

**'OP SINDOOR KILLED TERRORISTS' BOSSES, OP MAHADEV KILLED TERRORISTS'**

## Pahalgam terrorists killed, clear proof of Pakistan hand, Shah tells Lok Sabha

Says ballistic report, witnesses helped identify 3 dead as Pahalgam attackers

ASAD REHMAN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

SPEAKING FOR the government on the second day of the special discussion on Operation Sindoor in the Lok Sabha Tuesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced in the House that those behind the Pahalgam terror attack had been killed.

The three terrorists gunned down in the Dachigam forest area on the outskirts of Srinagar under 'Operation Mahadev' on Monday were the same as those involved in the terrorist attack on April 22, Shah said, adding that forensic proof as well as witness identification of the men had confirmed the same. Identifying



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. PTI

the three as Suleiman alias Faisal Jatt, Afghan and Jibrin, he said they had all come from Pakistan. The three were killed in 'Operation Mahadev' carried out

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### THE THREE KILLED



SULEIMAN



JIBRAN



AFGHAN

## Inside the op: 2 signals 17 days apart, 3-month hunt, Mahadev peak

ARUN SHARMA, AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
JAMMU, NEW DELHI, JULY 29

IT WAS the detection of a signal emitted from a communication device used by the Pahalgam attackers on Saturday — the second time in the last 17 days — that led the Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police to them on Mulnar Peak near Lidwas Meadow of Mahadev Peak, a strategically important location in the Dachigam forests on the

outskirts of Srinagar town.

The device was among various items, including arms, ammunition and explosives, later seized from the three slain terrorists, who Home Minister Amit Shah said are the same as the ones who killed 26 civilians on April 22. Identifying them as Suleiman, Afghan and Jibrin, Shah said in Lok Sabha, "These three terrorists were those who killed our citizens in Baisaran (Pahalgam), and all three have been killed."

According to highly placed

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**DISCUSSION ON OPERATION SINDOOR IN LOK SABHA**

## No world leader asked India to stop Op (Sindoor)... only 3 countries backed Pak: PM

'Vance said Pak was planning big attack... I said will answer bullets with cannonballs'

VIKAS PATHAK  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

WITH THE Opposition flagging US President Donald Trump's repeated claims of mediating the May 10 ceasefire between India and Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Lok Sabha on Tuesday that "no leader in the world asked India to stop its military operation (Sindoor)". He said he had told US Vice-President JD Vance on May 9 that if Pakistan fired bullets, India would respond with cannonballs.

Replying to an over 16-hour discussion in Lok Sabha on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, Modi said it

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi during the discussion on Tuesday. PTI



## 'PM should have courage to tell Trump he is lying': Rahul questions ceasefire

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

STEPPING UP the Opposition's attack on the government over US President Donald Trump's claims that he brokered the ceasefire between India and Pakistan after Operation Sindoor, Rahul Gandhi Tuesday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to show "courage" and declare Trump a liar if he was not speaking the truth.

"Donald Trump has said 29 times that he brought about the ceasefire. If he is lying... let the Prime Minister say he is lying. If he has the courage of Indira Gandhi, let him say here that Donald



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Trump is a liar. That you (Trump) did not make us cease fire and that we did not lose any planes... Even if he has 50% of the courage Indira Gandhi had, let him say it here," Gandhi said. "Have the courage to tell him (Trump)... To hell with you, you can't stop any

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## Challenge in US trade deal: Tackling Trump, ensuring tariff edge

ANIL SASI  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

WITH JUST two days left for the August 1 deadline set by the Donald Trump administration to wrap up agreements with its trading partners, the American President said he is planning tar-

iffs at "somewhere in the 15-20 per cent range" for "the rest of the world". That would mean a significant increase on the 10 per cent "baseline" tariff that applies to most trading partners now.

Given how talks have proceeded, an interim deal still seems distant. But three things

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### INSIDE



ECONOMIST, HOUSE OF LORDS PEER  
MEGHNAD DESAI DIES

WILL STEP IN IF MASS EXCLUSION: SC ON BIHAR REVISION OF ROLLS PAGES 17, 9

## Manipur district election officers begin outreach on SIR, meet parties

SUKRITA BARUAH  
GUWAHATI, JULY 29

EVEN AS Manipur remains under President's Rule, district election officers have begun holding meetings with local representatives of political parties to discuss the Special Intensive Revision

(SIR) of electoral rolls. While these meetings have already been held in at least five of the 16 districts in the state, notices convening such meetings have been issued in the remaining districts.


On Monday, representatives of the BJP, Congress and the Kuki People's Alliance attended one

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### BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY





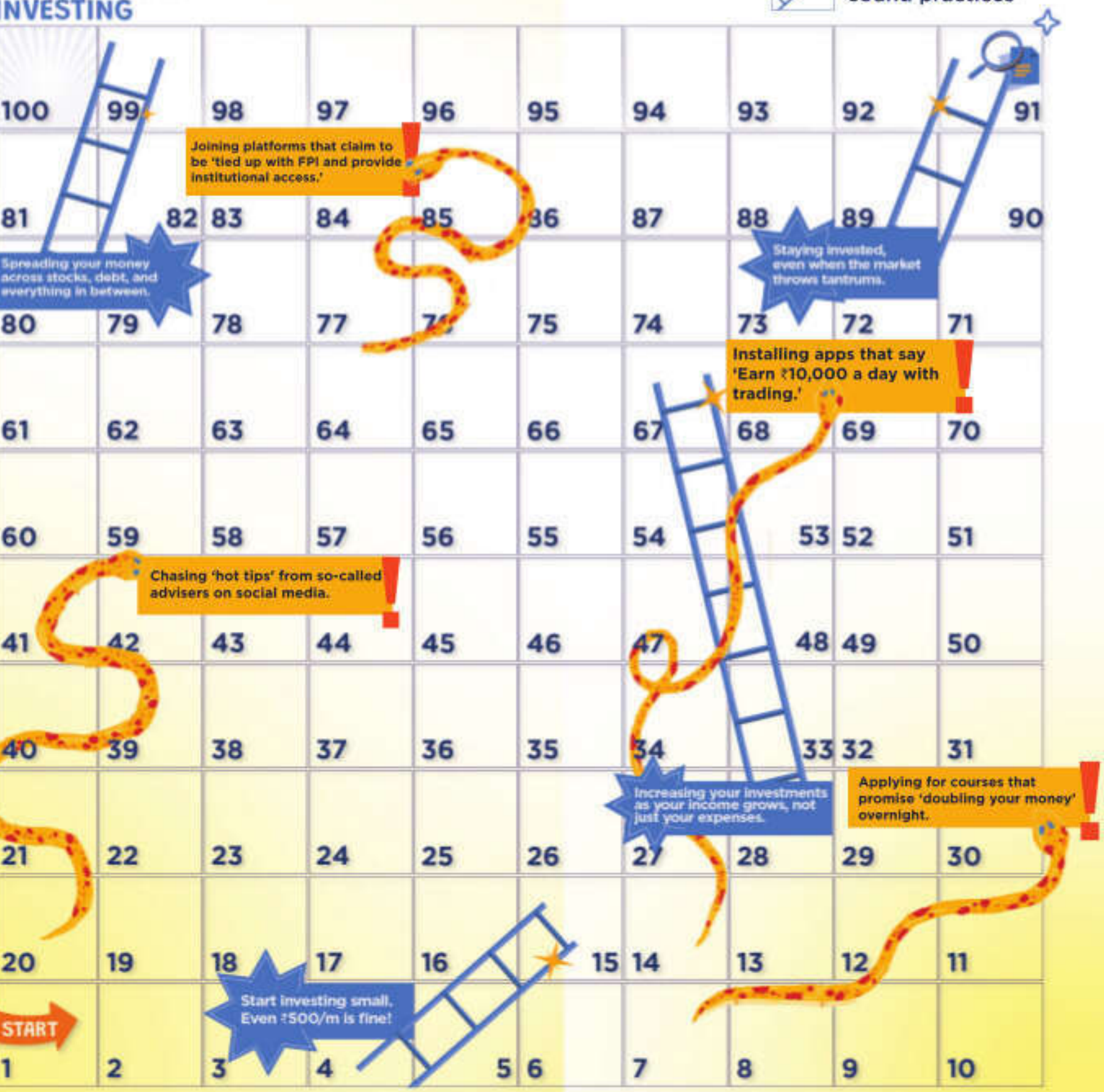
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● 2 signals 17 days apart, 3-month hunt

sources, the men had also used the device on July 11 in the Baisaran area. Since then, multiple teams of the Army and police had been looking for them, even during the night, which forced them to keep changing their locations.

On Saturday, when security forces and police detected the satellite phone signal from the Mahadev Peak area, they immediately launched what security agencies would later call Op Mahadev. The signal was tracked to Dachigam, which has the nearest human habitation nearly 30 km away at Chak Dara.

While Baisaran in Anantnag district, where the April 22 attack took place, and Dachigam forests in Srinagar are nearly 120 km away by road, their distance through the forest is around 40-50 km, with Aru Wildlife Sanctuary falling in between.

Sources said after the presence of the three men was ascertained in the general area, heat signature drones were flown to narrow it down. In a meticulously planned and swift operation, security forces and police, based on information provided by local nomads about the region, cordoned off the area and took on the terrorists, who were caught unawares, resting under a makeshift tent around 11.30 am Monday, sources said.

In the ensuing fierce gunfight, the Army and police managed to kill all three men — top Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Suleiman Shah, who had undergone training at LeT's Muridkee terror headquarters, Hamza Afghani (identified as Afghan by Shah in Lok Sabha) and Jibrail, all Pakistani nationals. Jibrail was also involved in last year's terror attack at Z-Morh tunnel, officials said.

In the end, officials said, it was their messaging equipment, used to communicate with their handlers in Pakistan, that was their undoing. "This equipment uses radio frequency to latch on to a mobile phone and then communicate across the border without using the phone's network. This helps it escape surveillance. However, there is equipment to catch such frequencies, which also provides an estimation of the area it is emerging from. But it is a general area, not the exact location," an officer said.

**The three-month hunt**

In the wake of the terror attack, as joint efforts began between security forces and intelligence agencies to track down the

perpetrators, large-scale operations by the Army's Special Forces and Rashtriya Rifles were launched on and along multiple ridgelines that emanated from Pahalgam. This was aided by technical intelligence comprising satellite imagery and inputs from surveillance carried out by drones. Also, electronic surveillance was used to detect signatures of Thuraya satellite phones and other radio intercepts gathered when the terrorists were communicating, allowing for their tracking over the last three months.

Whenever an electronic intercept from the radio sets or satellite phones was received, it was plotted on a map for further assessment of nearby areas. This was done regularly, and accordingly, the troops were inducted to carry out cordon and search operations in those areas, marked by rugged terrains, steep slopes and thick forests with caves, thus making for suitable hideouts.

The modus operandi of the terrorists was to emerge from their hideouts, cover some distance before making short calls, and retreat. Locals and other sources also gave security agencies constant intelligence on the likely movement patterns and possible hiding spots of terrorists in thick forests along the ridges.

Each location that was identified was searched by the security forces before moving on to the next. The security forces ensured that the terrorists were continuously on the move and denied them long resting periods.

In the vicinity of the Mahadev Peak, at a height of 13,000 ft, there are a large number of caves and dense undergrowth from where increased electronic signatures had been detected for the last few weeks. Early Monday, some movement was detected in the dense rocky areas ahead of the peak. The area was cordoned off, and additional troops moved towards it to cut off any escape routes. One of the terrorists was likely killed in the first round of firing itself, while the other two retaliated with heavy firing, before they were killed, officials said.

Aware that the terrorists are likely high-value targets, authorities took time to confirm their identities. For this, they checked with family members of those killed in Baisaran Valley on April 22, as well as two jailed locals — Parvaiz Ahmad Jothar and Bashir Ahmad Jothar — who allegedly harboured the terrorists.

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTSON  
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

# Pahalgam terrorists

by the Army's 4 Para, CRPF and J&K Police jointly, Shah said. "Suleiman was an A-grade LeT (Lashkar-e-Taiba) commander, and was involved in the Pahalgam and Gagangar (the Z-Morh tunnel) attacks. Our agencies have ample evidence of this. Afghan was an A-grade LeT commander and Jibrail was also an A-grade terrorist. These three terrorists were those who killed our citizens in Baisaran (Pahalgam), and all three have been killed. Through this House, I thank the security personnel involved."

Giving details of Operation Mahadev, Shah said it "started on May 22, 2025". "In a way, the day the killings happened, that night itself a security meeting was held... They (Opposition) are saying only Rahul Gandhi will there... At 1 pm, the attack happened, and at 5.30 pm, I was in Srinagar. On April 23, a security meeting took place, with the security forces and J&K Police present. The first decision taken was that those involved in the killings should not escape to Pakistan, and we made elaborate arrangements. On May 22, the Intelligence Bureau received human intelligence of the presence of terrorists in the Dachigam region... Repeated efforts were on from May till July 22 to confirm this... On July 22, we got success through sensors, and it was confirmed that the terrorists were there."

On how they had confirmed that the three killed were those behind the Pahalgam attack, Shah said: "The NIA had kept those who helped these terrorists in custody and when the bodies of the terrorists came to Srinagar, four people confirmed that these three conducted the terror attack in Pahalgam." He said that this was not all they depended upon. "We were in no rush," Shah said, adding that they also matched the cartridges found with the three killed, with those recovered from the Pahalgam terror site. "Three rifles were recovered from them. One was an M9 American rifle and two were AK-47. The cartridges

found (in Pahalgam) were also of M9 and AK-47. The recovered rifles were sent to Chandigarh (forensic lab) in a special aircraft at midnight. These rifles were fired all night, and the cartridges matched (with those recovered from the Pahalgam site)... Then, it was determined that these three rifles were used to kill our innocent citizens," he said.

"I have the ballistic report in my hand and at 4.46 am, six scientists told me on video call that they were 100% sure," said Shah.

He said the security agencies also had clear proof of the terrorists being from Pakistan, such as voter numbers of two of the three. "The rifles are with us. The chocolates found with them are also manufactured in Pakistan."

At the start of his address, the Home Minister expressed condolences to the families of those killed in Pahalgam, and said that PM Narendra Modi gave the go-ahead for Operation Sindoor in response. People had been killed in front of their families, after being asked about their religion, Shah said, adding that he wanted to tell their families that the attackers "have been taught a lesson, so that they can't undertake such an incident again".

If Operation Sindoor had killed the bosses of the terrorists who were killed, Shah said, Operation Mahadev had killed the terrorists themselves. "I had hoped that when this information is shared, there will be happiness across the board... But their (the Opposition's) faces have fallen... Are you not happy that the terrorists have been killed?" Shah said.

In a barb at SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who also spoke during the debate, Shah urged him not to be upset over "the religion of the terrorists killed". On the Opposition's point of accountability, he spoke

about the attacks under previous governments, and said: "They were asking yesterday where they (the terrorists) came from, where they went, and who is responsible. We are responsible because we are in government. But I ask, when you were in government, then who was responsible?"

Elaborating the steps they had undertaken after the Pahalgam attack, Shah said: "The Army, BSF, CRPF and J&K Police made all the arrangements to stop their escape from the country... A total of 1,055 people were questioned for over 3,000 hours for information, and it was all video-recorded. Based on it, sketches were made."

"On June 22, one Bashir and one Parvez who had given shelter to the terrorists were identified... They were arrested... They said that on the night of April 21, at 8 pm, three terrorists had come... They had AK47 and M9 rifles... They ate, had tea and carried some food with them... The mother of the two (who gave shelter) also identified the bodies of the terrorists."

In Rajya Sabha, which began its debate on Operation Sindoor Tuesday, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also started his address by informing the House that the terrorists behind the Pahalgam attack had been killed. "In the probe carried out after the Pahalgam attack, security agencies had obtained important clues which were used for counter-terror operations. A forensic analysis was done of the weapons found on the terrorists, and that made it clear that these were the same used in the Pahalgam terror attack. We have done what we said, and all three terrorists were killed by security forces," he said. "These men were from the same terrorist front whose terrorists killed 26 innocent people in Pahalgam on April 22. No praise is enough for our security forces for maintaining the country's internal security."

**WITH ENS INPUTS**



SCAN THIS FOR AMIT SHAH'S FULL SPEECH

● Challenge in trade deal with US

are clear: One, the US is pushing hard for zero duty access to the Indian markets, like it did with Vietnam and Indonesia. Two, from its perspective, New Delhi is keen ensure the headline trade doesn't exceed 15 per cent for its goods exports to the US. And three, the tariff for each country may depend on multiple external factors, such as investment commitments and high-value purchases.

The Trump administration is learnt to be pushing for India to commit to specific purchases and investments, of the sort that it got the EU and Japan to sign up for. This may not be a big issue for India, given that Trump may be keen on scoring a political point on extracting a big investment commitment without any specific hard time-frame to achieve it. India may be open to purchasing three big-ticket items from the US: defence equipment, natural gas imports and nuclear reactors.

While New Delhi has managed to keep two contentious issues, agri and dairy, off the table for now, it may be willing to be flexible on segments such as opening up public procurement, like it did in the UK trade deal.

Indications are a sixth round of talks between the two negotiating teams will take discussions forward in August. What could be instructive is the limited takeaway for the US from the Japan deal: how the Japanese negotiators managed to upstage their American counterparts by getting an immensely favourable deal on automobiles, even as they dangled the agri market access concessions and Tokyo's investment pledges as distraction the entire time.

**Headline tariff number; comparative advantage**

New Delhi is likely to push for market access in labour-intensive sectors, while trying to ensure a significant tariff differential compared to its Asian peers. If the final US headline tariff is between 10 per cent and 15 per cent, the tariff Join FREE Telegram Channel chat.whatsapp.com/HDVqPnxvwWb3Agy98nVaQ

**EXPLAINED**

**Why US, China talks matter**

INDIAN NEGOTIATORS are keeping a close watch on the trade talks the US is currently engaged in with China. This will give New Delhi an idea about the comparative advantage it will have vis-à-vis Beijing. A delay in the deal does offer more visibility on what a favourable tariff range would be, in comparison to the tariff deals other countries have clinched.

just be 26 per cent reciprocal tariffs, but an additional 10 per cent BRICS tariff as well? Without this, India will compare well with Indonesia (19 per cent) and Vietnam (20-40 per cent), and give an advantage over China (30-34 per cent) and Bangladesh (35 per cent). The equation changes when the additional levies are factored in.

**Exporters Struggle**

As the uncertainty continues, India's exporters are struggling to navigate the way forward because buyers in the US are not clear as to what the final tariff will be, and are consequently holding back orders. The higher tariffs the US has imposed on China means a number of Chinese manufacturers are now also rerouting shipments to Europe at throwaway prices, which is impacting India's exports to the EU as well. India, like other countries, had frontloaded shipments ahead of the reciprocal tariff deadline for the ongoing Spring-Summer season, but there is now a question mark over the orders for the Fall-Winter season from October to March.

Once the official level discussions wrap up by mid-August, there is a sense that a final call on the deal could come down to a conversation between the two leaders, PM Narendra Modi and President Trump. This is especially so since it is Trump who is the trade negotiator-in-chief. For India, the best-case scenario would be to get a deal of some sort now, and then build on that, experts said. For Trump, another consideration could be the fact that higher tariffs imposed by it mean higher prices for everyday goods made overseas. A Yale estimate from July 23 found that the tariffs will result in as much as \$2,700 in "lost annual income" per household, though taxes collected would potentially help narrow the federal deficit. The tariffs that have kicked in are bringing in some money into the US Treasury, with tariff revenue pegged at \$27.2 billion in June and \$22.8 billion in May, according to the Treasury Department's statements, a sharp increase from earlier years.

● No world leader asked India to stop Op (Sindoor): PM

was the Pakistan DGMO (Director General of Military Operations) who "begged" his Indian counterpart for a ceasefire.

While he did not mention Trump, Modi said he spoke to US Vice-President J D Vance on the night of May 9. "On the night of May 9, the US Vice-President tried to talk to me. He was trying for one hour, but I was busy in meetings with the forces. Then I called... He told me that Pakistan was planning a big attack. My answer was... that if Pakistan is planning this, it will pay a heavy price. If Pakistan attacks, we will attack harder. Then I said we will answer bullets with cannonballs," he said.

"No country in the world stopped India from acting in its defence. The United Nations has 193 countries — only three spoke in favour of Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. All other countries supported India," Modi said.

"We got support from the world, but it is unfortunate that the valour of our forces did not get support from the Congress. They were jumping within three-four days of April 22 (day of the Pahalgam attack), asking where is Modi... They were enjoying it. Even in the killing of innocent people, they were looking to score political points... You can grab media headlines like this but you cannot find a place in people's hearts," he said.

On the ceasefire, Modi said: "... The Pakistan DGMO begged our DGMO... please stop, you have beaten us enough, we can't take it any longer. India had said on May 7 that we have completed our job, if you do something, you will pay a price. It was India's clear strategy to target terror hubs, and our action was non-escalatory."

He also defended India's decision to inform Pakistan about the attack minutes after it targeted terror hubs early on May 7, recalling that the Army had said at a press conference that it had accomplished its goals and would retaliate only if Pakistan attacked.

"India destroyed Pakistan's military strength between May 9 and May 10. Pakistan now clearly understands that India's response will always get bigger and that India can do anything if it engages in any misadventure in future," he said. "I repeat that Operation Sindoor is still on. If Pakistan tries anything, it will be given a tough reply," the PM said.

Modi also accused the Congress of "importing issues

from Pakistan" and echoing the country's propaganda. "Unfortunately, Congress leaders have become spokespersons of this stratagem of Pakistan," he said. "Yesterday, our security forces sent the Pahalgam terrorists to their destination in Operation Mahadev. Here, they are asking why it happened yesterday. What has happened to them? This level of hopelessness."

Modi said the Congress had also raised questions on the Uri surgical strikes and Balakot airstrike. This time, when all the evidence was presented, the party was asking why the government halted the operation, he said. He said criticising the security forces was an old habit of the Congress, adding that the party never celebrated the Kargil victory when in power.

Modi said the Pahalgam terror attack was a conspiracy to provoke violence in India, but the country's unity foiled the plot. He recalled that when he returned from abroad after the attack, he gave the defence forces a free hand to pick the time, spot and means of their attack. "We are proud that terrorists were given the kind of punishment that their masters are sleepless till today."

Pakistan's nuclear blackmail did not work, India reached sites in Pakistan it had never reached before, established its superior technical skill based on make-in-India equipment, and showed synergy across the three defence forces because of reforms — like the creation of the office of the Chief of Defence Staff, tripling of the defence budget in a decade, a 250 per cent increase in defence production, 30-fold increase in defence exports — over the last decade, Modi said. "The Congress, when in power, did not even think of self-reliance for the forces. The Congress used to find opportunity in every defence deal. From jeep to Bofors to helicopter — there is a scam attached with everything. Our forces had to wait for decades for modern equipment," he said.

He said while terror attacks used to happen earlier too, their masterminds were having sleepless nights now, adding that this was the new normal India had set. "Terrorists are crying, their mas-

ters are crying and some people are crying watching them," he said in a swipe at the Congress.

Operation Sindoor targeted the epicentre of terrorism, where the Pahalgam attack had been planned and terrorists were recruited and trained, he said.

Modi said those asking why India did not take back Pakistan-occupied Kashmir should remember that it was lost by the then Jawaharlal Nehru government just after independence.

Modi also blamed Nehru for the Indus Waters Treaty. "It was about rivers emanating here. Those rivers were part of our civilisational ethos. The Indus was India's identity. But Nehru ji and Congress gave the World Bank the panchayat to decide on our waters and rivers. The Indus Waters Treaty was a deception inflicted on India," he said. He said the treaty gave 80 per cent water to Pakistan and only 20 per cent was left for India. "Our farmers had the right to these waters," he said. "They pushed India into a water crisis; there arose differences between our states for water. Many big projects would have come up if this treaty would not have been signed. India would have had more drinking water and hydroelectric power," Modi said.

"Despite wars and proxy wars, the Congress did not rethink the treaty. But now, India has corrected Nehru's blunder by keeping the treaty in abeyance in the interests of our farmers. Blood and water cannot flow together."

"After 26/11, the Congress's love for Pakistan did not stop. Under foreign pressure, they started talking to Pakistan soon. They did not expel even one diplomat from India. They did not even cancel a single visa. Pakistan-sponsored attacks continued, but Pakistan had most-favoured-nation status. The country was asking for justice, and Congress was busy doing trade with Pakistan," the PM said. Modi said the Congress's failure to take decisive action against terror was partly because of its "appeasement policy", adding that when India was facing repeated terror attacks, the Congress was seeking out "Hindu terror".



SCAN THIS FOR PM NARENDRA MODI'S FULL SPEECH

● 'PM should have courage to tell Trump he is lying'

war. We are going to fight."

Throughout the special debate on Operation Sindoor in Parliament, the charge that the government "buckled under pressure from the US" and agreed to a ceasefire "when the Indian forces were in an advantageous position" against Pakistan has been a recurring theme of speeches made by Opposition leaders.

In his combative 37-minute speech, Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, also alleged that the Indian forces went into the conflict with Pakistan with their "hands tied behind their back", as the Modi government did not have "the political will" to wage a war with Pakistan.

"If you want to use the Indian forces, then you should have 100% political will. And secondly, you should give them full operational freedom. (Defence Minister) Rajnath Singh in his speech compared the 1971 (war with Pakistan) and Operation Sindoor. There was political will in 1971. In the Indian Ocean, the Seventh fleet (of the US) was approaching. The then Prime Minister (Indira Gandhi) said we will do whatever we want to do in Bangladesh... political will without any confusion," Gandhi said.

"General Manekshaw told Indira Gandhi that he cannot carry out the operation in the summers... he needs six months. Indira Gandhi told him take whatever time you want... because you should have the freedom of action, freedom to manoeuvre. One lakh Pakistani soldiers surrendered and a new country was created."

Referring to the telephonic conversation that India's DGMO (Director General of Military Operations) had with his Pakistani counterpart right after Operation Sindoor began, informing him

about the attacks India had carried out on terror camps and hideouts in Pakistan, he called it "shocking" that India had conveyed that it had hit non-military targets and did not want escalation.

The Congress leader said this amounted to a "ceasefire" offer on the first night of Operation Sindoor itself. "You told the Pakistanis exactly what you would do. You told them that we will not hit military targets. You told them that we do not want escalation... You have told Pakistan directly that you don't have the political will to fight... And this the Defence Minister has said, in the House... that we don't want to escalate... (It was) immediate surrender in 30 minutes," Gandhi said.

He also referred to the remarks made last month by Captain Shiv Kumar, India's Defence Attache to Indonesia, that "India did lose some aircraft". Gandhi said this happened "only because of the constraint put by the political leadership to not attack the military establishment or their (Pakistan's) air defences". "You went into Pakistan... you told our pilots to not attack their air defence systems... You tied their hands... What will happen? Planes will fall... You don't want to answer, but everyone knows the outcome."

Gandhi also referred to CDS General Anil Chauhan's remarks that "what is important is not the jets being downed, but why they were being downed", and that the Indian forces had learnt from their mistakes, rectified the same and taken off again. "I want to tell CDS

Anil Chauhan that you made no tactical mistake. The Indian Air Force made no mistake. The mistake was made by the political leadership... And Anil Chauhan must have the guts to say this... that my hands were tied behind my back," he said.

According to Gandhi, the goal of this exercise was "to protect the PM's image". "Because he has the blood of the people of Pahalgam on his hands, the goal was to make sure that he used the Air Force to protect his image... It is dangerous for the country. The forces should be used only in national interest... If you want to use them, do not tie their hands behind their back."

"The nation is above your image, your politics and your PR... Have the humility and dignity to understand that."

The Congress leader also took on S Jaishankar. "Sometimes, this External Affairs Minister amazes me. He says, and even the Defence Minister, that we have deterred Pakistan. The man behind Pahalgam is Pakistan's General (Asim) Munir, the Chief of Army Staff. That man is having lunch with the President of the US... Trump is breaking all protocol and inviting the man who has (perpetrated) terrorism in India to have lunch... and the PM has not said anything," he said. General Munir also had a meeting with US Central Command Chief Gen Michael Kurilla, and generals from four Central Asian countries on "how to prevent terrorism". "Which planet is the Foreign Minister sitting on? Please come down. You have flown off somewhere."



SCAN THIS FOR RAHUL GANDHI'S FULL SPEECH

● Manipur district election officers begin outreach on SIR, meet parties

such meeting in Kangpokpi district. According to an official there, the meeting was held based on "informal" instructions issued by the State Election Commission. "There was no formal notice from either the Election Commission of India or from the State Election Commission to conduct such meetings. However, we were given an informal communication that in view of the ensuing SIR, a meeting should be held

with political parties to sensitise them on the process, as well as on pre-revision house-to-house surveys and rationalisation of polling stations," the official said.

At the meeting, representatives of all three parties are learnt to have expressed concern over the non-inclusion of Aadhaar cards for the exercise.

Amid the ongoing Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar, ahead of the

Assembly elections there, the Supreme Court has asked the Election Commission to consider inclusion of Aadhaar, Voter ID and ration cards as proof for updating the rolls.

"We had communicated with the representatives about the 11 documents that are permissible for proving identity and address. They were concerned that in a hilly, tribal area like this, most people may not have the

other required documents but are most likely to have Aadhaar since it is linked with so many things," said the official.

Thangjamang Kipgem, a BJP leader who attended the meeting, said the concern was shared by other parties as well. "We are very concerned about this, because Aadhaar is one document that everyone, from new voters to old people, are most likely to have. The officials told us that

they will convey our concerns to the authorities," he said.

A similar meeting was also held in Kamjong on Monday, which was attended by representatives of the BJP, Congress and the Naga People's Front. "We explained what the process is and what the documents required are. The representatives emphasised that every eligible citizen must be a part of the electoral roll," said a district official. Similar meetings have also been held in Noney, Ukhrul and

Thoubal districts.

Earlier this month, the state also conducted training sessions on the SIR for booth level officers and their supervisors across multiple Assembly constituencies. With these preparatory steps, Manipur has set the ball rolling for an imminent SIR, even as its neighbour, Assam, has effectively sought a delay in the exercise in the state by asking for the inclusion in a final NRC — a matter that has been in limbo for six years — as among the admissible documents.



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## Unaudited / Reviewed Financial Results (Standalone & Consolidated ) for the Quarter ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Sr. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Year ended
		30.06.2025 (Reviewed)	30.06.2024 (Reviewed)	31.03.2025 (Audited)	30.06.2025 (Reviewed)	30.06.2024 (Reviewed)	31.03.2025 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	20,51,829	18,24,002	79,81,992	20,67,762	18,38,365	80,41,244
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	2,91,330	2,38,405	12,43,444	3,02,341	2,57,604	12,76,714
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	2,91,330	2,38,405	12,43,444	2,50,461	2,57,604	12,76,714
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	2,25,212	1,70,273	9,21,902	1,82,956	1,88,828	9,54,828
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	Refer Note 3			Refer Note 3		
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	4,55,341	4,55,341	4,55,341	4,55,341	4,55,341	4,55,341
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year			65,78,138			67,85,027
8	Securities Premium Account	20,28,559	20,28,559	20,28,559	22,06,574	21,87,466	22,02,955
9	Net Worth	66,86,230	56,85,045	66,05,857	68,36,318	58,67,507	68,15,829
10	Paid-up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt *	19.46%	11.45%	20.06%			
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-			
12	Debt Equity Ratio *	0.57	0.32	0.58			
Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -							
13	1. Basic (in ₹):	4.95	3.74	20.25	4.02	4.15	20.97
	2. Diluted (in ₹):	4.95	3.74	20.25	4.02	4.15	20.97
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	50	50	50
15	Debt Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

\* Debt represents borrowings with residual maturity of more than one year. Outstanding Debt represents total borrowings of the Bank.

### Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly financial results are available on the Stock Exchange(s) websites (BSE: <https://www.bseindia.com> and NSE: <https://www.nseindia.com>) and the website of the Bank (<https://www.bankofindia.co.in>). The same can be accessed by scanning the QR Code provided here.
- For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s) (National Stock Exchange and Bombay Stock Exchange) and can be accessed on the URL (NSE: <https://www.nseindia.com> and BSE: <https://www.bseindia.com>).
- Information relating to Total Comprehensive Income and Other Comprehensive Income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to banks.

