reuters

eral mistresses and funneled money to them. At the time, the temple denied all allegations and an investigation by Henan officials concluded the accusations were groundless. He remained the temple's abbot. Still, he is credited with globalizing the Shaolin name through product licensing and franchises.

He set up martial-arts schools overseas and for a time wanted to build a \$300 million Shaolin-branded luxury golf resort in Australia. Under his watch, the temple's commercial ventures have ranged from film production to selling medicine.

Today, his success at transforming the temple into a mon-

eymaking machine is apparent to any visitor.

On a recent visit by a *New York Times* reporter, the opening act for the temple's famous monk kung fu show was a calligraphy demonstration.

The emcee pitched three calligraphy works, selling for 300 renminbi (about \$42) each. At least one was sold successfully.

To leave the show, audience members had to exit through a warren of gift shops selling not just the usual souvenirs — figurines, T-shirts and refrigerator magnets — but also sneakers, jewelry and Labubu dolls.

Some monks could be seen praying in the temple halls.

But the complex was dominated by tourists and the many enterprises catering to them: snack stalls, electric buggies for rent and tour guides hawking their services. The fame that the temple has achieved internationally was engraved on the temple grounds: On a tree-lined walkway lined with stone tablets with inscriptions from various Chinese dynasties, one much newer tablet displayed the names of famous visitors. The list included Mike Tyson, Robert Downey Jr. and Stevie Wonder.

Shi posted daily on his social media account on Weibo with more than 882,000 followers.

NYT WITH REUTERS INPUTS

FINANCE MINISTRY’S MONTHLY ECONOMIC REVIEW FOR JUNE

India a picture of ‘cautious optimism’; global woes, slow loan growth pose risks

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

SIX MONTHS into the current calendar year, the Ministry of Finance is of the view that the Indian economy presents a picture of “cautious optimism”, with the country’s macroeconomic fundamentals remaining resilient despite global headwinds marked by trade tensions, geopolitical volatility, and external uncertainties. However, the Ministry in its latest month economic review for June released Monday, flagged the slow credit growth despite monetary easing by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and private investment appetite that may restrict acceleration in economic momentum.

Global slowdown and uncertainty about the US tariffs may also weigh on India’s trade performance and dampen the country’s share of exports. In the medium term, given the ongoing momentous shifts in global supply chains in the areas of semicon-

ductor chips, rare earths and magnets, India has its task cut out, the Ministry said.

“Despite monetary easing and a strong bank balance sheet, credit growth has slowed, reflecting cautious borrower sentiment and possibly risk-averse lender behaviour. A growing preference for bond markets, particularly commercial papers among corporates due to lower borrowing costs, may also explain the shift. Piggybacking on initiatives like the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme, it is time for corporates to set the ball in motion,” it said.

The RBI had begun pumping money into the banking system in December 2024, while the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) started cutting interest rates in February. However, the MPC’s 100 basis points of rate cuts and the lakhs of crores of money provided by the RBI to the banking system has had little impact on demand for loans, with credit growth having almost halved from the middle of 2024.

ROOM FOR MORE MONETARY EASING

■ Given the comfortable trajectory of inflation, there is room for RBI’s monetary easing cycle to continue, the Finance Ministry said

According to data released on June 30 by the RBI, non-food credit extended by Indian banks rose 9.8 per cent year-on-year as at the end of May, slower than 11.2 per cent growth in April and 16.2 per cent a year ago, after excluding for the impact of the merger of HDFC Bank with Housing Development Finance Corporation in July 2023.

The Finance Ministry also said that despite the broadly positive outlook, downside risks remain from global slowdown as well as uncertainty on the US tariffs. “While geopolitical tensions have not elevated further, the global

slowdown, particularly in the US (which shrank by 0.5 per cent in Q1 2025), could dampen further demand for Indian exports.

Continued uncertainty on the US tariff front may weigh on India’s trade performance in the coming quarters. Slow credit growth and private investment appetite may restrict acceleration in economic momentum,” it said. It pointed out that the economic activity in real terms, that is, adjusted for inflation, may present a healthier picture than it is. “Given the deflationary trend in the wholesale price index, one has to observe economic momentum in nominal quantities. Measured in constant prices, economic activity may appear healthier than it is. All that said, the economy has the look and feel of “steady as she goes” as far as FY26 is concerned,” it said.

Inflation, oil prices, agri outlook

Overall, the Finance Ministry said the first quarter of FY26 presents a picture of resilient domes-

tic supply and demand fundamentals citing the sharp slide in inflation, favourable progress of southwest monsoon, firm trade performance amid shifting global trade patterns. “With inflation remaining within the target range and monsoon progress on track, the domestic economy enters the second quarter of FY26 on a relatively firm footing,” it said.

Wholesale price inflation in June had slipped into deflationary zone — a level below zero for the first time in 20 months — to (-) 0.13 per cent as prices of food articles and fuel registered deflation, along with lower manufactured product costs. Headline retail inflation rate had slowed more than expected to a 77-month low of 2.1 per cent in June from 2.82 per cent in May as food prices fell 1.06 per cent from a year ago, aided by a favourable base effect. Given the comfortable trajectory of inflation, there is room for RBI’s monetary easing cycle to continue, the Ministry said. **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

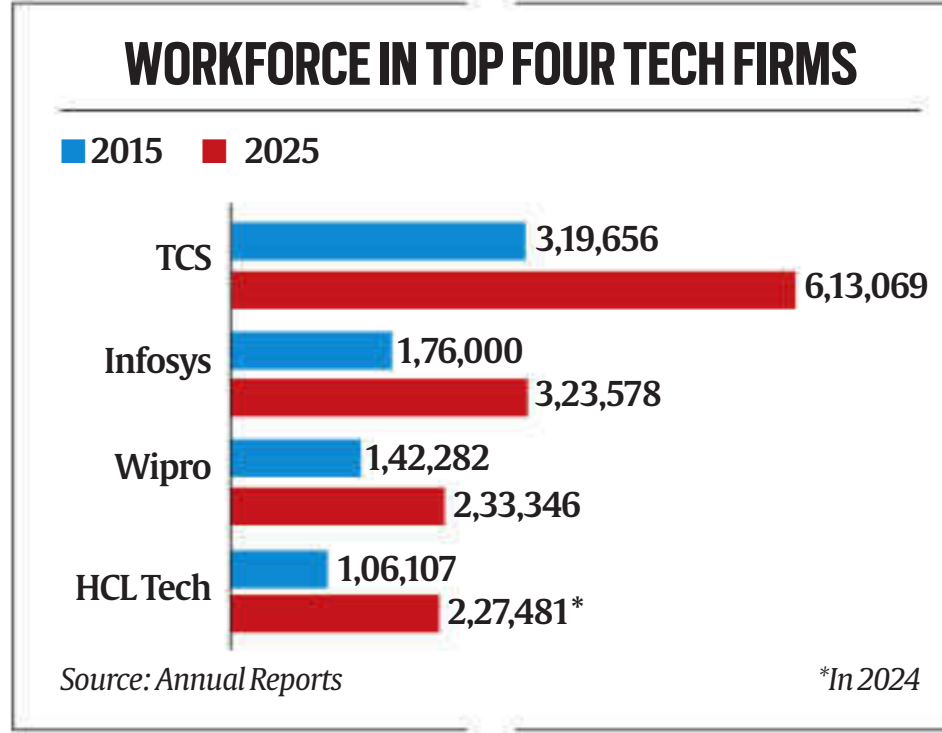
TCS layoffs: Is Indian IT sector replicating the Silicon Valley template?

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, JULY 28

IN A move that has unsettled the Indian tech industry, Tata Consultancy Services — the country’s largest IT company — announced Sunday that it will be laying off 2 per cent of its workforce. The decision is likely to hit mid- and senior-level employees the hardest. The announcement by the IT bellweather has sparked a degree of uncertainty across the sector, especially with the protectionist stance in countries such as the US and the challenges thrown up by the advent of AI.

The big concern: Is the Indian IT industry starting to mimic the ruthless layoff culture of US tech giants? For years, Indian IT firms boasted of stable growth and job security. But that image is eroding. It needs to be underlined that India’s top tech firms have spent the last decade aggressively expanding, nearly doubling their headcount during the tech boom, especially after the pandemic. Now, with demand softening and pressure on margins, companies appear to be pulling the plug on that growth story.

Together, the top four IT companies — TCS, Infosys, Wipro, and HCL Technologies — employ around 13.70 lakh people. But with TCS firing the first shot, employees at other firms are bracing for the worst. If India’s biggest IT company can slash jobs this suddenly, what’s stopping the rest? That is the big worry. “The continued global macro-economic and geo-political uncertainties caused a demand contraction,” said K Krithivasan, chief executive officer and managing director, TCS, while unveiling the company results earlier this month.



more than 85 per cent Gen Y employees, reflecting a young, tech-savvy pool. By FY19, the company had grown to 4,24,285 employees, representing 147 nationalities, and added another 24,179 people in FY20. In FY21, the workforce reached 4,88,649, and in FY22, TCS surpassed half a million employees, with a record 1,03,546 net additions due to high demand for digital services.

FY23 marked a strategic pause: hiring slowed, and focus shifted to optimising resources. The workforce reached 6,14,795, with attrition at 20.1 per cent, and women making up 35.7 per cent. The number of represented nationalities crossed 150. By March 2024, headcount adjusted slightly to 6,01,546, and attrition dropped sharply to 12.5 per cent. In March 2025, it rose again to 6,07,979, reaching 6,13,069 by June—adding 2,93,413 employees in a decade. TCS’s journey is not just about numbers — it’s a story of scaling with purpose, embracing diversity, and adapting with resilience in an ever-evolving tech landscape.

NITES writes to Labour Minister

New Delhi: Slamming the layoffs at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) as “unethical” and “outright illegal”, IT employees’ union the Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES) wrote to Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, urging him to direct the company to halt all terminations. Meanwhile, industry body Nasscom said, “Over the next several months, we anticipate some transitions as organisations pivot toward product-aligned delivery models...” **PTI**

BRIEFLY

Unclaimed money with banks rises to ₹67,000 crore

New Delhi: The quantum of unclaimed deposits with Indian banks stood at Rs 67,003 crore as at the end of the June quarter, with State Bank of India (SBI) accounting for 29 per cent of all such deposits, the Finance Ministry told Parliament. **ENS**

More time for I-T returns erroneously rejected

New Delhi: After receiving grievances on erroneous invalidation of income tax returns, the CBDT has extended the time limit for processing income tax returns filed electronically upto March 31, 2024 that were wrongly marked as invalid due to technical reasons. The intimation for processing of these returns will now be sent by March 31, 2026. **ENS**

Indusind Bank Q1 net profit drops 72%

Mumbai: Indusind Bank has reported a 72 per cent drop in its consolidated net profit for the June quarter to Rs 604 crore, and assured that there will not be any more financial impact of past frauds. **PTI**

SBI onboarding 13,455 junior associates

New Delhi: State Bank of India has announced that it has started onboarding of newly recruited 13,455 junior associates into its network of branches across the country. **ENS**

Starlink can give only 20 lakh connections

New Delhi: Starlink can have only 20 lakh connections in India, Minister of State for Telecom Pemasani Chandra Sekhar said on Monday. **PTI**

EU trade talks: India to offer regulatory certainty in manufacturing to woo FDI

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

IN THE first such offer made during trade deal negotiations, India is working on a “new chapter” aimed at extending long-term regulatory certainty in the domestic manufacturing sector to attract investment from the European Union (EU), *The Indian Express* has learnt. This comes in the backdrop of shared concerns between India and the EU over Chinese overcapacity, which is viewed as a threat to domestic manufacturing of critical products such as pharmaceuticals, electronics and defence requirements, among others.

“In the EU deal, one of the new chapters that has come in is about investment in non-services, which is a new element where they (EU) are looking at certainty on the commitments for FDI in non-services sectors — basically the manufacturing sector,” a senior government official said.