Place : Mumbai  
Date : 29/07/2025

Sd/-  
(Rajiv Mishra)  
Executive Director

Sd/-  
(Subrat Kumar)  
Executive Director

Sd/-  
(P. R. Rajagopal)  
Executive Director

Sd/-  
(Rajneesh Karnatak)  
Managing Director & CEO

Sd/-  
(M. R. Kumar)  
Chairman





MEDICAL ATTENTION NECESSARY WITHIN 24 HOURS, SAY EXPERTS

# City hospitals see rise in dog bite cases, Safdarjung logs 91K cases since Jan

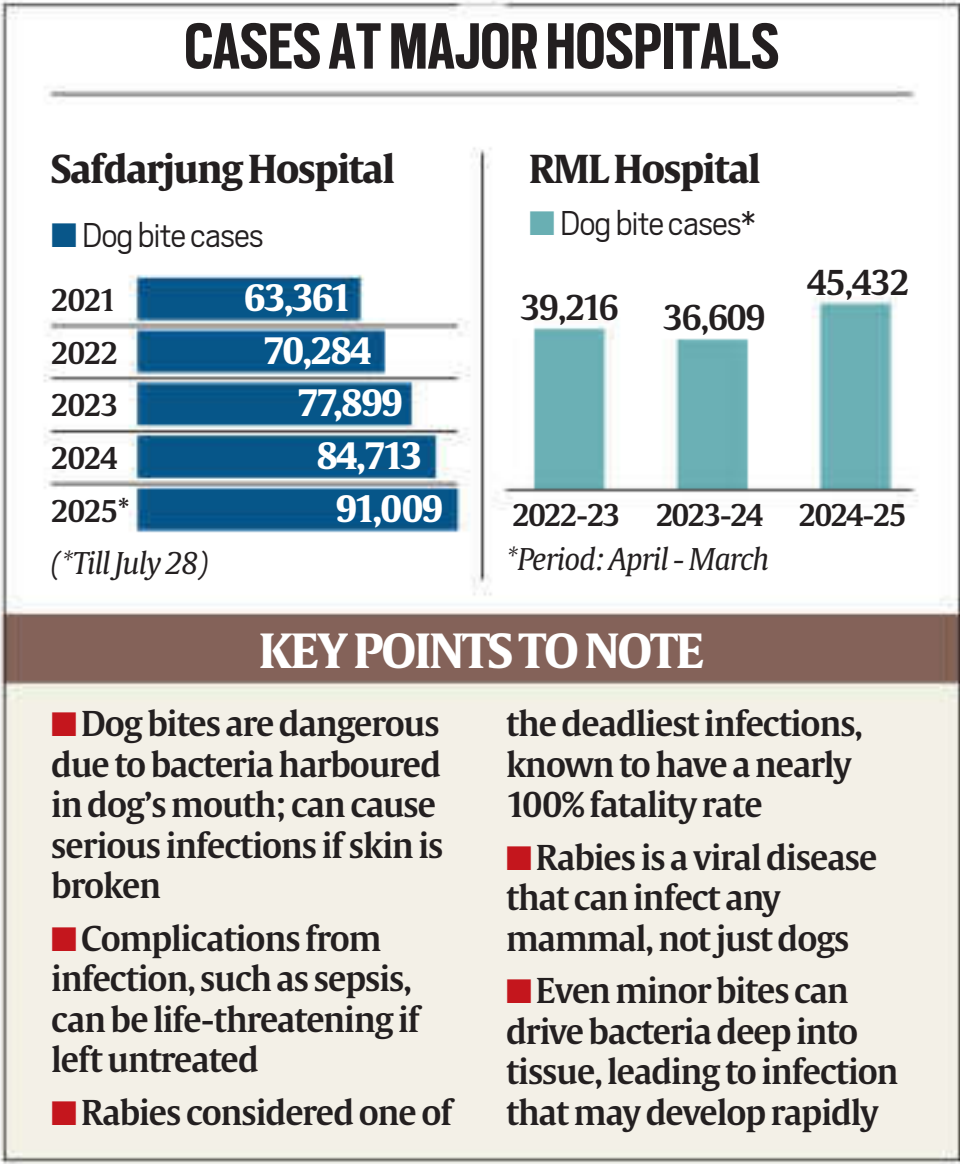
ANKITA UPADHYAY  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

A SPIKE in dog bite cases across Delhi, with children and elderly largely at the receiving end, has sparked massive concern. With three big hospitals in the Capital — Safdarjung Hospital, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Hindu Rao Hospital — witnessing a surge in the cases of dog bites over the last few years, experts have cautioned that medical attention is necessary within 24 hours of the bite.

On Monday, the Supreme Court took suo motu cognizance of a news report about infants in Delhi falling prey to the menace. Hundreds of dog bites in the Capital and nearby areas are leading to rabies, and ultimately, children and the elderly are falling prey to the dreadful disease, the apex court noted.

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

Children — especially those under 10 years of age — are at a higher risk for severe or fatal outcomes following a dog bite, experts opine. The seriousness of a



dog bite depends on factors such as wound depth, extent of damage to tissues, the location, and the dog's vaccination status. Even minor-looking bites should be carefully monitored, as per the experts. Immediate washing,

cleaning, and medical treatment of the wound are crucial to prevent infection.

Data accessed by *The Indian Express* shows that Centre-run Safdarjung Hospital has seen a massive surge in dog bite cases



Stray dog bites have sparked huge concern. Praveen Khanna

this year when compared to the figures in 2021. While 63,361 cases were reported in the entire year in 2021, the hospital has already registered 91,009 cases till July this year. (see box)

At RML hospital, while 39,216 cases were registered between April 2022 and March 2023, the number increased to 45,432 between April 2022 and March 2025 — a 13% increase.

A senior doctor from the Anti Rabies Clinic said dog bites have become one of the most important public health issues.

At the MCD-run Bara Hindu Rao Hospital, 4,861 dog bite cases have been reported till July 28 this year, 40% higher than 3,468 cases

reported between January and July last year.

Can people survive rabies? This is a frequently asked question when it comes to dog bites. Survival from a rabies infection is extremely rare, according to doctors.

"Timely assessment allows healthcare providers to clean the wound thoroughly, evaluate the need for antibiotics, update tetanus vaccination, and, if the animal's rabies status is uncertain, start post-exposure prophylaxis," says Dr Suranjit Chatterjee, Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine, at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, recommending taking medical care within 24 hours.

AFTER GURGAON ASSAULT VIDEO GOES VIRAL

## Four security guards arrested for thrashing man over theft suspicion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GURGAON, JULY 29

A DAY after a purported video capturing the brutal assault of an excavator operator in Gurgaon was widely shared on social media, four security guards working at an under construction society were arrested on Tuesday morning for allegedly thrashing him over suspicion of theft, said police.

Tied with a rope, and hung upside down inside a building, the driver — in the purported video — can be seen pleading to the accused in a broken voice, while they hit him with what looks like thin steel rods. As the clip went viral, the police took suo motu action and filed a first

information report (FIR).

While the police have not identified the victim yet, officers said he is an excavator driver who hails from Rajasthan.

The accused have been identified as Pushpendra (39) from Gyanpura in Bhind, Madhya Pradesh; Ajit Singh (38) from Kharak Kalan, Bhiwani; Krishna Kumar (19) from Kharoda, Rewari; and Amit Kumar (39) from Khasa in Amritsar, Punjab. They worked as security guards at an under construction society where the victim was employed as an excavator driver, officers said.

"Police investigations have revealed that the assault occurred on the night of June 10-11, after the accused suspected the victim of stealing electrical

wires from the construction site. The police will record the victim's statement as part of the ongoing investigation", the spokesperson added.

The four arrests were made by the Sector 10 Police Station, at Basai Enclave, within hours of the video surfacing, a police spokesperson said.

According to the Station House Officer (SHO), Sandeep, Sector 10 police station, the police cannot confirm now whether the victim went back to Rajasthan or not after the incident. "We have not been able to reach the victim yet, but we will soon reach out to him," the SHO said. The victim had, however, not filed a formal complaint, but will be called to give his statement, the police said.

FOREIGN NATIONALS ACCUSED OF FLEEING DETENTION CENTRE, ASSAULTING OFFICERS

## ‘Surprising CCTV footage withheld’: HC asks MHA to probe incident

SOHINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

AS THE Delhi High Court on Monday granted bail to two foreign nationals accused of attempting to flee from a detention centre and assaulting officers on duty, the court asked the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to carry out a probe into the incident. "It is quite surprising that footage of the CCTV cameras installed at the detention centre, namely Seva Sadan, Lampur, is being withheld from the investigator," Justice Girish Kathpalia noted.

The court made the observation after it called upon the prosecution "to address submissions in order to rule out a possibility that the entire incident was fabricated to somehow help the detainees" from being deported to their countries of origin.

Justice Kathpalia recorded, "The Department of Social Welfare alleges that the CCTV is manned by CRPF; but CRPF alleges that CCTV is manned by FRRO (Foreigners Regional Registration Office); but the FRRO alleges that the CCTV is manned by the Department of Social Welfare... In view of the above mentioned peculiar circumstances of this case, learned APP (Assistant Public Prosecutor), after discussing with the SHO, Narela, submits that the Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi or the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs would be the competent authorities to carry out the necessary investigation."

"Therefore, a copy of this or-

der be sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, to carry out appropriate inquiry and, if necessary, investigation in accordance with law," the Judge added.

The accused in the case, nine foreign nationals — one of whom continues to remain on the run to date — had allegedly attempted to run away from the detention centre on February 23, 2024, after causing injuries to several officers in the scuffle that ensued. While two were caught inside the camp, six others were later apprehended from nearby areas, said officers. A first information report (FIR) was lodged in the case, and they were subsequently sent to judicial custody.

Two of the accused, represented by advocates Meghan Pal and Anup Das, while seeking bail before the Delhi High Court, claimed innocence and told the court that they are only being "used as a scapegoat", submitting that no such offence was committed and that they are facing "racial discrimination and the principles of equality have been given a go-by".

The accused also told the court that the whole matter "is a cock and bull story and an attempt to convert other disputes into a criminal case by misusing the law."

The Delhi Police, through the Narela police station SHO Inspector Rajendra Singh, had informed the court that while the incident was captured in CCTV cameras installed at the centre, it was unable to obtain the footage.

## Park visitor dies after stray dog attack: Police seek answers from DDA

DEVANSH MITTAL  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

FOLLOWING THE death of a visitor to a Delhi Development Authority (DDA) park in West Delhi in a stray dog attack, the Station House Officer (SHO) of Moti Nagar Police Station has written to the DDA and sought detailed information on security arrangements and protocol for stray animal control.

In a letter dated July 4 and addressed to the Director (Horticulture), Northwest Division, DDA, Inspector Varun Dalal cited a recent incident at the DDA park on Shivaji Marg, Najafgarh Road, where a park visitor died due to injuries sustained in a stray dog attack. "Safety and well-being of citizens using public spaces like parks must be given top priority. Hence, I request your urgent attention to the above matters and would appreciate a prompt response with the requested information," it quoted him as saying.

Dalal confirmed to *The Indian Express* that he has not yet received a response from DDA.

Among other issues, the SHO has asked in his letter if the DDA has engaged any security agency to ensure the safety of visitors.

The SHO also sought details of the agency involved, the for-

The SHO sought information on security and protocol for stray animal control

mal agreement executed, and the roles and responsibilities assigned to the security personnel. The letter also inquires if any particular authority is responsible for controlling the presence of stray dogs in the park. Specifically, it asks whether this responsibility lies with the agency or DDA staff under standard protocol.

Additionally, the SHO has requested the name, designation, and contact information of any DDA official assigned to supervise and oversee operations at the Shivaji Marg park. Regarding surveillance, the letter seeks details on the number of CCTV cameras installed within the park and the status of any annual maintenance contracts awarded for them. The SHO has also asked for the name of the contractor, if there is one.

The death comes amid growing concerns over stray dog attacks in the city that have drawn wider attention. On Monday, the Supreme Court took suo motu cognizance of the issue, calling the rise in dog bite cases "very alarming".

## Govt to review arbitration claims above Rs 1 crore from three depts

Seeks data from over 2 decades

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE DELHI BJP government has instructed the Public Works Department (PWD), Water and Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) departments to submit records of all arbitration cases involving claims exceeding Rs 1 crore from the past 20 years.

This comprehensive audit aims to assess the extent of financial losses arising from legal disputes and bring transparency to how public funds were spent or lost in the last two decades, said officials.

This comes a day after Chief Minister Rekha Gupta directed the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) to probe irregularities in the construction of the Barapullah Phase III corridor and the arbitration case that arose due to delays.

Assessing the then AAP government of corruption, Gupta had 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



CM Rekha Gupta. File

withheld, the company approached the High Court, which, 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," read a statement from the CM's Office (CMO) issued on Monday.

The three departments, which manage roads and drains, have been asked to provide year-wise and award-wise data — including the total number of arbitration cases exceeding Rs 1 crore; cases decided against the government, along with brief descriptions; the amount paid or losses incurred in such cases; and the number of appeals filed before making payments.

"This audit comes amid mounting concerns over repeated legal setbacks in infrastructure and civil works, many of which have resulted in heavy payouts to private contractors,"

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ITE&C Department

Expression of Interest (EOI)

The Amaravati Quantum computer centre invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for the physical installation of a Quantum Computer at the Amaravati Quantum Computer Centre (AQCC)". The Proposal shall include the following

a. Detailed infrastructure requirements necessary for housing the system, including power supply specifications, quantum processing units (QPU) proposed, physical space, structural load conditions, thermodynamic and magnetic shield requirements, and cryogenic systems compatible with their equipment.

b. Rental rate per square foot per month (in Indian Rupees) they are willing to pay.

c. Percentage of quantum compute time they are willing to allocate to the GoAP for public, academic, research or other use.

d. The proposals may be sent by email to secy\_itec@ap.gov.in or by registered post to the Office of the Secretary, ITE&C department, 1st Floor, Building-4, AP Secretariat, Velgapudi on or before 12.08.2025.

Eol Calling Date: 30.07.2025

Eol Closing Date: 12.08.2025.

Contact person: 1. K. Dhavuryan Naik, Director (communications), Mobile: 9963029418

2. B. Sundar, Special Secretary, ITE&C Department. Ph.0863-2444247| spl\_secy@ap.gov.in | https://apit.ap.gov.in

No: 4300PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22- Dated.29/07/2025

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 (2) Cr. P.C.

Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused person Namley **Kausar Ali s/o Gajab Ali R/o H.N.P-47, Street No.18, Brahampuri, Delhi.** have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR. No.352/18 U/s 25/27 Arms Act.** has been registered at P.S.Jafrabad, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, **Kausar Ali** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Kausar Ali** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, **Kausar Ali of under FIR. No. 352/18 u/s 25/27 Arms Act.**, registered at **PS. Jafrabad, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **25.09.2025**

By Order  
Ms. Ayushi Saxena,  
Ld.JMFC-05, Room No.07,  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/9763/NE/2025  
(Court Matter)

IRCON Infrastructure & Services Limited

(A wholly owned subsidiary of Ircon International Limited)

Website: www.irconisl.com, CIN:U45400DL2009G0194792

e-Procurement Notice

e-Tender No: Ircon/ISL/1021/Tender/189/Leasing-MFC dated 29.07.2025

e-Tenders in two packet system are invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Sub-Leasing of Multi-Functional Complex (MFC) at Rampurhat Railway Station in the state of West Bengal (Operation & Maintenance)".

Last Date & time of e-bid Submission : 19.08.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs (IST)

For further details; visit website <https://etenders.gov.in/procure/app>.

Amendment(s)/Corrigendum(s), if any, would be hosted on the website only.

Chief Executive Officer/Ircon/ISL  
B-40A, Sector-1, Noida-201301  
Phone No. 0120-4132244, E-mail: - info@irconisl.com

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सांठिनगिंव वृत्त चूरू

क्रमांक :- 832

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 10/2025-26

दिनांक 18.07.2025

इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से जिला चूरू में सड़क निर्माण कार्य हेतु अनुमानित लागत राशि ₹० 423.05 लाख की ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य के निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 11.08.2025 से रा. 6.00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन अपलोड करना आवश्यक होगा। उक्त निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण राज्य सरकार के प्रोक्वोरमेंट पोर्टल <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> व विभागीय वेबसाइट <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखे जा सकते हैं।

NIB No-PWD2526A2089

UBN No:- PWD2526WSOB07574

हस्ता./-  
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता  
सा.निगिंव वृत्त चूरू

DIPRC/10425/2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Directorate of Floriculture & (G&P) Kashmir

Tel-0194-2474234, Fax -2482032

GIST of e-Tender Notice No.21 of 2025

Dated:- 26/07/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory, J&K, bids are invited (in double cover system) from the Registered Contractors/Firms/Bidders with J&K/LT-Central Govt., CPWD for the following work:-

S. No.	Name of Work/Contract	Reserve Bid (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10 % In Rs.)	Cost of Tender Documents in shape of Demand Draft (Non-Refundable) (In Rs.)	Validity of Contract
1.	Outsourcing of Hiring out of Parking lot at Children Park Srinagar	14,98,199.00	1,49,820.00	1000/-	One (1) year from the date of award of contract

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, BOQ (Bill of quantity) terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website <http://etenders.gov.in> as per schedule of date given below:-

1. Period of downloading of bidding document	26.07.2025 from 03:30 PM to 18.08.2025 up to 04:00 PM
2. Bid submission Start Date	26.07.2025 from 03:45 PM
3. Bid submission End date	18.08.2025 up to 02:00 PM
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	21.08.2025 at 02:00 PM

Sd/-  
Accounts Officer,  
(Member Secretary)  
Floriculture Department,  
Kashmir

DIP No: DIPK-447025 DATE: 29.07.2025

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD

No. :- 182

Dated :-28/07/2025

NIB : 05/2025-26

Online bids are invited from registered firms for various Civil related works under Pratap Nagar Aawasiya Yojna, Jaipur through e-proc for S.No. 1 & 2 from 01.08.2025 to 21.08.2025 upto 6:00 PM. Complete details like tender form, detailed information and conditions etc. Are available on website <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> and <https://rthb.rajasthan.gov.in> Board website.

UBN No. :- RHB2526WSOB00148 & RHB2526WSOB00149

Raj.Samwad/C/25/1713

Addl. Chief Engineer-I, Jaipur

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

Signalling work in connection with Widening of PF-1&2 at CPYZ end, PF-3&4 at DLI end, PF-5&6 at DLI end including slewing of track and provision of two stabling lines with RPC-4 facility at GZB station.

App. Cost of the work (₹)

₹ 90,47,302.78

Bid Security (₹)

₹ 1,81,000.00/-

Address of the office Floor, Annexe-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.

Date & time for upload the tender / closing of tender

Tender uploading 28.07.2025 / closing date & time: 19.08.2025 up to 15.00 hrs.

Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.

See the Northern Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

Tender No. 558-Sig/16/M/Tender-1452 Dated : 28.07.2025

2310/2025

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DEFAMATION CASE FILED BY L-G

‘Failed to show... defects in law’: HC upholds Medha Patkar’s conviction

SOHINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE DELHI HIGH Court on Tuesday upheld the conviction and quantum of punishment for activist Medha Patkar in a defamation case filed by Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena against her in 2000.

Patkar was accused of making defamatory statements against Saxena, labelling him a “coward”, and alleging his involvement in hawala transactions when he headed an NGO in Gujarat.

A magistrate court held the statements to be defamatory on May 24, 2024, and on July 1, 2024, Patkar was sentenced to a five-month jail term and was directed to pay a Rs 10-lakh fine. Appealing against the conviction, Patkar had approached the sessions court, which dismissed her appeal on April 2 and upheld the conviction.

The sessions court, however, reduced the punishment from a five-month jail term to a one-year probation, and the fine from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 1 lakh in an order on April 8. On Tuesday, Justice Shalinder Kaur, upholding the trial court’s order, said that it did not require any interference.

Patkar had approached the HC in revisional jurisdiction, and not in appeal. The revision jurisdiction is to be exercised sparingly, the HC bench emphasised.



Medha Patkar was convicted in the case by a magistrate court in 2024. *File*

“This court finds no illegality, perversity or material irregularity in the findings recorded by the learned trial court/apellate court. The order under challenge appears to have been passed after due consideration of the evidence on record and the applicable law. The petitioner has failed to demonstrate glaring defects from following the procedure or manifest error on the point of law resulting in a flagrant miscarriage of justice that would justify interference by this court. In revisional jurisdiction...,” Justice Kaur underlined and modified a condition of the probation.

The sessions court had stipulated that Patkar shall appear before the trial court once every three months. The HC granted her the liberty to appear physically or virtually or be represented through an advocate during such appearances before the trial court.

AMID SIR OF BIHAR’S ELECTORAL ROLLS

Delhi CEO puts out electoral roll from 2008 intensive revision

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

WITH THE first phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Bihar’s electoral rolls drawing to a close last week, the national capital might be next for the controversial exercise.

On July 8, the Chief Electoral Officer in Delhi published the Capital’s electoral roll — of all its 70 constituencies — from March 16, 2008, when it was last intensively revised. It is not known currently when the SIR will commence in the national capital.

The *Indian Express* previously reported that the Election Commission of India (ECI) wrote to Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of all other states on July 5, directing them to begin preparations for a similar exercise — this time with January 1, 2026, as the qualifying date.

The qualifying date mentioned in the letter indicates that while the nationwide exercise may start soon, a final timeline for the rest of the country is yet to be decided — though the aim is to include everyone who turns 18 years of age

‘PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION, ENSURE CCTVs IN PLACE’: FIRMS TOLD

Govt nod for women to work night shifts, issues measures

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

WOMEN CAN now work night shifts in Delhi and will have to be given transportation, while establishments that employ them will have to ensure comprehensive CCTV surveillance and deployment of female security personnel. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Wednesday said the decision was taken to empower women and that a proposal will soon be sent to the Lieutenant Governor’s office for approval.

Earlier this month, the Delhi government had directed the Labour Department to make necessary changes to allow women to work in night shifts — but only with their consent.

The move aims to increase women’s participation in the workforce while also boosting ‘Ease of Doing Business’ in the national capital. “This decision will

not only contribute to making Delhi a 24x7 business hub but also significantly enhance women’s participation in the workforce and improve the city’s ‘Ease of Doing Business’ rankings,” said the CM.

Gupta said that stringent measures are being implemented to ensure women’s security during night shifts, including compulsory transportation facilities, comprehensive CCTV surveillance, and the deployment of adequate female security personnel.

She said that similar permission requirements are already in place in states such as Haryana, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. “This policy would play a pivotal role in establishing Delhi as a 24x7 business hub and underscores the government’s commitment to women’s empowerment and economic independence,” she said. To implement this decision, exemptions are being made under the Delhi Shops and Establishments Act,

1954. Currently, sections 14, 15, and 16 of the Act prohibit women from working between 9 pm and 7 am during summers and between 8 pm and 8 am during winters. The amendment will remove these restrictions, enabling women to work night shifts across the city, said Gupta.

“Women’s welfare is at the top of the government’s agenda and multiple initiatives are being undertaken to ensure the economic advancement of working women... To safeguard women working in night shifts, a comprehensive set of conditions will be mandatory for all establishments,” said officials.

Officials said that any shop or establishment will take written consent from female employees before assigning them night shifts. Establishments have also been asked to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act.

Lured by promise to meet Salman Khan, 3 boys travel to Mumbai; rescued: Cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

LAST WEEK, three young boys from Delhi made an impromptu plan — they would travel to Mumbai to meet their idol, Salman Khan. Their desire was fuelled by a friend they made from Jalna, while playing an online game, called “Free Fire”, who claimed he knew the Bollywood star.

On July 25, the trio, aged between 9 and 11 years, packed their bags and left home — leaving behind a note that simply said they were going to meet their friend in Jalna. Their parents panicked and informed the police.

Four days later, the Delhi Police found them safe and sound in Nashik. The incident

came to light after the Sadar Bazar police station was informed that the three children, who study in the same school had gone missing. Immediately, a case under Section 137(2) of the BNS was registered.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (North), Raja Banthia, investigation revealed that one of the missing children had left a note at home stating that they intended to meet a boy who lived in Jalna.

Banthia said, “One of the children was carrying a mobile phone, but it was switched off. Through analysis of CCTV footage from the surrounding area and technical surveillance, we found that the children went towards Ajmeri Gate. The police team assessed that they were likely to board a train to Jalna from New Delhi Railway Station.”

**ICAR-CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON GOATS**  
**MAKHDOOM, P.O.FARAH-281 122, MATHURA U.P.**  
Phone: 0565-2763380 (Director), 0565-2763327 (Admin. Officer)  
Fax No.0565-2763246

F. No.2-3(7)/R&P/2024 Dated: 29th July 2025

**VACANCY NOTIFICATION**

One (01) contractual position of Skilled Worker (Data Enumerator) in the AICRP on Jamunapari Unit are proposed to be filled through walk-in-interview on **08.08.2025 from 10:30 AM** onwards. Corrigendum if any will be published/uploaded on the Institute website/e-office only. Interested candidates may visit our website [www.cirg.res.in](http://www.cirg.res.in) for details.

Sd/-  
(Pushpendra Yadav)  
Assistant Administrative Officer  
(R&P Cell)

**INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Bihar)  
Sheikhpura, Patna - 800 014 (Bihar, India)  
Tel.: 0612-2297631/2297099 Website: [www.igims.org](http://www.igims.org) E-Mail-director@igims.org

**Tender Notice**

**Tender Notice No.: 17/2025-2026/IGIMS/Store**

Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna invites bids from eligible and qualified manufacturers or their authorized distributors / agents for **Supply of Intraocular Lenses for RIO at Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Science, Sheikhpura, Patna (Bihar).**

**The last date of submission of bidding document along with EMD and Tender document fee is 21/08/2025 up to 4 P.M. The technical bids will be opened on 22/08/2025 at 3:00 P.M.**

Details of terms and conditions can be seen and downloaded from Institute Website: [www.igims.org](http://www.igims.org).

**The undersigned reserves the right to accept / reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. Prospective bidders are advised to regularly visit [www.igims.org](http://www.igims.org) for Corrigendum / amendments etc., if any. It will be notified on these portals only and no separate advertisement will be made.**

**Director, I.G.I.M.S., Patna**

Ministry of Culture  
Government of India

**Centre for Contemporary Studies**  
**Prime Ministers Museum and Library**

cordially invites you to a **Talk**  
on  
**India's External Security Dynamics and Policy**  
**Responses: 2014-2019**  
by  
**Dr. Divyapani Dwivedi**  
Junior Fellow, PMML  
31 July 2025 at 3:00pm  
**Venue:**  
Seminar Room  
Prime Ministers Museum and Library  
Teen Murti House, New Delhi

**All are Welcome.**

Those wishing to have their names added to the email list may please email us at:- [ccs2nmml@gmail.com](mailto:ccs2nmml@gmail.com)  
CBC- 09142/12/0013/2526

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82 Cr. PC)**

P. S. : CBI/EOU-IX/NEW DELHI  
U/s. : 120B/420 IPC & 66C, 66D OF IT ACT.  
Cases No. : CBI/40/2019  
Case Title : CBI VS BABUL KHAN @ AMAN SHARMA @ SATISH SHARMA & ORS. & ORS.  
FIR No. : RC CY11/2010/E0002

Whereas complaint has been made before me that (A-1) BABUL KHAN @ AMAN SHARMA @ SATISH SHARMA, S/O. SH. TAUHID KHAN, ADDRESS (R/O.)- BLOCK-H, GALI NO. 2, HOUSE NO. 74, SECOND FLOOR, OLD SEEMA PURI, DELHI 110095, **ALSO AT:** 9-A, DHEERAJ BLOCK, SOUTH GANESH NAGAR, DELHI-110092, ALSO AT A-49, KRISHNA PURI, 2d FLOOR, NEAR MAIN ROAD, SHIV MANDIR, MANDAWALI FAZALPUR, DELHI has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under section 120B/420 IPC & 66D IT Act. and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that said accused **No.1 BABUL KHAN @ AMAN SHARMA @ SATISH SHARMA, S/O. SH TAUHID KHAN** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **No.1 BABUL KHAN @ AMAN SHARMA @ SATISH SHARMA, S/O. SH. TAUHID KHAN** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **No.1 BABUL KHAN @ AMAN SHARMA @ SATISH SHARMA, S/O. SH. TAUHID KHAN** is required to appear before this court to answer said complaint on dated **05.05.2025**.

Sh. Deepak Kumar  
CJM, R. No. 201,  
Rouse Avenue District Court,  
New Delhi  
CBC 32205/11/0003/2526

**GOVT. OF BIHAR**  
**BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD**  
**L.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14.**  
Website : [bceceboard.bihar.gov.in](http://bceceboard.bihar.gov.in) / Helpdesk : [helpdesk.bceceboard@bihar.gov.in](mailto:helpdesk.bceceboard@bihar.gov.in)

**UNDER GRADUATE MEDICAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING (UGMAC)-2025** for MBBS/ BDS/ B.V.Sc. & A.H. in Govt. Medical / Dental / Veterinary Colleges and Private Medical / Dental Colleges of Bihar  
**Adv. No.- BCECEB(UGMAC)-2025/02 Dated 29.07.2025**

**NOTICE for Online Application & Choice Filling**

Online Applications are invited from qualified, eligible & interested NEET(UG)-2025 candidates for appearing in the Under Graduate Medical Admission Counselling (UGMAC)-2025 in order to select candidates for admission to the first year UG Medical / Dental Courses (MBBS / BDS) in Government / Private Medical / Dental Colleges of Bihar state and B.V.Sc. & A.H. courses in Govt. Veterinary Colleges of Bihar based on the Merit-List / Rank of UGMAC-2025 prepared on the basis of merit list of NEET (UG)-2025 conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

2. DQ candidates must note that they have to submit DQ certificate issued by only authorised Centres/Institutes on prescribed proforma as per para-3.6.3 (Annexure-5, 6, 7) of the prospectus of UGMAC-2025 at the time of counselling / document verification. For this, after filling and downloading the hard copy of online application form, candidates must consult any concerned authorised Medical College / Centre / Institute with the downloaded online application form for disability test for obtaining disability certificate.

Certificate issued from any other Institutes / Centres except above will not be entertained, for which the candidate will himself be responsible.

3. For Eligibility Criteria and required Documents for admission on NRI Quota, candidates are advised to see 'Notice to Candidates Admission Procedure under NRI Quota issued by MCC' which can be seen on Board's Website / Prospectus.

4. The online Registration & submission of Application Form-cum-Choice Filling (1st & 2nd) will start from **30.07.2025** and close on **04.08.2025 (10.00 p.m.)**.

5. Eligibility criteria for counselling / admission Fee payment procedure, instructions and other details for filling up online applications form-cum-choice filling are available in the prospectus of UGMAC-2025 and the related Advertisement No.-BCECEB(UGMAC)-2025/01 dated 29.07.2025, which can be seen / downloaded from the Board's website: [bceceboard.bihar.gov.in](http://bceceboard.bihar.gov.in).

**Controller of Examination**

**CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR**  
Ganderbal, [www.cukashmir.ac.in](http://www.cukashmir.ac.in)

**PG ADMISSION NOTIFICATION (2025-2026) (SPOT ADMISSION)**

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned eligible candidates that Spot Admission for a few Postgraduate (PG) programmes shall start from 29th July, 2025. The candidates who have missed the admission opportunity earlier can approach the respective department with all original documents to complete admission formalities subject to the availability of seat/s at the time of admission. For detailed information regarding spot admission process, eligibility criteria & programmes, the candidates are advised to visit University website: [www.cukashmir.ac.in](http://www.cukashmir.ac.in) Sd/- Director (I/C) Directorate of Admissions

**NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
OFFICE OF CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT-1  
PALIKA KENDRA, NEW DELHI-110001

Sh. Prakash Chand S/o Sh. Amar Singh, Palika Sahayak (Naagar) posted at Moti Bagh Service Centre, R-II, who is absent from duties without intimation and prior permission of Competent Authorities since 10.05.2023.

As such, this is a final opportunity to explain his position for unauthorized absence within 15 days after publication of this notice, failing which, the disciplinary action shall be taken against Sh. Prakash Chand, Palika Sahayak (Naagar) as per Central Civil Service (Conduct) Rules 1964.

**DIRECTOR (PERSONNEL)-II**

**HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Maharatna Company)  
Regd. Office: Petroleum House, 17, Jamsheджи Tata Road, Churchgate, Mumbai - 400 020  
Tel.: +91-22-22863900 Fax: +91-22-22872992  
Email ID: [corphq@hpcil.in](mailto:corphq@hpcil.in) Website: [www.hindustanpetroleum.com](http://www.hindustanpetroleum.com)  
CIN: L23201MH1952G0I008858

**NOTICE OF THE 73<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Annual General Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company will be held on Friday, August 22, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. (IST) through Video Conferencing (VC) / Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM), in compliance with MCA circulars/ Companies Act / SEBI Regulations (collectively referred to as Statutory Provisions) as applicable, to transact the business as set out in the Notice of AGM. The proceedings of the AGM shall be deemed to be conducted at the Registered Office of the Company.

**Notice of AGM and Integrated Annual Report**

The Notice convening the AGM and the Integrated Annual Report for FY 2024-25 containing Financial Statements, Auditors report, etc. have been e-mailed to Members whose registered email IDs are available with the Depository Participants (DP) / Registrar & Transfer Agent (RTA). A letter providing the weblink of Annual Report has been sent to the Members whose email ID is not registered. The aforesaid documents can also be accessed on the websites of the Company at [www.hindustanpetroleum.com](http://www.hindustanpetroleum.com) / Stock Exchanges at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and e-voting agency M/s National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com)

**E-Voting through Electronic Means:**

Pursuant to the applicable Statutory provisions, the Company has arranged the provision of remote e-voting facility to its Members through NSDL as under:

Remote e-voting	Prior to AGM	During AGM
Commencement	Sunday, August 17, 2025 [From 5:00 p.m. (IST)]	Friday, August 22, 2025 (from commencement till 15 Minutes post conclusion of AGM)
End	Thursday, August 21, 2025 [Till 5:00 p.m. (IST)]	
Cut-Off date (for eligibility to vote)	Friday, August 15, 2025	
Weblink to access	<a href="https://www.evoting.nsdl.com">https://www.evoting.nsdl.com</a>	
e-voting Event Number	EVEN - 134734	

Members are requested to kindly refer to the procedure for e-voting as mentioned in the Notice of the AGM.

**Notes:**

- A person whose name appears in the Register of Members/Beneficial Owners as on the cut-off date i.e. August 15, 2025 only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting at the Annual General Meeting.
- The Voting Rights of Members shall be in proportion to the Equity Shares held by them in the paid up Equity Share Capital of the Company as on August 15, 2025.
- Members who have not registered their email address or any person who becomes a Member of the Company after despatch of the Notice of AGM but before the cut-off date for e-voting i.e. August 15, 2025 can email the request to the Company at [coscec@mail.hpcil.co.in](mailto:coscec@mail.hpcil.co.in) by quoting the Folio No / DP-ID-Client ID for obtaining copy of the Notice and Integrated Annual Report. Such Members are requested to follow the instructions given under the Notes to the Notice of AGM to obtain login ID & Password for remote e-voting. However, in order to facilitate ease of future communication, Members are also requested to register their email address with the RTA (In case of Physical Shares) / Depository Participant (in case of Demat Shares).
- The Members who have cast their votes by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend/participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their votes again.
- The Members who shall be present in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility and have not cast their votes earlier through remote e-voting and are not otherwise barred from doing so, shall be eligible to vote during the AGM.
- The remote e-voting shall not be allowed, in any case, beyond the scheduled date and time mentioned in the above table.
- Members who are desirous of inspecting the Statutory Registers/ Documents forming part of Annual Reports can write to the Company on email ID [coscec@mail.hpcil.co.in](mailto:coscec@mail.hpcil.co.in) upto the date of AGM.
- Members who would like to ask questions during the AGM need to register themselves as a speaker by sending their questions mentioning their name, DP ID and Client ID, Folio number, email ID, Mobile Number, to the email ID [coscec@mail.hpcil.co.in](mailto:coscec@mail.hpcil.co.in) from Saturday, August 16, 2025 (9:00 a.m. IST) to Tuesday, August 19, 2025 (5:00 p.m. IST). Only those Members who have registered themselves as a speaker will be allowed to express their views/questions during the AGM.
- In case of any queries, Members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and the e-voting User Manual for Shareholders available at the download section of NSDL at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com) or call on 022 - 4886 7000 or contact Mr. Amit Vishal, Dy. Vice President / Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, Senior Manager, NSDL, BKC Mumbai at the designated email IDs at [evoting@nsdl.com](mailto:evoting@nsdl.com)

**Record Date, Payment of Final Dividend and Deduction of Tax at Source (TDS)**

Payment of Final Dividend @ Rs.10.50 per share of face value of Rs.10 each for the Financial Year 2024-25 will be paid after deduction of tax at source as applicable within 30 days from the date of its declaration at the AGM to those Members whose names appeared in the Register of Members / BENPOS as on the Record date Thursday, August 14, 2025 fixed for this purpose. The detailed communication sent through email regarding Dividend, TDS applicability and submission of tax exemption documents can be accessed at <https://www.hindustanpetroleum.com/dividend-information> It is also reiterated that in view of the SEBI mandate for payment of dividend only in electronic mode w.e.f. April 01, 2024, Members are requested to immediately update their KYC including bank account details, (if not already done, with the RTA (In case of Physical Shares) / Depository Participant (in case of Demat Shares) for timely receipt of dividend.

Place : Mumbai  
Date : July 29, 2025

By the order of the Board  
V. Murali  
Company Secretary

[hpcil.in](http://hpcil.in) [corphq@hpcil.in](mailto:corphq@hpcil.in) [www.hindustanpetroleum.com](http://www.hindustanpetroleum.com)

Men snatch gold chains from 81-yr-old doctor

New Delhi: An 81-year-old doctor was injured after bike-borne snatchers allegedly robbed her of two gold chains in southwest Delhi’s Safdarjung Enclave area, an official said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on July 25 around 3 pm when the victim, identified as Dr. Sushila, a resident of Munirka, had gone to Safdarjung Enclave for some personal work, he said. “While returning to her car, she saw a box kept near it. While she tried to remove it, two men on a motorcycle suddenly appeared. One of the accused snatched two gold chains from her neck,” a senior police officer said.

The sudden jerk caused the elderly doctor who runs a clinic in Sarojini Nagar Market to lose balance and fall, resulting in injuries. **PTI**

**EXPRESS Careers**

**Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University**  
(Established by Government of Gujarat)  
(Recognized by Government of India)  
'Jyotirmayi Pariser', D.P.O. Uda Marg,  
S.G. Highway, Chhatrapati, Ahmedabad - 382481  
Website: [www.bau.edu.in](http://www.bau.edu.in)

Advertisement No: 04/2025

Online applications are invited from eligible and interested candidates in prescribed application form for following mentioned posts

Teaching Post			
Sr. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post	Category
1.	Assistant Professor – Sociology	01	PwD (B, LV)*
2.	Assistant Professor – English	02	UR
3.	Assistant Professor – Sanskrit	01	SEBC
4.	Assistant Professor – Social Work	01	ST

Non-Teaching Post			
Sr. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post	Category
1.	Deputy Executive Engineer	01	UR
2.	Office Superintendent (Second Attempt)***	01	PwD (All Categories A,B,C,D,E) **
3.	Controller of Examination (Third Attempt)****	01	UR

Pay Scale As per the 7<sup>th</sup> Pay (Rs.)

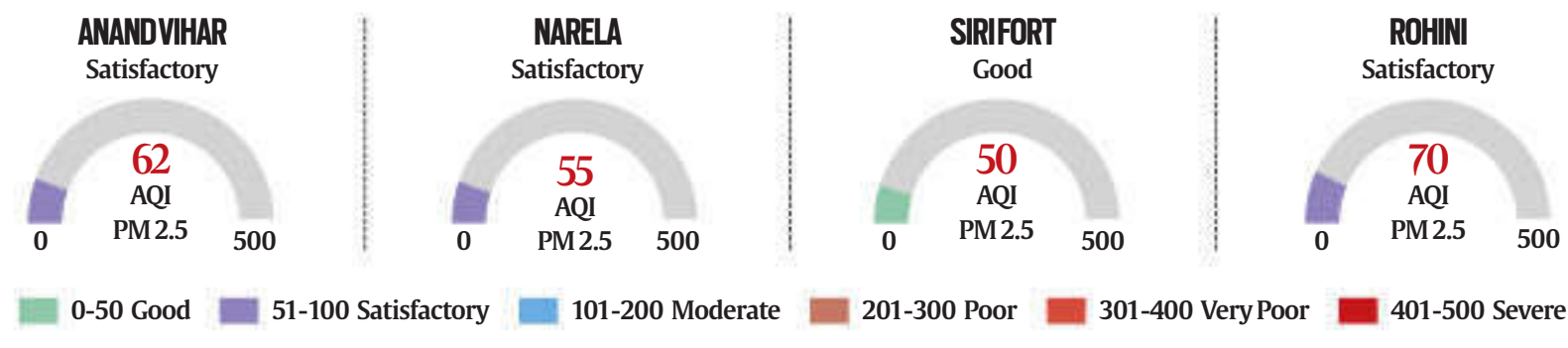
Academic Level 10  
Entry Pay of Rs. 57700/-

Level 09 Entry Pay of Rs.53100/-  
Level 09 Entry Pay of Rs.53100/-  
Level 09 Entry Pay of Rs.53100/-

Candidates are requested to visit university website: [www.bau.edu.in](http://www.bau.edu.in) for more details.

Date: 30/07/2025 Registrar





**S K Y W A T C H**

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

**MAX: 30-32**  
2.9°C below normal

**MIN: 23-25**  
2.3°C below normal

DELHI'S TOTAL RAINFALL SO FAR THIS MONTH — 220.2 MM

Rain triggers waterlogging, traffic — political sparring

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

HEAVY RAIN on Tuesday led to severe waterlogging in several parts of Delhi, triggering traffic chaos on arterial routes and causing inconvenience to commuters. Around 9 am, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) sounded a red alert, which was later downgraded to an orange alert around 11 am.

The rain prompted attacks from the AAP against the ruling BJP even as Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh highlighted swift action by the government to ensure the return to normalcy across the city's roads.

Amid the war of words over the monsoon preparedness, the improvement in the city's air quality emerged as the silver lining. The AQI (air quality index) improved from 86 a day before to 72. The Capital's air has remained "satisfactory" for an entire month, mainly due to the rain and wind conditions, according to the weather department.

Following heavy rain on Tuesday, the monthly average rainfall in the city surpassed the long-period average of 195.8 mm. The total rainfall this month is 220.2 mm, as per IMD data.

Safdarjung, the primary weather station, logged 68.1 mm Tuesday. Ridge reported 129.8 mm rainfall, Lodi Road 72.4 mm, Pragati Maidan 45.6 mm, Pusa 37.5 mm, and Ayanagar 23.4 mm. Other areas received light rainfall, with Palam recording 4.6 mm, Janakpuri 4 mm, and Najafgarh 1.5 mm. The highest rainfall logged in a day last year (July 26) was 39.4 mm.

Key roads flooded

Visuals of inundation emerged from Connaught Place, Panchkuian Road, Qutub Road in Sadar Bazaar, Janpath and Savitri Flyover, Zakhira Railway underpass and Ring Road, among other parts.

Other waterlogged areas included Old Rohtak Road, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, Sarai Kale Khan, Mayapuri Chowk, Mukarba Chowk to Model Town Road, near Town Hall in Chandni Chowk, Block G Azadpur, Daryaganj, Kamla Nagar market, Laxmi Nagar, and Old Rohtak Road, Majnu Ka Tila main road. An auto rickshaw driver in Connaught Place, Kuldeep Singh (50), rued, "Whether it is a BJP government or AAP, nobody wants to help the public. They all know that this becomes a prob-



(Clockwise from top) Waterlogging at ITO, a flooded home in Civil Lines; traffic snarl on the NH-9 following the heavy rain on Tuesday. Praveen Khanna

THE WEEK AHEAD

DAY	TEMP	WIND SPEED	FORECAST
July 30	23-32 °C	10-15 kmph	Light to moderate rain, thunderstorm/lightning
July 31	24-32 °C	10-15 kmph	Light to moderate rain, thunderstorm/lightning
August 1	25-35 °C	10-15 kmph	Partly cloudy sky, very light to light rain with thunderstorm/lightning
August 2	25-35 °C	10-15 kmph	Partly cloudy sky, very light to light rain with thunderstorm/lightning
August 3	26-34 °C	15-20 kmph	Partly cloudy sky, very light to light rain with thunderstorm/lightning
August 4	26-34 °C	10-20 kmph	Partly cloudy sky, very light to light rain with thunderstorm/lightning

lem every year... our business suffers due to all this."

CM Gupta acknowledged the widespread waterlogging, but claimed that the rainwater was drained out within a short period. "Our teams had been active since early morning and were continuously monitoring every affected point. Officials and staff are conducting a detailed assessment of how long water remained at each location, how quickly it was

drained, and what further measures can be taken for improvement," she told reporters.

As PWD's Flood Control department reported over 100 calls, Minister Singh took to X and posted videos of Minto Bridge, Moolchand Underpass, Prahalampur, claiming that after the BJP came to power, earlier waterlogged roads have now turned clear.

However, former CM and

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Atishi, hit out at the BJP government. "Delhi roads have become ponds in just ten minutes of rainfall," she wrote in a social media post.

AAP's Saurabh Bharadwaj shared a video of an inundated ITO and said, "This is Delhi's ITO. On July 9, L-G (VK Saxena) *sahab* and the PWD Minister had come here to inspect the work to clear waterlogging, congratulating

each other for the good work. Today, with waterlogging again, please accept my congratulations as well."

According to the officials of the New Delhi Municipal Council, the rainfall received was higher than the expected capacity. "Water receded within an hour as we have installed pumps and completely desilted drains in Connaught Place and Janpath," an official said.

'There was a loud sound... the entire wall fell': Woman, son crushed to death in Civil Lines

UPASIKA SINGHAL  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

A WOMAN and her son died while two others were critically injured after a decades-old boundary wall collapsed on them in North Delhi's Civil Lines, near the Lieutenant Governor's house, following heavy rain on Tuesday morning.

According to the police, the deceased were identified as Meera (40) and her son, Ganpat (17). Meera's elder son, Dashrath (19), and her brother-in-law Nanhe (35) were critically injured and are undergoing treatment at Lok Nayak Hospital.

All of them hail from Madhya Pradesh and were working as labourers at a construction site in Sehgal Colony, police said.

Meera and her sons were inside their makeshift hut at the site, while Nanhe sat nearby, when the 15-foot boundary wall suddenly collapsed. The hut was located right next to the wall.

"We had come to Delhi just a few days ago..." said Nanhe, whose legs were injured in the collapse. "We started our work around 8 am when it began to rain, so we all went inside to wait it out," he said.

"Suddenly, there was a loud sound and before we could even react, the entire wall fell... I could-

**All of them hail from Madhya Pradesh and were working as labourers at a construction site in Sehgal Colony, police officers said.**

n't see anything until I was pulled out by locals who had come to rescue us," he said.

According to Nanhe, he survived because he was not too close to the wall. His sister-in-law, Meera and nephew were completely crushed by the debris. His other nephew, Dashrath, was crushed from the waist down, he said.

Nanhe said they were the only labourers working on the site at the time.

Across the road, Deepak Khanna's house was also inundated with water and mud after the wall collapsed.

"Around 9.30 am, there was a loud noise... my wife was in the puja room and the bricks came crashing into the house. I had to pull her out of the rubble. Thankfully, she wasn't injured," said Khanna, who has lived in Sehgal Colony since 1964.

According to the septuagenarian, the boundary wall — which separated Court Road

from Sehgal Colony — was at least 50-60 years old. "It has been there since before the colony was made," said Khanna.

According to another resident, Umesh Chopra, the plot originally belonged to a man, who later sold it to a religious society.

"Once the downpour started Tuesday morning, the mud just slid down and broke the wall," Chopra added.

Khanna recalled a time in the colony where houses were not allowed to be taller than the Lieutenant Governor's house due to security reasons.

"Now there is rampant construction here," he said.

According to the police, they received the call about the collapse around 9.50 am.

"The caller said a collapse had taken place at House No. 1, Sehgal Colony, Civil Lines, near the L-G House, and that people were trapped. Several teams from police, fire, and disaster management reached the location, and the people were pulled out," said a senior police officer.

A case of causing death due to negligence was registered at the Civil Lines police station. Police said, prima facie, it has come to light that the construction was being carried out without necessary approvals.

Police said they are looking into the documents.



The boundary wall which collapsed was at least 50-60 years old, said a resident. Gajendra Yadav

Woman dies after being pushed off 6th floor of building; partner detained

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

A 27-YEAR-OLD woman was killed after her partner allegedly physically assaulted her and threw her off the sixth floor of a building in Narela where he lived in on Tuesday.

Police said they have detained the accused, aged 32.

According to police, they were informed of the incident after receiving a report that a woman's body was found on the road.

"The caller said a quarrel took place between the deceased and the accused... investigation is being carried out. The suspect has been detained," said DCP (Outer North) Hareeshwar Swami.

According to the police, the accused is a BTech graduate who works for a private company. He lived with a friend in a rented room; the woman had come to visit him while the friend was away.

The woman was found at the foot of the building with bruises, indicating that she might have been physically assaulted before being pushed off the building, said police.

When the police arrived at the spot, they claimed he was naked and was throwing stones from the sixth floor at passersby below. The woman's body was also found surrounded by stones, suggesting that the accused had tried hitting her with the stones as she lay below, said

police.

His state of mind is fragile currently, making it difficult to question him, they added.

"He's answering with irrelevant information, banter and abuse when we're asking him questions. The woman's parents are on their way to Delhi from Aligarh. We hope to get more information from them," said DCP Swami.

Police are looking into both the victim and the accused's call detail records and locations to determine how long they had been in a relationship, among other details.

The accused has been booked under Section 103(1) (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Prof Nandu Ram, sociologist who brought Dalit studies to mainstream, passes away

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

"A SIMPLE MAN", a person who shall be remembered fondly by colleagues, students, and the academic community worldwide: this is how family, friends and colleagues remember Professor Nandu Ram, a pioneering sociologist who is hailed for helping bring Dalit perspectives to the heart of Indian academia.

In a career spanning more than four decades, Professor Ram is credited for reshaping the field of Indian sociology. He was among the first to rigorously explore the social, political, and economic dynamics of caste in modern India — from lived experience.

He died on July 13 at the age of 78. His son, Siddharth (46), who lived with him in West Delhi's Dwarka, said the death was caused by a heart attack following a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

"He loved to write," Siddharth said. "...and through his writing, he wanted to uplift people from the Dalit community."

Despite holding senior academic positions, Professor Ram lived with remarkable modesty. "He never bought a car. He always walked..." Siddharth recalled. "Even if his own pockets were empty, he would help others."

Born on July 28, 1946, in Marhia village in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, Professor Ram came from a family of land labourers.

His parents, Janaki Devi and Pattu Ram, ensured he could



Prof Ram with students on a field trip. Over a career spanning more than 4 decades, he is credited for reshaping the field of Indian sociology. Credit: Nandu Ram's son, Siddharth

study even when such aspirations were rare. "He grew up in a basti outside the main village," Siddharth said. "He had seen segregation firsthand."

Professor Ram excelled early, topping his district in high school and later moving to Varanasi for his higher secondary education. At Queen's College, he was often mocked for being a "villager," but he remained undeterred.

He earned his MA from Banaras Hindu University and completed a PhD in Sociology from IIT Kanpur in 1976, where he also taught for several years.

In 1978, he joined the Centre for the Study of Social Systems (CSSS) at JNU, where he would go on to teach, mentor, and lead for more than three decades. He served as the Chairperson of the CSSS from 1999 to 2001, and later as the first dalit Dean of the School of Social Sciences.

In 1995, he was appointed the founding Ambedkar Chair

Professor in Sociology. He was instrumental in creating the Ambedkar Chair and became the first Ambedkar Chair professor.

Between 2001 and 2004, he also served as Director General of the Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar National Institute of Social Sciences in Madhya Pradesh.

As a researcher, his work was foundational. His 1988 book — 'The Mobile Scheduled Castes: Rise of a New Middle Class' — gave scholars a new lens to examine social mobility. His five-volume 'Encyclopaedia of Scheduled Castes' (2007–2011) remains a landmark in the field. 'Beyond Ambedkar' (1995) pushed the boundaries of Dalit political thought.

"He taught us sociology that spoke from the bottom," said Maithrayee Chaudhuri, who was among his first students and later a colleague at JNU. "Over the decades, he built a generation of scholars who created a distinct body of knowledge on

marginalised communities. He was a lone voice back then — and it was not easy."

Even as his influence grew, he stayed clear of campus politics and public grandstanding. "He was never into sloganeering," said Anand Kumar, another long-time colleague. "He never wore his Ambedkarite identity on his sleeve. He respected people regardless of caste or class, and that's why people respected him."

In 2017, the Indian Sociological Society honoured him with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

His personal life was marked by joy and tragedy. He raised four children and lost his first wife — Siddharth's mother, Rajvanti Devi — suddenly in 1989 to a brain haemorrhage. "It felt like an entire household crashed," Siddharth said. "She was his connection to the village. After her, he was deeply depressed for a long time."

Despite his declining health in recent years worsened by the Covid pandemic, Professor Ram remained mentally alert, continuing to mentor and read, according to his family. "His muscles wasted away..." Siddharth said. "Eventually, he caught an infection and had a heart attack."

The JNU Teachers' Association describes him as "quiet but firm," "gentle in manner," and "a person who shall be remembered fondly by colleagues, students, and the academic community worldwide." Apart from Siddharth, Professor Ram is survived by three other children. He would have turned 79 on July 28.

Drugs worth Rs 1.3 crore seized in raid at apartment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE STATE drug control department seized drugs worth Rs 1.3 crore on Monday night during a raid from an unlicensed godown at Sunder Apartments, near Paschim Vihar. Officials said a large quantity of drugs to treat asthma, Type 2 diabetes and pain relief were found.

The raid was conducted following a tip-off from the department's intelligence cell regarding the sale and storage of drugs at an unlicensed premises. The person present at the location failed to produce a valid licence or purchase records for the stocked drugs, the department said.

"These drugs were considered of doubtful quality," said an official.

Among the drugs recovered were several well-known brands, including Omeprazole (Omez), Ketorolac (KETOROLTM-DT), Dapagliflozin (Forxiga), Glimepiride (Amaryl) and others. The drug inspectors have collected samples of a few drugs to ascertain their quality and sent them for testing. Specimen samples of these drugs have also been collected at random to check their genuineness.

An official said the accused admitted that he was operating this business from his residential premises for the past two months, without maintaining any purchase and sale records.



# Govt stands firm, Opp steps up attack

Rajnath: India not a soft state anymore, Sindoor punishment for Pak’s proxy war

NIKHIL GHANEKAR  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said in Rajya Sabha that Operation Sindoor’s aim was to send a message that India will show zero tolerance against terrorism and punish Pakistan’s use of terror for a proxy war. He said the operation was a game-changer as it changed the perception that India is a soft state and added that the country had sent a clear message that it will go to any extent to act against terror. Initiating the special discussion on Operation Sindoor in the Upper House, Singh said that following the Pahalgam attack on April 22, the government gave a “free hand” to the armed forces to respond. “Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with the three service chiefs. I was also present; a free hand was given to use their wisdom, strategic understanding to decide on the response,” Singh said. “Our action was in self-defence and not expansionist... The aim was to destroy terrorist bases and send a message of zero tolerance against terrorism. The overall political-military objective of Operation Sindoor was punishing Pakistan’s use of terror for a proxy war.”

On May 10 morning, Singh said, India’s strong attack on Pakistan’s multiple airfields forced them to accept defeat and offer an end to hostilities. “We accepted only on the condition that the operation was suspended, not ended. We will not hesitate to resume the operation if there are

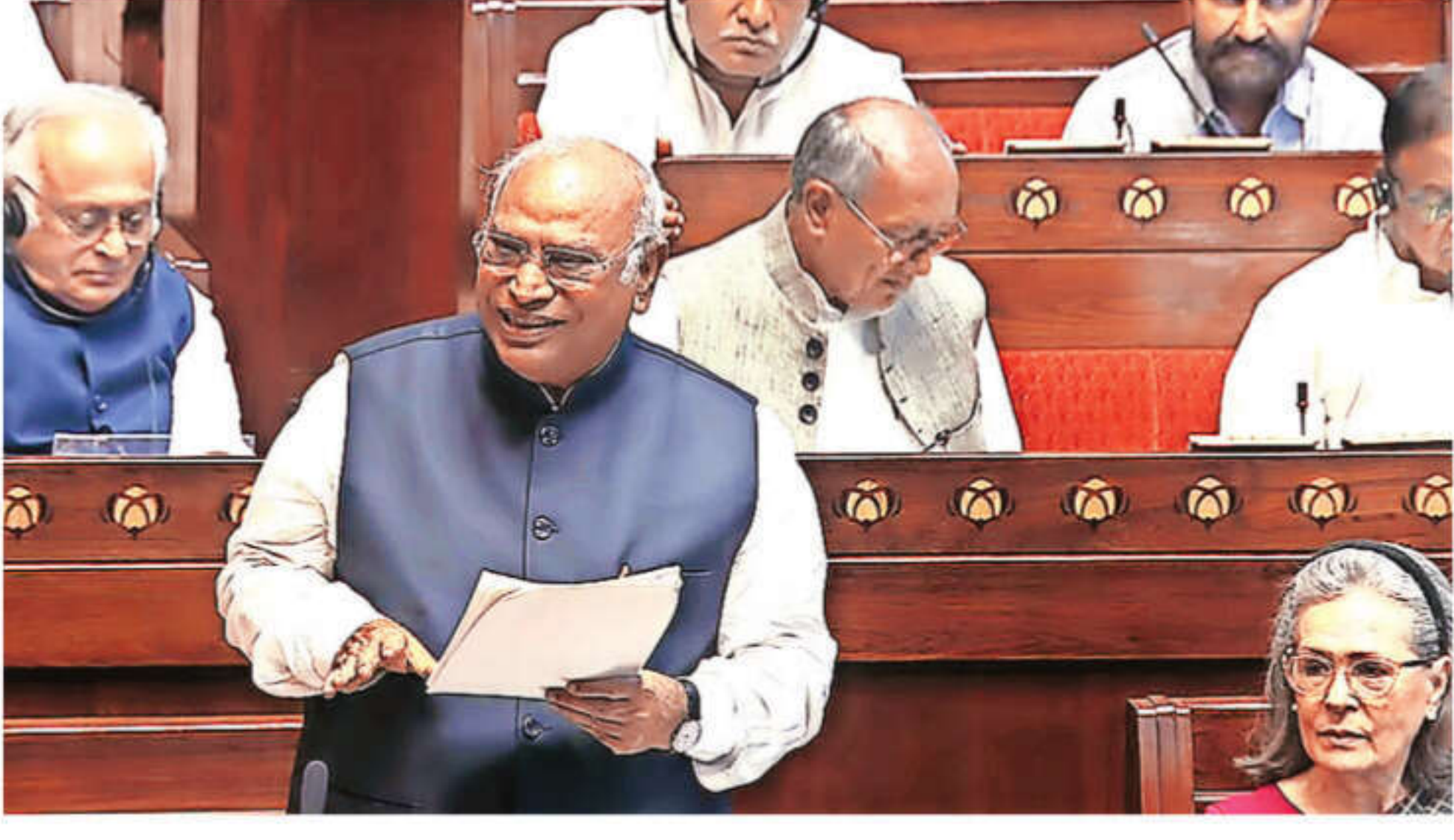
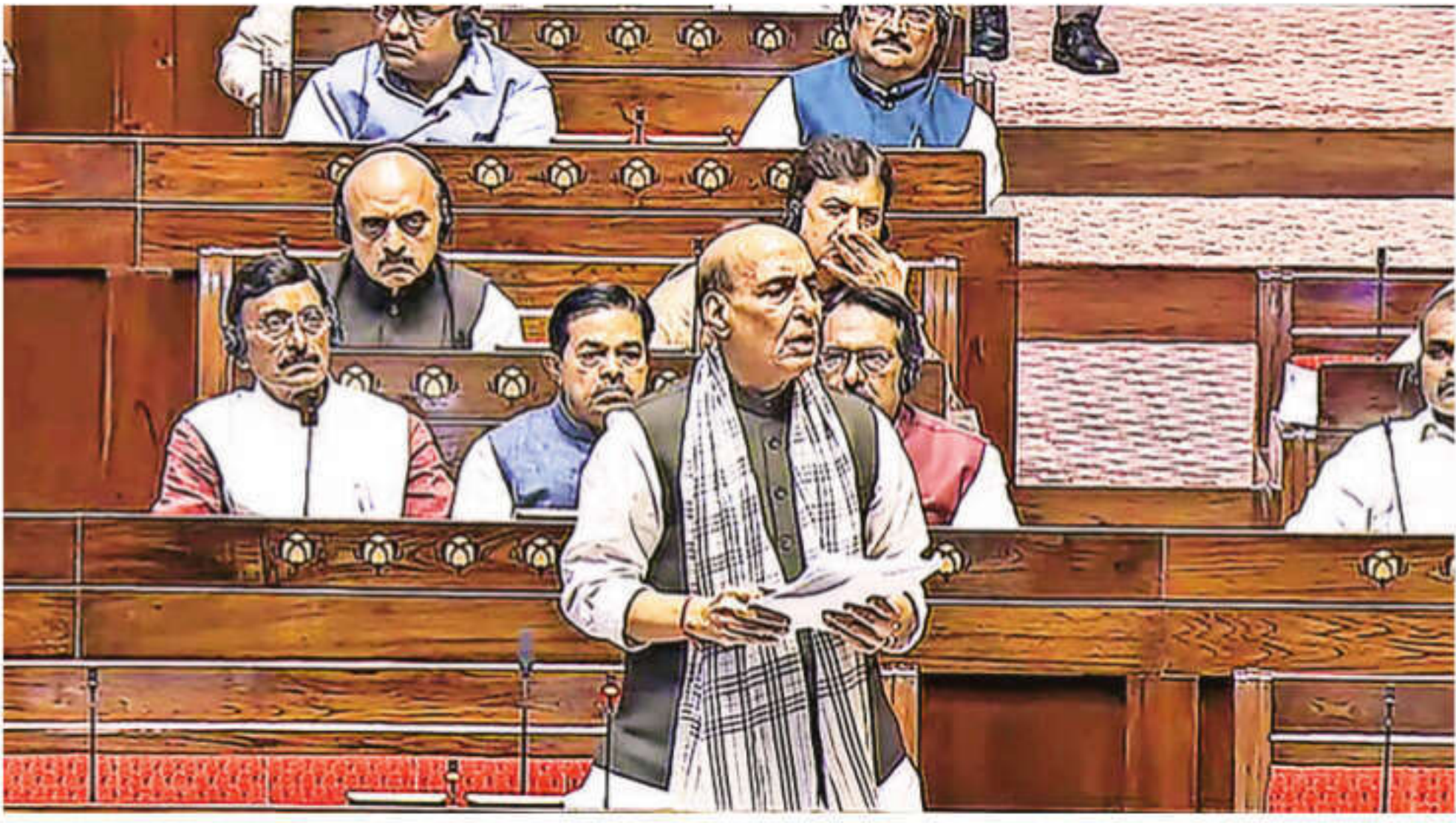
terrorist activities in the future.” Responding to the Opposition’s statement that India should have captured Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), the minister expressed surprise. “I am surprised at this demand, because when they were in power, they did just the opposite.” “There would come a day, I cannot predict when, but a day would come when people in PoK would be able to say proudly that they are Indians,” he said.

Criticising the Opposition’s question on how many jets were shot down, Singh said, “They never asked how many we shot down. I have information on each one of them and if I speak openly, the House will reverberate with applause for 10 minutes,” he said.

The Defence Minister also said that past governments, too, should have taken action against Pakistan for harbouring terror... Quoting from former President and Union minister Pranab Mukherjee’s book *The Coalition Years*, Singh said, “India had evidence terrorists used Karachi port (during 26/11)... There was a demand for military intervention which I rejected, there was a heated debate in the Cabinet.”

He said, “The then government did what they felt was right. This is not a criticism of the government or ministers... but today’s India thinks differently under (PM Narendra) Modi’s leadership. India is not satisfied with just handing dossiers, we gave a fitting response.”

Singh also said Pakistan as the vice-chair of UNSC counter-terrorism committee was like “having a cat guard milk”.



**IN RAJYA SABHA:** Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress MPs Sonia Gandhi, Jairam Ramesh and Digvijaya Singh; (above) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other ruling MPs during the discussion on Operation Sindoor, India’s military response against Pakistan following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. *PTI & ANI*

Creation of Pak, root cause of terror, is Cong’s mistake: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah Tuesday accused Congress of going soft on terrorism. He said the root cause of terror is Pakistan, whose creation was a result of the Congress’s “mistake” in accepting Partition in 1947.

In Lok Sabha, Shah alleged that the Congress showed weakness in multiple instances including Partition, the India-Pakistan wars of 1947–1948 and 1965, the Indus Waters Treaty, and 1962 war with China. He said that of the 10 terrorists killed in Operation Sindoor, eight were involved in terrorist attacks during “Chidambaram and company’s” tenure.

Shah also targeted former PM Manmohan Singh’s government, saying it would silently send dossiers after terror attacks. “After the Uri attack, we carried out surgical strikes. After the Pulwama attack, we carried out air strikes. After the Pahalgam attack, we hit 100 km inside Pakistan territory, attacked nine terror bases, destroyed 11 airbases, and killed more than 100 terrorists,” he said.