“There are two parts to it. One is deciding on sectors where India will allow 100 per cent FDI. Second, there are a number of conditions on things such as ‘local employment’, ‘local value addition’, ‘use of local raw materials’ and conditions around whether there will be local partners and joint ventures or not,” the official **Join FREE Telegram Channel chat.whatsapp.com/HDvqPnxvwWb3Agy98nVaiQ**

EXPLAINED

New chapter

WITH BRUSSELS looking at certainty on the commitments for FDI in India’s manufacturing sector, investment in non-services opens a new chapter in the deal with the EU. The government had undertaken extensive stakeholder consultations on the investment chapter.

said. Another person aware of the development told *The Indian Express* that the government had undertaken extensive stakeholder consultations to work on the investment chapter that was offered to the EU during the last round of negotiations.

This comes as India has begun seeking to attract investments from Western countries in exchange for lowering tariffs on key sectors. For instance, India has allowed 100 per cent FDI in telecom for the UK under the trade deal. In the insurance sector, the FDI ceiling has been kept at 74 per cent, providing investment certainty for UK insurers. A similar strategy was followed in the European Free

Trade Association (EFTA) deal.

India and the four-nation EFTA — an intergovernmental grouping comprising Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland — signed a trade pact in March 2024, under which EFTA countries have committed to investing \$100 billion in India over a 15-year period. However, officials indicated that the investment chapter in the EU deal would be far more extensive and legally robust.

Shared challenge of China

India and the EU have both been facing several challenges, particularly in the renewable energy sector. Another government official told *The Indian Express* that the Indian industry has been encountering pricing challenges, especially while trying to scale up the solar energy sector, and that India will have to work with “Western countries” to achieve competitiveness and tackle the China challenge.

According to a parliamentary report released last year, the EU is concerned about China’s dominance in critical technologies, as China holds a leading global manufacturing position in several areas, exposing the EU to potential risks. The EU has said these sectors include raw or processed materials for robotics, as well as clean

technologies including solar PV wafers, EV batteries and wind turbine blades.

“Despite a general decline in Chinese FDI into the EU since 2016 and a shift towards greenfield investments, China still holds stakes (full or partial ownership) in critical EU activities and infrastructure. These include automotive, fintech, advanced manufacturing, ports and shipyards, and electronics,” the parliamentary report said.

India–EU negotiations making progress

An EU trade deal status report earlier this month stated that India and the EU had made substantial progress on the text dealing with “services and investment”, marking a significant step forward towards concluding the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that both sides aim to sign by the end of the year.

The EU report also noted that negotiators had made substantial progress on the investment text, and that they had also made very good progress on rules for state-to-state mediation. Progress on dispute settlement is significant, as it suggests a breakthrough on long-standing EU concerns regarding investment protection in India. **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

GOING BEYOND MINIMUM WAGE

Govt working on ‘living wage’; likely to bring more women into the workforce

AGGAM WALIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

LOW WAGES are holding women back from formal employment — 54 per cent of blue- and grey-collar women employees are unhappy with their pay and 80 per cent saving nothing or less than Rs 2,000 per month, according to a new report.

“Income is a make-or-break factor driving women’s exit from the blue-grey collar workforce,” the report by Qness Corp, India’s largest staffing firm, and the Udaiti Foundation, said. “Women already face steep opportunity costs to join the workforce. Inadequate wages that ignore local realities simply drive them out,” it added, flagging a “clear gap between minimum wage and living wage”.

The need to align minimum wage with real living costs has also gained traction among top policymakers. The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment, for instance, is discussing the concept of a living wage, which factors in expenditure on health and education that is currently excluded from minimum wage calculations. According to Vandana Gurnani, Labour and Employment Secretary, accounting for health- and education-related expenses in wage standards could “reduce the opportunity



Express File

cost” women face when entering formal employment.

Low pay, high costs push women out

The report found that blue- and grey-collar women employees earn just 70 per cent of what men do, and that low wages — combined with high opportunity costs like unpaid caregiving, time lost to commuting, or the cost of migration — make it difficult for women to “sustain at work”.

Based on a survey of over 10,000 current and around 1,600 former women employees at Qness, it said workers in peri-urban zones, which host significant manufacturing activity, often have minimum wages that lag behind urban benchmarks, despite high living costs. “Costs are higher in Tier 1 cities, but 1 in 5 women earn below INR 20,000, which is typically the stipulated minimum wage... Those earning above INR 20,000 are 21% less likely to drop out in the near term, showing that

better pay supports retention,” it said. Qness provides staffing and outsourcing services to over 3,000 clients across sectors like retail, IT, manufacturing, and banking.

Minimum wage

At the launch of the report on July 24, Gurnani said, “Conceptually, it’s very good if you go beyond nutrition, housing, and clothing, which are currently counted for minimum wage, to expenditure on health and education, which is proposed.”

“From a women’s perspective, it is very important because the care model, like childcare, is going to cost them. (Inclusion of health and education) will reduce the opportunity cost that women face when they come out to work,” she said. Gurnani added that the ministry is figuring out how to “do this in a diverse setting because things vary from state to state”. She also highlighted the need for a “social dialogue” with employers and employees.

Jane Street seeks more time from Sebi to respond to interim order

Mumbai: New York-based proprietary trading firm Jane Street on Monday asked the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) more time to respond to a July 3 interim order, which accused the group of engaging in manipulative trading practices.

“We are engaging constructively with Sebi and have sought an extension to respond to the interim order issued on July 3,” Jane Street group said in a statement.

The group said it is committed to conduct that upholds the integrity of India’s capital markets and contributes to their continued development.

On July 3, the Sebi ordered the seizure of alleged Rs 4,843.57 crore ‘illegal gains’ Jane Street made through manipulative trading in Nifty futures. The markets regulator also barred the firm from participating in any securities trading until the amount was recovered. In its interim order, Sebi had given 21 days (from July 3) to Jane Street to file their reply or objections.

In response to the Sebi order, the US firm, on July 14, deposited Rs 4,843.57 crore in an escrow account with a lien in favour of the regulator. **ENS**

With ONDC in place, national retail policy takes a backseat

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

AS VARIOUS interventions have been made by the government, such as the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), which provides open access to retailers, a separate national retail policy may not be a top government priority at the moment, *The Indian Express* has learned.

“A policy is a set of actions, and those actions are already being taken. Timely interventions are happening on a regular basis, such as the setting up of the National Traders Welfare Board and the launch of the ONDC platform. There is no need for a separate policy for retail trade right now,” a source tracking the matter told *The Indian Express*.


The Ministry of Commerce and Industry told Parliament in

2023 that a draft National Retail Trade Policy had been prepared, based on consultations with state governments and major industry and trade associations. The draft focused on preparing strategies for the overall development of retail trade through targeted efforts to promote ease of doing business in the retail sector. **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

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E Procurement Tender Notice Second Call
Name of Work:APCRDA- RFP for engagement of Landscape Architect for providing Comprehensive Designs for Landscapes, Waterways, Bridges etc., in Amaravati Government Complex.
The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **29.07.2025 to 13.08.2025 up to 14.00 Hrs.** Due date for submission of Bid is **13.08.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs.** Technical bid opening **13.08.2025 @ 16.00Hrs.** For further details Please refer to www.apecprocurement.gov.in and www.crda.ap.gov.in.
Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada.

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CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website:- www.pspcl.in | Phone no. 96461-10914

E-Tender Enq. No. 650/P-I/EMPW-13079 dated 24.07.25
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2025 POWER 145805_1 for Clearance of sarkanda, weed, jala, booti etc. from Ghanauli drain from Doburi Post up to ChakDhira bridge at GGSSTP, Rupnagar during 2025-26. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 25.07.25 from 05.00 PM onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
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4.0 **Tender will be closed at 15:00 hours on 28.08.2025.**
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1 Tender No. PEL/CBM/INK BLOCK/PIPELINE TRENCHING, HDD, BUTT FUSION and COMMISSIONING OF 4", 6", 8" & 12" HDPE PIPELINE /07/25
Description of Work Pipeline Trenching, HDD, Butt Fusion and Commissioning of 4", 6", 8" & 12" HDPE Pipeline for North Karanpura CBM Block, Jharkhand
Last date of submission of bid **08 August 2025 at 17:00 Hrs. IST**
PEL, as a joint operator, on behalf of consortium comprising with PEL, ONGCL and IOCL, invites tenders from reputed and experienced Service Providers for Pipeline Trenching, HDD, Butt Fusion and Commissioning of HDPE Pipeline for North Karanpura CBM Block, Jharkhand, India.
Interested Service Providers may please visit <https://pepl.etenders.in>. Tender Documents are available for download on e-tender portal.



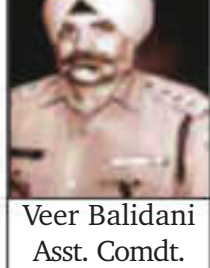
**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Lakes (East Zone- K R Puram Constituency) Room No.309, 3rd Floor, Annex-3 Building, BBMP Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.
No: EE/Lakes/East&KRPC/TN-04/Call-3/2025-26 Date: 28.07.2025
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)
Tenders on Item Rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or Equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.


Sl No.	Name of the Work
1.	Upgrading of Inlet at Seegehalli Lake (Call-3) (General) - K R Puram. Value of Work: ₹.100.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.2,00,000/-


Calendar of Events : (1) Date of Availability of Tender documents on **29.07.2025** after **4:00 pm**. (2) Pre bid Meeting will be held on **30.07.2025** at **3:00 pm** in the office of Chief Engineer Lakes (No.308, 3rd floor, Annex-2 building, BBMP head office, NR Square) (3) Last date & Time for receipt of Tenders is **05.08.2025 up to 3:00 pm**. (4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **06.08.2025 at 3:30 pm**. (5) Date of Opening of Financial Bid After approval of Technical Bid.
Sd/- Executive Engineer Lakes (East Zone & KRPC)

**Government of Jharkhand Urban Development & Housing Department Ranchi Smart City Corporation Limited**
2nd Floor, JUPMI Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi- 834004
E-mail: ranchismartcity@gmail.com | Phone: +91 651 244 6666


Notice Inviting Tender
NIT No.: RSCL/Internal Auditor/31/2017(part)/06Date: 28.07.2025
Selection of CA/CMA Firms for appointment as Internal Auditors for the Financial Year 2025-26,2026-27 & 2027-28.
Online Tendering
3. Tender Fee(Non-Refundable) Rs.1180/- (Demand Draft in Favour of Ranchi Smart City Corporation Limited, Payable at Ranchi.) online on e-procurement portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in .
4. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)(Refundable) Rs.10,000/- (Ten Thousand Only) in Favour of Ranchi Smart City Corporation Limited, Payable at Ranchi.) online on e-procurement portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in .
5. Start Date / Time of Bids Submission 29.07.2025 12.30PM
6. Last date of Pre-bid queries through email 02.08.2025
7. Last Date / Time of Bids Submission 11.08.2025 upto 12.30PM
8. Date of Bid Opening 12.08.2025 at 01.00PM <https://www.rscl.in>, www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in
9. Availability of Bid Document www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in
10.Submission of Tender Document: www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in
11. Helpline No. ranchismartcity@gmail.com, 0651-2446666
1. The Bidders shall submit their bids online on e-procurement portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in
2. The bid shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of opening of technical bid. Any future clarification and/or corrigendum(s) shall be communicated on www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in
Notes: All tender related documents should be uploaded through www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in in portal only, RSCL shall not accept any tender related documents by any other mode.
Note: This notice is a part of Tender Document.
PR.NO.358418 Sd/- Chief Executive Officer Urban Development(25-26):D Ranchi Smart City Corporation Limited

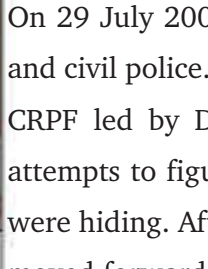
**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**
BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CONSTABLE ADIT KUMAR DAS, PPMG 02.06.1972 – 29.07.2005
Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Adit Kumar Das, PPMG on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal bullet injuries in a fierce encounter with militants in Srinagar area, J&K and later succumbed to his injuries at 92 base hospital.
**CONSTABLE T STEPHEN 03.04.1977 – 29.07.2021**
Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable T Stephen on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he made ultimate sacrifice while on operational duty at Udhampur Railway station, Jammu.
**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE**
30 Bn of CRPF was deployed in Jammu and Kashmir for anti-terrorist operations. On 29 July 1995, vehicles carrying troops of the Bn ran into an ambush during an area domination patrol at Bemina, BS.Parimpora on Srinagar-Baramulla by pass road. Militants first blasted an IED followed by indiscriminate fire at the troops. One of the vehicles came under direct impact of the blast and Shri B. S. Rahi, Asst. Comdt. sustained severe injuries. Despite injuries he immediately took position along with troops and retaliated. After the fierce encounter, the militants fled from the area. Despite sustaining injuries. Shri B. S. Rahi, Asst. Comdt. led his men from the front and laid down his life for the nation. His gallant action stands out as the shining example of courage, leadership and selfless devotion in the best traditions of CRPF.