‘CHIDAMBARAM GAVE CLEAN CHIT TO PAK’

Amit Shah targeted former Home Minister P Chidambaram, saying the Congress MP’s questions on the identity of Pahalgam attackers amounted to giving a “clean chit” to Pakistan.

“Who does he want to protect? What will you get by protecting Pakistan? I would like to say to Mr Chidambaram that we have proof that they were from Pakistan...” Shah said. **ENS**

To the Congress’s question on why a ceasefire was announced despite India having an upper hand, he said: “A war has several consequences and they have to be weighed. In 1948, our armed forces were in a decisive position in Kashmir. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel kept saying no, but Jawaharlal Nehru announced a one-sided ceasefire... if Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) exists today, it is because of that ceasefire. In 1960, we were in a strong

strategic position, but the Indus Waters Treaty gave 80 per cent of the water to Pakistan.”

Shah brought up the 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan. “We had captured the strategic point of Haji Pir. But it was returned in 1966. In the 1971 war, the whole country supported (former PM) Indira (Gandhi) ji. She divided Pakistan into two, and we feel proud of that. But what happened later? We had 93,000 prisoners of war, which was 46 per cent of Pakistan’s Army. We had 15,000 sqkm of Pakistan’s land. But we forgot to ask for PoK in Simla Agreement.” Shah claimed Field Marshall Sam Manekshaw had told Indira that the then Pakistan PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had “made a monkey” out of her. He said: “They were saying something about China. In the 1962 war, 38,000 sq km of Aksai Chin was given to China... Jawaharlal Nehru said ‘not a blade of grass grows there. What to do with that land.’”

Shah said Congress had opposed the Prevention of Terrorism Act brought by the Vajpayee government in 2002 and later abolished it.

Priyanka asks Govt: Why were there no soldiers at Pahalgam?

LALMANI VERMA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

SLAMMING THE government over the Pahalgam terror attack, Manipur violence and Delhi riots, senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday questioned why Home Minister Amit Shah was continuing in his post after these incidents.

Taking part in the special discussion on Operation Sindoor in Lok Sabha, Vadra said that ruling-side members repeatedly talked about the 2008 Mumbai attacks and claimed that the Manmohan Singh government did nothing. “You would be aware that the terrorists were killed during the attack itself, and one person left was hanged in 2012. The Maharashtra CM resigned, and the Union Home Minister too resigned... That was the accountability towards the public...” she said.

She added that Rajnath Singh was Home Minister at the time of the Pulwama, Uri and Pathankot attacks, and is presently the Defence Minister. “And entire Manipur got burnt under Home Minister Amit Shah’s watch, riots



Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra speaks in LS. *PTI*

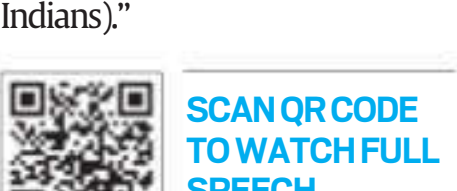
happened in Delhi, an attack happened in Pahalgam, and he is still occupying his post even today. Why?” Vadra asked.

Mentioning one of the deceased in the Pahalgam attack, Shubham Dwivedi of Kanpur, Vadra quoted his wife as saying that for nearly an hour during the attack she did not see a single security personnel or a single soldier. Quoting Shubham’s wife, Vadra said, “*Desh ne, sarkarne hame wahan anaath chod diya tha* (the country and the government left us there like orphans)”.

“Why were security and soldiers not there? Was the govern-

ment not aware tourists visit there every day and travel through forests?... They went there trusting this government... it left them in the hands of God,” she said.

Before concluding her speech, Vadra read out the names of the victims of the Pahalgam attack. As somebody from the Treasury bench said that the victims were Hindus, Vadra responded, “*Bharatiya they* (They were Indians).”



Kharge asks Shah to quit: Clear that intel failure led to terror attack in Pahalgam

NIKHIL GHANEKAR  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

TARGETING UNION Home Minister Amit Shah, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday demanded accountability be fixed for the “intelligence failure” and “security lapses” that led to the Pahalgam terror attack.

He also questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “silence” on US President Donald Trump’s repeated claims that he mediated a ceasefire between India and Pakistan during the military conflict following the Pahalgam attack.

Speaking immediately after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh opened the House discussion on Operation Sindoor, Kharge raised questions over the Home Minister’s statement in April about the terror infrastructure being crippled in J&K. Kharge asked why did the PM cancel his scheduled trip to J&K three days before the April 22 Pahalgam attack and if the government had intelligence inputs about a terror strike.

Pointing to past terror attacks such as Uri (2016), Pathankot (2016) and Pulawama (2019), Kharge said: “In all these attacks, one thing is clear, there is failure in intelligence and you will have to accept this. I want to ask the Home Minister, who is responsible for this... if you are then you should vacate your seat. If not, then what action is the Prime Minister taking?” he said.

Quoting J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha’s comments during

NADDA APOLOGISES TO LOP KHARGE

RAJYA SABHA saw heated exchanges between Opposition and Treasury after J P Nadda made some objectionable remarks against Mallikarjun Kharge.

After Nadda’s remarks, Kharge demanded an apology, saying Nadda was one of the ministers in the NDA government whom he respected. Nadda soon got up to say he has withdrawn his words, and apologised.

an interview that the Pahalgam attack was undoubtedly due to a security failure, Kharge said, “If the LG has accepted this as a security failure, when will accountability get fixed, did he say this to save the Home Minister? Only you can tell us.”

He also asked the Government if there was third-party mediation involved in the ceasefire between India and Pakistan, and whether trade was a factor. US President Donald Trump has repeatedly claimed he used trade as leverage to end the military conflict.

“I am seeking answers from the PM. Why has he not condemned it (Trump’s claims)? Did the US interfere in this, and on whose bidding? What were the conditions? Did the US President mediate the ceasefire, and were there threats on trade to announce the ceasefire? We never entertain third party mediation, this is our policy,” Kharge said.

Only time will tell if Operation Sindoor was decisive: Chidambaram

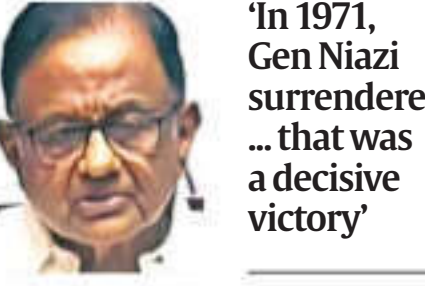
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

TARGETING THE Government for agreeing on a ceasefire after Operation Sindoor, Congress MP P Chidambaram on Tuesday said that India’s military leadership during the operation following the Pahalgam attack was exemplary, but the political leadership was “thoroughly disappointing.”

“If you ask me ‘was Operation Sindoor strong?’ I would say yes. If you ask me ‘was Operation Sindoor successful?’ I would say yes. If you ask me ‘Was Operation Sindoor decisive?’ I can only say time will tell...” he said.

“On December 16, 1971, there was a historic victory when General Niazi surrendered to General Jagjit Singh Aurora, along with 93,000 soldiers... That was a decisive victory. On the contrary, Operation Sindoor ended with a ceasefire,” he said.

Chidambaram said the military leadership was exemplary because it had been “candid and forthright”. Referring to a statement by CDS General Anil



‘In 1971, Gen Niazi surrendered ... that was a decisive victory’

Chauhan on Operation Sindoor, he said, “I call them candid, forthright and transparent because he (the CDS) admitted tactical mistakes, re-strategising and admitted loss.”

However, Chidambaram said, “The government has so far not acknowledged the security failure and the intelligence failure” in the wake of the Pahalgam attack. “I took over as home minister the day after (2008) Mumbai terror attack ended on Dec 1. Within a few days, I flew to Bombay, and said I admit security failure, intelligence failure, and I regret the failure. Why can’t the Government say that?”

Chidambaram also spoke about “home-grown” terrorism. “There are foreign terrorists infiltrated by Pak... but remember there are also India based terrorists...” he said, adding that sometimes they work together as well.

To end militancy, you have to win hearts of Kashmiris: Rashid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

INDEPENDENT MP from Baramulla Abdul Rashid Sheikh, better known as Engineer Rashid, Tuesday said the government needs to win the hearts of Kashmiris to end militancy in J&K as only they have a solution to the Kashmir issue.

Speaking in Lok Sabha, Rashid said: “To end militancy you will have to win the hearts of Kashmiris. But since yesterday none of you here have spoken about Kashmiris. Do you want Kashmir’s land or Kashmir’s

people? Ruling party and Opposition will have to decide today.”

On the situation of J&K, he said, “You say everything is fine there. But you do not allow us to write anything on social media. Over 3,000 people are in jails.”

The MP also said that everyone in the House talked about US President Donald Trump but he does not have the solution to the problem. “J&K people, including Hindus, Muslims and every other community have the solution to Kashmir issue. It is not a communal issue, it is a political issue. You need to give a political resolution...” he said.

Opp targets PM: Vishwaguru failed his country, fix accountability

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi on Tuesday expressed gratitude to the government for choosing leaders from Opposition parties as members of delegations for Operation Sindoor’s global outreach.

Participating in the special discussion on Operation Sindoor in the Lok Sabha, she went on to say that it would have been better if the situation to send these delegations did not arise.

The statement from the DMK MP came a day after Nationalist Congress Party (SP) MP Supriya Sule praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying it was his

“*badappan* (generosity)” that he showed faith in Opposition leaders to lead the delegations that went to different countries after Operation Sindoor to highlight the country’s fight against terrorism.

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Pahalgam attack, Kanimozhi said the “vishwaguru” failed the people of his own country. “Why did these delegations have to go, why did the attacks have to happen... Some opportunities are not to be celebrated but to be mourned... They arise because peace has failed us and it stems from the deepest of pain,” she said.

“We had to go because you failed the people of India. The



DMK’s Kanimozhi; SP’s Akhilesh Yadav in LS. *ANI & PTI*

vishwaguru failed us... Today it has become a blame game. Even the Home Minister (Amit Shah), in his speech, only intended and concentrated on blaming the Opposition,” she said.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav asked the government to fix responsibility for

the “intelligence failure” that led to the Pahalgam terror attack. He said the government can’t get away after such incidents by merely admitting to a lapse. “Under whose pressure was the ceasefire done,” asked Akhilesh.

He said India’s foreign policy has “collapsed” and called China

a “monster” that will “take over our land and market”.

Akhilesh also raised questions on the timing of Operation Mahadev, in which three Pahalgam terrorists were killed, coinciding with the special debate in Parliament.

DMK’s A Raja said it has become a habit of BJP to blame Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajeev Gandhi and the Congress for everything. He said a comparison is not always correct as any decision will be taken by then Prime Minister and leader in the context and circumstances prevailing over.

Shiromani Akali Dal MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal said the closure of Attari border after every such incident affects small

traders and transporters. “You (government) said terror and talk will not go together... If we can play cricket with Pakistan, why can’t Diljit Dosanjh’s movie be released in India,” she asked.

TMC MP Sagarika Ghose criticised PM Modi and said “politics and not sindoor flowed in his veins”. “If sindoor would have flowed in the Prime Minister’s veins, such an incident would not have happened,” she said.

AAP MP Sanjay Singh questioned PM Modi’s visit to Bihar soon after returning from Saudi Arabia, where he was at the time of the attack. He said the PM’s first priority should have been to visit Pahalgam but he instead went to Bihar for a political rally and also met some celebrities.



# 8 Govt & Politics



## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



NCP (SP)'s Sharad Pawar confers the CD Deshmukh Award on Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. Express

## BONHOMIE ON STAGE

EVEN AS the Government and Opposition locked horns in Parliament during the special discussion on Operation Sindoor, an award function on Tuesday at New Maharashtra Sadan saw bonhomie between Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar. Pawar conferred Gadkari with CD Deshmukh Award for public service and the latter expressed admiration for the NCP (SP) leader's work as former Union agriculture minister. The award was instituted in the name of RBI's first governor and former finance minister CD Deshmukh, and Gadkari is the second public figure to receive it. Last year, Gadkari had presented the first CD Deshmukh Award to career diplomat Dnyaneshwar Mulay.

## SINDOOR SCIENCE

BJP'S WEST Delhi MP Kamaljeet Sehrawat has a different take on the naming of 'Operation Sindoor'. During the special discussion in the Lok Sabha Monday midnight, Sehrawat said sindoor's (vermillion) chemical formula is 'HgS' — mercuric sulfide, a mix of mercury and sulphur — which indicates that it can be fatal if not used carefully. She said Pakistan faced the consequences because that country did not understand the significance of the red-coloured powder.

## OPP-EN To NEP

PUNJAB'S AAP government, which backed out of the Centre's PM-SHRI school scheme and then opted in again when central funding was withheld, sent its Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains to attend the Union government's event marking five years of NEP 2020 on Tuesday. Bains later complained on social media that the event was a "monologue and didn't involve discussions". Other Opposition-ruled states' education ministers — Rohit Thakur from Himachal Pradesh, Ramdas Soren from Jharkhand and Sakina Itoo from J&K, also participated in the event in the Capital.

## ‘Most substantial trade pact since EU exit, sends positive message to world’

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THE EXPRESS  
INTERVIEW  
WITH  
CHRISTINA SCOTT  
DEPUTY  
HIGH COMMISSIONER

THE VISION 2035 document brought out by the UK and India during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit last week places significant emphasis on the security and defence relationship between the two countries, says British Deputy High Commissioner **CHRISTINA SCOTT**. In an exclusive interview with **DIVYA A**, Scott, currently officiating as the High Commissioner in New Delhi, also speaks about various aspects of the the free trade agreement (FTA), talks between the two PMs on Khalistani extremism and extradition of economic offenders, and PM Keir Starmer's potential visit to India. Edited excerpts:

**During his recent visit, PM Modi invited PM Starmer to visit India. Is this likely to happen this year?**

We have got two governments that had general elections at roughly the same time over the last year, there's been a lot of conversations. Vision 2035 sets out the joint ambition for the next decade for the two governments. I am expecting quite a heavy drumbeat of contact and visits during the autumn. Personally, I hope that involves my Prime Minister, but we will see. We hope to make that happen as soon as possible. Our PM will be very keen to come at the earliest opportunity.

**How is the FTA being viewed in the UK as the world deals with the US trade tariff negotiations?**

Our FTA has gone down enormously well in the UK. For us, it is the most substantial economic trade agreement we have made since leaving the European Union. It's also the broadest trade deal that India has ever done, and sends a very positive message to the world. It's been three or four years now in negotiating this document and for the two big democracies like this to come

together. The FTA is good for itself, regardless of what other countries are choosing to do.

**What would be the biggest takeaway for the UK from this FTA?**

It is anticipated that it will add — over the medium term — £25 billion a year to the trade between the two countries. It will also add to the UK GDP. It offers opportunities for British businesses to invest in India. And it's a great story also for our British consumers who can benefit from cheaper and quality goods from India as well. Both governments, when they were negotiating, had their domestic issues very much at heart and we have come to this point because we have such complementary economies.

**This time, there was a lot of talk about Khalistani extremism... PM Modi spoke about this at the joint press statement. What was the kind of conversation the two sides had? And what was the kind of assurance the UK**

**would have given?**

The UK takes violent extremism of any form incredibly seriously. We are working closely with the government of India and we know the importance and we have a duty in the UK to disrupt violent extremists. It's part of the conversation we have with India and we will continue to work with India on the exchange of information where we think such influences exist.

**But there's a layer of freedom of expression that comes in, which India is not very comfortable, especially with referendums and everything.**

The UK has a proud history of peaceful protest and the right to peaceful protest within the law. And it's an important part of our democracy that people have the right to give their views. But it can't be in a way that incites violence. When it trips over the line, our police are very good at taking action in accordance with the law to uphold the security of our nation.

**Vision 2035 clearly spells out that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations has to be condemned. In that context, was there any discussion about the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor?**

The (Indian) Prime Minister referenced in the joint press conference that they talked about this. And obviously, our PM will have expressed deep condolences for the terrible attack in Pahalgam. For the UK, the peace and stability of this region matters a lot, because we have such great links.

What you can see from Vision 2035 is the importance and emphasis we put on our security and defence relationship with India. And in that document, a number of areas where the PMs are committed to working together for the stability of the region. And that's the really important thing going forward.

## IN PARLIAMENT

## India in trade talks with EU, other countries, minister tells Lok Sabha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

INDIA IS actively pursuing trade negotiations with the European Union (EU), US, Australia, Sri Lanka, Peru, Chile and New Zealand, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ram Nath Thakur informed Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

In a written reply to a question asked by CPI (M) member R Sachithanantham, Thakur said that with these trade discussions, India will focus to expand its global trade footprint and enhance competitiveness of Indian exports.

"At present, negotiations are

ongoing on the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement, India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, India-Sri Lanka Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement, India-Peru Free Trade Agreement, India-Chile Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, India-USA Bilateral Trade Agreement and a similar approach has been followed while dealing with the United Kingdom to safeguard the interests of farmers and secure market access for our agri-products," Thakur said.

He said, "In order to protect the interests of the farmers and domestic industry, including MSMEs, FTAs provide for maintaining sensitive, negative or exclusion lists of items on which limited or no tariff concessions are granted."

"In addition, in case of surge in imports and injury to the domestic industry, a country is allowed to take recourse to trade remedial measures such as anti-dumping and safeguards on imports within the period as mutually agreed to by the parties under the FTAs. Likewise Rules of Origin, including product-specific rules are developed with stakeholder consultations," he said.

## Over 50% tiger deaths since 2021 took place outside reserves, shows data

**New Delhi:** More than half of the tiger deaths in India between 2021 and 2025 have occurred outside protected reserves, with Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh accounting for the highest numbers, government data shows.

According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), 667 tigers died during this period and 341, or 51 per cent, of the deaths occurred outside tiger reserves.

About 30 per cent of India's

estimated 3,682 tigers live outside notified tiger reserves.

The year-wise data shows 129 tiger deaths in 2021, 122 in 2022, 182 in 2023, 126 in 2024 and 108 so far in 2025.

The number of deaths outside reserves was 64 in 2021, 52 in 2022, 100 in 2023, 65 in 2024 and it is 60 in 2025 so far.

Maharashtra reported the highest number of 111 tiger deaths outside reserves, followed by Madhya Pradesh with

90. In 2021, Maharashtra recorded 23 such deaths, Madhya Pradesh 18, Kerala five and Telangana four. In 2022, Maharashtra saw 18 deaths, Madhya Pradesh 12, and Kerala and Uttarakhand four each. In 2023, 34 tigers died outside reserves in Maharashtra, 13 in Madhya Pradesh, 11 each in Kerala and Uttarakhand, and six in Karnataka. In 2024, Madhya Pradesh logged 24 such deaths, while Maharashtra saw 16. **PTI**

## Linguistic states led to creation of second-class citizens: TN Gov

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, JULY 29

TAMIL NADU Governor R N Ravi on Tuesday claimed that the linguistic division of states after Independence had created "second-class citizens".

Ravi was speaking at the Rashtriya Raksha University in Gandhinagar. According to Ravi, the country was "united" before Independence even though there was no single national government. After Independence, he said, "we have started fighting with each other... what they call linguistic nationalism".

He said: "Within a decade of our Independence, there had to be a linguistic reorganisation of Bharat and this happened following violent protests in many parts of the country... people had started refusing to live with each other. When we created linguistic states, a large population became second-class citizens..."

He said, "In my own state Tamil Nadu... people of different languages... they all live together but the moment it became a linguistic state, one third of the population became a second-class citizen. It happened in other parts also."

The TN Governor said, "Something went wrong after Independence... The rashtira (nation) was taken in a direction that created division among our people in every conceivable way. So much so that the government began accepting as if it was an inevitable natural phenomena. This is reflected in the administrative (reforms) commission report. In



Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi

2008, the central government commissioned it. It was a voluminous report on conflict management, countering terrorism and if you read it, you will see how the government viewed the country."

Ravi said until 2014 the "entire Northeast was burning" but now it is "far, far near normal".

He said, "Because if you understand the organising principle of rashtira, we will be able to find solutions to our internal security problems in a way that will not create more problems but you will be able to resolve them. Because what we created before the PM came, was (that) in the course of finding solutions, we created more problems."

Criticising the creation of Nagaland as an "ethnicity-based state", he said that the violence did not end and the region started getting "vivisected".

He said, "They created a homeland for Mizos, another for Garo and Khasi in Meghalaya, and even within Assam, there are more than 20 ethnicity-based homelands created under statutory provisions. You kept creating homelands for ethnic groups and within them, there are sub-groups which started fighting. It was like a nuclear reaction... Society started breaking and from a peaceful region, it turned into more than 50 armed organisations."

## SC slams TN govt for naming 2,000 accused in Senthil Balaji case

Fraud on the system... cash-for-jobs trial won't end in Balaji's lifetime: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE SUPREME Court Tuesday slammed the M K Stalin government in Tamil Nadu for allegedly trying to prolong the trial of former minister V Senthil Balaji in the cash-for-jobs case by implicating around 2,000 people as accused, calling it a complete "fraud on the system".

"Poor persons who were coerced by your minister or by his henchmen to pay something (₹) 5,000, 10,000, 1 lakh, 2 lakh, you are more keen to prosecute them so that in the entire lifetime of the minister, (the) trial never comes to an end. That is your modus operandi. Complete fraud on the system..." said Justice Surya Kant, presiding over a two-judge bench.

The bench, also comprising Justice Jayamala Bagchi, was hearing an appeal by one Y Balaji, on behalf of the victims of the alleged scam. The plea challenged the March 28, 2025, Madras High Court order rejecting petitions against the orders of the trial court directing clubbing of four supplementary chargesheets



Former TN minister Senthil Balaji

filed in connection with the fraudulent recruitment in the Chennai Metropolitan Transport Corporation.

The high court, while dismissing petitions by Anti Corruption Movement against the clubbing of chargesheets, had noted that the offences formed part of the same transaction and could not be treated distinctly and that all chargesheets involved the same set of witnesses and documents. Noting that the number of accused stood at 2,202, the high court said holding separate trials would only delay the proceedings.

The Supreme Court, while referring to the four chargesheets, sought to know "...who are the alleged middlemen to whom money was paid, who are the officers who acted on the minister's behest, and who were on the board of appointments or the officials who carried out these appointments?"

## Amid rows, Fadnavis warns ministers: Don't force me to take action

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI, JULY 29



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis

MAHARASHTRA CHIEF Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday told his council of ministers to avoid creating controversies, warning that he would be forced to take action against them.

After a cabinet meeting, Fadnavis asked officials to leave the cabinet hall and held a separate meeting for 30 minutes with ministers. In the meeting, sources said that Fadnavis advised the ministers to avoid speaking to media and instead focus on development work.

"He also asked ministers to issue clarifications regarding any controversies without creating new ones," said a minister in the state cabinet.

A number of ministers, including Agriculture Minister Manikrao Kokate, Social Justice Minister Sanjay Shirsat, School Education Minister Dadaji Bhuse and Minister of State for Home Yogesh Kadam, have recently landed in controversies with the Opposition demanding their resignation.

"One of the important things that the CM said was to not get involved in any controversies. He said that he should not be

forced to take action against anyone," another minister said. According to the minister, the message to all was to "speak less and work more".

CM's warning comes amid the embarrassment faced by the government after a purported video of Kokate playing rummy on his mobile phone inside the legislative council went viral.

Fadnavis himself has ordered a probe into the tender process of the sale of a hotel in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, involving the son of minister Shirsat. In addition, a viral video showed him in his home with a bag allegedly full of cash during the recently concluded monsoon session of the legislature.

Minister of State for Home Yogesh Kadam is in the dock over illegal sand trading and running a dance bar in the name of his mother. Ministers Sanjay Rathod and Dadaji Bhuse, too, have landed in controversies over transfers in the department and recruitment process, respectively.

## Tej Pratap dons new colours: Repentant son is now angry rebel talking of 'Jaichands'

HIMANSHU HARSH  
PATNA, JULY 29

DAYS AFTER announcing his decision to contest the Bihar elections as an Independent candidate, Tej Pratap Yadav, the estranged elder son of RJD chief Lalu Prasad, attacked his former party over the alleged actions of an RJD MLA.

Since his expulsion from the RJD in May, over a now-deleted photo with a woman allegedly posted on his Facebook profile, Tej Pratap's tone towards his former party has shifted from reconciliatory to adversarial.

In a social media post on Monday, Yadav questioned the

RJD's silence over senior MLA Bhai Virendra allegedly threatening to beat a panchayat secretary, accusing the party leadership of "selective action".

"*Kya RJD apne vidhayak Bhai Virendra par bhi karwai karegi, jinhone Baba Saheb Ambedkar ke adarshon ke ullat SC-ST samaj ke khilaf sharmaak tipanni ki, jaan se maame ki dhamki di? Mujhe to Jaichandon ki saazish ke tahat par se bahar kar diya gaya... Ab dekhna hai ki bavaal karne waalon par bhi party utni hi sakhti dikhayegi ya nahin* (Will the RJD also take action against its own MLA Bhai Virendra, who, defying the ideals of B R Ambedkar, made a shameful remark against the Scheduled Caste-Scheduled

Tribe community and issued death threats? I was expelled from the party as part of a conspiracy by traitors... Now let's see if the party shows the same strictness towards those creating trouble, or not)," Tej Pratap said on X.

The former RJD leader was commenting on the controversy surrounding Virendra, a four-time MLA from Maner and close aide of Lalu Prasad and Tejashwi Yadav, over a viral audio of him threatening to "beat with a shoe" a local panchayat secretary.

"*Kahan, England ka hai tum? Maner ke vidhayak ko nahin jaanta hai tum?.. Hindustan jaanta hai aur tu keh raha hai ki Bhai Virendra kaun hai, nahin jaante hain*



Tej Pratap Yadav's tone towards his former party, RJD, has shifted from reconciliatory to adversarial. **PTI**

(Where are you from, England? Don't you know the MLA of Maner?... India knows who Bhai

Virendra is, and you say you don't know who Bhai Virendra is?)," the RJD MLA was purportedly

heard saying to Sandeep Kumar, Secretary of the Battun Panchayat, during a call on July 26.

An FIR was subsequently registered on a complaint by Kumar on Monday, including under sections of the SC/ST Act. In a Facebook post on Monday, Virendra admitted to using "strong language" but blamed the panchayat official for being disrespectful.

The fresh salvo by Tej Pratap comes nearly two months after he was expelled from the RJD by his father Lalu Prasad. In a statement on May 25, Lalu had cited "irresponsible behaviour" and "deviation from the family's moral values" as the reasons behind the action.



# If there’s mass exclusion, we will step in: SC on Bihar electoral list revision

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday said it will hear on August 12 and 13 pleas related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral list carried out by the Election Commission (EC) in Bihar, and sought to assure the petitioners who challenged the process that “if there is mass exclusion, we will step in”.

Hearing the matter on Monday, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joyimalya Bagchi, while refusing to stop the EC from publishing the draft revised list, had asked the parties involved to inform it on Tuesday how much time they will take to make their submissions so that the court can fix a date.

As the court took up the matter on Tuesday, Senior Advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the EC, submitted that the draft has been advertised and given to political parties.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for RJD MP Manoj Jha, said those who have been left out must have a chance to submit objections. “They will have the right. Who said they won’t?” Justice Kant said, adding, “The moment they deviate from the notification, we will interfere.”

To this, Sibal said, “We don’t know who has been left,” and asked if the EC had given the

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names of those excluded. Dwivedi replied, “It won’t be given to you. Take from the website.”

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioner Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), submitted that according to the EC, 65 lakh people have not submitted the enumeration forms as they are either dead or have permanently shifted elsewhere. Contending that those excluded will have to apply afresh, he wondered how they will come to know whether they are alive in the draft.

Justice Kant said that the EC is a constitutional body and “we would deem their action will be in accordance with the law”. He assured that the court is there to take care of any concern. “We are here, we will hear you,” he said.

Justice Bagchi said, “January 2025 list is the starting point if there was no SIR. Draft list will be published by ECI. Your apprehension is 65 lakh-odd voters will not feature... They (EC) are seeking correction vis-a-vis 2025 entry. We are over-viewing the thing as a judicial authority. If there is mass exclusion, we will step in. Bring 15 people saying they are alive but left out.”

The EC counsel, however, said there is a 30-day window for filing objections, and that the petitioners should help with adding names. Justice Kant said political parties should operate like NGOs during the process,

like NGOs during the process, Join FREE Telegram Channel chat.whatsapp.com/HDvqPnxvwWb3Agy98nVaIQ

## 2002 Bengal voter lists appear on EC site, spark talk of SIR from Aug

ATRI MITRA  
KOLKATA, JULY 29

THE WEST BENGAL Chief Electoral Officer has made some voter lists from the 2002 electoral roll revision available online, sparking speculation that the exercise will begin in the state in August.

This comes two weeks after the Election Commission of India wrote to state Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) asking them to prepare for a Special Intensive Revision similar to one currently ongoing in Bihar.

According to sources in the election commission, the list that has been published on the website of the of the State’s Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) contains the names of 11 districts – Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur and Malda in North Bengal and Nadia, Howrah, Hooghly, Medinipur (undivided) and Bankura in the south.

So far, there’s been no word from the Election Commission on the speculation in West Bengal, with a senior official saying only that they were “ready for anything”.

She also accused the Election

“Within two-three days we will publish all 23 districts’ lists of electors according to 2002 SIR,” the official at the West Bengal CEO said.

Significantly, West Bengal is due to hold Assembly polls next year. In its order to Chief Electoral Officers, the ECI asked them to rationalise polling stations (including identification of new buildings to ensure no polling station has more than 1,200 electors); fill up all vacant positions of key officials, from Block Level Officers (BLOs) and Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), and supervisors who will undertake the enumeration on the ground; and conducting their training.

Also mentioned in the order was the direction to publish the 2002 electoral rolls online.

As part of the exercise, the West Bengal Chief Election Officer began training its Booth Level Officers for the enumeration exercise Saturday.

But Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has opposed the exercise, saying Monday that her party “won’t allow SIR in West Bengal”.

She also accused the Election

Commission of acting on directions from the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance at the Centre.

“They (EC) are finalising the voters’ list, while sitting in Gujarat... The BJP’s agency (EC) is doing this... They have already set up detention camps in Haryana and Assam... We want to say: *Jo humse takrayega, choor choor ho jaayega*” (Those who mess with us will be shattered),” she said.

However, Leader of Opposition and BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari has supported the move. “No Rohingya or Bangladeshi Muslim illegal immigrant, however, will be allowed to have their names in the electoral rolls in the state,” Adhikari said.

The electoral roll revision exercise in Bihar has been at the centre of a row, with Opposition parties claiming that the requirement that voters enrolled after 2003 produce multiple documents to stay on the rolls could potentially disenfranchise millions of voters and has spurred legal challenges in the SC.

Unlike the Bihar exercise, the qualifying date for pan-Indian exercise has been kept as January 1, 2026.

# India’s first outreach to Syria after Assad fall: MEA official meets ministers in Damascus

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

IN ITS first official outreach to the new dispensation in Syria since the fall of the Assad regime last year, India has sent a senior official to Damascus to meet with ministers in the transitional government led by Ahmed Hussein al-Sharaa.

An Indian delegation led by M Suresh Kumar, Joint Secretary in charge of West Asia and North Africa Department at the Ministry of External Affairs, met Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Asaad Al-Shaibani on Monday, according to Syrian news agency SANA. Kumar was earlier India’s charge d’affaires at the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, Pakistan.

“Talks during the meeting dealt with issues of mutual concern and ways of enhancing relations between the two countries in the interests of both peoples,” SANA reported, quoting a Syrian Foreign ministry statement.

The Indian delegation also held discussions with Syrian Health Minister Musab Al-Ali on Monday.

Sources said the focus of the dialogue was on enhancing col-



Syria's interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa

laboration in health care, particularly in “pharmaceutical manufacturing and medical training”.

Both sides also deliberated on the implementation of a “scholarship program for Syrian students” and the development of a “specialised engineering co-operation initiative tailored for Syrian government employees”.

According to SANA, Al-Ali emphasised Syria’s keenness to build a lasting partnership with India in the pharmaceutical and health-care sectors and noted it would strengthen the country’s national health system and improve the availability of essential medicines.

Kumar reaffirmed New Delhi’s commitment to support Syria through funding specialised training programs for Syrian professionals. He also said India would continue coordinating the training of Syrian doctors at Indian institutions while fostering deeper collaboration in nursing, pharmaceuticals and drug exports.

India had strong and robust ties with the Assad regime — led primarily by Hafez al-Assad and then his son Bashar al-Assad — for more than five decades until last December, when al-Sharaa led a rebel coalition to overthrow the Bashar al-Assad regime and took over as the country’s leader.

According to officials, India has been monitoring the situation after the departure of Bashar al-Assad on 8 December 2024. In the immediate aftermath of the political change in Syria, India carried out the evacuation of 77 Indian nationals from Syria on 10-11 December 2024.

On December 9, India had called for a “peaceful and inclusive Syrian-led political process” which respects the interests and aspirations of all sections of Syrian society. It was India’s first statement since Bashar al-Assad’s fall.

“We hope that the new constitution, due to be drafted, takes into account the interests of all the sections of the Syrian society,” an Indian official said.

Syria adopted a new interim constitution on March 13. The country is expected to hold its first parliamentary election under the al-Sharaa administration in September.

# SUV driver reverses into elderly man in Jammu, goes on run

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, JULY 29

THE JAMMU and Kashmir Police have formed multiple teams to find a 20-year-old engineering student who is absconding after allegedly trying to run over an elderly businessman, who was knocked down from his scooter, with his Thar SUV in the upmarket Gandhi Nagar area of Jammu on Sunday afternoon.

The incident, in which 68-year-old Kamal Dutt was seriously injured, was captured on CCTV and the clip has gone viral on social media.

Footage from the CCTV camera installed in the Green Belt Park area allegedly showed the accused, identified as Manan Anand, hitting Dutt’s scooter while overtaking another vehicle, causing Dutt to fall on the road. The accused then drives forward, and when Dutt stands up, he reverses the SUV onto Dutt, causing serious injury.

Subsequently, the accused is seen coming out of the SUV and standing over Dutt, who was lying unconscious on the road at this time, before getting back in the vehicle and driving away.

While the footage showed passersby watching the incident, none of them came to Dutt’s aid, and he was eventually taken to hospital by his family members who rushed to the spot after com-



A CCTV video shows the Thar driver knocking down the elderly businessman, and then reversing into him

ing to know about the incident.

Dutt, who runs a vehicle spare parts shop, has been admitted to the ICU of the Government Medical College Hospital in serious condition.

Police said Manan Anand’s father, Rajinder Anand, has been detained as the vehicle was registered in his name. The vehicle has also been seized. Rajinder Anand, a resident of Nanak Nagar, works as a contractor with the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, officials said.

According to police, the accused, who studies engineering from outside J&K, was initially booked under BNS sections 281 (rash and negligent driving) and 125(a) (endangering life or personal safety of others). However, after going through the CCTV footage of the incident, police also booked him for attempt to murder under section 109.

## TIMELINE TO ACT ON BILLS

## Supreme Court to begin hearing President reference from Aug 19

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE SUPREME Court will start hearing on August 19 the reference made to it by President Droupadi Murmu under Article 143 of the Constitution, following the apex court’s verdict on setting timelines for the President and governors to act on Bills passed by state Assemblies.

Fixing the timeline for the hearing, a five-judge constitutional bench of Chief Justice of

India B R Gavi and Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P S Narasimha and A S Chandurkar asked the parties to file submissions on or before August 12.

The bench said that it will first hear the parties on the question of maintainability of the reference. Kerala and Tamil Nadu have opposed the reference and have urged the court to return the reference.

“We will hear parties on maintainability first. The ones opposing shall be heard on 19, 20, 21 and 26 August. Supporting the

reference will be heard on August 20, Sept 2, 3 and 9. Time schedule will be strictly followed. Let parties complete arguments as prescribed,” the court said.

In the reference, President Murmu has posed 14 questions over the top court’s April 8 verdict in which it set a timeline for governors to act on pending Bills, and for the first time, prescribed that the President should decide on the Bills, reserved for consideration by the governor, within three months from the date on which such reference is received.



## 3 KILLED IN MANDI FLASH FLOODS

Operations underway in Himachal Pradesh’s Mandi town on Tuesday after flash floods the previous night. The floods, triggered by a cloudburst, killed three people, buried more than a dozen vehicles and inundated several houses. One person is missing. PTI

# Jay and Veeru, inseparable lion duo from Gir, die weeks apart

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, JULY 29

THEIR FRIENDSHIP was the stuff of legend. Perhaps that is why they were named Jay and Veeru after the iconic duo from 1975 blockbuster *Sholay*.

For years, the two adult lions had been the pride of Gir National Park in Gujarat. Earlier this year, even Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on the inseparable pair during his visit to Gir.

But over a month ago, when they were not in each other’s company, Jay and Veeru sustained serious injuries in separate territorial fights. While Veeru died on June 11, a few days after sustaining the wounds, Jay succumbed to its injuries on Tuesday.

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Chief Wildlife Warden of Gujarat Jaipal Singh said the two lions used to lead the same pride of big cats.



The lions sustained serious injuries in separate territorial fights. While Veeru died on June 11, Jay died on Tuesday

“Veeru had sustained very serious injuries and he died a few days after that. Whereas, Jay died today. The two were rescued and we made a lot of attempts to save them but could not succeed,” Singh said on Tuesday.

Deputy Conservator of Forest, Wildlife Division (Sasan-Gir), Mohan Ram said that the two

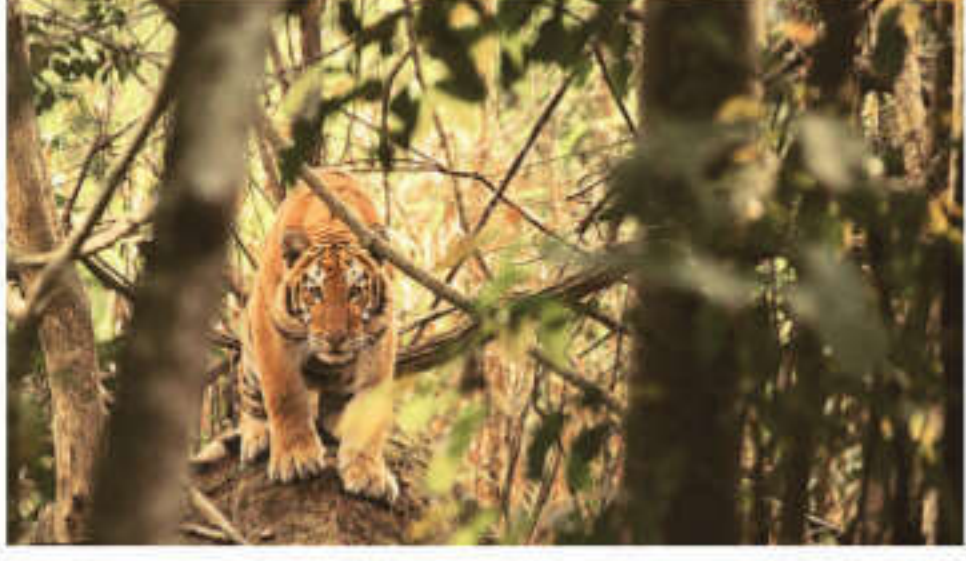
were prime adult males who used to accompany around 15 female lions. “Their area was very big, (spanning) from tourism zone to non-tourism zone and from grassland to woodland and even fringe areas. They sustained injuries in territorial fights (with other lions) while they were not together,” he said.

SUKRITA BARUAH  
GUWAHATI, JULY 29

KAZIRANGA TIGER Reserve has the third-highest density of tigers in the world, the first large-scale assessment of the big cat’s population there has revealed. Officials say the reserve has an estimated 18.65 tigers per 100 square kilometres.

On Tuesday, officials released a summary report for 2024 titled ‘Status of Tigers in the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve’, with the findings of a Phase IV tiger monitoring initiative across Eastern Assam, Nagaon, and Biswanath Wildlife Divisions. This was done at the direction of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

The survey documented 148 tigers in the reserve, up from 104 recorded in 2022, 99 in 2018 and



The reserve had recorded 104 tigers in 2022, 99 in 2018 and 96 in 2014. Express

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96 in 2014. Reserve director Sonali Ghosh said these findings show that Kaziranga has the third-highest density of tigers in the world, after Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand and

the first time. “This growth is particularly notable due to the first-time sampling of the Biswanath Wildlife Division, where 27 newly recorded tigers have contributed to the overall increase. In the core Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, the population grew from 104 in 2022 to 115 in 2024, while the Nagaon Wildlife Division maintained a stable count of six tigers,” it states.

The survey was conducted over 103 days using 293 paired camera traps across 1307.49 square kilometres, which yielded 4,011 tiger images in 242 locations. The report states that the eight-flank stripes of the animals in these images were used to identify 148 adult tigers – 83 females, 55 males, and 10 with undetermined gender.

“The park’s diverse ecosystems, including Eastern wet allu-

via grasslands, semi-evergreen forests, tropical moist mixed deciduous forests, and wetlands, provide an ideal habitat for tiger and megaherbivores. The conservation status of tigers in Kaziranga has been strengthened through rigorous protection measures, including anti-poaching efforts, habitat restoration, and community-based conservation initiatives,” states the report.

“Despite these successes, Kaziranga’s tiger population faces persistent challenges, including habitat fragmentation, human-wildlife conflict, and the pressures of agricultural expansion and infrastructure development around the tiger reserve. The impacts of climate change further complicate conservation efforts, necessitating adaptive management strategies to ensure long-term population viability,” it states.

SC Collegium picks names for judgeship in six HCs

THE SUPREME Court collegium has recommended the appointment of several advocates and judicial officers for judgeship in six High Courts, including Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Karnataka. The three-member collegium meeting headed by Chief Justice B R Gavi on Monday approved the proposal for appointment of judicial officer Vimal Kumar Yadav as a judge of the Delhi HC. The collegium, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Vikram Nath, approved the proposal for appointment of three advocates — Ajit Bhagwanrao Kadethankar, Aarti Arun Sathe and Sushil Manohar Ghodeswar — as judges of the Bombay HC. It approved the proposal for appointment of Additional Judge of Karnataka High Court Justice Gurusiddaiah Basavaraja as permanent judge.

The collegium resolved to approve the proposal for appointment of the two additional judges — Justices Partha Sarathi Sen and Apurba Sinha Ray — as permanent judges in Calcutta HC. The collegium also approved the proposal for appointment of additional judge Justice Ravindra Kumar Agrawal as permanent judge in the Chhattisgarh HC.

For Andhra Pradesh HC, the Collegium resolved to approve the proposal for appointment of Justices Harinath Nunepally, Kiranmayee Mandava, Sumathi Jagadam and Nyapathy Vijay as permanent judges.





संचालनालय खेल और युवा कल्याण, मध्यप्रदेश

टी.टी. नगर स्टेडियम, भोपाल



ई-निविदा सूचना

संचालनालय खेल और युवा कल्याण, मध्यप्रदेश द्वारा “प्रदेश के विभिन्न खेल परिसरों में सिविल निर्माण/सुधार कार्य तथा विद्युत सामग्री/उपकरण प्रदाय/स्थापना हेतु” पंजीकृत टेकेंदारों से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र व निविदा की विस्तृत शर्तें [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध हैं। ई-निविदा प्रकाशन उपरांत निविदा में कोई संशोधन व परिवर्तन किया जाता है तो वह मात्र उपरोक्त उल्लेखित ई-टेंडर पोर्टल पर ही उपलब्ध रहेगा।

म.प्र. माध्यम/121304/2025

संचालक

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINING ITANAGAR

NO.DGM-13019/4/2023/1739-44

Dated Itanagar, 21st July 2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Department of Geology & Mining Government of Arunachal Pradesh invites single bid system sealed quotation (rates) for competitive bidding from the company, authorized dealer, manufacture for the supply of the following equipments.

S/No	Name of Items	Quantity	Estimated amount in Lakh (INR)
1	GIS Software	04 Nos	Rs 52,00,000/-

The following are the Terms & Condition of the tender invited:

1. The company, manufacture, authorized dealer and consortium are only eligible to participate and the bidder should enclose the supporting documents.

2. The bidder should have valid trade license and enclosed copy.

3. The bidder should enclose copy of GST registration and last quarter GST return.

4. The bidder should be an ISO certified firm or authorized business partner of an ISO certified firm.

5. Earnest money @ 1% for APST and 2% for Non-APST firm of the estimated value to be deposited in the form of the Demand Draft in favour of Director, Deptt of Geology & Mining Govt of Arunachal Pradesh Itanagar.

6. The price quoted should be inclusive of GST and other taxes.

7. 3% of the total value should be deposited as performance guarantee by the successful bidder which shall be refunded after 6 six on satisfactory performance of the goods supplied.

8. The successful bidder should supply the goods exactly as per the specification and any deviation will be liable for rejection of goods.

9. Application GST/Income Tax and 1.5% contingency charges are deducted from the bill.

10. The payment shall be release in two installments upon delivery of the items and successful demonstration and completion of a test run.

11. The successful bidder should supply the goods within 30 days from the date of issue of the supply order failing which entire amount of performance guarantee will be forfeited.

12. For any other information/clarification, please contact Director, Department of Geology & Mining Itanagar.

13. Preference will be given to those firms having experience of doing similar nature of works/project.

14. All disputes are subject to Itanagar Capital Complex jurisdiction.

15. The department reserves the right to reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

The tender complete in all respect should reach the office of the undersigned within 1400 hours of 12th August 2025 and will be opened in the same day at 1500 hours.

Sd/-

(A.K Singh) IAS

Secretary (G&M) Govt. of A. P. : Itanagar

Dated Itanagar, July 2025

DIPR/ARN/0066-68

NO. DGM-13019/4/2023

NORTHERN RAILWAY

ONE STATION ONE PRODUCT

Applications are invited under scheme of 'One Station One Product' for setting up:

A. Total Ten (10) Stall at: Delhi, Delhi Cantt., Delhi, Shahdara, Subzi Mandi, Palwal, Meerut Cantt., Meerut City, Panipat, Gurgaon & Kurukshetra Stations.

B. Total Thirty Five (35) Trolley at: Anand Vihar Terminal, Jind, Jakhal, Tohana, Mansa, Narwana, Badli, Ballabhgarh, Delhi Kishanganj, Deoband, Narela, Okhla, Palam, Sakoti tanda, Sharni, Tapri, Tughlakabad, Faridabad, Baghpat Road, Baraut, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Faridabad New Town, Khakra, Nangloi, Khatauli, Muradnagar, Noli, Partapur, Shakurbasti, Julana, Sampla, Delhi Safdarjung, Shivaji Bridge, Tilak Bridge & Modinagar Stations.

• The period for setting up of stall at Kurukshetra, Subzi Mandi, Palwal, Gurgaon & Meerut Cantt. stations per spell will be 90 days.

• The period for setting up of Trolley at stations mentioned in (B) above will be 30 days per spell.

• Registration fee for NSG 1, 2, 3 & 4 stations will be charged @ rate of Rs. 2000 for each spell of thirty days and for NSG 5 (Delhi Kishanganj, Deoband, Badli, Okhla, Sharni, Tapri, Jind, Jakhal, Tohana, Mansa, Narwana, Baghpat Road, Khakra, Nangloi, Muradnagar, Khatauli, Meerut Cantt., Julana, Sampla, Shivaji Bridge, Tilak Bridge & Delhi Safdarjung) & NSG 6 (Partapur & Sakoti Tanda) registration fee will be charged @ rate of Rs. 1000 for each spell of thirty days.

• The following are the eligibility criteria for participant viz.

a) Holder of Artisans/Weaver ID card issued by Development Commissioner Handicraft, Development Commissioner Handloom, or by the requisite state/ Central Government Authority.

b) Individual artisans/weavers/craftsmen enrolled/ registered with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)/ National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)/ Khadi/ Village Industries Commission (KVIC)/ associated with Social Organizations, State Govt bodies and associated with registered micro enterprises on the Udyam Portal of the Ministry of MSME and NGOs etc.

c) Self Help Groups registered with PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme).

d) Marginalized or weaker sections of society.

e) No separate logo shall be allowed.

• The applicant will have to submit an undertaking to the Station Superintendent indicating that no activity would be undertaken to adversely affect the train operations, passenger safety and image of the Railways.

• Applications should be addressed and can be submitted to Station Superintendent at station by the applicant till 15:00 hrs of 08.08.2025, which will be opened on same day.

• Station Superintendent will make priority roster of all approved participants and priority will be established through a draw of lots conducted at the station in the presence of all approved applicants by the Station Manager/Sectional CMI and nominated Finance representative.

• The One Station One Product scheme shall be governed by Railway Board's Commercial Circular No. 12 of 2022 and 09 of 2023 respectively available at website: [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) & URL: [https://indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/traffic/comm/Comm\\_Cir\\_2022/OSOP%20Policypdf](https://indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/traffic/comm/Comm_Cir_2022/OSOP%20Policypdf) & [https://indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/traffic/comm/Comm\\_Cir\\_2023/CC%20%2009%20of%202023.pdf](https://indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/traffic/comm/Comm_Cir_2023/CC%20%2009%20of%202023.pdf)

• For any queries applicant may contact Station Superintendent or CMI of the respective stations.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2312/2025

# 'If there's a chance to move out, people are taking it': Year after landslides, life is at a standstill in Wayanad villages

SHAJU PHILIP  
CHOOALMALA, JULY 29

ONCE BUSTLING with tourists and tea estate workers, Chooralmala in Kerala's Wayanad district is now a desolate town that stands as a grim reminder of the devastating landslides of July 30, 2024.

The tragedy claimed 298 lives, left 750-odd families homeless, and washed away properties and possessions built up over generations. Chooralmala was among the worst hit.

A year on from the landslides, fair price shop licensee N Manoj says life in the area has nearly come to a standstill. "This shop, catering to Chooralmala and Attamala villages, had 900 ration cardholders. After the tragedy, the number of cardholders who turn up has reduced to 290. Another shop in the city for Mundakkai and Puthumala villages had 1,200 cardholders, but now that figure has gone down to 320," he says.

Many survivors of the tragedy are scattered in different places in Wayanad and beyond. "They will not return as many of them will get rehabilitated in the upcoming township (22 km away, in Kalpetta municipality). Even those staying in areas designated as safe zones want to leave. If there is a chance to leave, people are ready to take it. And there is nobody to buy land here," says Manoj, who is also the leader of an action council for rehabilitation.

None of the shops and establishments destroyed in the tragedy have been repaired or reopened, with many parts of Chooralmala coming under a "no-go zone" as per the recommendations of an expert committee that looked into how safe these areas were after the landslides.

Many affected traders have

The town of Chooralmala, largely deserted after last year's tragedy, Shaju Philip

taken their ventures elsewhere in the district after their associations extended financial support. A Bailey bridge erected by the Army in place of a destroyed concrete bridge is used only for transporting estate workers across the Punnapuzha river to Mundakkai and Attamala.

Barely 3 kilometres upstream is Mundakkai village, which once had resorts, tea estates and various spice plantations. After the landslides, it remains completely empty, as nobody is allowed to stay in the hills, which were also declared as no-go zones. Farmers and estate workers have to register their names with a police outpost at Chooralmala every day, as the presence of outsiders is strictly regulated in the area. When night descends, wildlife takes over the hills, which was once spotted with houses.

Chamakattu Prasanthan, an estate worker, travels 13 km to Chooralmala daily for work. "This month, I got only 13 days of work at the estate. Due to the red alert (declared earlier this month in the wake of intense rains), on most days we were not allowed to go to the estates," he says.

Prasanthan, who lived in the

estate quarters, had lost his brother and nephew in the landslides. His residence and a nearby dairy farm were completely washed away by the landslide. "Before the tragedy, there were around 300 estate workers living in this area. Now, the number has come down to less than 100. The tea factory near Chooralmala has not opened yet as workers are not allowed to live near the factory. The uncertainty over daily work and haunting memories of the tragedy had forced many to abandon work or seek jobs in other estate divisions. Many workers, who had once led a rather prosperous life, are now eking out a living by doing odd jobs," he says.

Among the worst affected are 300-odd small-scale farmers in the region, who together lost 340 hectares of agricultural land was destroyed by the landslides. Many tracts of farmland are also in the no-go zone. The region also used to produce around 500 litres of milk a day. Now, the daily procurement is only around 200 litres.

R Madaswami, who owned an acre of land, is now living at temporary premises 24 km away from the village. "I used to

get Rs 4-5 lakh income from cultivating spices. Now, I am surviving on the daily relief of Rs 300 given to persons affected by the landslides. I have to feed my four-member family. The landslides left my farmland in rubble," he says. "While I will get a house in the proposed new township, how will farmers like me live without any source of income?" he asks.

The tragedy has also left K Annayyan, who was a prosperous farmer with 2 acres of land in Chooralmala, reliant on a small income from plying an auto-rickshaw, which was donated by a charity organisation. "For the loss of 2 acres of land, the Agricultural Department gave me a meagre compensation of Rs 37,000. We have to be allowed to cultivate our land. Let the government take it over after giving due compensation," he says.

Meppadi Forest Range Officer B S Jayachandran says farmers who continue to work in the affected villages are having a tough time as attacks from wild animals have intensified after the landslides. "Unattended portions of estates and farmlands have turned into a haven for wild animals, especially elephants," he says.

Mundakkai and Attamala villages contained 20 resorts, many of them with investment from local residents. These resorts have not resumed operations after the landslides. "The investment locked in the projects is around Rs 70 crore. We have been demanding that the government allow resorts to take in tourists. Adverse weather in the region is a major villain. A turn-around for the region is difficult, but if resorts are open, we will get a breather," said panchayat member C K Noorudheen.

# Madras HC judge in news for courtroom drama recounts case with spiritual twist

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, JULY 29

JUSTICE G R Swaminathan of the Madras High Court, who is in news for calling a lawyer a "courtward" and "comedy piece" in court for accusing him of caste bias, last week offered a spiritual twist on jurisprudence — by recounting how he once helped acquit a man who confessed to a fatal accident, and saw it as proof that "the Vedas protect those who protect them."

He was speaking at the 17th Annual Talent Parade of Vedic Scholars, held at Krishnaswamy Hall, last week. A video of the event, organised by Om Charitable Trust, has surfaced.

Narrating a story from his days as a practicing lawyer, which "changed my entire perspective on life", Justice Swaminathan said, "A Sastrigal friend of mine, who studied the Vedas for seven years and has been living strictly as per Vedic values, came to meet me. He came with another friend, and my friend Sastrigal had tears in his eyes, unable to speak." In Tamil, "Sastrigal" is used as a surname or title for individuals recognised for their knowledge of the scriptures, particularly the Shastras.

He told the audience that he asked them to speak freely, likening the confidentiality between lawyer and client to that of doctor and patient. "As his friend wasn't able to open up, the other man started explaining. He said Sastrigal had been convicted and sentenced to 18 months. I couldn't believe it. For someone who lives as per Vedic values, how could this happen?"

According to the judge, the incident unfolded when the Sastrigal's sister, visiting from the

US, wanted to see some temples. She drove the car, and at one point, it lost control and hit a man standing near a tea shop. "The man died on the spot," he said.

As his sister had to return to the US the following week, the Sastrigal reportedly went to the police station and confessed. "He told the police, 'I was the one driving, careless. I had the licence.' He took the entire blame upon himself. The FIR was registered against him, the chargesheet filed, and the case went to court."

"He used to go to the court in full traditional attire. Normally, in such cases, six months' imprisonment is the maximum. But he got 18 months," Swaminathan said.

"In cases where the punishment is less than three years, you're not sent to jail immediately. You can go on appeal and only serve time based on the outcome," he said. "So I asked him why he didn't approach me before the conviction. He said he was embarrassed."

He then recounted how he reassured his friend, calling his act "a courageous decision to take the entire blame to save his sister from trouble."

With that singular point — absence of eyewitness identification — he said he took up the case, and argued it in the appellate court. "By luck or fate, the judge who heard the appeal happened to be my classmate. How was this man convicted when there is no evidence on who drove the car?" was the question. And the conviction was overturned. My friend Sastrigal was acquitted."

It was then, he said, that a realisation struck. "That day, I understood the saying: 'If you protect the Vedas, the Vedas will protect you.'" he said.

# ED nod to release property after Pune realtor's discharge in PMLA case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JULY 29

A PROPERTY belonging to Pune-based builder Avinash Bhosale is likely to be released soon as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has made a request regarding the same to the government after the builder was discharged by a Special Court in Mumbai in December 2022. The said property was attached in an alleged money laundering case.

The ED Mumbai Zone-2 office on June 12 this year wrote to the Inspector General of Registration and Controller of Stamps, Pune, requesting the government department to release the seized property in the case related to ARA Properties and Avinash Bhosale.

The said property, Plot 2, Yashwant Ghadge Nagar Cooperative Housing Society, Range Hill Corner, Ganeshkhind Road, Pune, MH, 411007, was provisionally attached by ED on August 7, 2021, in connection with the alleged money laundering case against ARA Properties and Avinash Bhosale registered on the basis of the land-grabbing case.

However, the special PMLA court on December 6, 2022, and April 12, 2023, discharged all the accused in the case, as the predicate offence registered by Pune's Chaturshringi police under sections of cheating and criminal breach of trust, among other charges, was closed by the first probe agency through closure summary report.

Later, the appellate tribunal also set aside the attachment order, and the same has been accepted.

# Mumbai: Day after his transfer, ED raids ex-MC commissioner's house and office

Mumbai: The Enforcement Directorate Tuesday conducted searches at 12 places, including the residence and official premises of former Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation (VVMC) commissioner and IAS officer Anil Pawar, in connection with a money laundering probe into the unauthorised construction of 41 buildings on 60 acres of civic land reserved for sewage treatment and as dumping grounds.

The action came a day after Pawar handed over charge and was accorded a farewell. ED sources said multiple places in Vasai Virar, Mumbai, and Nashik were searched. The ED officials claimed to have seized ₹12 crore cash from the Nashik residence of a relative of Pawar.

This is the third round of searches in the VVMC region in nearly two months in connection with a probe into the illegal building construction case. **ENS**

# Indian-origin pilot arrested in US on charges of sex crimes against child

New York: An Indian-origin pilot was held on charges of sex crimes against a child, shortly after his flight landed at San Francisco International Airport, US authorities said.

Rustom Bhagwagar, 34, a Delta airline pilot, was arrested on July 26, officials said in a statement on Monday.

The County Office said it had been investigating since April 2025 after receiving a report of sex crimes against a child, and an arrest warrant was later secured. Bhagwagar was booked into the Martinez Detention Facility on five counts of oral copulation with a child under 10 years of age. He is being held in lieu of \$5

million bail, the statement said. A report in KTVU.com said that a female has alleged that while Bhagwagar was dating her mother, he "sexually abused her from the ages of six until eleven years old. The girl alleges her mother knew about the abuse because she was present for some of the sexual acts. **PTI**

खुशहाल बागवानी

बागवानी प्रशिक्षण हेतु आवेदन आमन्त्रित

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि बागवानी विभाग, हरियाणा सरकार, उद्यान प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, उचांनी करनाल में अगस्त माह में विभिन्न विषयों पर पांच दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया जा रहा है। हरियाणा राज्य के सभी जिलों के किसान जेबे दी गई पंजीकरण करने की अंतिम तिथि तक उद्यान विभाग की वेबसाइट <http://kaushalhortbharyana.gov.in/> के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन आवेदन कर सकते हैं। प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम के लिए प्राची की न्यूनतम आयु 18 वर्ष होनी चाहिए। पंजीकृत किसान अपने जरूरी कागजात (आधार कार्ड, पैन कार्ड, बैंक पासबुक एवं इन सभी की 1-1 प्रतिलिपि) जेबे दी गई प्रशिक्षण की आरंभिक तिथि को प्रातः 09:00 बजे उद्यान प्रशिक्षण संस्थान में लेकर पहुंचें। प्रशिक्षणार्थियों को अपने जिले से संस्थान तक पहुंचने एवं संस्थान से अपने जिले में पहुंचने तक का हरियाणा रोडवेज का बस किराया DBT द्वारा प्रदान किया जाएगा। प्रशिक्षण के दौरान उद्यान व खाने की व्यवस्था निशुल्क रहेगी। अतः इसके अलावा यह भी सूचित किया जाता है कि निम्नलिखित विषयों पर पांच दिनों में प्रशिक्षण ले चुके किसान पुनः उन्ही विषयों पर पंजीकरण न करवायें।

अगस्त माह के प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम की सूची निम्नलिखित है।

महीना	दिनांक	अवधि	विषय	प्रशिक्षणार्थियों की संख्या प्रति ट्रेनिंग	पंजीकरण करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय					
अगस्त	04 अगस्त -08 अगस्त 2025	5	बुध्म उद्यान एवं नुवाई उपरान्त प्रबंधन पर प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम	40	03.08.2025 सांघ 4:00 बजे					
	11 अगस्त 15 अगस्त 2025	5	फल व सब्जियों में प्रसंस्करण परिरक्षण एवं मृत्तुवर्धन पर प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम	40	10.08.2025 सांघ 4:00 बजे					
	18 अगस्त 22 अगस्त 2025	5	फल उत्पादन तकनीकी पर प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम	40	17.08.2025 सांघ 4:00 बजे					
	25 अगस्त 29 अगस्त 2025	5	फल प्रसार तकनीकों, बाग और फल नर्सरी की स्थापना और प्रबंधन एवं पुराने बाग का पुनरुद्धार	40	24.08.2025 सांघ 4:00 बजे					
	नोट: प्राची अधिक जानकारी के लिए कार्य दिवस पर प्रातः 9:00 बजे से सांघ 5:00 बजे तक संपर्क कर सकते हैं। संपर्क 8570077877									
हस्ता./- प्रधानाचार्य, उद्यान प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, उचांनी, करनाल										
No.37109										

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, HISAR	SPECIAL REPAIR OF HANSI UMRA SULTANPUR KANWARI ROAD BY PROVIDING WIDENING AND STRENGTHENING FROM 5.50 MTR TO 10.10 MTR IN HISAR DISTRICT (HANSI CONSTITUENCY) (ROAD ID 5266) (POG. SHIFTING OF HT/LT 33 KV DAYAL SINGH COLONY LINE) + 2 WORKS	28.07.2025 06.08.2025	24.43 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01662225651 pwd-eeed-hissar@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R, HISAR	STRENGTHENING OF ROAD FROM DELHI HISAR SULEMANKI (NH-10) ROAD TO JAKHOD KHERA VIA DURJANPUR ROAD RD 0.00 TO 1.700 AND 2.450 TO 10.980 (ROAD ID 4900) WORK PROGRAMME 2025-26 IN HISAR DISTRICT (ADAMPUR CONSTITUENCY) GROUP NO. 8 + 11 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 02.08.2025	4815.13 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9878384499 pwd-eeepd1-hissar@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R, ROHTAK	CONSTRUCTION OF OPD WITH EMERGENCY BLOCK IN 50 BEDDED HOSPITAL AT KALANAUIR IN DISTRICT ROHTAK (PROVIDING CCTV, LAN, EPABX AND FIRE ALARM SYSTEM ONLY)	25.07.2025 11.08.2025	32.81 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9034929655 pwd-eeed-rohtak@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R, KURUKSHETRA	CONSTRUCTION OF SLIP ROAD ON SAHARANPUR KURUKSHETRA ROAD FROM SKIET INSTITUTE TO PIPLI OF NEW BUS STAND AT KURUKSHETRA IN DISTRICT KURUKSHETRA	28.07.2025 04.08.2025	4.12 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01744297271 pwd-eeepd2-kurukshetra@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R, ROHTAK	SPECIAL REPAIR OF ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK GOVERNMENT ITI JIND. (PROVIDING 70 SQM. CABLE AND FIRE CYLINDER ONLY) (PROVIDING MAINTENANCE OF E.I. NITCH AND EARTHING ONLY) + 2 WORKS	25.07.2025 01.08.2025	7.07 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9034929655 pwd-eeed-rohtak@hry.nic.in
6	PWD B&R, GURUGRAM	PROVIDING HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES, FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES VIZ, MECHANIZED HOUSEKEEPING MANAGEMENT OF FRONT OFFICE, RECEPTION, ALL SUITES AND FLOOR AND CAMPUS AREA IN HARYANA STATE GUEST HOUSE, CHANAKYAPURI, NEW DELHI	CLOSING DATE 04.08.2026	143.44 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01242322424 pwd-eeepd1-gurgaon@hry.nic.in
7	PWD B&R, GURUGRAM	PROVIDING HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES, FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES VIZ, MECHANIZED HOUSEKEEPING MANAGEMENT OF FRONT OFFICE, RECEPTION, ALL SUITES AND FLOOR AND CAMPUS AREA IN HARYANA BHAWAN, NEW DELHI	CLOSING DATE 04.08.2025	347.77 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01242322424 pwd-eeepd1-gurgaon@hry.nic.in
8	PANCHAYATI RAJ, SONIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF BADLI WALT CHAUPAL (GENERAL) AT VILLAGE KHUBRI BLOCK GANAUJ	CLOSING DATE 04.08.2025	22.45 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9416391006 prexeeng.snp@gmail.com
9	PANCHAYATI RAJ, KARNAL	G. BIRBAL CONST. OF BALMIKI CHOPAL BLOCK (INDRI DISTT KARNAL SCHEME HRDF + 1 WORKS	25.07.2025 13.08.2025	52.54 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9813805200 prexeeng.krt@hry.nic.in
10	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, NARNAUL	SUPPLY, LAYING & INSTALLATION/FIXING OF PVC XLPE LT ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR, ARMOURED CABLE OF DIFFERENT SIZES AT DISTY. OF PUMP HOUSES NB-2 & NB-3 OF NARNAUL BRANCH IN M/GARH W/S MECH. DIVISION, NARNAUL.	CLOSING DATE 12.08.2025	19.52 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01252-251353 xen-wasner.Lrr@gov.in
11	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, PANCHUKULA	SUPPLY OF HARDWARE ITEMS FOR BHIWANI DIVISION + 2 OTHER WORKS	29.07.2025 12.08.2025	54.35 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2580542 xenproct@gmail.com
12	HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT COE, MUNIMPUR,HAJJAR	SUPPLY OF LABOUR FOR DIFFERENT MENTAL & OTHER WORKS ON BASIS OF JOB WORK AT COE, MUNIMPUR (HAJJAR).	29.07.2025 31.08.2025	EMD 50,000/-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9671627548 coemunimpur@gmail.com

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The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

CRACKS IN IT

TCS layoffs speak of challenges for the sector in times when AI and automation play an increasingly greater role

ON SUNDAY, INDIAN tech giant TCS announced its decision to lay off 2 per cent of its global workforce — around 12,000 jobs — over the year. Following this announcement, on Monday, TCS shares fell around 1.6 per cent during trading. Shares of other IT companies mirrored the decline. While the layoffs are being framed in terms of moving towards a “future-ready organisation” through “skilling and redeployment”, concerns over changes in the operating environment of tech companies are being raised. While the TCS decision is expected to hit mid- and senior-level employees the most, the question is whether the layoffs are the beginning of a larger churn in the Indian IT sector.