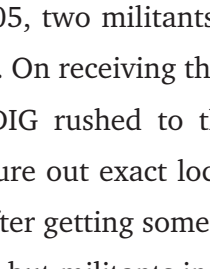
**Yet another shining example of the selfless service and great courage by the members of the CRPF was displayed by Sub Inspector Mohan Singh of 120 Bn of CRPF, deployed in Manipur for conducting counter-insurgency operations. During one of the operations conducted against these insurgents on the 29th of July 1999 in Imphal, Sub Inspector Mohan Singh Bisht laid down his life during a fierce encounter. During the encounter he advanced ferociously to the holed up insurgents and launched a brutal attack. His daring assault inflicted heavy loss on the insurgents. The insurgents to save their lives lobbed grenades at him due to which he got severely injured and later succumbed to his injuries. For his gallant action he was awarded Police Medal for Gallantry (posthumous).**


**Veer Balidani Sub Inspector Mohan Singh Bisht 120 Bn. 15-8.1949 To 29-7-1999**


On 29 July 2005, two militants attacked posts of BSF and civil police. On receiving the information troops of CRPF led by DIG rushed to the location and made attempts to figure out exact locations where terrorists were hiding. After getting some information the troops moved forward but militants in hiding fired heavily on them inflicting injuries to many including Head Constable/ Radio Operator Ram Bhuvan Yadav who later succumbed to his injuries and attained martyrdom. The operation was continued by joint forces and two militants were killed.

**Veer Balidani Head Constable/ Radio Operator Ram Bhuvan Yadav 5 Sig Bn. 3-2-1971 To 29-7-2005**


**Veer Balidani Head Constable Deenbandhu Basak 63 Bn. 29-4-1965 To 29-7-2001**

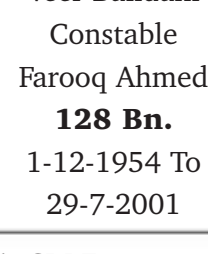
**Veer Balidani Head Constable Rajesh Singh Chauhan 63 Bn. 1-1-1963 To 29-7-2001**

**Troops of 63 Bn, CRPF were located in PS Etarunagar, district Warrangal. On 29 July 2001, the maoists came in the garb of civilians with their weapons concealed, placed a tractor trolley laden with high explosives near the gate of the Police Station and took positions at the vantage points. Later they detonated the explosive and opened heavy fire at the Police Station. The troops at the Police Station immediately took positions and retaliated. The maoists had planned to completely annihilate the troops and loot their weapons. But the retaliation from the troops held them at bay. A fierce gun battle ensued in which both sides sustained injuries. The maoists failed before the bravery and valour of troops and they found it safe to flee from the area. During the fierce gun battle, Head Constable Deenbandhu Basak and Head Constable Rajesh Singh Chauhan sustained severe injuries. Despite sustaining injuries they not only fired from their weapons but also kept exhorting and directing other troops till they attained martyrdom. They kept the morale of troops high and made them more determined to repulse the attack.**

**Veer Balidani Constable Nasir Ahmad Rather 182 Bn. 5-5-1985 To 29-7-2018**

Dreaded by the prospect of complete negation of their propaganda by locals, the terrorists started targeting the Indian armed force personnel who were residents of Jammu & Kashmir so as to instill fear among youth and dissuade them to join Indian armed forces. The brave constable Nasir Ahmad Rather of 182 Bn became a victim of their unethical strategy. On 29/07/2018, he was unarmed in village Naira, Pulwama when unidentified terrorists opened fire on him, inflicting heavy injuries. He later succumbed to his injuries during evacuation and attained martyrdom.

**Veer Balidani Constable Farooq Ahmed 128 Bn. 1-12-1954 To 29-7-2001**

**Veer Balidani Constable Pradeep Kumar 128 Bn. 24-12-1972 To 29-7-2001**

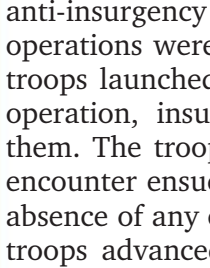
On 29 July 2001, CRPF troops of 128 Bn launched an operation against insurgents at village Bhaukijay, PS Rangiya, district Kamrup. As the troops reached near their target, the insurgents waiting in an ambush blasted an IED followed by indiscriminate fire. One of the vehicles came under the impact of IED blast and its occupant sustained injuries. The troops, despite sustaining injuries in the blast and initial firing, launched a counter attack at the insurgents. A fierce gun fight ensued and unable to match the bravery of the troopers, the insurgents fled from the area. In the fierce encounter the injured bravehearts, Constable Farooq Ahmed and Constable Pradeep Kumar laid down their lives the same day while Constable Parash Ram Yadav succumbed to injuries the next day, attaining martyrdom.

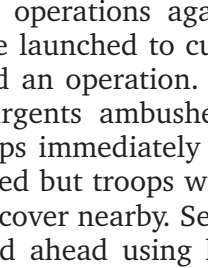
**Veer Balidani Naik Viridhi Chand 77 Bn. 6-10-1960 To 29-7-1997**

**Veer Balidani Constable P Venkateshan 77 Bn. 6-5-1968 To 29-7-1997**

**Veer Balidani Constable Narayan Chavan 77 Bn. 1-7-1974 To 29-7-1997**

**Veer Balidani Constable Lakshman Singh 77 Bn. 22-12-1972 To 29-7-1997**

**Veer Balidani Constable Lakshpati Singh 77 Bn. 5-7-1971 To 29-7-1997**

**Veer Balidani Constable Ashok Singh Gujjar 77 Bn. 8-2-1971 To 29-7-1997**


77 Bn of CRPF was deployed in Manipur for conducting anti-insurgency operations against the insurgent outfits. Successive operations were launched to curtail their activities. On 29 July 1997, troops launched an operation. When troops were returning from the operation, insurgents ambushed and opened indiscriminate fire at them. The troops immediately took positions and retaliated. A fierce encounter ensued but troops were in disadvantageous position due to absence of any cover nearby. Seeing the assault as the only option, the troops advanced ahead using heavy fire. Both sides received severe injuries during the gunfight. But the valour and bravery of the troops ultimately forced the insurgents to flee. 33 brave troopers of CRPF laid down their lives on the day in service of the nation.

**Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Limited**
(Subsidiary of MPBCDC, a Government of Maharashtra undertaking)
RFQ NOTICE
MAHAPREIT invites RFQ for the Empanelment of Suppliers/ Manufacturers for Bio-Mass Pellets to NTPC/TPPs/Other entities in MAHARASHTRA and other states. Interested bidder may submit their proposal from **29th July 2025 to 19th August 2025 at 15:00 Hrs.** Details of RFQ can be viewed on <https://mahapreit.in/> and <https://mahatenders.gov.in/>.
Director (SGP)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
3rd CORRIGENDUM
No. 256-Sig/SPL/TKJ/IMPLS/2025 Date:28.07.2025
Sub: 3rd Corrigendum of e-Tender Notice no. 256-Sig-SPL-TKJ-234 dated: 05.06.2025 for the work "Provisioning of IP-MPLS network for Unified Communication Backbone and VOIP based control communication over Northern Railway."
The e-Tender Notice no.256-Sig-SPL-TKJ-234 dated: 05.06.2025 published in all the important newspaper is modified as under:

Item Modified	Critical Dates
Field Name	Existing Value Modified Value
Tender Closing Date Time	19.08.2025 02.09.2025
Bidding Start Date	05.08.2025 19.08.2025
Website address	www.ireps.gov.in No change

All other terms and condition remain same.
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2304/25

**Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Limited**
e-TENDER DOCUMENT FOR Date - 25/07/2025

NIT No. & Date	Description of Work
e-Tender no.RSMM/CO/GGM (Cont) Cont-05/2025-26 dated 23.07.2025 UBN No. MML2526WSOB000066	Supply of ROM Gypsum from Dhani Abdullahawi Gypsum Mines, Teshil-Bajju, District-Bikaner for Consumers/Traders Contract value Rs. 398.00 lakh, EMD Rs. 7.96 lac, Tender Fees Rs. 4720/-
-Tender no. RSMM/CO/GGM (Cont) Cont-06/2025-26 dated 23.07.2025 UBN No. MML2526WSOB000067	Supply of ROM Gypsum from Got Manglod Gypsum Mines for Consumers/Traders Contract value Rs. 997.05 lakh, EMD Rs. 19.94 lac, Tender Fees Rs. 4720/-
-Tender no. RSMM/CO/GGM (Cont) Cont-07/2025-26 dated 24.07.2025 UBN No. MML2526WSOB000068	Supply of ROM Gypsum from Bhusrasr Gypsum Mines, Teshil-Bajju, District Bikaner for Consumers/Traders Contract value Rs. 255.55 lakh, EMD Rs. 5.11 lac, Tender Fees Rs. 4720/-

Other terms & conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit us at our website www.rsmm.com or www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or contact SM (Contract) on above address.
Raj.Samwad/C/25/6969 DGM (P&A)

**ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण**
मुख्यालय: 40-01, सेक्टर-नौवें पार्क-4, ग्रेटर नोएडा, जम्मू नौवें पार्क-नगर (3030) वेबसाइट: www.greaternoidaauthority.in, ई-मेल: authority@gnida.in
पत्रांक: स्वावि/0 /2025 / 1711 दिनांक: 25.07.2025
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
प्रमारी (निविदा सेल), ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रेटर नोएडा की ओर से ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-स्वावि/0 /2025 / 1711, दिनांक 25.07.2025 के माध्यम से उल्लिखित क्रम सं: 1 से 3 में अंकित कार्य की ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा की समस्त नियम व शर्तें ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट: www.greaternoidaauthority.in पर ई-निविदा लिंक एवं ई-पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिए उक्त वेबसाइट देखते रहें।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम / वर्क संकेत	अनुमानित लागत
1.	Supply of Wheat Husk for Gaushala in Village Jalpura for One Year in Greater Noida.	₹ 657.00 लाख
2.	Supply of Wheat Bran for Gaushala in Village Jalpura for One Year in Greater Noida.	₹ 350.40 लाख
3.	Supply of Green Fodder for Gaushala in Village Jalpura for One Year in Greater Noida.	₹ 394.20 लाख

उक्त कार्यों में से क्र.सं.-01, 02 एवं 03 की निविदा दिनांक 29.07.2025 से 11.08.2025 को 17:00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है एवं प्राप्त ई-निविदाओं की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 13.08.2025 को 11:00 बजे खोली जाएगी।
वरिष्ठ प्रबंधक (स्वास्थ्य)
Follow us on  / OfficialGNIDA


**RAIL WHEEL FACTORY**
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. RWFL/ET/IASC/2025-26/01 Dated:25/07/2025
E-TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/AM, invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> (Works)
Name of the work : Repair & Rewinding of Bipolar Rectangular Lifting Magnet in Axle shop at RWF, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064.
Estimated Cost : Rs. 17,70,000/-
Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. 35,400/-
Date & Time of Closing of Tenders : 21/08/2025 at 15.30 hours.
This tender notice can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in. Any corrigendum/Extension are available on the website- www.ireps.gov.in.
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/AM

**यूपीओ राज्य विद्युत उत्पादन निगम लिमिटेड**
अति अल्प कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना
इस खण्ड के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु अनुमयी /प्रतिष्ठित ठेकेदारों, जो सम्बन्धित कार्य का अनुमय रखते हों, से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
1. निविदा सं: VST-05/ EGO/Mzn/2025-26 धरोहर राशि ₹ 8,00,00,00, निविदा शुल्क ₹ 472.00 जौएसटी सहित। निरगाजनी विद्युत गृह की मशीन सं: 02 के रनर ब्लेड के आंशिक मरम्मत का कार्य।
वेबसाइट पर ई-निविदा स्वीकार करने तथा डाउनलोड करने की अनिवार्य तिथि / समय- 07-08-2025 / 17:00 बजे तक।
ई-निविदा का प्रथम भाग खुलने की तिथि /समय- 08-08-2025 / 12:00 बजे से।
नोट:- निविदा सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारी, विवरण / डाउनलोड / निविदा में पंतिभागिता हेतु, वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर लागू इन करें। किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन / विस्तार की सूचना उल्लिखित वेबसाइट पर दी जायेगी। सभी जानकारी उपरोक्त जल विद्युत निगम लिमिटेड वेबसाइट www.upjvn.org पर भी उपलब्ध रहेगी। यूपीओ राज्य विद्युत उत्पादन निगम लिमिटेड, मुजफ्फरनगर के भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, नैन माकिट, मुजफ्फरनगर में खाता संख्या 33722690590 एवं IFSC Code SBIN0002412 में RTGS/NEFT के द्वारा वांछित धरोहर राशि / निविदा शुल्क जमा कराना होगा। इच्छुक निविदाकार, निविदा खुलने की तिथि से पूर्व, किसी भी कार्य दिवस में अनुमति उपरान्त, विद्युत गृह में करायें जाने वाले सम्पाति कार्य का निरीक्षण कर सकते हैं। निविदा के प्रथम भाग की विवेचना एवं अनुमोदन पश्चात्, निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि सूचित की जायेगी। अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा बिना कारण बताये निविदा को निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।
अधिरासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत उत्पादन खण्ड, नई मण्डी, मुजफ्फरनगर।
"राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बढ़ाये"

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER
Telephone No. 0145-2628475 Fax No. 0145-2970247, e-mail: aceregionajmer@gmail.com No. F./Ar./MP/2025-2026/8374-8378 Date: 21/7/25
DATE CORRIGENDUM-1 (NIT No. 04/2025-2026)
In continuation to this office NIT No. 04/2025-2026, issued vide this office letter No. 6383-6413 dated 26.06.2025 for the work of "AUGMENTATION OF PIPED WATER SUPPLY SCHEME VANSHTALI (CT), TESHIL NIWAL, DISTRICT TONK including 05 years O&M after 01 year Defect Liability Period on CM Budget Announcement 2025-26; (Estimated Cost Rs.646.51 Laacs).", following amendments are hereby notified:

As per Published Information	Now amended as
Following bids are invited from interested bidders up to 22.07.2025 Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in , http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.	Following bids are invited from interested bidders up to 31.07.2025 Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in , http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.

All other terms, conditions and stipulations of the original NIT shall remain unchanged.
UBN No. PHE2526VLOB04122
No.DIPR/C/9098/2025
Sd/- (Ram Chandra Rao) Addl. Chief Engineer PHED, Region, Ajmer

**Government of Odisha e Procurement Notice**
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No. CCEKC-06/2025-26
e-mail : cekeonjharpwcircle@gmail.com/ skepwpd_keonjhar@yahoo.com Letter No. 3458 dt. 23.07.2025

1. No. of the work	- Construction of HL Bridge over river Baitarani at Ch. 12.100 km on Suakathi-Dubuna-Kalamati road in the District of Keonjhar.
2. Estimated cost	- Rs. 603.52 Lakhs
3. Class of Contractor	- A & Special Class
4. Period of completion	- 24 (Twenty-Four) Calendar Months
5. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	- From 11.00 Hours of 31.07.2025 to 16.00 Hours of 14.08.2025
6. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	- 16.00 Hours of 14.08.2025.
7. Date of opening of Bid from Portal	- 11.30 Hours on 16.08.2025.
8. Name and address of the officer inviting Bid	- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001

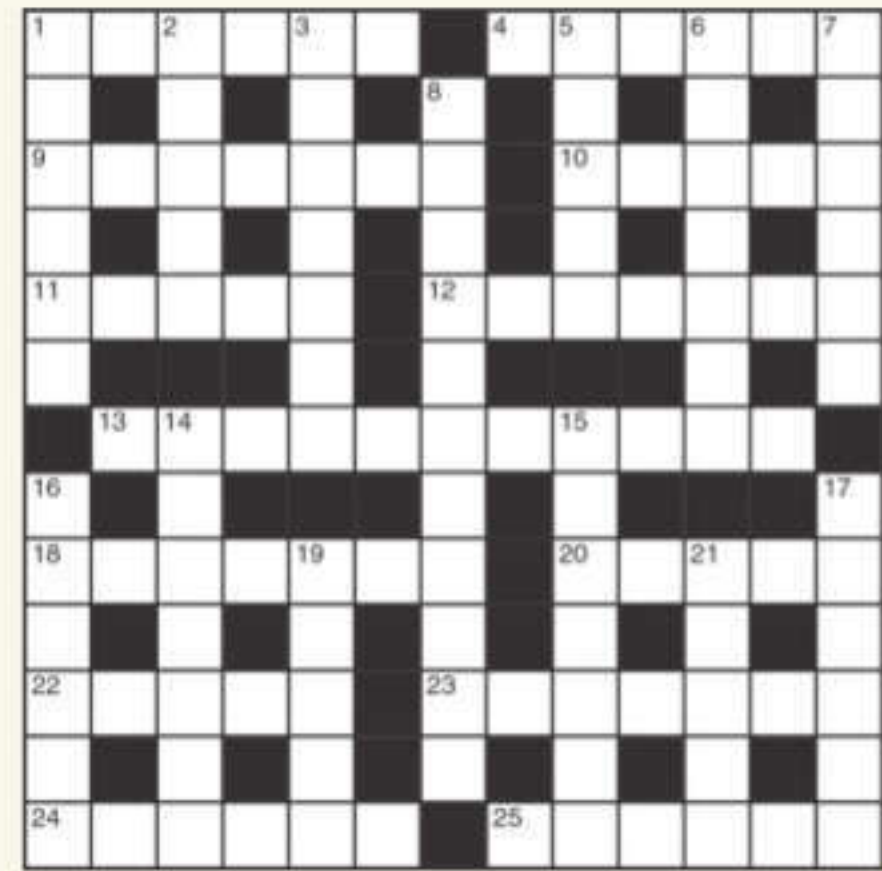
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar OIPR-34033/11/0086/2526

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**
Office of the Executive Engineer-3, Health and Sanitation, BBMP Head Office, No. 408, Annex-3 Building, 4th Floor, N.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.
No:BBMP/EE-3/H&S/TEND/02/2025-26/CALL-2 Date: 28-07-2025
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM) (Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)
The Executive Engineer-3, Health and Sanitation, BBMP, Bengaluru invites Proposals (Technical and Financial) for Appointing Contractor for the work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Construction of Animal Birth Control (ABC) Center in Hosapalya, Bommanahalli Zone. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 430.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 4,30,000/-

Calendar of Events: 1) RFP Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from **29-07-2025 onwards.** 2) Last Date for Receipt of Queries on **06-08-2025 upto 15:00 Hours.** 3) Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **06-08-2025 at 15:30 Hours at the Office of the Special Commissioner (H&S).** 4) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders is **18-08-2025 before 16:00 Hours.** 5) Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **19-08-2025 at 16:30 Hours.** 6) Date of Opening of

CROSSWORD 5740



- ACROSS
1 Remains in rows (6)
4 Game to cross the river (6)
9 One of the toasts that may be offered with a meal (7)
10 His work is often pressing (5)
11 Nick is not going to church (5)
12 The hand Mark won in style (7)
13 A case of galloping consumption? (7,4)
18 Comes and puts the map away? (5,2)
20 Give someone a painful reminder? (5)
22 He wrote of French opposition (5)
23 An account that has been overdrawn? (7)
24 States differ - so do these (6)
25 It's a simple thing to multiply by dividing (6)
- DOWN
1 Back in a moment (6)
2 Twisted roots used for a perch (5)
3 A jug thrower (7)
5 King has to say he likes wild parties (5)
6 Cover up novel problem (7)
7 Hold out longer? (6)
8 A world opens out for this Asian cat (4,7)
14 Elevates one from being pointlessly spiteful (7)
15 A short dress mother, to say the least (7)
16 Belief in solvency? (6)
17 Red Sea has changed colour (6)
19 Investment but not necessarily of capital (5)
21 Being stupid, needs retraining (5)

Solutions Crossword 5739 Across: 1 Bashful, 5 Based, 8 Atlantic Ocean, 9 Tibia, 10 Unswapt, 11 Stable, 12 Paths, 15 Accused, 17 Sofia, 19 Pain in the neck, 20 Range, 21 Dressed Down: 1 Boast, 2 Sale by auction, 3 Fantail, 4 Laid up, 5 Books, 6 Scene-shifters, 7 Denotes, 11 Snapper, 13 Austere, 14 Edited, 16 Suite, 18 Asked

JUMBLED WORDS

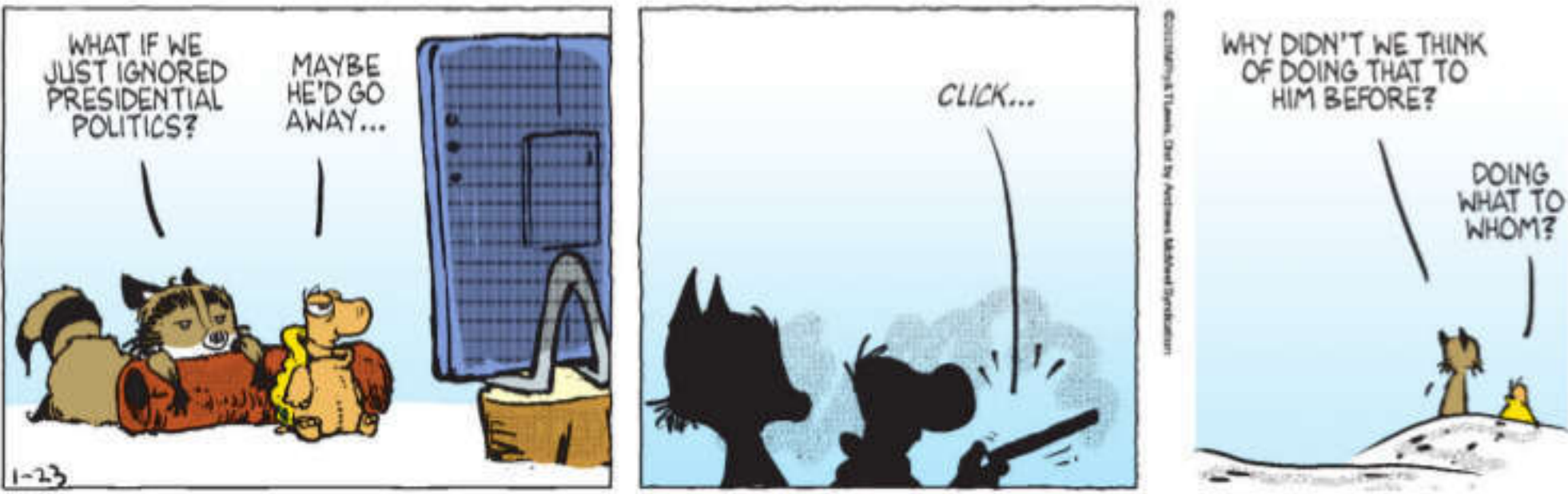
Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. The goal of winning is not losing _____ - Rosabeth Moss Kanter (3,5,2,1,3)