The IT sector in India has been a major source of employment, especially so in recent years. As per a report in this paper, in the big five IT companies — TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HCL Technologies and Tech Mahindra — employment went up from 11.5 lakh in March 2020 to 15.34 lakh by December 2024 as demand for IT services and digitisation surged post the pandemic. To put these employment figures in perspective, the Indian Railways employed more than 12.5 lakh regular employees as of 2023-24. But, these years have also witnessed two other developments — the advent of AI and Donald Trump’s second term — which are reshaping the operating environment in unprecedented ways. The rapid adoption of AI and automation across the world has dramatically altered the business milieu. And not just in the IT sector, which has been affected, but others as well. Alongside, the economic uncertainty unleashed due to Trump’s policies has impacted firms’ investment and spending decisions. These have raised questions over the future of the Indian IT sector.

Cracks are already appearing in the sector’s business model — a model that has relied on the country’s educational institutions to churn out software engineers at scale and on wage arbitrage. The question is, if over the coming years, AI and automation make large swathes of IT jobs redundant, and the wage arbitrage with other economies reduces, then, where does India’s competitive advantage lie? Considering that Indian IT firms do not allocate large sums of money for research and development — for instance, the consolidated R&D and innovation expenditure for TCS was Rs 2,630 crore in 2024-25 (around 1 per cent of its turnover), and the standalone R&D spending of Infosys was Rs 850 crore in 2025 (0.62 per cent of its revenue) — will firms be able to move up the value chain? And with companies drawing up plans for a future where AI and automation play an increasingly large role, will the business model of IT companies change, and what will be the impact of these changes on the labour market in India? The IT sector will need to navigate these turbulent times carefully.

BOARD OF HER OWN

Divya Deshmukh’s victory in FIDE Women’s World Cup showcases the depth of women’s chess in India

INDIAN CHESS HAD a breakthrough moment on Monday when Divya Deshmukh defeated veteran compatriot Koneru Humpy in the final of the FIDE Women’s World Cup in Batumi, Georgia. At 38, Humpy is twice Deshmukh’s age, which made the final a true clash of generations: Humpy, the original trailblazer of women’s chess in India, became the country’s first woman to claim the grandmaster title, while Deshmukh is the fastest comet to shoot past the skies and become a grandmaster. Her meteoric rise can be gauged from the fact that just last year, she had become the World Junior Champion in the girls’ category. Thirteen months later, she’s fighting for — and winning — the biggest titles on offer in the senior category.

The spectacle of two Indian women fighting it out in the final of the World Cup, an event where 107 players from 46 nations competed, is special. But what makes the win even more significant is the fact that while two Indians were in the final, two Chinese players — former women’s world champion Tan Zhongyi and Lei Tingjie — were fighting for third place after losing to the two Indians. China is a powerhouse of the women’s event, having given the world six out of the 17 women’s world champions in history. This includes the current women’s world champion, Ju Wenjun, and the current World No 1, Hou Yifan. Humpy and Deshmukh defeated four of the nine Chinese players who came to Batumi. The FIDE Women’s World Cup was another demonstration of India’s increasing depth in the women’s event. Last year, the Indian women’s team, spearheaded by Deshmukh, had claimed a gold medal in the Women’s Chess Olympiad, the most prestigious team event in the largely individual sport.

The good news for Indian women chess is that it’s not just about Deshmukh and Humpy. In Harika Dronavalli, the country has another veteran who has been around for decades now. And there are players like Vaishali Rameshbabu and Vantika Agrawal, who will be the torchbearers of women’s chess for India in the coming decades. At the World Cup, besides Deshmukh and Humpy, Rameshbabu and Agrawal also made it to the quarter finals — India had the most representation at that stage. Having conquered the Olympiad and the World Cup, the next step now for the likes of Deshmukh and Humpy will be to qualify for the Women’s World Championship — and to win it.

NOT TOO MATCHA

Demand for matcha now outpaces the supply. For the cool, that is bad news

THE GLOBAL DEMAND for matcha, the rich, strikingly green-coloured Japanese tea lighting up everybody’s social media feeds in recent times, has officially outpaced its supply. The explosion in its popularity came after influencers discovered matcha, thanks to an uptick in tourism to and exports from Japan after the Covid pandemic. Since then, it has become a green flag on the road to aspiration — it is a common feature in elite cafes from Gurugram to Los Angeles. But owing to US tariffs on Japan, heatwaves impacting the production of tencha — the leaves matcha is made of — and dwindling numbers of farmers harvesting them, matcha’s production and export is falling at an alarming rate. For the hashtag cool kids, that is bad news.

In a world reeling from the chaos of unpredictable trade wars, the matcha story is an example of how even a niche product might be hit by the calculus of demand and supply. Brought to Japan by the Chinese at the end of the 12th century, much of matcha’s popularity owes itself to an accidental technique that the Japanese embraced to allow it to grow during the country’s harsh winters. They covered it with straw and reed, protecting it from frost and sun, and allowing its colour to steep. As demand escalates and retailers set limits on how much customers can buy, the Japanese government is now encouraging what was once a carefully curated process to be converted into a larger-scale production of tencha. But that risks sacrificing the quality of matcha.

In the rise and fall of matcha, there is also a larger story that runs alongside the tension driven by contradictory forces in a world in transition — one that features the famous villain called climate change, already wreaking havoc on products as diverse as coffee and gin and tonic. Globalisation enabled matcha’s exposure to the world; the move towards protectionism now threatens it. Whether the story will end with a promising sip of matcha is anyone’s guess.



JAWED ASHRAF

UK-India FTA is a template for other agreements. It serves Delhi’s economic and geopolitical objectives

THE FORMAL SIGNING of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) headlined Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to the UK. Since leaving the EU, “Global” Britain has been on a spree to conclude or join FTAs. After a period of FTA pause, India, too, is on an accelerated pursuit of trade agreements. Though neither is the other’s major trading partner, the salience of CETA lies in the symbolism and substance, the future potential, the many tangible and intangible dimensions of this partnership, and the infusion of strength into a relationship that faces challenges not from customary colonial memories, but from contemporary challenges to India’s security and integrity.

CETA’s significance also derives from its ambition. FTAs either cover areas that fall within the mandate of the WTO or go deeper in covering commitments and harmonisation on a range of national economic policy issues to facilitate stronger economic partnership among signatories. CETA embodies the latter. The two governments have hailed CETA as a landmark agreement because of the balance of openings and protections, coverage and scope and also because, from India’s standpoint, it is the first comprehensive one with a major Western partner that defines the template for others, including with the EU.

CETA is historic for another reason. It is an important milestone in India’s — as in the world’s — growing reliance on bilateralism and regionalism at a time when the multilateral trade regime is eroding as its architect, which is still the world’s most powerful economy, turns its back on it. President Donald Trump has abandoned the foundational principle of the global trade regime. As in other domains, the US no longer finds the system it created useful or attractive. Trump has accelerated a longer-term trend in the US since the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) of 2008 towards trade hesitancy, if not hostility, and protectionism, through the successive tenures of presidents Barack Obama, Trump and Joe Biden. There is a bipartisan consensus that the US will not surrender its sovereignty to the binding rule-making role of the WTO. The current sentiments will continue to shape the US political economy.

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India signed a spate of agreements during the UPA era, mostly in Asia. However, not all of them were with competitors like ASEAN, but also with complementary economies like Japan and Korea. That these agreements had disappointing outcomes was as much due to their terms as to our lack of competitiveness. Their lessons are shaping the choice of partners and the terms of the agreements, and alignment with domestic policies and incentives. Nonetheless, global trends point to an enhanced need for comprehensive FTAs.



ADITI NAYAR

THE FISCAL HEALTH of the Centre and the states is a key part of the overall macro picture. This article analyses the fiscal trends for a large sample of 17 state governments (excluding Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim) for FY2025 and what they augur for the current fiscal and the medium term. These states account for about 90 per cent of India’s GDP. Typically, a wide variation has been observed in the states’ actual fiscal metrics relative to the Budget and Revised Estimates. Therefore, the focus here is on the trends revealed by the provisional actuals (PA) for FY2025 relative to the actual position in the previous year.

The FY2025 PA indicates a widening in the combined fiscal deficit of 17 states to Rs 9.5 trillion (3.2 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product or GSDP) from Rs 7.8 trillion (2.9 per cent of GSDP) in FY2024. This was driven by the near-doubling of their revenue deficit to Rs 2.1 trillion (0.7 per cent of the GSDP) in FY2025 PA from Rs 1.1 trillion (0.4 per cent of GSDP) in FY2024, and to a relatively smaller extent by a rise in capital spending (by Rs 678 billion or 0.2 per cent of GSDP).

The spike in revenue deficit levels in FY2025 was due to a moderation in the pace of growth of revenue receipts, which increased to 6.3 per cent in FY2025 from 7.9 per cent in FY2024, amid a stable year-on-year rise of 9 per cent in revenue expenditure.

The rise in the states’ revenue deficit in FY2025 is in contrast to the compression at

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A LIMITED BORROWING SPACE

Assistance by Centre has played a key role in boosting capital expenditure of states

the Centre. A higher share of revenue deficit in the fiscal deficit is not a favourable outcome for state finances. This indicates that the limited borrowing space is partly used towards funding the revenue expenditure, which tends to be less productive compared to capital spending. For instance, the total capital spending of the 17 states in FY2025 PA comprised 78 per cent, lower than the trend during FY2022-24, wherein 80-90 per cent of the fiscal deficit was attributed to capex.

The combined capital spending of the 17 states was Rs. 7.4 trillion in FY2025 PA, Rs 678 billion higher than the amount spent in FY2024. The incremental capex of the states in FY2025 PA was sharply lower than the incremental spending of Rs 910-1,120 billion during FY2022-FY2024. Another discouraging trend is the undershooting in capex relative to the Revised Estimates (RE) by Rs 1.1 trillion, once again in contrast to the overshoot seen for the Centre. The capex of the states in FY2025 till the end of February was lower than the spending in the previous year. In March 2025, the states’ capex surged by 42 per cent YoY to Rs 2.2 trillion from Rs 1.5 trillion in March 2024, led by a pick-up in spending by Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. As much as 30 per cent of the annual combined capex of the sample states was incurred in March 2025, much higher than the proportion of spending seen in March 2024. Incidentally,

back-ended capex is one of the reasons that the states’ borrowing through state government securities tends to spike in March.

The amounts disbursed by the GoI to the states under the special assistance for capital expenditure (capex loan scheme) in recent years have played a key role in boosting spending on capex. In FY2025, Rs 1.5 trillion was disbursed as capex loans to all states, up from Rs 1.1 trillion in FY2024. Based on the previous shares, the proportion of 17 states in the capex loan in FY2025 is estimated at Rs 1.13 trillion, up from Rs 0.8 trillion in FY2024. This suggests that the increase in the capex loan funded over 40 per cent of the incremental capital spending of the sample set in FY2025.

For the budget estimates of FY2026, 17 states have indicated capital spending of Rs 9.5 trillion, 29.2 per cent higher on a YoY basis or an incremental spending of Rs 2.1 trillion in FY2026, relative to the FY2025 PA. This is double the average incremental capex of Rs 1 trillion during FY2022-FY2024, and appears somewhat implausible.

Beyond FY2026, the recommendations of the Finance and Pay Commissions, as well as changes related to GST compensation cess, will cast an indelible mark on the evolution of state finance. Any incentives towards maximising capex within the permitted borrowing space and fiscal deficit anchor would certainly be valuable.

The writer is chief economist, head- Research & Outreach, ICRA

JULY 30, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

A PROBE IN HARYANA

JUSTICE JASWANT SINGH, retired judge of the Supreme Court, has been asked by the government to hold an inquiry into the charges levelled against Haryana Chief Minister Bhajan Lal by some state Opposition leaders and MPs. The decision to refer this matter to Justice Jaswant Singh was taken at a meeting of the Political Affairs Committee of the cabinet.

AASU DEADLINE

YET ANOTHER ROUND of official-level talks to resolve the foreigners issue in Assam commenced with the agitationists threatening to

renew the stir if an acceptable solution was not reached by Independence Day. AASU president Prafulla Mahanta, after the three-hour meeting with R D Pradhan, said there was hope of a solution and added, “We are going to talk on Tuesday again. The threat was conveyed to Mr Pradhan.”

NUCLEAR TEST BAN

THE SOVIET COMMUNIST Party general secretary, Mikhail Gorbachyov, declared that his country had decided to unilaterally stop any nuclear explosion, beginning August 6. In a statement, he called upon the US to do the same. The ban will begin on the

40th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

JNANPITH AWARD

THE TWENTIETH JNANPITH Award for the year 1984 has been given to Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai, popular Malayalam novelist and short story writer. This is the third time that the award has gone to Malayalam. The annual Jnanpith Award of Rs 1.5 lakh, given for the best creative writing by an Indian citizen in any of the 15 languages, has gone four times each to Hindi and Kannada, thrice to Bengali, and once each to Assamese, Gujarati, Marathi, Oriya, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.



# West vs Rest, a fiction

Many are keen to proclaim the decline of the Western global order. But its legacies of reason, scepticism, individual liberty and secularism continue to be powerful magnets all over the world



**SPEAKING AT THE 1957 Moscow Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties, Chinese communist leader Mao Zedong declared that the "East wind will prevail over the West". The occasion was the 40th anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. For Mao, the "East wind" meant the "socialist camp" (led by the Soviet Union and China), and the "West wind" represented the capitalist countries (led by the US). He declared that the balance of world forces had shifted decisively in favour of the socialist camp in the middle of the 20th century.**

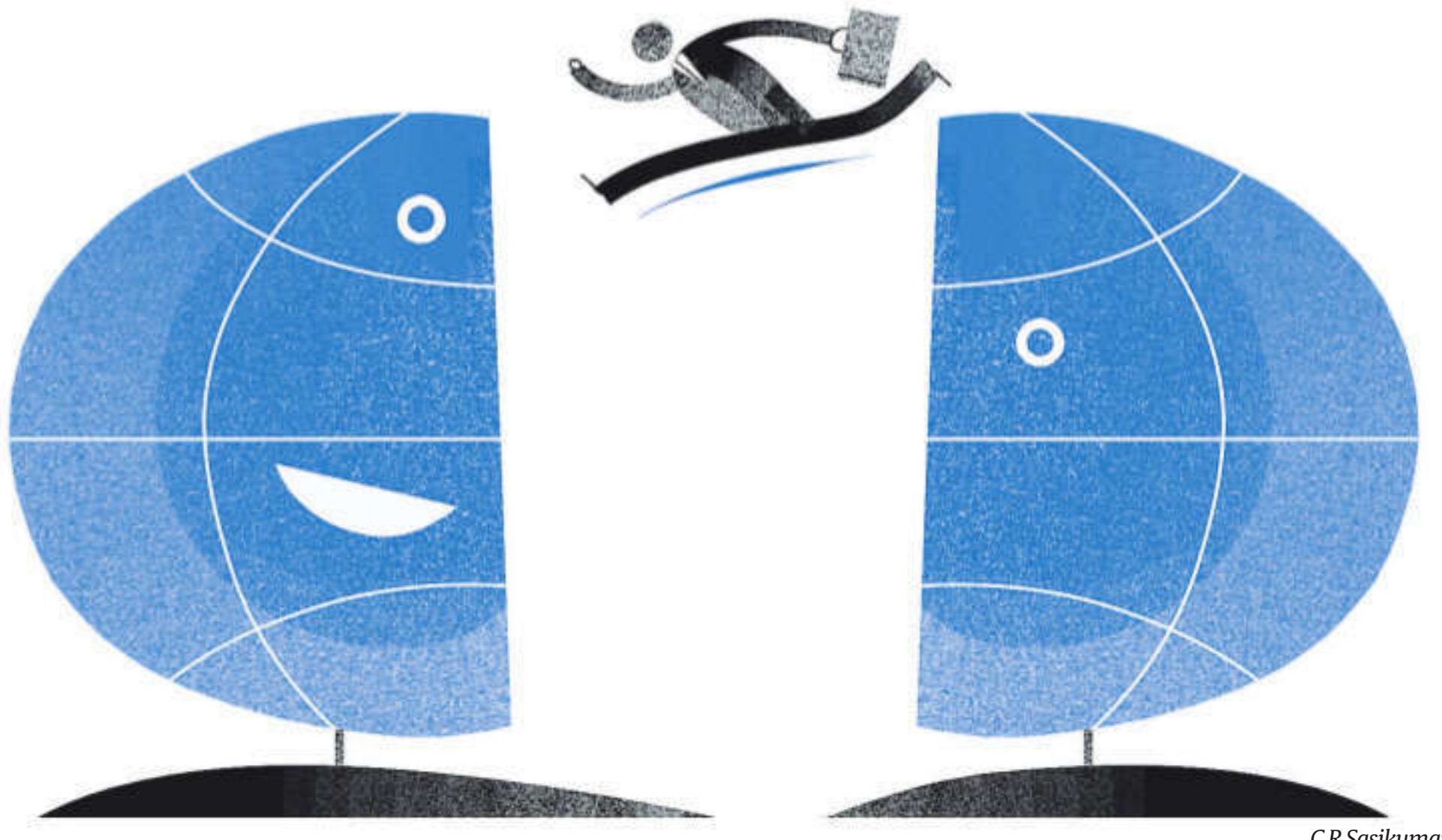
The idea that the West is in decline and that it will soon be swamped by the rising tide of "the rest" has been a recurrent theme since the encounter between the West and the rest began several centuries ago. Here is the problem. The West refuses to disappear, and the rest is having a difficult time taking charge.

Mao himself embarked on a fight with the Soviet Union barely two years after making the grand declaration on the rise of the East wind. He broke the socialist camp, divided the communist movement all over the world, and paved the way for an alliance between Communist China and the "evil empire", the US. The marriage between Western capital and the Chinese market produced a breathtaking global economic expansion for nearly five decades. It also made Beijing the second most important power — economic, technological and military — in the world.

A risen China now talks again of leading the East, now rebranded as the "Global South" or the "Global Majority" to victory against a declining West. Declinism is also in fashion in Western academia and think tanks. Many fear the barbarians from the East are ready to show up at the gates. The fear in the West is matched by the irrational exuberance in the rest about the impending collapse of the US-led world order.

Sceptics might say, not so fast. They point to US President Donald Trump's entirely unanticipated initial successes in single-handedly rewriting the rules of global trade. The rest did not join hands to counter Trump. Most of them have queued up to negotiate bilateral trade agreements with him. The claim that Trump is winning is vigorously contested. Is Trump accelerating the decline of the American empire and the West, or is he heralding its resurgence? While the debate on this question will continue, Amitav Acharya, one of the leading scholars of international relations, puts the debate in a deep historical perspective.

Acharya's new book, *The Once and Future World Order*, seeks to dismantle the conceptions of global order built around the rise of the West. He reminds us that there was a world before the West and another after it. Acharya argues that the pursuit of order — rules, norms, and institutions that enable peace and promote commerce — did not begin with the modern West. He suggests it is rooted in ancient, diverse civilisations. Join FREE Telegram Channel chat.whatsapp.com/HDvqPnxvwWb3Agy98nVaIQ



C R Sasikumar

across the world. Far from a future dominated by a new hegemon or descending into chaos, he foresees a decentralised, inclusive system drawing on both Western and non-Western traditions.

Acharya asserts that ancient Sumer, China, India, Greece, Mesoamerica, and the Islamic world all devised ways to manage interstate relations. While the post-World War II Liberal International Order led by the US shaped the modern age, Acharya sees it as just one chapter in a longer global history.

The Western-led order, forged through empire, conquest, exploitation and ruthless Cold War geopolitics, was never as universal or complete as its proponents claimed. Global norms evolved through continuous cross-civilisational borrowing. The West never monopolised the ideals of peace, law, or cooperation.

In confronting anxieties about Western decline, Acharya offers a different narrative. Rather than a harbinger of disorder, the erosion of Western primacy creates space for a more equitable global structure. He introduces the concept of a "multiplex" order — where no single state dominates, and multiple actors, from states to international institutions and non-state players, share responsibility for shaping norms.

Rejecting both the "clash of civilisations" thesis and the idea of an inevitable Chinese hegemony, Acharya advocates a cooperative system grounded in civilisational pluralism. He envisions a world not of imposed norms but of negotiated consensus — a "confluence of civilisations". This future demands learning from each other, not dominance. *The Once and Future World Order* is a timely corrective to the dominant narratives in the West and the East. Acharya's central message is that the rise of non-Western actors is not a crisis but a chance to build a fairer, more representative system.

Acharya's hopeful vision of a multiplex order is persuasive but incomplete. It downplays serious constraints in the East that hinder its capacity to shape a just and effective global order. These include authoritarianism, the rise of a state that is free to curb individual freedoms in the name of claimed collec-

tive interests, violent politics based on exclusive religious, caste, and linguistic identities, and the empowerment of violent vigilante groups that destroy social peace.

There is no question that China has been the most successful non-Western world state in bringing economic prosperity and in rooting out the feudal vestiges. But it is yet to redeem the Chinese national movement's promise to deliver democracy to its people. Externally, China is unable to overcome the temptations of national chauvinism and the urge to dominate its neighbourhood. That, in turn, shatters ideas of Asian unity and the Chinese ability to lead a compact of the rest against the West.

If the Western oppression is real, the Eastern ones are worse. Meanwhile, students, scientists, technologists, entrepreneurs, the rich and political dissidents from the East continue to migrate to the West, if they can. The soft power of the West remains a powerful magnet to those who see themselves as suffocating under the Eastern regimes.

Acharya's critique of Western dominance is compelling, but not all aspects of the Western legacy can or should be discarded. The Enlightenment ideals of the 17th and 18th centuries — reason, scepticism, science, individual liberty, and secularisation of society away from religious dominance — are at the very foundation of Western primacy in the last three centuries.

If the East wishes to lead in shaping the world order, it must engage these ideals critically and constructively. Any notion that the East can rise by short-circuiting these values is an illusion. It only delays and derails the effort to rise. The battles against political, religious, and other absolutisms remain to be fought and won in the East. Until then, a rising East will not present an alternative model — only a different and less attractive one. The profound internal contradictions within and across the East will continue to keep it well behind the West.

The writer is distinguished fellow at the Council for Defence and Strategic Research and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

LAST WEEK, THE Supreme Court (SC) stayed the precedential effect of a carefully reasoned Bombay High Court (HC) verdict that acquitted 12 persons accused in the 2006 Mumbai train bombings. The stay, without giving substantive reasons, is worrying.

The case arose out of one of the most horrific terror attacks India has seen. On July 11, 2006, a series of seven coordinated bomb blasts ripped through compartments of Mumbai's trains, killing 187 people and injuring over 800. The Anti-Terrorism Squad of the Maharashtra Police took over the investigation, resulting in the arrest of 13 persons. The accused were charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, 1999 (MCOCA), the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA), as well as the Explosive Substances Act, 1908. In 2015, a special court convicted 12 of them, sentencing five to death and the rest to life imprisonment. Its judgment relied heavily on the confessional statements made by some of the accused under Section 18 of MCOCA, declaring them "voluntary and truthful" despite the defence arguing that they were the result of torture and emphasising that they were subsequently retracted.

Since the death sentence had been imposed, the case was referred to the Bombay HC for confirmation. The persons sentenced to life imprisonment also filed appeals, and these cases were heard together by a Division Bench. In a 671-page judgment, the HC examined every aspect of the prosecution's case, finding its narrative to be riddled with inconsistencies and lacking in conclusive proof. Among other things, the court found that several key eyewitness testimonies were wholly unreliable, with some witnesses coming forward after more than 100 days of silence. The ability of witnesses to identify the accused in court after more than four years was doubted.

Crucially, the HC declared that the invocation of the stringent MCOCA was improper. When prior approval for invoking that Act was granted, information about the existence of the legal ingredients and conditions was clearly not furnished before the approving authority. Also, the "prior" approval was found to be without application of mind. Another key ingredient for the invocation of MCOCA is that there must be a "continuing unlawful activity", as defined in that Act, and that condition was not fulfilled. The HC also held that the confessions relied on by the prosecution were inadmissible due to evidence of brutal torture, lack of voluntariness, and procedural violations under MCOCA, including defective "prior" approvals and identical statements. It noted medical evidence of injuries, retractions made immediately upon judicial custody, and the absence of critical details like the bombs' chemistry, all of which undermined the credibility of the alleged confessions. The court also noted the failure of police to prove voluntariness through oral evidence and the striking fact

The writer is a senior advocate, Supreme Court of India

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The US, which recognises that Syria's disintegration is not in its interests, has sought to rein Israel in and must continue doing so." — THE GUARDIAN

# Unprecedented, without justification

Supreme Court decision to stay the precedential effect of Bombay High Court acquittals in train blast case is worrying



RAJU RAMACHANDRAN

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that the accused had remained silent for months in custody. They allegedly confessed only after MCOCA was invoked: A pattern that undermined the genuineness of the statements.

The HC ultimately acquitted all 12 of the accused, concluding that the prosecution "utterly failed to establish the offence beyond a reasonable doubt against the accused on each count". The acquittal alerts us to the disturbing fact that the actual masterminds of the 2006 Mumbai train blasts have remained scot-free for nearly two decades. It is particularly pertinent to pay heed to a preliminary paragraph in the HC's judgment, where it emphasises the dangers of "creating a false appearance of having solved a case by presenting that the accused have been brought to justice". This, the HC rightly notes, "undermines public trust and falsely reassures society, while in reality, the true threat remains at large".

The stay order by the SC is jarring for several reasons. The first is the summary manner in which the Court, "taking note of the submissions made by the learned Solicitor General on the question of law", said it was "inclined to hold that the impugned judgment shall not be treated as a precedent in any other pending proceedings". Based on this, the SC ordered "there shall be a stay on the operation of the impugned judgment" to that extent. For the Court to "hold" something, normally, both sides would be heard, and the Court would provide a reason. Instead, the stay order appears to be solely based on the assertion of the Solicitor General. There is no mention of any specific questions of law, or even the potential impact of the judgment as precedent. The SC order does not even refer to the tests it typically applies while determining whether a stay is to be granted. It makes no mention of whether the state has made out a prima facie case, whether the balance of convenience lies on its side, or how irreparable damage might be caused if the HC judgment is not stayed.

Second, the stay order appears to undermine the HC's authority. The HC is not only a constitutional court, but also the mandatory reference court for death sentences, and the first appellate court meant to decide authoritatively on both facts and law. To summarily strip a judgment from such a body of its precedential value is unfair and demoralising.

Third, and perhaps most important, is the signal the order sends out. This must be viewed in a broader context concerning cases involving terror offences, where there are often myriad pressures on the judiciary to secure a conviction to placate public outcry. In these cases, it takes a certain degree of judicial courage and integrity to focus on the particular questions of fact and law that arise in a case without being swayed by general public discourse. The HC's judgment was a bold affirmation of the principle that the judicial task is to dispassionately weigh evidence and uphold the law, however horrifying the crime. The judgment acknowledged the tragedy of the lives lost and harm caused, but refused to sacrifice the lives of innocent persons for the sake of a "false appearance" of closure. Viewed in this broader context, the stay order sends a disconcerting message that even the most thorough and well-reasoned acquittals in these kinds of sensitive cases may be suspended on the basis of assertions by the state.

The writer is a senior advocate, Supreme Court of India

# A roadmap for learning

Surveys like PRS 2024 can provide key insights for a stronger education system



JAYANT CHAUDHARY

IN RECENT YEARS, education in India has not only expanded in scale but matured in ambition. Our reforms today are about quality, pedagogy, and learning outcomes. We have made a deliberate shift towards ensuring that every child in the country not only attends school but also truly learns. To understand if that is happening, we must pause and ask the right questions. What are our children learning? Are schools enabling them to build essential skills at each stage of their education? These questions require reliable, scientific answers.

As an expert noted, "Students can learn despite poor teaching, but they cannot overcome poor assessment." This reminder is crucial because the best way to determine the effectiveness of our education system is through large-scale assessments. These analyses macro trends to determine educational effectiveness. They find patterns in data from different locations, subjects, grades, and schools. This form of evaluation helps teachers and policymakers understand the strengths and weaknesses of students. Overall, it helps diagnose systemic issues and buttress policymaking.

Over the past two decades, India has gradually built capacity in this area. Advancing from the National Achievement Surveys (NAS) to PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan (PRS) 2024, the scale of the survey has grown to cover 21.15 lakh students in 74,229 schools across the country. Students from Grades III, VI, and IX were assessed to correspond with the end of

the foundational, preparatory, and middle stages of schooling. These stages are now well-established under the new curricular structure in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

At the foundational stage, the data show that India has not only recovered from the learning losses of the pandemic but, in many cases, surpassed earlier benchmarks. In Grade III, 57 per cent of children demonstrated proficiency or above in Language, up from 39 per cent in 2021 and 47 per cent in 2017. In Mathematics, the figure has jumped to 65 per cent, compared to 42 per cent in 2021. These gains reflect the serious and sustained efforts made under the NIPUN Bharat Mission, underscoring how targeted support, teacher mentoring, and early-grade interventions are beginning to bear fruit. The data also show that government schools in rural areas have, in some cases, outperformed their urban and private counterparts in foundational grades. This is a significant development, demonstrating what focused, systemic reform can achieve. However, as we move to Grades VI and IX, the picture becomes more complex. Central government schools have performed well overall, but marginal gaps persist by gender and region, particularly in Mathematics and Science. These are areas that need urgent focus.

Many comparisons have been made between PRS 2024 and earlier surveys, which are misplaced and require clarification. The struc-

ture of the assessment has changed. Earlier surveys focused on Grades V and VIII, whereas this edition concentrates on Grades VI and IX, aligning with the new curricular stages. Moreover, the shift from textbook learning outcomes to competencies means the assessment tools are fundamentally different. Directly comparing a Grade V outcome from NAS 2021 with a Grade VI outcome from 2024 is methodologically unsound. Only Grade III scores are comparable across all three surveys, and the improvement in these scores is established. Any interpretation that suggests a decline in performance based on comparisons with other grades risks misrepresenting the actual story.

What we now have is not just a report card, but a roadmap. The actual value of the data from the survey lies in how they are used locally. PRS provides district-level insights, and it is now the responsibility of states, districts, and school systems to translate these findings into granular, need-based interventions. Every state and UT will need to study its data — where learning levels are strong, where gaps persist, which support systems are working and which are not. The Centre will continue to provide guidance, frameworks, and resources; however, the real impact will come from what is done at the school and district levels. Our goal is not just to meet national benchmarks, but to achieve international comparability, and we are steadily moving in that direction.

The importance of assessments, however, does not end with school education. We must also focus on how young people transition into the world of work, entrepreneurship, and economic participation. Skills matter as much as academics. That is why, soon, the government will initiate a qualitative, large-scale skills assessment that will help us understand the skill-readiness of our population, map regional variations, and plan targeted interventions in vocational education and skilling. The recent adoption of a data-driven ITI grading system and inclusion of NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) in the PLFS exercise is also aimed at providing key inputs for our reform process.

The ambition is to link learning to livelihood, ensuring that every young Indian is not only educated but also employable, entrepreneurial, and equipped to contribute meaningfully to the country's development.