SAEOR
[Shaded squares]
DMIIIO
[Shaded squares]

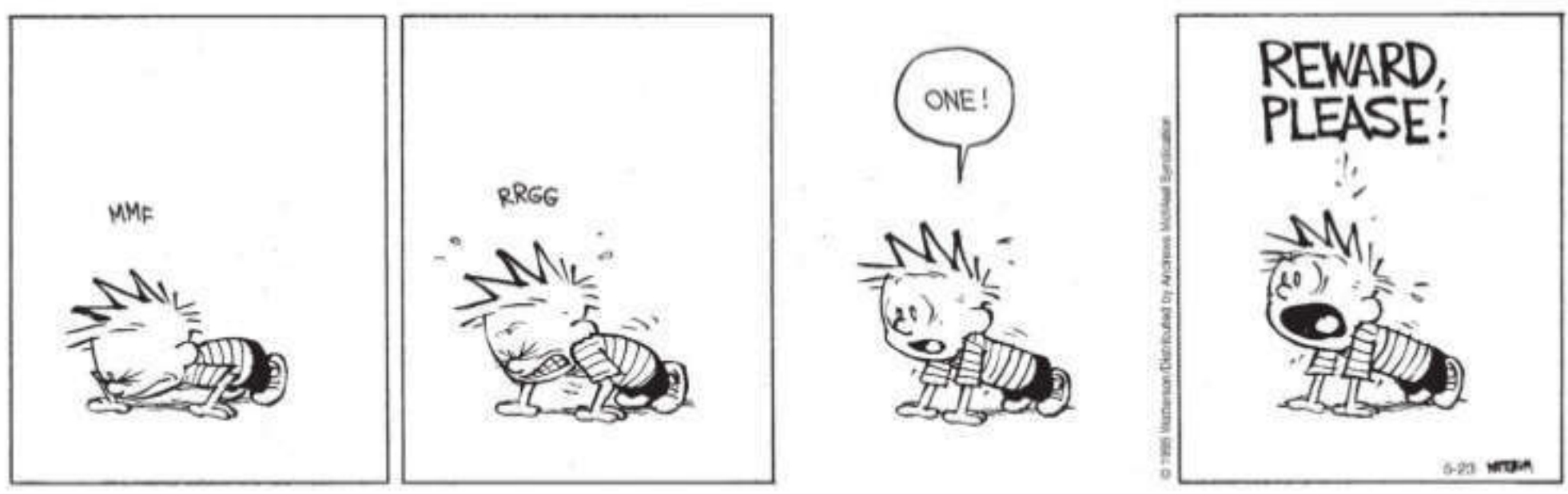
OYNSTT
[Shaded squares]
AGIMWW
[Shaded squares]

Solution: AROSE, IDIOM, SNOTTY, WIGWAM
Answer: The goal of winning is not losing two times in a row.

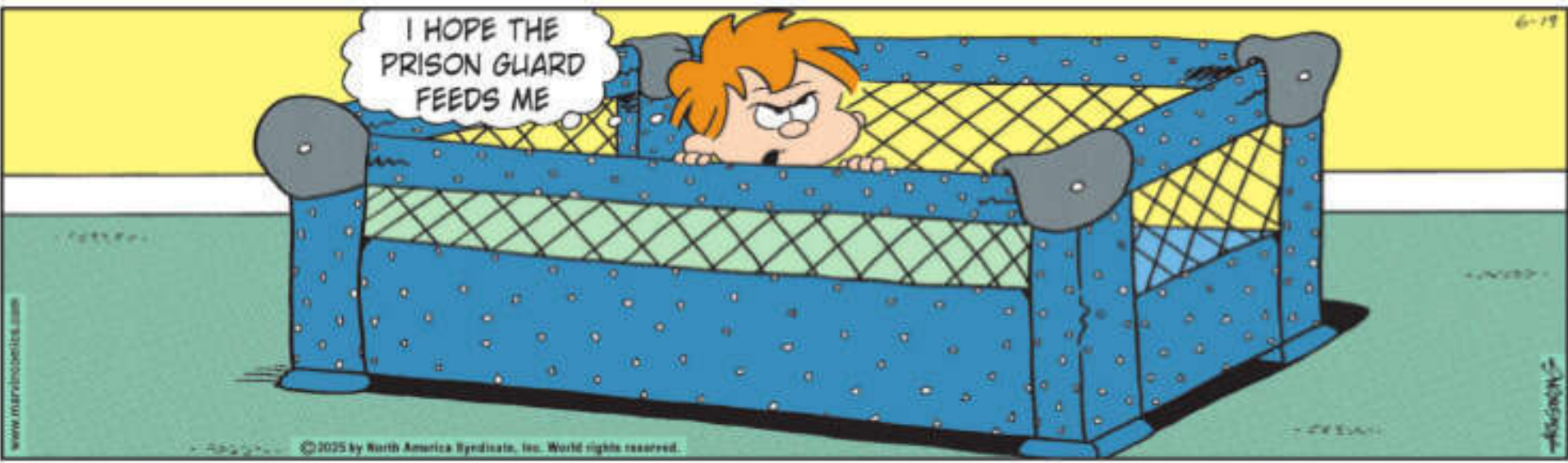
OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 6030
Difficulty Level 5s
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 6029
[Sudoku grid solution]

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Financial risks continue, but there is scope to put arduous tasks to one side. You may emphasise relaxation. Competitive Arians will benefit, especially from new friends and associations.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Your last word over domestic affairs has not been uttered. Though underlying contradictions may remain, the pressure to do something about them will be eased considerably. Particular problems can be put off until another day.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
For all your energy and determination, you appear to be misguided in important respects. Just as your good qualities are being emphasised, so are your bad ones. And this is why you should avoid extremes.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
Lunar influences are challenging but, on the bright side, such periods tend to stimulate you into new achievements. The best lessons are sometimes the most difficult. It looks as if your planets require you to be a rapid learner.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Whatever distresses your peace of mind must be dealt with, if only because stressful planetary aspects are due to carry on until next week. The last thing you want to do is prolong the agony. What seems gloomy now is actually moving towards a positive outcome.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
You may be slightly confused - and with good reason. One planetary force is drawing you towards everything that is routine, while another is urging you to be profound and spiritual. You need a reminder that this is still a lively moment, with much to gain.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The Sun is exerting an influence over financial sectors. This is neither a good thing nor bad. It does reinforce the suspicion that you must get money matters sorted out. If you don't do it, someone else will!

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Creative aspirations and social passions seem to be at the centre of this week's stresses and strains. You may have strong feelings about certain people, and might do better not to get too closely involved; I have a feeling that they could have expectations which can't be fulfilled.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Colleagues are bound to want more than you can give, but this will be the least of your problems. Turn your serious attention to financial and spending plans. That way you'll be prepared for developments due in one month's time.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Any adverse planetary influences signify that you are now presented with a remarkable opportunity to break the patterns and habits of a lifetime. If you're stuck in a negative frame of mind, start looking on the bright side.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
The positive aspect of current obstacles, hurdles and challenges is that you may become more experienced, self-confident and astute. Those stars which may be awkward for others, are actually quite favourable for you, and your good fortune sometimes comes in mysterious ways.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Creative activities are signified by the peculiar line-up of planets in four sectors of your chart. Bring your unique talents to every area of your existence. Employers who fail to recognise your special abilities will be wasting their money, but that's their problem!

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Nitesh @ Nite S/o Anil Dahiya, R/o VPO Silana, Samadha Wali Gali, Distt: Sonapat, Haryana** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 396/2017 U/s 363/376 IPC & 6 POCSO Act at PS: Kanjhawala, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Nitesh @ Nite** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Nitesh @ Nite** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Nitesh @ Nite of Case FIR No. 396/ 2017 U/s 363/376 IPC & 6 POCSO Act of PS: Kanjhawala, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 03.09.2025.**

By order
Neeti Suri Mishra
Additional Sessions Judge (FTSC) (POCSO) North/West, Room No: 318, Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/9980/RD/2025

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Aditya @ Sudhir, S/o: Sh. Gajraj, R/o: Village Baadshahpura Sirali, PS - Loni, Ghaziabad, U.P.** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case **E-FIR No. 45299/2019, U/s 379/411 IPC, P.S.: GTB Enclave, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Aditya @ Sudhir** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Aditya @ Sudhir** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Aditya @ Sudhir** accused of Case **E-FIR No. 45299/2019, U/s 379/411 IPC, P.S.: GTB Enclave, Delhi** and is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **16.09.2025.**

By Order
Ms. Sanghamitra
Judicial Magistrate, First Class-01 Room No. 54, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

DP/9822/SHD/2025 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ankit Sharma, S/o: Satya Prakash Sharma, R/o: Near Hira Lal Public School, Bhagya Vihar, Village Madanpur Dabas, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **E-FIR No. 34000/2017, U/s: 379/411 IPC, Police Station Mangolpuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Ankit Sharma** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Ankit Sharma** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is here by made that the said accused **Ankit Sharma of Police Station Mangolpuri, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **11.09.2025.**

By Order
Ms. Reetika Jain,
JMFC, North-West, Room No. 105 Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/9961/OD/2025

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Person namely, **Pushkar Chhetri, S/o Tuk Bahadur, R/o: Khasra No. 250/80, Gali No. 11/4C, Block Mukundpur, Libaspur, North-West, Delhi,** (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **e-FIR No. 0038/2023, Dt. 02.06.2023, U/s 379 IPC,** registered at **P.S.: e-Police Station (North Avenue), New Delhi,** and the warrant has been returned writing upon that the said accused, **Pushkar Chhetri,** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused, **Pushkar Chhetri,** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, **Pushkar Chhetri, e-FIR No. 0038/2023, Dt. 02.06.2023, U/s 379 IPC,** registered at **P.S.: e-Police Station (North Avenue), New Delhi,** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **02.09.2025.**

By Order
Sh. Sahil Monga, LD.
Judicial Magistrate First Class-06 23, First Floor, Main Building Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

DP/9799/ND/2025 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Janti Devi, W/o. Kishan Dev Thakur, R/o. H.No. RZ-263, Gali No.6, C-2 Block Part-3, Mahavir Enclave, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **FIR No.754/2019 Dt.24/12/2019 U/S. 420/468/471/34 IPC** registered at **P.S Ranhola, Delhi** and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Janti Devi** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Janti Devi** is absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Janti Devi,** accused of **FIR No.754/2019 Dt.24/12/2019 U/S. 420/468/471/34 IPC** registered at **P.S Ranhola, Delhi** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **15.09.2025.**

By Order, **Ankit Karan Singh**
Judicial Magistrate First Class-08, West District, Room No.30, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/9792/OD/2025 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Aash Mohd@Ashu, S/o: Gafar Ali @ Gopal, R/o: Jhuggi No. 34, Gali No. 09, East Sagarpur, Delhi, Also at: Mangla Gudariya Ekka Distt., Firozabad, U.P.** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 598/2022, U/s: 160 IPC, Police Station Sagarpur, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Aash Mohd@Ashu** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Aash Mohd@Ashu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is here by made that the said accused **Aash Mohd@Ashu of Police Station Sagarpur, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **16.09.2025.**

By Order
Ms. Isha Singh,
JMFC-03, First Floor, Main Building, Room No. 18 Patiala House Court, New Delhi

DP/9939/SW/2025

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Raju Singh, S/o: Lt. Kishan Lal, R/o: H.No. C-28, Chandan Vihar, Nihal Vihar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 465/2017, U/s: 380/411/457 IPC, Police Station Nihal Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Raju Singh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Raju Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is here by made that the said accused **Raju Singh of Police Station Nihal Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **16.09.2025.**

By Order
Ms. Komal Garg,
Ld. JMFC-03, West, Room No. 292 Tis Hazari Courts, New Delhi

DP/9950/OD/2025

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Riyajuddin @ Bhola, S/o: Shahbuddin, R/o: H. No.-781, E-59, Kalandar Colony, Old Seemapuri, Delhi** and **Mohd. Rizwan, S/o: Mohd. Yasin, R/o: H. No.-A-169, Gali No. 5, Jawahar Park, PS - Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P.** have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in Case **FIR No. 79/2012 U/s 341/323/324/506/34 IPC P.S.: Seemapuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Riyajuddin @ Bhola** and **Mohd. Rizwan** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Riyajuddin @ Bhola** and **Mohd. Rizwan** have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Riyajuddin @ Bhola** and **Mohd. Rizwan** accused of Case **FIR No. 79/2012 U/s 341/323/324/506/34 IPC P.S.: Seemapuri, Delhi** and are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **27.08.2025.**

By Order
Ms. Aishwarya Singh Kashyap
Judicial Magistrate, First Class-06 Room No. 25, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

DP/9970/SHD/2025 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Kadam, S/o: Hem Chand, R/o: GF Premises, Near Pole No. NJFW-265, Village Hasanpur, Near Oil Mill, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110073** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CT Case No.: 1197/2024, U/s: 135 I.E. Act, P.S. Chhawla, Delhi,** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Kadam** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Kadam** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Kadam of P.S. Chhawla, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **28.08.2025.**

By Order
Sh. Vinod Kumar Meena
ADSJ, Room No. 609, Dwarka Courts, Delhi

DP/9966/DW/2025

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Anita, W/o: Shashi, R/o: RZ-R-76, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No.: 268/2017, U/s: 33/38 DEA, P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi,** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Anita** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Anita** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Anita of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **02.09.2025.**

By Order
Ms. Komal Garg
JMFC-03 West District, Room No. 292, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/9946/OD/2025

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C./84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Mustakim, S/o: Jair Muhammad, R/o: H. No. 893, 2nd Floor, Tiraha Rehram Khan, Darya Ganj, Chandni Mahal, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case **FIR No. 135/2019, U/s 338 IPC, P.S.: Darya Ganj, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Mustakim** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Mustakim** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Mustakim** accused of Case **FIR No. 135/2019, U/s 338 IPC, P.S.: Darya Ganj, Delhi** and is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **17.09.2025.**

By Order
Dr. Raj Kumar Singh
Judicial Magistrate, First Class (Central)-05 Room No. 241, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/9886/CD/2025 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Khalid, S/o: Allauddin R/o: Aara Machine Wali Gali, Tarpuri, Meerut, UP & Tarapuri, PS Lisari Gate, Yasin Savasad Meerut, UP** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 197/2016, U/s: 379/411/34 IPC, P.S.: Dariyaganj, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Khalid,** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Khalid,** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Khalid, of FIR No. 197/2016, U/s: 379/411/34 IPC, P.S.: Dariyaganj, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **11.09.2025.**

By Order
Dr. Raj Kumar Singh
Judicial Magistrate First Class-05, Central, Room No. 241, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/9885/CD/2025 (Court Matter)

ALL-ROUNDERS AT HEART OF FIERY FINISH

The unsung knight

Jadeja has been undermined, mocked in the past, but the man without any godfather in cricket has not just outlasted luminaries but outshone most



EXPRESS IN ENGLAND

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
MANCHESTER, JULY 28

AFTER A net session, before the Old Trafford Test, Ravindra Jadeja, while walking to the team bus, had tapped his index finger on his temple. This was his way of answering a query about his phenomenal run-making spree in England. His match-saving hundred in the fourth Test on Sunday had come on the back of four successive 50s in the previous two Tests. Was he trying something new or had he added some new strokes to his game? “No ... it's about leaving the ball in England,” the all-rounder would say.

Over his 13-year long international career, Jadeja has left many balls, especially the curved one that life keeps throwing at him. Now he is enjoying the rewards of the years of patience.

For a cricketer with non-existence PR, no real backer, no godfather or even a mentor – Jadeja has had a miraculously long career. His unflinching fitness, constant skill update and his capacity to bounce back has made him outlast the game's poster boys and brand ambassadors.

Jadeja has been sidelined, undermined, written-off and a few months back he was about to be left out of all Indian teams for good. But the all-rounder didn't make noise, or get stories planted or make his angst public. Jadeja's world is his cricket, family and the farm house where he nurtures and rides his favourite horses.

Those in the know say that, earlier this year, post the Border Gavaskar Trophy loss, Jadeja was to be given the golden handshake. Along with Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli; plans were in place to politely tell him that his days are over. The inputs from the earlier team management hadn't been laudatory.

Jadeja could be dispensed with – that was the message on the sticky note that the last set of decision-makers left behind. It was the intervention of the present set of coaches that gave Jadeja one more chance, it is learnt.

Post BGT, when picking the team for ICC's 50-overs tournament, his name wasn't to be in the Champions Trophy side. After a discussion among the present team management, Jadeja got a reluctant nod. His name was the last to be added to the Champions Trophy squad.

And as it has happened so often in his career, this was all that Indian cricket's greatest survivor, needed. Whenever the curtains threaten to fall on his career, Jadeja changes the script and lives to tell the tale.

A formidable performance with the ball at Champions Trophy was to be followed by his Gary Sobers-level runs in England – only the great West Indian has 5 scores of 50 plus in England from N0. 6 or lower in a Test series. Once again at 36, Jadeja, for now, is the team's indispensable member.

After the Lord's near-miss, the Indian skipper Shubman Gill gave 'rare' praise to his team's senior-most player. “He is one of the most valuable players in India. The experience that he brings in, the skill set that he brings with his bowling, batting and fielding is very rare ... the kind of composure that he showed is tremendous ...,” the captain had said. Such words haven't been used for this one-of-a-kind cricketer who has served Indian cricket silently for years now.

From being the main all-rounder who helped Virat Kohli win the under-19 World Cup in 2009 to the Great Escape at Old Trafford in 2025, Jadeja has a staggering body of work. In between there are his Player of the Tournament achievements in Champions Trophy 2013, many Man of the Series performances in Tests and winning the IPL with a six and four. But still he wasn't projected as a star. Somehow, over the years, Jadeja wasn't taken seriously by fans or the teams he played for.

In teams of the past, he was one of the boys or the friend to the captain. Once on the Kapil Sharma comedy show, Virat Kohli was



Ravindra Jadeja celebrated his fifth Test hundred on Day 5 of the fourth Test. PTI

JADEJA, THE BANKER

Widely acknowledged for his prowess with the ball, the all-rounder's batting form has been a revelation in this series. He has hit four fifties and a century:

- 1st Test, Headingley: 11 & 25*
- 2nd Test, Edgbaston: 89 & 69*
- 3rd Test, Lord's: 72 & 61*
- 4th Test, Old Trafford: 20 & 107*

SERIES STATS

454	113.50	847
Runs	Average	Balls faced

asked – “Kaun sabse jyada phekta hai (Who tells tall tales the most?)”. The answer was Jadeja. Dhoni once called him ‘Sir Jadeja’ in his tweet and that would inspire a million funny memes and give him a title he hates. “I hate being called Sir. If you wish, call me Bapu, that’s what I like. This Sir-Var, I don’t like at all,” he had once said.

‘Sir’ in the dressing room

These days Jadeja gets treated as ‘Sir’ in the dressing room. Unlike his position in the Indian team led by MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma; Jadeja 2.0 is the distinguished senior of the team. He is among the few players who is seen having long discussions with coach Gambhir. In Shubman’s team, Jadeja is an example to emulate and an influential voice in the dressing room. Unlike others, he hasn’t positioned himself as some ‘captain without a captain’s armband.’

The other day during a press conference on this England tour, he was asked if he ever aspired to be a captain. He almost broke into a chuckle and said ‘that time has gone, I have been playing cricket from 13 years now.’

Strangely such has been the timing of his career that he often gets overshadowed by the stars he plays with. As an all-rounder, Jadeja would score 300 plus scores in first-class cricket but the main run-getter of his domestic team Saurashtra would be

Cheteshwar Pujara. He would be Dhoni’s trusted go-to player but Suresh Raina would be designated Man Friday.

He would be India’s main spinner for years but somehow it would be R Ashwin who would be called the spin spearhead, thinking spinner and match winner. Jadeja’s numbers were better than Kapil Dev, Ian Botham, Bishan Bedi but ‘greatness’ was not bestowed on him. On this England tour, the team doesn’t have the towering presence of the just retired mega-stars and that’s why the shadow that hid Jadeja has lifted.

Over the years, Jadeja has got maligned as the selfish cricketer who doesn’t work towards the team cause but bats to keep his position safe in the team. It is said that in tough tight games, Jadeja would expose the tailenders to the bowling and stay unbeaten.

On this England tour, Jadeja has squashed that narrative. At Lord’s, he methodically farmed the strike when batting with Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj to take India so close to an unlikely win.

At Old Trafford he enhanced his image. This was an inning that in a way defined Jadeja. Very early in the innings, Joe Root dropped him at slips. Jadeja rarely wastes a second chance. Not making a fuss over it, Jadeja would mentor Washington and also listen to him. He has inside him a unique kind of aggression. The only manifestation is when he turns his bat into a sword and swirls it around.

Like most kids in Jamnagar, the region where a King still rules, Jadeja has grown up hearing stories of valour. He often mentions the 12th century Sorath Chudasama king Ra Khengar on his social media. All around Saurashtra, folk singers, till date, regale large audiences with tales of his bravery at Lok Dayros (folk assemblies).

Jadeja is a war veteran, he knows which battle to pick. So when Ben Stokes and men showered him with sledges, he was unfazed. He has been in such situations before in these parts. On the 2014 tour, James Anderson had picked on him and he got booed at Lord’s. But that didn’t stop him from shining with the bat and swirling his sword.

Stokes didn’t want him and his partner to complete their tons but that didn’t blow Jadeja’s lid. He smiled and said it was his captain’s call. He kept leaving balls but would also keep delivering blows in between.

You are going to get a Test hundred against Harry Brook and Ben Duckett.”

STOKES TO JADEJA

So, what do you want me to do? The dressing room doesn’t want me to (walk off).”

JADEJA TO STOKES

backpedals his way but his opening partner Ben Duckett enters the scene. He gets close to Jadeja and says, “How long do you need, an

Stokes should know rest of world doesn’t follow Bazball morality

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
MANCHESTER, JULY 28

THERE IS much to be admired in Ben Stokes: his cricket, his spirit, his leadership style, public sharing of his vulnerabilities. And yet there is a streak of churlishness that pops up now and then.

Like it did at Old Trafford late Sunday evening. And also during the last Ashes at Lord’s when Australian wicketkeeper Alex Carey legally ran out Jonny Bairstow, who never returned to the safety of his crease at the end of the over.

Stokes had carried on a bit there too about the morality of it all. “If that’s the way they want to play the game ...” - he would say as if the Australians had broken some rule or cheated.

The only issue then was that his batsman was out of the crease, and the only morality in Manchester is that the Indians were entitled to play out as many overs as they wanted. No rule could stop them and in case there was one, the umpires would have duly informed the Indians before Stokes’s un-called-for enterprise.