PRS 2024 is a powerful reflection of how far we have come. But it is also a signal of what lies ahead. As we build stronger foundations in school education and expand the horizon of skill development, we remain committed to a system that is inclusive, evidence-driven, and future ready.

The writer is Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Minister of State for Education, Government of India

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TEST IS BEST

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A beautiful draw' (IE, July 29). It goes without saying that both Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sunder so patiently yet bravely standing like a rock against the fiery English bowling attack in Manchester, could not be child's play. For sure, England and their captain, Ben Stokes, would have never dreamt of such a dramatic end to this match, which could be akin to a victory for Team India. However, there is no room for any complacency on the part of the Indian team either, with one more Test match to go.

SK Gupta, via email

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A beautiful draw' (IE, July 29). The glowing tribute paid to the grit of Indian cricket by this editorial is a memorable one. Even considering the various lows and highs of these five days, an interesting highlight was the tenacity of the players against all provocations and traps. This game will be remembered for a long time by cricket fans all over the world and the heroic efforts of all involved will inspire the budding talent scattered in bylanes of our town and villages.

Sanjeev Raina, Greater Noida

### A MAN OF PRINCIPLE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Gentle crusader' (IE, July 29). Sumit Chakravarty was a doyen of journalism who was highly respected by his contemporaries and society at large for his steadfast dedication to the profession. He stepped into journalism not to make contacts with those in power but to be the voice of the disadvantaged. He stood up for freedom of the press to the establishment, whatever the consequences. His refusal to accept the much-coveted Padma Bhushan speaks volumes about his being a man of high principles.

SH Quadri, Bikaner

### MANSA STAMPEDE

THIS REFERS TO the report, '8 killed, 30 injured in stampede near Mansa...' (IE, July 28). It has become the order of the day that whenever people assemble in numbers to visit temples or religious places of importance, or attend victory celebrations of sports, elections etc, stampedes occur, resulting in the death of hundreds of devotees, fans and admirers. We have not learnt any lesson from previous stampedes.

Tharcus S Fernando, Chennai







**Office of the Superintending Engineer Water Resources Circle Pali**  
Notice Inviting Bid (NIB No. - 05/2025-26)  
Notice inviting Bid for Construction of Anicut at Sangwara Nallah, Village - Panchdeval, Tehsil - Pindwara, District-Sirohi Rs 436.86 Lacs in the State of Rajasthan India invited from interested bidders' Date of sale of Bid 25.07.2025, 09:00 AM to 25.08.2025 upto 01:00 PM. Date of receiving of Bid 25.08.2025 up to 06:00 PM and Bid will be opened on 26.08.2025 at 5:00 PM. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> and <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> of the state; and Water Resources department Rajasthan website.  
NIB No.: WRD252A0259  
URN No.: WRD2526WSOB00718  
Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer  
Water Resources Circle Pali

**UJVN LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Telephone.: 0135 - 2763508, 2763808 Fax- 0135 - 2763507  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [uttarakhandvidyut.com](http://uttarakhandvidyut.com)

Ref. No.: 515 **NOTICE INVITING TENDER** Dated : 29.07.2025

Office of the Executive Engineer, PCM(GV), Mayapur, Haridwar invites sealed & separate tender from interested bidders. Brief summary of tender is given below:-

- 1. Tender Notice Reference:**  
NIT No. - 09/2025-26/EC/PCM(GV)/Mayapur:- Hiring of Diesel Vehicle with Driver for DGM(CM-GV), Mayapur-Haridwar for the Year 2025-26.
- 2. Estimated Value of Tender:-** Rs. 5,10,000.00 respectively, excluding GST.
- 3. Date of availability of bid document on website:-** 30.07.2025 from 13:00 Hrs.
- 4. Last Date for Submission of Tender:-** 20.08.2025 upto 13:00 Hrs. For eligibility criteria and full and further details kindly visit our website. The tender can be downloaded from our website i.e. <http://ujvnll.com> and tender cost shall be paid at the time of submission of the tender.

Executive Engineer, PCM (GV), Mayapur, Haridwar  
**"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"**

**कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-17**  
कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज  
**उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)**  
कृष्णा नगर, मधुवा-281004 (उप्रम)  
मोबाइल : 8800911902  
ई-मेल: pm17cde@gmail.com

L. No. : 846/M-14/213  
Dated : 29.07.2025

**ई-निविदा सूचना**  
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम की ओर से अधोहस्तार्षी द्वारा **BARBED WIRE FENCING ON EXISTING BOUNDARY WALL AT D.T.T. VRINDAVAN, MATHURA (U.P.)** अनुमानित लागत रु 10.40 लाख (जीएएसटी सहित एवं लेबर सेस सहित) हेतु सीओ एण्ड डीएएसओ के माध्यम से निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक **30.08.2025** से अपरान्ह 15:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध की जाती है। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक **30.07.2025** से दिनांक **29.08.2025** के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक **30.08.2025** को 15:30 बजे परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-17, सीओएण्ड डीएएसओ, उप्रम जल निगम (नगरीय), मधुवा में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रु 2,000.00 + GST@18% कुल रु 2,360.00 देय होगा। ई-निविदा से सम्बंधित विस्तृत विवरण बिभाग की वेबसाइट [www.cdsupjn.org](http://www.cdsupjn.org) एवं प्रोक्वोरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त बुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही उपलब्ध किये जायेंगे, इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

**NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI**  
An Autonomous Organization under  
Ministry of Education  
Department of School Education & Literacy  
Govt. of India  
**NOTIFICATION FOR EXTENSION OF LAST DATE TO SUBMIT ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR CLASS VI JNVST 2026**  
Online registration for Admission to Class-VI (session 2026-27) in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas through selection test is in progress. The last date of submission of online applications is extended up to 13rd August, 2025. Eligible candidates may apply free of cost by visiting the link <https://cbseitms.rcil.gov.in/nvs>.

Issued by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti

**NPCL NOIDA POWER COMPANY LIMITED**  
CIN: U31200UP1992PLC014506

**Notice Inviting Bids for Procurement of Power on Short Term basis**

Bids are invited by "Noida Power Company Limited having its registered office at Electric Sub-station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida - 201310 (U.P.)" for procurement of up to 140 MW during 01.04.2026 to 31.10.2026 as per the Guidelines of Ministry of Power, Gol dated 30.03.2016. Bid Document is available on [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com).

The Company reserves the right to reject all or any of the Bids or cancel the bidding process at any stage without assigning any reasons whatsoever and without any liability.

For any clarification, contact at e-mail [ipowertradingnpcl@rpsg.in](mailto:ipowertradingnpcl@rpsg.in) or mobile no. 9718804966.

Head (Power Management Services)

**NPCL NOIDA POWER COMPANY LIMITED**  
CIN: U31200UP1992PLC014506

**Notice Inviting Bids for Procurement of Non-Solar Renewable Power on Short Term basis**

Bids are invited by "Noida Power Company Limited having its registered office at Electric Sub-station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida - 201310 (U.P.)" for procurement of up to 100 MW non-solar renewable power during 01.04.2026 to 31.10.2026 as per the Guidelines of Ministry of Power, Gol dated 30.03.2016. Bid Document is available on [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com).

The Company reserves the right to reject all or any of the Bids or cancel the bidding process at any stage without assigning any reasons whatsoever and without any liability.

For any clarification, contact at e-mail [ipowertradingnpcl@rpsg.in](mailto:ipowertradingnpcl@rpsg.in) or mobile no. 9718804966.

Head (Power Management Services)

**चौधरी रणबीर सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, जौन**  
Chaudhary Ranbir Singh University, Jind  
(A Haryana State Government University)  
(Established by the Haryana State Legislature Act 28 of 2014 and recognized by UGC Act 1956 U/S 2(f) & 12-B)

**Ph.D. Admission Notice (2025-26)**

Online Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission in Ph.D. programme for the Academic Session 2025-26 latest by **31.07.2025 (upto 05:00 p.m.)**. The prospectus for admission in Ph.D. programme including schedule for admission, fee structure and number of seats (category wise) in each department is available on the University website: [www.crsu.ac.in](http://www.crsu.ac.in)

Sd/-  
REGISTRAR

**MAHA MUMBAI METRO OPERATION CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Government of Maharashtra PSU)

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, NaMTRE Building, Adjoining New MMRDA Building, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051. Website: <https://mahatenders.gov.in> / [www.mmmocl.co.in](http://www.mmmocl.co.in)

**e-TENDER NOTICE**

Maha Mumbai Metro Operation Corporation Limited (MMMOCL) invites bids from eligible Bidders through e-Tendering as detailed below:

Name of Tender/ Bid	Invitation for Bids for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of the Mumbai Monorail (Sant Gadge Maharaj chowk to Chembur).
Contact Details	dp@mmmocl.co.in
Bid Document Download	29.07.2025 (11:00 Hrs.) to 11.09.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)
Last Date for Online Submission	11.09.2025 (16:00 Hrs.)

The e-Tender can be downloaded from <https://mahatenders.gov.in/nicgpc/app>

Any additional information & help for uploading & downloading the e-tender may be availed by contacting Maha Tender e-tendering portal 24\*7 helpdesk at the following address: support-eproc@nic.in or call on 0120-4001002, 0120-4001005 and 0120-6277787.

Sd/-  
Managing Director, MMOCL

Date : 28.07.2025  
Place: Mumbai

**NPCL Noida Power Company Limited, Greater Noida**  
(CIN- U31200UP1992PLC014506) Electric Sub Station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida-201310

**TENDER NOTICE** Date:30.07.2025

Sealed tender under two Bid System (Commercial & Technical) are invited for following job from all interested bidders

NIT No.	Tender Description	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)	Start and Due Date & Time of Submission
NPCL/FY25-26/FEEDER PILLAR/017	ANNUAL RATE CONTRACT OF SUPPLY OF FEEDER PILLAR	9	30.07.2025 & 20.08.2025 (up to 15:00 hours)
NPCL/FY25-26/ DRDR Meter/020	Annual Rate Contract for the supply of DRDR meters	3	30.07.2025 & 20.08.2025 (up to 15:00 hours)

Cost of Individual Tender Document (Incl. GST) Rs 1180/-.

For other tender details and further amendment/corrigendum, please visit our website [www.noidapower.com](http://www.noidapower.com)->Procurement->Tenders

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH.	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH.	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA STATE ROADWAYS CORPORATION, DIVISION NO. 12, GURGAON	CONSTRUCTION OF PARKING SHAPING, PROVIDING WATER SUPPLY LINE AND SEWERAGE LINE IN SHOPPING CENTRE IN OLD JAIL LAND, GURGAON, RECONSTRUCTION OF PAVEMENT, PROVIDING AND LAYING PINK COAT AND TRUCK COAT, PAINTING 200MM GSB, 200MM WORK, 200MM TRUCK COAT, 200MM TRUCK COAT AND PROVIDING AND LAYING OF C&G PIPES OF 150 MM L&D FOR WATER SUPPLY LINE, 200MM L&D PIPES FOR SEWERAGE, CONSTRUCTION OF MANHOLE AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTAINED THEREIN (INCLUDING DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD OF 3 YEARS).	24.07.2025 07/08/2025	116.62 LACS	<a href="https://haryana.gov.in">https://haryana.gov.in</a>	0224-4859077 <a href="mailto:www.haryana@gmail.com">www.haryana@gmail.com</a>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanae-procurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanae-procurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) No. 37092/JRY

**झारखण्ड सरकार सूचना एवं जन-सम्पर्क निदेशालय**

**इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति (Expression of Interest)**

सूचना एवं जन-सम्पर्क निदेशालय, झारखण्ड, रांची द्वारा भारत के विभिन्न एयरपोर्ट पर Digital Display Board/Backlit/Standee के माध्यम से झारखण्ड सरकार के योजनाओं एवं उपलब्धियों का प्रचार-प्रसार करने हेतु दर निर्धारण एवं एजेंसियों का चयन हेतु इच्छुक उम्मीदवारों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किया जाता है। विभिन्न एयरपोर्ट पर Digital Display Board/Backlit/Standee के माध्यम से प्रचार-प्रसार के इच्छुक एजेंसी सूचीबद्धता एवं विभागों पर निर्धारण हेतु विहित प्रपत्र में निर्धारित लिखित तर्क आवेदन समर्पित कर सकते हैं। इच्छुक एजेंसी के पास उल्लिखित एयरपोर्ट का Sole Right/Agreement अथवा Agreement होना अनिवार्य है।

सूचना एवं जन-सम्पर्क निदेशालय, रांची द्वारा Digital Display Board/Backlit/Standee के माध्यम से भारत के उल्लिखित विभिन्न एयरपोर्ट पर प्रचार-प्रसार करने हेतु दर निर्धारण एवं एजेंसियों का चयन हेतु दिनांक 13-08-2025 के अपराह्न 03.00 बजे तक [jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) पर ऑनलाईन आवेदन आमंत्रित किया जाता है। प्राप्त सभी आवेदनों को दिनांक 14-08-2025 के अपराह्न 03.00 बजे तक समिति के समक्ष समीक्षा की जाएगी।

इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति के नियम एवं शर्तें [jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) एवं [www.prdjharkhand.in](http://www.prdjharkhand.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

निदेशक  
सूचना एवं जन-सम्पर्क निदेशालय, झारखण्ड, रांची

PR 358446 IPRD(25-26)D

**OFFICE OF NAGAR PALIKA PARISHAD PITHAMPUR DISTT. DHAR (M.P.)**

NIT No./4882/2025 DATED: 28.07.2025

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Online bids are invited from registered contractors/firms of repute for (1) Work of plantation by Miyawaki Method at Sanjay Jalashay Near Muktidham ward no 05 pithampur Tender No: 2025\_UAD\_440368\_1 Probable amount Rs. 245.55 Lacs, EMD Rs. 122775/- Cost of bid document Rs. 15000/- (2) Supply of Plant for plantation at various places in pithampur Tender No: 2025\_UAD\_440369\_1 Probable amount Rs. 100.00 Lacs, EMD Rs. 75000/- Cost of bid document Rs. 10000/- Last date and time of submission of bid 27.08.2025 & time: 17:30 Hrs. All other details are published on website [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in) further information or clarification (if any) shall be published on website only, and not in Newspaper.

**Chief Municipal Officer**  
Nagar Palika Parishad Pithampur

**President**  
Nagar Palika Parishad Pithampur

**MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE**

Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen 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 in spite of repeated notices, will be auctioned on 28.08.2025 from 10 am onwards.

**BILNOR DISTRICT-CIVIL LINES-BILNOR:** 4370000004, 4370000056, 4370000069, 4370000135, 4370000172, 4370000183, 4370000202, 4370000207, 4370000209, 4370000256, 4370000269, 4370000283, 4370000287, 4370000293, 4370000337, 4370000341, 4370000342, 4370000343, 4370000344, 4370000352, 4370000353, 4370000354, 4370000355, 4370000356, 4370000357, 4370000358, 4370000359, 4370000360, 4370000361, 4370000362, 4370000363, 4370000364, 4370000365, 4370000366, 4370000367, 4370000368, 4370000369, 4370000370, 4370000371, 4370000372, 4370000373, 4370000374, 4370000375, 4370000376, 4370000377, 4370000378, 4370000379, 4370000380, 4370000381, 4370000382, 4370000383, 4370000384, 4370000385, 4370000386, 4370000387, 4370000388, 4370000389, 4370000390, 4370000391, 4370000392, 4370000393, 4370000394, 4370000395, 4370000396, 4370000397, 4370000398, 4370000399, 4370000400, 4370000401, 4370000402, 4370000403, 4370000404, 4370000405, 4370000406, 4370000407, 4370000408, 4370000409, 4370000410, 4370000411, 4370000412, 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**समाहणालय, कलशानगंज**  
(बलहार ढगधनलषेध, उतुपदल अधलनलड, 2016 के अंतगत अधलहरलत (रलजसलत)  
वलहने के सलरंजनलक नीललमी की  
:: अतुप-कललीन आड सूचना ::

सरं व सलधलरण को सुलवल कलरल जलतल है कल बलहार रलजड में ढूरुण शरलब बन्दी के उतुतरलत शरलब को रने में ढुरकुत वलहन को सडलहलरल-सह-जललल दडुडलधलकरी, कलशनगंज के दुरलर अधलनलड में वलललत ढुरलकलनो के अधीन अधलहरलत कलरल गडल है, जलसे सलरंजनलक नीललमी दुरलर वलकी कलरल जलनल रलतुडलहत में आडशुडक है। तदुअललेक में नलनलललखलत वलहन/वलहनो को नीललमी "ओ है, जलही है, जेसल है, "उरी रुरलषड के आधलर ढर अओहुरलसलरी/ढुरलधलकृत ढदलधलकरी के दुरलर दलनलक 13/08/2025 को 11:00 बजे ढूरुवलहन में कनकई सडलगर, डी0आर0डी0ए0 (रवनल डवन), कलशनगंज में की जलयेगी। उक्त लललध को कलसी कलरणदश नीललमी नही होत की रलथलतल में सदुश नीललमी अगले कलरं दलवस को की जल सकेगी। डह आड सूचना नलनलकलत सूची में अंकलत वलहनो के सुवलमी के ललए डी सूचना है कल इन वलहनो को नीललमी हेतु डेडुड ओललत कलरल जल चुकल है। वलहनो कल वलवरण नलनल लललकल में अंकलत है।

नीललमी हेतु अधलहरलत (रलजसलत) वलहनो की सूची :-

क्र0	अधलहरण सं0	ढरलसर जलही वलहन सुलवलत रलल गडल है	उतुपद / थलनल कलरल सं0 एंव लललध	वलहन कल ढुरकलर	नलबंन संखुलल / ईजन नं0 / वेंवलस नं0	अधलहरलत वलहन कल नुनलत नलरललत डुडु	अडुधन की रलश (10 %)	वलहन सुवलमी कल नलड/ढलतल	अडुडुलतल
1	1301/2023	उतुपद	FIR No. 1506/2023 02.11.2023	डुलतरसलकलल	DL75AL-0967	18000.00	1800.00	Tausif, S/o- Badru, Add- 12A/168 2nd Floor, Vijay Mohalla, Maujpur, Nort East, Delhi	
2	1242/2023	उतुपद	FIR No. 1233/2023 04.09.2023	कलर	DL3CAL-0665	25000.00	2500.00	Kshitiz Pandey, S/o-Ramendra Nath Pandey, Add-2596, C-2Block, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.	रुकी
3	473/2024	उतुपद	FIR No. 120/2024 01.02.2024	डुलतरसलकलल	DL8SNB-2089	5000.00	500.00	Abdul Saleem, S/o-Abdul Majeed, Add-T-Hut-33, kalibari Marg, Gole Market, Delhi.	रुकी

1. इसकी वलसुत ढुओडल ढलर/ढलर की जलनकरी जलल के वेंडलसलई **kishanganj.nic.in** ढर देखल जल सकतल है। कलरं दलवस में वलहन कल अडुललेकन वलहन डंडलरण रललर ढर अथवल नीललमी से सलओलत अडुड जलनकरी हेतु नलरुलक डधनलषेध, कलशनगंज के (डुी0नं0-7488472914) से सडुड कलरल जल सकतल है।

वलसुत जलनकरी **state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** ढर डी देखल जल सकतल है।

PR-009721 (Excise ) 2025-26 नरी की डलर, बरवल करे सुखी ढरलवलर।

जलल ढदलधलकरी एंव सडलहलरल कलशनगंज।

**PROVIDING & FIXING SINGLE PIECE SPRING**

**E-Tender Notice No.: 43-ENGG-RNY-2025-26 Dated: 25-07-2025.** E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:

**Tender No.1. Brief Description of work:** Providing and fixing Single Piece Spring Inserted Reusable Self-Locking Steel Nut for use in steel girder bridges/track under the jurisdiction of DEN/III/Rangiya against the sanctioned work. **Tender Value:** ₹3,91,85,246/- **Earnest Money:** ₹3,45,900/-, **Date & Time of closing of tender:** 15:00 hrs. of **18-08-2025 & opened at 15:30 hrs. of 18-08-2025** at DRM (W), Rangiya office. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website **www.irops.gov.in**

**Note:** For any last minute changes of tender please check on net/ newspaper/corrigendum at the respective offices mentioned in the original tender notice before dropping.































**DRM (W), Rangiya**

**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
Serving Customers With A Smile

**उतुतर ढशुडड रेलवे**

**ई-नलवलदल आडनंनण सूचना**

डंडलत रेल ढुरलबंक, ईओीनलरलण, उतुतर ढशुडड रेलवे, ओतुडुड दुरलर डलरत के रलडुडलत के ललए एंव उनकी ओर से ई-नलवलदल के डलथुड से ढुरवललत नलडुी के अंतगत नलरललत ढुरलनो में नलवलदल नलन कलरं के ललए कुरलनुसलर आडनंनत की जलती है- ई-नलवलदल सूचना सं. **2025-26: 85** of 2025-26, कलरं कल नलड व रलथलन: Construction of RUB/LHS in lieu of LC No.C-264, C-274, C-307, 319, 331A on SMR-MBF section under ADEN/BME of Jodhpur Division. अनुडलनलत ललगत रुडुडे: 168506021.44, बडलने की रलश रुडुडे: 992500.00, ई-नलवलदल सूचना सं. **2025-26: 86** of 2025-26, कलरं कल नलड व रलथलन: Various activities in C/W Through Ballast Recoupment (TBR) 129.15 Km. & other Miscellaneous maintenance work in the section of ADEN/Barmar of Jodhpur Division. अनुडलनलत ललगत रुडुडे: 786900.00, नलवलदल सूचना संखुलल 85 of 2025-26 एंव 86 of 2025-26 नलवलदल ढुरलतुत करने की लललध 18.08.2025 को 15.00 बजे तक है वेंडलसलई कल वलवरण जलही ढर ई-नलवलदल देखल व डरी जल सकतल है- **www.irops.gov.in** **928-PS/25**

हमें                                



**SLOWLY ALLOWING CHINESE COMPANIES TO PARTNER WITH INDIAN ENTITIES**

# Amid trade upheaval, India rethinks China blockade to further tech manufacturing

**SOUMYARENDRA BARIK**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

NEARLY HALF a decade ago, India adopted a ‘China-out’ strategy of sorts, in response to the border clashes in 2020, introduced an anti-Beijing foreign investment policy, and kept Chinese firms out of critical sectors like telecommunications.

Now, however, necessitated by changing geopolitical dynamics, following US President Donald Trump’s unprecedented onslaught on global trade, and India’s own manufacturing ambitions, New Delhi is undertaking a serious rethink on the existing strategy, and is strongly considering particularly easing China-based entities’ entry into the country, with some riders. The most recent sign of the thaw came in the form of a recommendation made by the government think tank Niti Aayog, earlier this month, to ease India’s foreign direct investment (FDI) rules, which involves government scrutiny into investments made by Chinese firms. Earlier, the Economic Survey 2023-24 had sprung a surprise by advocating attracting investments from Chinese companies to boost exports.

India had earlier put restrictions on investments from China. Join FREE Whatsapp Channel chat.whatsapp.com/HDvqPnxvwWb3Agy98nValQ

## India-born Shailesh Jejurikar to be P&G CEO



**Shailesh Jejurikar.** us.pg.com

**VIVEAT SUSAN PINTO**  
MUMBAI, JULY 29

MUMBAI-BORN Shailesh Jejurikar made history on Tuesday when he was appointed the first Indian-origin president and CEO of Procter & Gamble (P&G) in its 187-year existence. Jejurikar, 58, currently the chief operating officer at P&G, will succeed incumbent Jon Moeller, effective January 1, 2026. P&G has also nominated Jejurikar for election to the director’s post at the annual shareholder meeting in October.

Moeller will become executive chairman as part of the top-level rejig, the company said, as the maker of Tide detergent and Pantene shampoo battles slowdown concerns across the globe.

India contributes about 2.5 per cent to its global revenue.

A P&G veteran of 36 years, who began as an assistant brand manager at P&G India, he rose rapidly through the ranks. **FE**

### BRIEFLY

#### Derivatives: Norms for NRIs eased

**New Delhi:** Sebi on Tuesday decided to abolish the mandatory requirement for NRIs to notify the names of clearing members or obtain a custodial participant code for trading in derivatives. **PTI**

#### Lenskart files IPO papers with Sebi

**New Delhi:** Lenskart Solutions Ltd has filed preliminary papers with Sebi seeking its approval to raise funds through an IPO. The company’s IPO involves raising Rs 2,150 crore via fresh issuance of equity shares. **PTI**

#### ‘I-T Bill does not seek rate changes’

**New Delhi:** The income tax department on Tuesday said the new I-T Bill does not seek to change any rate of taxes. **PTI**

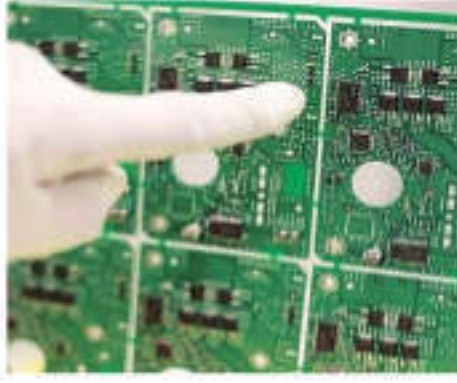
through Press Note 3 in April 2020 to curb potential opportunistic takeovers of Indian companies during the Covid-19 pandemic by making a government approval mandatory for all investments from countries sharing a land border with India, including China. It continued to be in force in the wake of national security concerns due to border tensions after the Galwan clash.

#### Early signs of a thaw

There have been some signs that India is slowly, but surely, allowing Chinese companies to partner with Indian entities. Dixon Technologies, which is a major Indian electronics assembly company, received approval from the IT Ministry to set up a joint venture with China-based Longcheer. The new company will focus on manufacturing and supplying a wide range of electronics, including smartphones, tablets, true wireless stereo (TWS) devices, smartwatches, AI-powered PCs, automotive electronics, and healthcare devices. Dixon will hold 74 per cent in the JV, and the remaining 26 per cent will be with Longcheer.

“We can not continue to avoid China. The truth is, they make things which we need for our assembly operations, and if we want to go deeper into the supply chain, we need to work with them,” said a government official said. The IT Ministry, earlier this year, notified a Rs 23,000 crore policy for electronic components manufacturing, and it is widely anticipated that Indian firms would partner with Chinese entities to participate in the scheme, given the expertise they have.

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File

EXPLAINED

Changing geopolitical dynamics

NECESSITATED BY changing geopolitical dynamics, following US President Donald Trump’s unprecedented onslaught on global trade, and India’s own manufacturing ambitions, New Delhi is undertaking a serious rethink on the existing strategy on China.

our companies have to work with Chinese companies,” a senior government official said. The IT Ministry, earlier this year, notified a Rs 23,000 crore policy for electronic components manufacturing, and it is widely anticipated that Indian firms would partner with Chinese entities to participate in the scheme, given the expertise they have.

Recently, India also resumed issuance of tourist visas to Chinese nationals as part of a broader effort to repair bilateral ties. Earlier this month, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar travelled to China where he had underlined that “differences should not become disputes” nor should “competition ever become conflict” and that while India and China have made good progress in the past nine months towards the normalisation of bilateral relations, they should work to address de-escalation on the border.

#### China out in letter, not in spirit

Of course, while the government managed to keep China out in some sectors like finished smartphones, imports from the country continued, particularly for a number of electronic components, which are crucial for the final assembly process in India, but for which New Delhi has little to no production base.

The Indian Express had earlier reported that in the financial year 2023-24, India imported electronic components worth over \$12 billion from China and \$6 billion from Hong Kong, with the two accounting for more than half of total such imports to India —

suggesting that the country’s growing footprint in electronics manufacturing was not necessarily translating into reduced reliance on Beijing.

In the last five years, electronics imports from China and Hong Kong have far outnumbered imports from other major manufacturing hubs like South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and all ASEAN countries, combined. China, for its own part, and seeing India’s growing manufacturing footprint, also imposed restrictions on its companies, making it harder for them to do business with Indian firms.

For instance, India’s share in US smartphone imports surged to nearly 36 per cent in the first five months of 2025, from about 11 per cent in 2024. China, which continues to dominate the product category, saw its share drop from 82 per cent to 49 per cent over the same period, this paper had reported earlier.

China’s actions include pulling workers out of India, and making it more difficult for India-based manufacturing companies to obtain capital goods, which are needed for the assembly process. China has also imposed a blockade on several rare earth metals and magnets, and while the prime target of that restriction is the United States, India has found itself caught in the crosshairs.

by residents of India in Switzerland,” he said. Indian money in Swiss banks more than tripled in 2024 to 3.5 billion Swiss francs (CHF), or approximately Rs 37,600 crore on the back of a huge jump in funds held through local branches and other financial institutions, news agency PTI had reported last month.

On the query to provide details of outstanding tax demand raised from the data shared with India via Automatic Exchange of Information under India-Switzerland tax agreement, the Minister said there is no centralised data for the specific query on country-wise undisclosed foreign income and the action taken. “Tax demand arising in cases of undisclosed foreign income or assets can pertain to multiple jurisdictions. Country-wise bifurcation of such demand is not maintained centrally,” Chaudhary said.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
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# Govt raised tax demand of ₹35,104 cr under foreign black money law over last 10 years

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE GOVERNMENT has raised tax demand of Rs 35,104 crore under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 over the last decade, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. However, recovery amount in the form of tax, penalty and interest demand under the Act has been much lower at Rs 338 crore during July 1, 2015 to March 31, 2025 along with 163 prosecution complaints filed till March 31, 2025, data shared in the Upper House showed.

In a written response to a question by CPI(M) MP John Brittas, wherein he asked about details of international deposits, Chaudhary said tax demand of Rs 21,719 crore has been created as a result of completed assessments

RECOVERY AMOUNT AT ₹338 CRORE

MINISTER OF State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday that recovery amount in the form of tax, penalty and interest demand under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 has been much lower at Rs 338 crore during July 1, 2015 to March 31, 2025

under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 during July 1, 2015 to March 31, 2025. In addition, tax demand of Rs 13,385 crore has been raised till March 31, 2025 on account of penalties imposed under various sections of the Act.

On the question of whether Indian-linked funds in Swiss banks surged more than three times the previous year’s amount, Chaudhary said there are some media reports based on Swiss National Bank (SNB) statistics

Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 has been much lower at Rs 338 crore during July 1, 2015 to March 31, 2025

which mention that Indian linked funds in Swiss banks have risen in 2024 as compared to previous year’s amount. However, Chaudhary, pointed out that as per Swiss authorities, the data in respect of SNB statistics includes, inter alia, amounts due in respect of customer deposits (including in foreign branches of Swiss Banks located in any country), other liabilities as well as amounts due to banks. “The Swiss authorities have also clarified that the SNB annual banking statistics should not be used for analysing deposits held

# PSBs pocketed ₹9K crore over 5 years for minimum balance non-maintenance

**SIDDHARTH UPASANI**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

EVEN AS a number of banks are announcing the waiving off of charges on non-maintenance of minimum balances, the Finance Ministry on Tuesday informed Parliament that public sector banks (PSBs) collected almost Rs 9,000 crore as penalties on the same over a five-year period.

According to data shared by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in response to a question in the Rajya Sabha, state-owned lenders collected Rs 8,932.98 crore as penal

**State-owned lenders collected Rs 8,932.98 crore as penal charges on non-maintenance of minimum Average Monthly Balance in the five years starting 2020-21 up to 2024-25**

charges on non-maintenance of minimum Average Monthly Balance in the five years starting 2020-21 and up to 2024-25.

The data shared by the

Finance Ministry on Tuesday comes days after Union Bank of India joined a host of other PSBs in waiving off penalties on non-maintenance of minimum balances, an issue that has been a sensitive one for some time.

“This move is aimed at ensuring uniformity, fairness, and enhancing accessibility of basic banking services to customers,” Union Bank of India said last week.

Other PSBs that have ended these charges from the ongoing quarter include Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, Indian Bank, Bank of India, and Central Bank of India, the

Finance Ministry said on Tuesday.

The country’s largest lender, State Bank of India, has not levied non-maintenance penalties since March 2020.

“The Department of Financial Services (DFS) has advised banks to examine the issue of rationalisation of penal charges for non-maintenance of Minimum Average Balance (MAB), with specific emphasis on providing relief to customers in semi-urban and rural areas,” Chaudhary further told the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

**IN APRIL, IMF PROJECTED INDIA’S FY26 GROWTH AT 6.2%**

# IMF upgrades India’s FY26 GDP growth forecast to 6.4% as trade tensions ease

**SIDDHARTH UPASANI**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday raised its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for India to 6.4 per cent for both 2025-26 and 2026-27 on account of easing global trade tensions, with the world economy also seen expanding at a slightly faster pace than what the multilateral organisation had predicted in April.