What Stokes should be mindful of is that his view of morality isn’t the only one the world follows. He might think that a batsman wanting to score about 20 more runs, after playing for two full sessions on a fifth-day pitch and reaching 80s, was a ‘selfish act’. But others might not agree. This ‘self-centred’ standpoint might be prevalent among Bazball believers, but the rest of the world and the rulebook still gives batsmen the right to reach milestones and fans the right to watch their heroes score hundreds.

Saving Tests gallantly is still a legitimate third option, and Tests are not mandated to be binary.

At Old Trafford, a large number of Indian fans had reached the venue with hope. At the start of Day 5, England was the obvious favourite to win the Test. There were even chances of the game getting over by lunch but still they came in hordes after travelling miles. Since morning, the fans crossed their fingers and prayed for their team’s survival. The wickets of Shubman Gill and KL Rahul by lunch spread gloom, but they still stuck around.

They cheered India’s ball-by-ball, over-by-over, session-by-session recovery. They ran with Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar when they scamped between wickets and once the day’s heroes had virtually ensured a draw, they waited for them to get their well-deserved hundreds. They wanted to be part of the crescendo, let out their pent-up emotions, acknowledge the ‘great escape’, celebrate the draw when Jadeja and Washington would cross their 100s.

Spoilsport

But there was a problem. Carried away by the cult of Bazball, Stokes didn’t look beyond the book their coach Brendon McCullum had written for them. The world periodically gets to know about the Bazball commandments and Old Trafford too was educative. It came with the wisdom that for Stokes and his boys, personal achievements are pursuits of the petty and those with a shallow understanding of the game. Once there was no result possible, runs or wickets don’t matter. Maybe, Lord’s should think of taking down names of tons scored in drawn games from the honours board.

England were the hipsters, on a higher plane. The MCC writes the rules, the Bazballers decide the rights and wrongs - for their rivals and even for the paying public that stayed back for hours and relished every run that Jadeja and Washington scored while moving from 80s to 100. By the way, they also fancy themselves as entertainers and claim they give the fans what they want.

Even if one keeps the fans out of this and thinks of a scenario where Jadeja and Washington were not nearing their hundreds with 15 overs left when the English got itchy and lippy and started sledging, India had the rationale of playing as long as they wanted. Batting great Sunil Gavaskar once said that his favourite way of sending the ball to the boundary was making it roll slowly on the turf. “If one smashes it to the boundary, perhaps it is demoralising to the opposition. But I personally prefer the ball to just about beat the fielder because in that case, the fielder has been made to run those 25 to 30 yards,” he once said.

OVERTON ADDED TO ENG SQUAD

London: All-rounder Jamie Overton, who played the only Test match of his career back in 2022, has been recalled to the 15-member England squad for the fifth and final Test against India starting Thursday at The Oval. PTI



Ben Stokes' churlishness proved contagious, with Harry Brook, England's ODI captain, having a spray at the batsmen and bowling filthy lollipops at the end. AP

Keeping England on the field for a longer period would have long-term gains for India, with the next Test starting in three days' time. Just tiring the already exhausted England team wasn't gamesmanship, it was sharp thinking. That would be hard-nosed cricket. Douglas Jardine, England's best Test captain perhaps, would have approved, though Indians chose calm non-violence. So would Ian Botham or Freddie Flintoff, two equally skilled and popular England all-rounders. They too didn't give an inch, minded their business and didn't walk across to the other dressing room to give a sermon on cricket morality.

When Jadeja didn't shake hands and walk off the field, Stokes would ask him - “Jaddu, do you want to get a Test 100 against Brook & Duckett?” It was an insult to an epic knock scored on a pitch with variable bounce against a quality attack. Jadeja got the 100 against Stokes, Jofr Archer, Brydon Carse, Liam Dawson and Joe Root and was still willing to play them and score the rest of the runs. It was Stokes who was throwing the ball to Brook and Duckett - it wasn't Jadeja deciding the bowlers.

The solidity that Jadeja and Washington showed in the final session, it wouldn't have mattered if the frontline bowlers had the ball in their hands. The Indians would have scored their tons and their fans would have celebrated anyway.

The England captain's churlishness proved contagious. Young Harry Brook, England's ODI captain and next in line to take over the Test captaincy, not only had a spray at the batsmen, but bowled utter filthy lollipops which could be argued was what demeaned the game.

It cheapened the great human spirit that raged in the fight shown by Jadeja and Washington and England's bowlers' inspiring struggle in trying to coax some life out of a comatose pitch.

Cricket and cricketers make a big thing about 'crossing the line' - and all draw that line according to their own whims, expecting the rest of the world and cultures to follow that. But in doing so, they undermine themselves.

Towards the end of the Test where he played like Superman, Stokes showed he too was human. He might be leaning on morality to justify his stand, but in reality he was merely being a sore loser, trying to avoid the ignominy of watching his tormentors get their moment of glory. They might have won the race, but Stokes didn't want them to take the victory lap.



‘LOOKED A BIT SILLY’

The reaction of Ben Stokes & Co to Jadeja and Sundar refusing their offer to call off the match on Day 5 was widely criticised.

“Have you heard the term double standards? They played your bowlers all day, batted you out and suddenly when they’re nearing hundreds, you want to walk off? If I was the Indian captain, I would have played the entire 15 overs.”

RASHWIN
ON HIS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

“I didn’t have a problem with it. England did. Stokes didn’t have to bowl Brook and it looked a bit silly but we make too much of these things. India deserved the draw and Washington and Jadeja deserved to be there at the end.”

NASSER HUSSAIN
ON SKY SPORTS

“If you give it, like England do, then you have to be able to take it... These India players are tough cookies. They do not take a backward step. There is no way I would have let anyone drag me off on 89 after I had worked hard all day to save the game for my team.”

GEOFFREY BOYCOTT
WRITING IN THE TELEGRAPH

‘I can’t say I don’t want to play’: How Jadeja responded to England’s sledges

Even as a slew of players kept the verbal spray on him for not accepting their offer to draw the fourth Test, allrounder kept his cool.

Offer to call it off

Jadeja was sipping water during the drinks break brought out by Karun Nair and Prasidh Krishna. Standing a bit away from him was Washington Sundar, who too was hydrating himself. It was the end of the 138th over and Jadeja was on 89 and Washington on 81. Ben Stokes walked towards from the other side of the pitch with an extended hand, and conveyed to the umpire Ahsan Raza from Pakistan, who turned

to query Jadeja if he agrees. The negation came, triggering frustration from England. At one point, Jofra Archer said, “If you want a hundred you should have batted like it earlier.” Jadeja kept smiling and drinking.

Opposition surround Jadeja

As he finished his drinks, and was slipping his gloves on and walking towards the pitch, Zak Crawley, England's opener, asked him, “is it your decision?” To which Jadeja replied with a laugh, “No, No, No!” Now Jamie Smith too has joined the duo, and watches Crawley tell Jadeja: “We will bowl bouncers at you if you want” Jadeja again laughs and says, “But you have been doing that all day!” Crawley

You are going to get a Test hundred against Harry Brook and Ben Duckett.”

STOKES TO JADEJA

So, what do you want me to do? The dressing room doesn’t want me to (walk off).”

JADEJA TO STOKES

backpedals his way but his opening partner Ben Duckett enters the scene. He gets close to Jadeja and says, “How long do you need, an



hour?” Jadeja, standing pretty relaxed, replies, “See, I can’t say I don’t want to play”.

Fingers point to Washington

Duckett then points towards Washington Sundar, who is a short distance from the stumps and still with Karun and Prasidh, and says, “But then it works that you get to a hundred, he gets to 90. And we have to wait for him... We haven't got two hours for him to get to hundred.” Jadeja crosses his legs, leans on his bat as if he would at non-strikers end and smiles again as he looks at Duckett.

Stokes sees red mist

That’s when Stokes get into the act

again. He walks to Jadeja and Duckett, and says, “you are going to get a Test hundred against Harry Brook and Ben Duckett.” Jadeja’s response? “So, what do you want me to do?” To which Stokes says, gesturing towards the dressing room, “just walk off!” And Jadeja says, “but the dressing room doesn’t want me to.” Duckett starts to say something about Washington getting to a hundred, when Zak Crawley returns to the scene, saying,

“If you shake our hands, it’s done!” Jadeja spins around, sees Crawley, then turns towards Stokes and Duckett to say, “I can’t do anything!”

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

BRIEFLY

Diamond Harbour
stun Md Sporting

Kolkata: Debutants and I-League 2 champions Diamond Harbour FC (DHFC) rode on Slovenian poacher Luka Majcen's injury time winner to register a 2-1 win over former champions Mohammedan Sporting, in the first Group B clash of the Durand Cup here on Monday. Thokchom Adison Singh scored for the Kolkata giants in the first half with DHFC's Sairuatkima drawing parity in the second for the debutants. Just as it looked that the match was petering out for a tame draw, Luka penetrated the Mohammedan defence, got lucky with a rebound and calmly slotted home the winner to give his side full three points.

India likely to play in
CAFA Nations Cup

New Delhi: India is likely to play in the CAFA Nations Cup scheduled to be held in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan from August 28 to September 8, after the Central Asian Football Association invited the country to take part in the tournament as replacement for Malaysia. Malaysia, one of the two invitees in the eight-team tournament, pulled out on July 15, citing problems with logistics and player availability as the event does not strictly fall in the FIFA international window, which is September 1-9. If confirmed, India will be in Group B along with Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. India will play their first match against Tajikistan in Hisor, near Dushanbe, before taking on Iran (September 1) and Afghanistan (September 4) at the same venue.

SC quashes FIR
against Lakshya

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday quashed an FIR against badminton player Lakshya Sen, his family members and coach in the birth certificate forgery case. A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Aravind Kumar said the continuation of criminal proceedings against Sen was an abuse of the process of court. The top court observed the very allegations that were examined and debunked by competent authorities were now being sought to be revived as it ruled out any fresh evidence meriting reopening of the inquiry. The invocation of criminal law in such circumstances, the bench held, would amount to an abuse of process, which this court cannot countenance.

Satwik-Chirag eye
title run in Macau

Macau: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will aim to extend their consistent run and grab their maiden title of the season at the Macau Open Super 300, starting Tuesday, as the top Indian shuttlers continue their preparations for next month's World Championships in Paris. The Asian Games champions earned yet another semifinal finish at the China Open Super 1000 last week, going down to Malaysian second seeds Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik. It has been a season of steady performances for the world No. 12 pair, who have made the semifinals at the India Open, Singapore Open, and Malaysia Open besides reaching the quarterfinals at the Indonesia Open.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Teenager with nerves of steel

India's latest GM has unshakeable belief in her ability and combines it with meticulous preparation

MAYANK
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

WHEN THE weakest piece on the chessboard, the pawn on the f-file, broke free of its shackles and marched forward, there was little anyone could do to stop it. The right hand from across the board reached out, not for a counter, but to concede defeat.

This time, there was no rush to stop the clock as it ticked away. The opponent had already left the spot, leaving behind a teary-eyed 19-year-old girl, her hands trembling, having just experienced the finest afternoon of her young chess career.

That girl was Divya Deshmukh. She took a gulp of water, steadying herself, before letting the moment sink in. Her eyes darted around, searching for her mother, and then came the outpouring of emotion. The 25 relentless days of continuous chess, and the unyielding pressure, had finally led to something extraordinary.

Divya had just defeated Koneru Humpy, twice her age and the most dominant force in Indian women's chess for more than two decades, in the final of the FIDE Women's World Cup. The title brought many firsts for the girl from Nagpur. Not only has she secured a spot in the 2026 Candidates Tournament, but also becomes only the fourth female Grandmaster from India.

What made the feat even more remarkable was that Divya didn't have a single GM norm ahead of the World Cup, nor did she meet the required rating (a standard 2500) to be eligible for the coveted title. Yet, by winning this elite event, she bypassed all the usual FIDE requirements, emerging as India's 88th Grandmaster and the 44th female Grandmaster in the world.

What she has achieved indicates Divya's unshakable confidence in her abilities. What might have seemed like youthful exuberance at the expense of experience at first glance was, in fact, a meticulous strategy as she steered the final towards shorter time controls, avoiding losing the edge in Classical chess, where she had never defeated her senior compatriot.

Holding fort

Divya could have won the first Classical game with white pieces but fell short, failing to capitalise on both her advantage and Humpy's mistakes. This meant Humpy would play with white in the second Classical game, a prime opportunity to settle the match decisively.

Yet, Divya staged a masterclass in defence, forcing the contest into rapid tie-breaks



Divya Deshmukh (R) breaks down after beating Koneru Humpy in the Chess World Cup final on Monday. PTI

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where she ultimately delivered the final blow.

So what makes Divya such a special talent? Or rather, how did she realise her true potential? Ask her former coach RB Ramesh, and he'll point to two things: confidence and age.

"She is younger than someone like Vaishali (Rameshbabu) and Vantika (Agrawal) and, I would say, the most confident of the lot," Ramesh told *The Indian Express*. "She has been a confident girl from a very young age. She didn't have that negative side to her, the one that tends to create self-doubt. That inner chatter that wrecks things, fortunately, was missing in her."

According to him, Divya already possesses the strength of a Grandmaster, and is constantly evolving. Ramesh even predicts that she could become India's strongest female player. "She can reach a 2650 rating."

For context, Humpy's peak classical chess rating was 2623. Describing her playing style, Ramesh calls Divya "ultra-aggressive" on the board, drawing parallels with Russian-French legend Alexander Alekhine, arguably the most attacking player in chess history.

Could such aggression backfire? Ramesh doesn't think so.

As risky as it sometimes could be to com-

There are players who avoid risk, who prefer solid, steady play... like Rahul Dravid in cricket. Then there are those who go on the attack. Divya belongs to the latter category."

RB RAMESH
DIVYA DESHMUKH'S FORMER COACH

pare sportspersons from different sports, it is imperative to understand the mindset behind being defensive or aggressive.

"There are players who avoid risk, who prefer solid, steady play... like Rahul Dravid in cricket. Then there are those who go on the attack. Divya belongs to the latter category," says the chess coach.

Mental fortitude

Delving deeper into Divya's mental fortitude, GM Abhijeet Kunte observes: "I think it's very rare. Exceptional players perform well in both favourable and adverse situations. Many crumble under pressure; others fail to convert advantages. But Divya isn't like that. When pressured, she defends tenaciously. Yet when ahead, she avoids time trouble while maintaining her edge. She's



England players rejoice after defending the European Championship title. AP

against England — yet could not seal its first European title against the team it beat in the World Cup final two years ago. "I think this team deserved more. At least not living with this bitter feeling," Spain coach Montse Tomé

wide of goal. The defending champion won the only way it knew how at this thrilling Euro 2025. "It was the most chaotic tournament we played," said England coach Sarina Wiegman, who has now won three straight Women's Euros titles.

Super subs

England had fallen behind in the first half, fought back in the second and relied on its superb substitutes — including Kelly — just as it did against Italy and beating Sweden on penalties previously in the knockout rounds.

"I actually can't believe it myself," Wiegman said. "How can this happen? But it happens. We're just going to party tonight." England leveled the score in the 57th on Alessia Russo's header from a cross by Kelly after Caldentey had given Spain the lead in the 25th finishing Ona Batlle's cross.

Spain trailed for only four minutes in the entire tournament — and not for one second

Shooting League
of India gets
ISSF's backing

SHASHANK NAIR
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

THE INTERNATIONAL Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) put its weight behind the upcoming Shooting League of India (SLI), a National Rifle Association of India-organised event, stating that the event was part of the ISSF's design to keep the sport in the Olympic programme. Shooting has been excluded from the Commonwealth Games on multiple occasions. It was excluded from this year's World University Games, too. The withdrawal of the programme, coupled with pressure from the International Olympic Committee (IOC), has forced the world body to think outside the box.

"ISSF is working very hard for marketing, for communication, because it is really important because we realize that people don't know what we are, what we do. We know very well inside the family, but it's not enough. We have to open not only the door, but also the window in the world, and we are ready to receive attention," ISSF president Luciano Rossi admitted in a virtual media roundtable on Monday.

One part of this push is to align with the discipline of eSports, now a programme that features prominently in the plans of the IOC. NRAI president Kalikesh Singh Deo was recently appointed as the interim chairperson of the ISSF Committee on eSports and Innovations and has ensured that there will be eSports at the Shooting League of India. "We also understand the pressures and the pulls of the current market of audiences. As he has said, and I reiterate, there are more than 450 million, 500 million gamers who exist. The idea is to try and tap an audience of fans," said Deo.

He added, "While all of us may understand the intricacies of pulling that trigger and the release of the breath and the stillness of the mind to maintain the competitive posture. However, to make a common man understand what the shooter has to go through, I think a lot of technology can be brought in, the biofeedback can be driven, new camera angles can be brought in to ensure that there is more excitement related with the broadcast as well as a better understanding of what the athlete is going through. I think that's the level of communication that we intend to bring out from the Shooting League of India."

Apart from an eSports push — as well as SLI that has, according to Deo, 70 foreign shooters and close to 400 domestic shooters signed up — there is also the support that India will provide to the sport. Deo said that India would ensure a shooting programme at the 2030 Commonwealth Games and should the bid for the 2036 Olympics materialise, would support the programme wholeheartedly.

England women retain Euro title, beat Spain in thrilling shootout

said in translated comments.

Kelly had scored an extra-time winning goal for England at Wembley three years ago to beat Germany 2-1.

Spain's missed chance

In extra time Spain had good possession in the England penalty area so many times yet did not force a decisive goal. "It was cruel," Bonmati told Spanish broadcaster La 1, after being named best player of the tournament. "We played better, created more scoring chances, but in soccer sometimes that's not enough." Spain goalkeeper Cata Coll saved spot kicks from England captain Leah Williamson and the first by Beth Mead.

It was appropriate in England's memorable tournament that Mead's penalty had to be retaken under a new soccer rule that allows a second chance when a player scores by slipping and touching the ball twice. It did not matter after Hampton's saves.

Arsenal attackers like scoring with perfectly placed headers from inviting crosses sent to the ideal spot. Spain took the lead Sunday with a very English goal — a full back's cross from the byline finding the head of an Arsenal player to score, on a rain-slicked field on an overcast, cloudy day. The strong Spanish flavor leading to Caldentey's opener was in the neat passing to find Athenea del Castillo in the penalty area and her vision to see Ona Batlle's direct run into space. Caldentey was in the Arsenal team that won the Women's Champions League final in May beating a Barcelona side with six starters who also lined up for Spain on Sunday. Spain used three more Barcelona players as substitutes.

The Arsenal forward line in that final, Russo and Kelly, combined to tie the Euro 2025 final. Kelly's right-foot cross from the left was floated toward the head of Russo who guided the ball back toward the top corner of the Spain net.

2036 OLYMPICS BID

India, Qatar face-off: Promise vs readiness, economy vs diplomacy

MIHIR VASAYDA
MUMBAI, JULY 28

SLICK REELS. Snappy videos. And montages of sporting royalties — from Roger Federer to David Beckham — saying good things about Doha. In a co-ordinated publicity blitzkrieg, Qatar announced its bid to host the 2036 Olympics last week.

The Gulf nation's interest in hosting the Games was whispered in the Olympic circles for months. With this announcement, it is now official. India, which has been working on its bid for close to two years, has competition in a race that also includes Turkey, Indonesia, Hungary, and Germany, which want to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 1936 Olympics, among others.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has paused the host selection process as it reviews the current rules.

Picking a host nation for the Olympics has never been a straightforward process. So, to say that one country has an edge over the other will be premature. And often, given the hectic behind-the-scenes parleys, merit isn't always the only deciding factor — who

better than Qatar, who won the controversial 2022 FIFA World Cup bid to know that!

Some of the overarching messages from the initial statements made by both nations are similar, the difference is in the language.

Sample this, Qatar in their initial pitch last week have said they 'view sport as a means to... foster a world that is more united, tolerant, and harmonious.' India, in its letter of intent to the IOC, has highlighted that it hopes to 'seek peace, friendship and collective progress among all nations'.

Or take the promise of inclusivity. "Qatar," their statement says, "promises an unparalleled Olympic experience — a vibrant, inclusive platform that welcomes diverse cultures and backgrounds." India, in its pitch, has spoken about the 'vast cultural diversity' and the society being a 'mosaic of religions, including Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Jainism.'

And while Qatar claims its bid aligns with the 'National Vision 2030', India has said the 2036 Olympics are in line with the country's 'Viksit Bharat 2047 Vision'.

Both haven't shied away from making bold claims to transform the respective nations' sporting ecosystem, shape the future and wield regional influence.

Banking on 'readiness'

They do not say it in as many words, but Qatar implies that they can host the



An artist's impression of what the venues planned in Ahmedabad would look like. (R) A diver in action during the 2024 World Aquatics Championships with Doha's skyline in the background. Special arrangement / Qatar Olympic Committee

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Olympics now if it comes to that. Readiness, bolstered by the controversial yet successful 2022 FIFA World Cup, is their big plank.

On the infrastructure front, Qatar has claimed that '95 per cent of Olympic venues are already in place and tested at the highest level'. They dip into their previous hosting experience, underlining the 18 World Championships they have hosted in the last 20 years to promise a successful delivery of the Olympics. They hosted the



Asian Games in 2006 and will hold them once again in 2030.

"With world-class venues already in place and tested, Doha 2036 shifts the focus from infrastructure development to delivering exceptional experiences and meaningful legacy from day one," the Qatar Olympic Committee said in a statement.

In Ahmedabad, which was officially presented as the candidate city in a meeting with the IOC earlier this month, the pace of

On the infrastructure front, Qatar has claimed that '95 per cent of Olympic venues are already in place and tested at the highest level'

infrastructure building — being done from scratch — has increased rapidly in the last few months as the authorities begin work to construct the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Enclave, which is likely to be the major hub.

In its promise to deliver the Games seamlessly, India has bid — or is in the process of bidding — multiple international tournaments over the next few years to gain hosting experience. This includes the 2030 Commonwealth Games, which is almost certain to be held in Ahmedabad, the 2027 women's volleyball world championship and the 2028 World U20 Athletics Championships, among others. This year, Ahmedabad will host the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship and the Asian Swimming Championship.

Regional play

There's also a regional play in both bids. Qatar has also reaffirmed that if it were to be awarded the 2036 Games, 'it would

mark the first Olympic and Paralympic Games ever held in the Middle East and North Africa'. "This milestone would allow Qatar to present a distinctive Arab model for the Games — one rooted in diversity and openness, built on a foundation of sustainable legacy and the power of sport to inspire hope and peace. It would also strengthen regional representation and showcase the potential of Arab youth on the global stage," they said in a media release.

India, meanwhile, has said hosting the Olympics would speak of the 'aspirations of the Global South' and, in the letter of intent to the IOC, spoke about the 'transformative economic, social and cultural impact in wider SAARC nations in South Asia'.

Economy and diplomacy

Qatar is banking on its growing reputation of being a global diplomacy hub. In their pitch, the Gulf nation has said 'this bid is a natural extension of our diplomatic legacy, inviting the world to connect in an environment of peace and mutual respect'.

India, on the other hand, has impressed upon the IOC that it is the 'only major economy yet to host the Games.' "And while we recognise that is not the sole reason to award a Games, it is a stark reflection of our region's need for the types of sport and social benefits that only the Olympic Games can provide," the letter of intent stated.