“In India, growth is projected to be 6.4 per cent in 2025 and 2026, with both numbers revised slightly upward, reflecting a more benign external environment than assumed in the April reference forecast,” the IMF said in an update to its World Economic Outlook report, referring to India’s fiscal years that begin in 2025 and 2026.

According to non-partisan policy research centre The Budget Lab at Yale, US consumers faced an overall average effective tariff rate of 18.2 per cent as on July 28, down from 28 per cent on April 9.

India’s GDP is estimated to have increased by 6.5 per cent in 2024-25, the lowest growth rate in four years. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), meanwhile, expects the GDP to grow by another 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal, with the Finance Ministry estimating it in the range of 6.3-6.8 per cent. For 2026-27, the RBI on April 9 had forecast a growth rate of 6.7 per cent. Back in April, the IMF

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## INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND PROJECTIONS

	New forecast	Old forecast
India*	6.4%	6.2%
World	3.0%	2.8%
Brazil	2.3%	2.0%
Canada	1.6%	1.4%
China	4.8%	4.0%
Euro Area	1.0%	0.8%
Japan	0.7%	0.6%
Russia	0.9%	1.5%
UK	1.2%	1.1%
US	1.9%	1.8%

\* India forecast for FY26; 2025 for others Source: IMF

had cut its growth forecasts for India by 30 basis points (bps) to 6.2 per cent for 2025-26 and by 20 bps to 6.3 per cent for 2026-27 due to “higher levels of trade tensions and global uncertainty”. Since then, the tariff war waged by the US has eased somewhat, with IMF Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas calling the Trump administration’s April actions an “unprecedented escalation”.

Moreover, global financial conditions have eased and the US dollar has weakened around 8 per cent since January, allowing India to now project that the global GDP will grow 3 per cent in 2025 and 3.1 per cent in 2026, up from 2.8 per cent and 3 per cent, respectively, predicted in April.

whatatsapp.com/HDvqPnxvwWb3Agy98nValQ

ing the IMF to now project that the global GDP will grow 3 per cent in 2025 and 3.1 per cent in 2026, up from 2.8 per cent and 3 per cent, respectively, predicted in April.

#### ‘Historically high’ tariffs

However, the IMF continued to warn that while the “modest decline in trade tensions” had contributed to the resilience of the global economy, tariffs remain “historically high” and global policy remains highly uncertain, with risks to the world “firmly to the downside”.

“...compared to our pre-April 2 forecast, global growth is revised downwards by 0.2pp (0.2 percentage points) this year. At around 3 per cent, global growth remains disappointingly below pre-COVID average. And we continue to project a persistent decline in global trade as a share of output despite the recent front-loading, from 57 per cent in 2024 to 53 per cent in 2030,” Gourinchas said. One percentage point is equal to 100 basis points.

The other countries expected by the IMF to grow at a faster pace now in both 2025 and 2026 include the US, Canada, China, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, and Nigeria. China, in fact, received the largest growth forecast upgrade by the IMF, with its GDP now seen expanding 4.8 per cent in 2025, up from 4 per cent predicted in April.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# From rugby balls to umbrellas, Decathlon to double down on sourcing from India

**AGGAM WALIA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

FRENCH SPORTING goods giant Decathlon plans to significantly ramp up sourcing from India, aiming to nearly double the country’s share in its global production to 15 per cent by 2030, it said on Tuesday. The retailer, which operates over 130 stores across 55 Indian cities, also expects to spend \$3 billion on sourcing from Indian suppliers over the next five years for both the domestic market and exports.

Already, Indian suppliers account for a large share of Decathlon’s global production in select products like rugby balls (60 per cent), umbrellas (35 per cent), and textiles (20 per cent). Overall, India’s share stands at 8 per cent.

#### Upping sourcing

By 2030, the French retailer expects 90 per cent of the quantities sold in India to be locally manufactured, up from 70 per cent today. As of now, nearly 99 per cent of Decathlon bicycles sold in India are locally made, followed by textiles (75 per cent), bags and accessories (65 per cent), and footwear (55 per cent).

Decathlon set up its first production office in India 25 years ago in Chennai, starting with some leather products for horse riding. The company currently has seven production offices in India, through which it sources from 83 local suppliers, spending around \$480 million annually. The suppliers manufacture



(From left to right) Head of Decathlon Production Frederic Merlevede, Decathlon Sports India CEO Sankar Chatterjee and Head of Decathlon India Production Deepak D’Souza, in New Delhi on Tuesday. Source: Company

goods based on Decathlon’s technical specifications. Popular for its wide range of affordable offerings, Decathlon is increasingly focussing on high-end sporting gear as it looks to cater to the full spectrum of buyers.

“It’s very important to understand that Decathlon is a multi-sport specialist and we accompany the beginner, the intermediate, and the pro,” Frederic Merlevede, its global production head, told *The Indian Express*. Merlevede added that Decathlon’s top of the range products also tend to be “20-30 per cent less expensive than the competition”.

#### India bestsellers

In India, the products that move in large numbers include socks, 10-litre backpacks, skipping ropes, bottles, caps, and t-shirts.

“There are several sports that are gaining popularity in India today. One of the biggest is outdoor sports — including hiking and trekking, which many people are

taking up. Fitness is another major category on the rise, with activities like running and yoga seeing strong growth,” said Deepak D’Souza, Decathlon’s India production head. While India is a key market for Decathlon — which reported €16.2 billion in net sales globally in 2024 — 60 per cent of its business still comes from Europe.

Merlevede said the India-EU free trade agreement (FTA), currently under negotiation, “will bring a lot of positive advantages” to both regions, and expressed hope it would be signed by the end of the year. If tariffs on sporting goods and textiles are reduced, the FTA could make it easier for Decathlon to supply European markets from India.

Going forward, the company will focus on expanding production of footwear, fitness equipment, and technical textiles — such as swimwear — in India. Over the next five years, it also aims to develop fitness electronics to help monitor vitals.

## Eminent economist, House of Lords member Meghnad Desai passes away at 85

and open to new ideas. I will cherish the many long discussions and debates that we had over the years. Om Shanti.”

Born on July 10, 1940 in Vadodra to Jagdish Chandra, a civil servant, and Mandakini Desai, a homemaker, Desai grew up with three siblings. He earned his BA in 1958 and MA in economics in 1960 from the University of Bombay, after which he bagged a scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania, where he completed his PhD in Economics in 1963.

Desai, also well-known as Lord Desai due to his membership of the upper house of the British parliament, taught economics from 1965 to

2003 at the LSE. He was appointed as a lecturer at the LSE in 1965, and became a Professor of Economics there in 1983. Desai went on to head LSE’s Development Studies Institute from 1990 to 1995, and established and led the LSE Centre for the Study of Global Governance. During his time at the LSE, Desai researched and lectured on a variety of subjects — Marxian analysis, applied econometrics, Indian development and reform, poverty, globalisation, and the role of private markets.

In 1971, Desai joined the British Labour Party and was elevated to the House of Lords in June 1991. He was Chairman of the Gandhi Memorial Statue Trust which helped erect the statue of

Mahatma Gandhi in London’s Parliament Square. In 1991, he was created a life peer as Baron Desai St Clement Danes in the City of Westminster. In 2020, Desai resigned as a member of the UK’s Opposition Labour Party over its failure to effectively tackle anti-semitic racism within its ranks.

He authored numerous books, the most recent being *The Poverty of Political Economy: How Economics Abandoned the Poor* (2022). His other notable books are *Marx’s Revenge: The Resurgence of Capitalism and the Death of Statist Socialism*, *Rethinking Islamism: Ideology of the New Terror*, *The Route to All Evil: The Political Economy of Ezra Pound*, a novel *Dead on Time*, and *The Rediscovery of India*.



**MEGHNAD DESAI**  
1940 - 2025

condolences.

“Anguished by the passing away of Shri Meghnad Desai ji, a distinguished thinker, writer and economist. He always remained connected to India and Indian culture. He also played a role in deepening India-UK ties. Will fondly recall our discussions, where he shared his valuable insights. Condolences to his family and friends. Om Shanti.” Modi posted on X. Sanjeev Sanyal, member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, wrote on X, “Very sorry to hear that eminent economist Meghnad Desai has passed away. I had known him for over two decades. He was always cheerful

cluding in *The Indian Express*. In 2008, he was awarded India’s third-highest civilian honour — the Padma Bhushan.

Although a celebrated economist, Desai’s writings and commentary spanned varied subjects — economics, politics, political and social economy, history, sociology, international affairs, and even cinema. In fact, Desai reportedly counted his biography of the legendary actor Dilip Kumar — *Nehru’s Hero: Dilip Kumar in the life of India* — as his “greatest achievement”. Desai was an avid watcher of old Hindi films, and also had a passion for cooking.

After learning of Desai’s passing, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to social media platform X to express his



TOP OF THE WORLD



Author Kiran Desai. AP

UNITED KINGDOM  
Kiran Desai in Booker longlist with new novel

*London:* Indian author Kiran Desai, who won the Booker Prize and then didn't publish a novel for almost two decades, is up for the award again with her long-awaited follow-up. "The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny," the 677-page tale of two young Indians making their way in the United States, is one of 13 books announced Tuesday as semifinalists for the prestigious 50,000-pound (\$67,000) prize. The contenders include authors from nine countries on four continents. It's Desai's first novel since "The Inheritance of Loss," which won the Booker in 2006. A list of six finalists will be announced Sept. 23, and this year's winner will be crowned on Nov. 10 at a ceremony in London. **AP**

SINGAPORE  
Official pleads guilty for sexually abusing 6 Indians

*Singapore:* An Indian-origin officer with the Singapore immigration department has pleaded guilty to accepting bribes in the form of sexual favours from six Indian nationals in exchange for facilitating their short-term visit pass applications to extend their stay in the city-state, according to a media report on Tuesday. Kannan Morice Rajagopal Jayaram pleaded guilty on Monday to three corruption charges, each involving an Indian national. Another three similar charges involving three other Indian men will be considered during his sentencing, which is scheduled for August 18. **AP**

CHINA  
30 killed in heavy rains and floods, relief efforts on

*Bishkek:* Authorities in Beijing have launched all-out disaster relief and rescue operations after a fresh spell of intense rainstorms left 30 people dead, damaging roads, disrupting power supply, and prompting mass evacuation. The deaths occurred in Beijing's northern mountainous districts, with 28 in Miyun and two in Yanqing, according to local authorities. President Xi Jinping ordered all-out efforts to ensure the safety of people's lives and property in the fight against rain-triggered floods. **PTI**

'ISRAEL MUST TAKE STEPS TO END GAZA CRISIS, NO ANNEXATION IN WEST BANK'

UK plans to recognise Palestine in Sept unless Israel meets conditions: Starmer

REUTERS  
LONDON, JULY 29

PRIME MINISTER Keir Starmer said on Tuesday Britain was prepared to recognise a Palestinian state in September at the United Nations General Assembly unless Israel takes a number of steps to improve life for Palestinians.

Britain, if it acts, would become the second Western power on the U.N. Security Council to do so after France last week, reflecting Israel's deepening isolation over its conduct in its war against Hamas in Gaza, where a humanitarian disaster has set in and the Palestinian death toll has risen above 60,000.

Starmer said Britain would make the move unless Israel took substantive steps to allow more aid to enter Gaza, made clear there will be no annexation of the West Bank and commits to a long-term peace process that delivers a "two-state solution" - a Palestinian state co-existing in peace alongside Israel.

"The Palestinian people have endured terrible suffering," Starmer told reporters. "Now, in Gaza, because of a catastrophic failure of aid, we see starving babies, children too weak to stand, images that will stay with us for a lifetime. The suffering must end."

Starmer said his government would make an assessment in September on "how far the parties have met these steps", but that no one would have a veto over the decision.

He took the decision after recalling his cabinet during the summer holidays on Tuesday to discuss a new proposed peace plan being worked on with other European leaders and how to deliver more humanitarian aid for Gaza's 2.2 million people.

Successive British governments have said they will formally recognise a Palestinian state when the time is right, without ever setting a timetable or specifying the necessary conditions.

'Worst-case scenario of famine' in Gaza, say food crisis experts



A Palestinian woman in a destroyed neighbourhood in central Gaza Strip on Tuesday. The Palestinian death toll in Gaza has risen above 60,000, authorities said. Reuters

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
TEL AVIV, JULY 29

The "worst-case scenario of famine is currently playing out in the Gaza Strip," the leading international authority on food crises said in a new alert Tuesday, predicting "widespread death" without immediate action.

The alert, still short of a formal famine declaration, follows an outcry over images of emaciated children in Gaza and reports of dozens of hunger-related deaths after nearly 22 months of war.

The international pressure led Israel over the weekend to announce measures, including daily humanitarian pauses in fighting in parts of Gaza and air-drops. The United Nations and Palestinians on the ground say

little has changed, and desperate crowds continue to overwhelm and unload delivery trucks before they can reach their destinations.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, said Gaza has teetered on the brink of famine for two years, but recent developments have "dramatically worsened" the situation, including "increasingly stringent blockades" by Israel.

A formal famine declaration, which is rare, requires the kind of data that the lack of access to Gaza and mobility within has largely denied. The IPC has only declared famine a few times — in Somalia in 2011, South Sudan in 2017 and 2020, and parts of Sudan's western Darfur region last year.

But independent experts say they don't need a formal declaration to know what they're seeing in Gaza.

"Just as a family physician can often diagnose a patient she's familiar with based on visible symptoms without having to send samples to the lab and wait for results, so too we can interpret Gaza's symptoms. This is famine," Alex de Waal, author of "Mass Starvation: The History and Future of Famine" and executive director of the World Peace Foundation said.

The report is based on available information through July 25 and says the crisis has reached "an alarming and deadly turning point." It says data indicates that famine thresholds have been reached for food consumption in most of Gaza — at its lowest level since the war began — and for acute malnutrition in Gaza City.

SCOTLAND

TRUMP CAPS VISIT BY OPENING GOLF COURSE

US President Donald Trump opened a new golf course bearing his name in Scotland Tuesday, capping a five-day foreign trip designed around promoting his family's luxury properties and playing golf. "Let's go. 1-2-3," Trump said before he cut the red ribbon. **AP**

The Netherlands to ban far-right Israeli ministers



Itamar Ben-Gvir; Bezalel Smotrich

*The Hague:* The Netherlands will ban two far-right Israeli ministers from entering the country, in the latest European response to the rapidly deteriorating situation in Gaza, the country's foreign minister said.

The ban and other measures were announced in a letter Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp sent to lawmakers late Monday evening, declaring "The war in Gaza must stop".

The ban targets hard-line National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, key partners in PM Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition. **AP**

EXPLAINED

How famine is declared

AN AREA is classified in famine when all three of the following conditions are confirmed: At least 20% of households have an extreme lack of food, or are essentially starving. At least 30% of children 6 months to 5 years old suffer from acute malnutrition or wasting, meaning they're too thin. And at least 2 people or 4 children under 5 per 10,000 are dying daily due to starvation or the interaction of malnutrition and disease.

Russian strikes kill 27 in Ukraine, Kremlin ignores Trump's threats



A serviceman walks at the site hit by a Russian air strike in Zaporizhzhia region, Ukraine on Tuesday. Reuters

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
KYIV, JULY 29

RUSSIAN GLIDE bombs and ballistic missiles struck a Ukrainian prison and a medical facility overnight and killed at least 27 people across the country, officials said Tuesday, as Russia kept up its relentless pounding of civilian areas despite US President Donald Trump's threat to soon punish it with sanctions and tariffs unless it stops.

Four powerful Russian glide bombs hit a prison in Ukraine's southeastern Zaporizhzhia region, authorities said. They killed at least 17 inmates and wounded more than 80 others, officials said.

In the Dnipro region of central Ukraine, authorities said Russian missiles partially destroyed a three-story building and damaged nearby medical facilities, including a maternity hospital and a city hospital ward. Officials said at least four people were killed and eight injured, including a pregnant woman who was in a serious condition.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that across the country, 22 people were killed in Russian strikes on 73 cities, towns and villages. "These were conscious, deliberate strikes - not accidental," Zelenskyy said on Telegram.

Trump said Monday he is giving Russian President Vladimir Putin 10 to 12 days to stop the killing in Ukraine after three years of war, moving up a 50-day deadline he had given the Russian leader two weeks ago. The move meant Trump wants peace efforts to make progress by Aug. 7-9.

Trump has repeatedly rebuked Putin for talking about ending the war but continuing to bombard Ukrainian civilians. But the Kremlin hasn't changed its tactics. "I'm disappointed in President Putin," Trump said during a visit to Scotland.

Zelenskyy welcomed Trump's move on the timeline. "Everyone needs peace - Ukraine, Europe, the United States, and responsible leaders across the globe," Zelenskyy said in a post on Telegram.

Bangladesh: Mob damages homes of minorities, govt issues repair work orders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DHAKA, JULY 29

AT LEAST a dozen homes belonging to the members of the Hindu community were damaged by a mob over the weekend in north-western Bangladesh, according to officials and media reports.

The office of the interim government's Chief Adviser, Muhammad Yunus Tuesday said orders have been issued to repair the houses damaged in the violence in Gangachara upazila of Rangpur.

The violence erupted on Saturday after a 17-year-old Hindu youth allegedly made derogatory remarks against the Prophet on social media, Bangla language daily Prothom Alo reported. Police have arrested the teenager, a third-semester student at a private polytechnic institute, the paper said.

Citing Gangachara police station officer-in-charge Al Emran, the paper said the police received a complaint that a boy had posted offensive content on Facebook.

"Once the allegations were found to be true, he was detained

around 8:30 pm on Saturday and brought to the police station," he said, adding that he was sent to a juvenile rehabilitation centre following a court order.

Following the incident, enraged locals carried out attacks and vandalised several homes belonging to members of the Hindu community on Saturday night and again on Sunday afternoon. The situation was brought under control by the army, according to the paper.

Yunus' office said 12 Hindu households were damaged in the violence. "Three families, including that of the detained boy and his uncle, are staying at their relatives' homes at a neighbouring village," the chief adviser's office said.

"The repair works of the Hindu households will start from Tuesday under the supervision of the district and concerned sub-district administrations," it said in a statement.

The male members of 19 of the 22 affected Hindu families are now living at their homes, but the female members were staying elsewhere since their houses were damaged, it said, quoting Rangpur's deputy commissioner Mohammad Rabiul Faisal.

MANHATTAN BUILDING SHOOTING

NY Mayor says man who killed 4 was targeting NFL headquarters

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
NEW YORK, JULY 29

NEW YORK City Mayor Eric Adams said Tuesday that a gunman who killed four people at a Manhattan office building was trying to target the headquarters of the National Football League but took the wrong elevator.

Investigators believe Shane Tamura was trying to get to the NFL offices after shooting several people in the building's lobby but accidentally entered the wrong set of elevator banks, Adams said in interviews on Tuesday.

Four people, including an off-duty New York City police officer, were killed. Police said Tamura had a history of mental illness, and a rambling note found on his body suggested he had a grievance against the NFL over an unsubstantiated claim that he suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy. He had played football in high school in



NYPD officers in Midtown Manhattan, New York. AP

California nearly two decades ago. "He seemed to have blamed the NFL," the mayor said. "The NFL headquarters was located in the building, and he mistakenly went up the wrong elevator bank."

The note claimed he had been suffering from CTE — the degenerative brain disease that has been linked to concussions and other repeated head trauma common in contact sports like football — and said his brain should be studied after he died, two people familiar with the matter said.

Shooting claims life of Blackstone's senior executive



Wesley LePatner was 43

*New York:* Blackstone's offices were closed Tuesday after a senior Blackstone executive Wesley LePatner was killed in Manhattan building shooting.

Blackstone CEO Stephen Schwarzman and President Jon Gray called it the "worst day in the firm's 40 year history," according to people who saw the memo. LePatner was 43 years old. A mother and wife, LePatner served as the CEO of Blackstone Real Estate Income Trust, or BREIT, a real estate fund, and the global head of core real estate for the \$1.2 trillion company. **REUTERS**

Bangladeshi-Americans mourn fallen officer: 'He mentored youngsters'

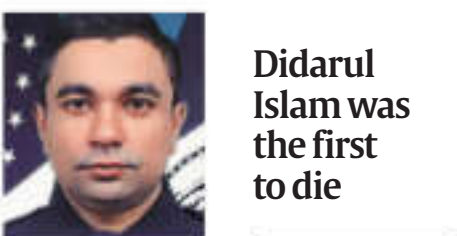
WESLEY PARNELL  
NEW YORK, JULY 29

ON A sleepy Bronx street, relatives, friends and leaders of the Muslim community that enveloped Didarul Islam came early Tuesday to pay their respects just hours after he was gunned down.

Officer Islam, 36, was a three-and-a-half-year veteran of the New York City Department, an immigrant from Bangladesh and the father of two. His wife is pregnant with their third child.

He was killed in a massacre at a Park Avenue skyscraper Monday as he provided security there. The police say a gunman drove from Las Vegas to open fire in the lobby and beyond, killing four people and himself.

"He was saving lives. He was protecting New Yorkers," Mayor Eric Adams said in a news conference at the Manhattan hospital



Didarul Islam was the first to die

where Officer Islam was pronounced dead. "He embodies what this city is all about. He's a true blue New Yorker, not only in a uniform he wore."

Shueb Chowdhury, 49, a basement tenant of Officer Islam, said he had been devoted to his family. "I cannot believe it," Chowdhury said. "He was very young. I saw him this morning and 12 hours later he's dead."

Marjanul Karim, 31, a close family friend, said that Officer Islam had mentored young men in the Bangladeshi community, more than 100,000-strong in polyglot New York City. He had expected Islam to attend his wedding in September. **NYT**

THE FINNS ARE DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR SOLUTIONS BECAUSE THEY GET ONLY TWO MONTHS OF SUMMER

Finland's short, precious summers are plagued by 'shocking amount' of goose poop

AMELIA NIERENBERG & JOHANNA LEMOLA  
HELSINKI, JULY 29

EACH SUMMER, sun-starved Finns flock to Hietsu Beach, a sandy stretch in Helsinki, to exercise, splash and attempt to tan.

Amid a late July, record-breaking heat wave, a very different flock has also been stalking the surf around Finland's capital: barnacle geese — white-faced, black-backed and ever-present. At night, they roost by the water's edge. Come daytime, as people spread out their towels, they waddle away, leaving small mountains of excrement in their tracks.

"There can be a shocking amount of poop," acknowledged Jukka Lundgren, the manager of Helsinki's public beaches, who has spent 15 of his 18 years on the job trying to keep the sand from looking like a goose litter box.

Now, after Sisyphean summers facing down the fowl's feces, he thinks that he just may have found a solution: a wheeled cage with a strong resemblance to an old-fashioned hand lawn mower that is meant to sift the dirt sand and whisk up only the offending feces.

The contraption may be Helsinki's most innovative poop-fighting effort yet. It is being tested this summer on about half

the city's 25 public beaches. It was designed in-house by beach staff members, who drew inspiration from a public competition last year meant to crowdsource poop-scooping ideas.

Finns are hardly alone in their fight against geese droppings, which can carry dangerous germs like E. coli and salmonella. In other places, officials fight the problem at its source: the birds themselves. In recent years, Canadians have tried to relocate the geese, New Yorkers hired a patrol dog and Californians moved to cull them.

But Finland does not allow culling, and hunting geese in urban Helsinki would not be a feasible option anyway.



White-faced and black-backed barnacle geese can be seen everywhere in Helsinki. NYT

The Finns are desperate for solutions because their two months of summer are precious. They live so far north, that's about all they get.

However brief, the summers they do get can sometimes be unpredictably hot, with this past Sunday marking the 16th consecutive day that temperatures exceeded 30 degrees Celsius, or 86 degrees Fahrenheit, somewhere in Finland — a record.

So on a recent afternoon — a warm day in a city where anything over 25 degree Celsius is considered hot — Pauli Puirava biked with his wife and two children to Hietsu Beach, whose formal name is Hietaranta. They

brought some nuts and a few juice boxes for their children, 5 and 8.

Helsinki's humans are not the only ones who gravitate to the beach in summer. Last July, according to the Finnish Environment Institute, researchers counted about 5,300 geese in the Helsinki area.

The plump birds are everywhere: They jaywalk across bike paths, swagger through crosswalks barefoot like the Beatles, preen in the parks and sometimes strut between office buildings and cultural landmarks in the city center.

In parks, the problem can be even worse, with the droppings matting the grass and squishing

into the treads of shoes.

At the beach, sunbathers must check the sand before they lay down their blankets. Beach volleyball players hope that a dive does not bring them face to face with you know what. And parents, like Puirava, an entrepreneur keep a watchful eye out so their young children do not end up putting the feces in their mouths.

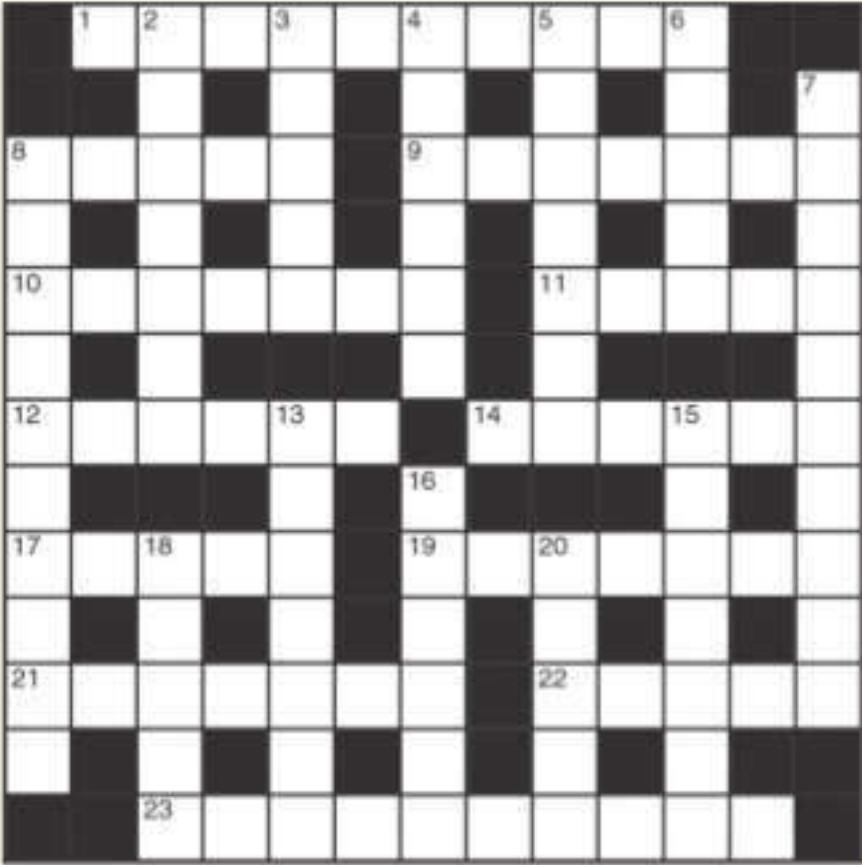
"You have to watch your every step," he said. To keep up with the cleaning demands, the ranks of summer maintenance workers have grown in the past decade, Lundgren said. Some beaches can see well over 40 pounds of excrement a day, he said. **NYT**







CROSSWORD 5741



ACROSS

- 1 To lead on is wrong causing great distress (10)  
8 Dotty sort of dance? (5)  
9 Four who work and play together (7)  
10 There's merit in unhappy endings (7)  
11 Country engaged in taking back help (5)  
12 Means it won't have a principal part (6)  
14 Such work is outstanding (6)  
17 Check the key in as a rule (5)  
19 A girl after a bit of butter for her kneecap (7)  
21 Models of no standing (7)  
22 Pamphlet followed by pronunciation (5)  
23 Decries new changes in TV format (10)

DOWN

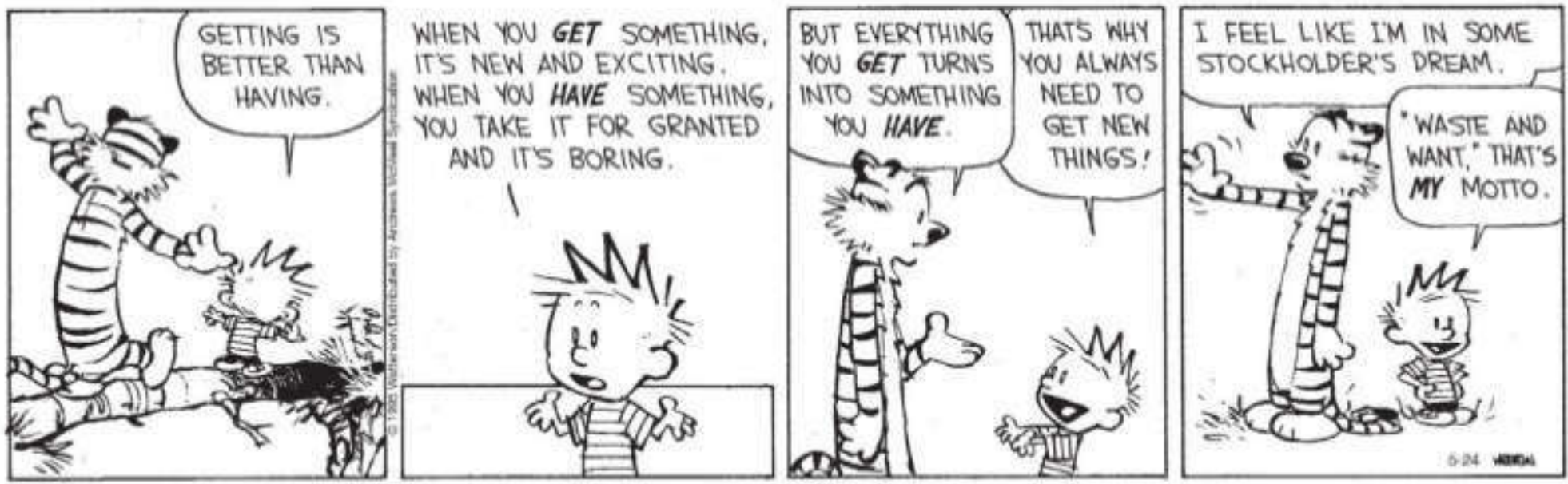
- 2 General form of increase (7)  
3 In the zoo some took a picture of an animal (5)  
4 Discharge an account and leave (6)  
5 Fancy - game in one move (7)  
6 Observed how music is written (5)  
7 It's sad if standards become as low as this (2,4-4)  
8 Effectively demonstrates how one votes? (4,6)  
13 Make an effort to study with care (7)  
15 Reputation for enjoying poor health? (3,4)  
16 Fits and starts (6)  
18 I won't resort to being pulled along (2,3)  
20 Coachman? (5)

Solutions Crossword 5740 Across: 1 Scraps, 4 Bridge, 9 Crouton, 10 Valet, 11 Notch, 12 Workman, 13 Hurried meal, 18 Rolls up, 20 Nudge, 22 Defoe, 23 Romance, 24 Tastes, 25 Amoeba Down: 1 Second, 2 Roost, 3 Pitcher, 5 Raver, 6 Dilemma, 7 Extend, 8 Snow leopard, 14 Uplifts, 15 Minimum, 16 Credit, 17 Reseda, 19 Siege, 21 Dense

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



**Difficulty Level 1s**  
**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

**SUDOKU 6031**

5	2	8	7				1	
	1	3		4		6	9	
			1	3		7		
	6			4	2			
8		9		6	1	7		
2	4					9		
	7			1	8			
9	8	2			5	3		
3			9	5		1	8	

**SOLUTION SUDOKU 6030**

4	3	8	1	6	2	5	9	7
1	7	2	8	5	9	3	4	6
6	9	5	4	7	3	8	1	2
8	6	7	3	1	5	4	2	9
3	2	9	7	8	4	6	5	1
5	4	1	2	9	6	7	3	8
7	1	3	5	2	8	9	6	4
2	5	6	9	4	7	1	8	3
9	8	4	6	3	1	2	7	5

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 only way to enjoy anything in this life is to \_\_\_\_\_. - Ginger Rogers (4,2,5)

MRAER

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KOYNTT

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ADIIR

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AEITFS

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Solution: REARM, RADII, KNOTTY, RESTA  
Answer: The only way to enjoy anything in this life is to **earn it first**. - Ginger Rogers

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Sakil @ Kalu, S/o: Kunne Khan, R/o: H.No-74, Prayog Vihar, Shubhash Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No.: 327/2022, U/s: 25/54/59 Arms ACT, P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi**, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Sakil @ Kalu** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sakil @ Kalu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sakil @ Kalu of P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **10.10.2025**.

By Order  
**Sh. Shashank Nandan Bhatt**  
**JMFC-02, West, Court No. 356,**  
**Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi**

DP/9690/WD/2025

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Rajesh Kumar Singh S/o Ram Pal Singh R/o C-216, 4th Floor, Pandey Nagar, Delhi-110092** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CC No. 11567/2018 U/s 138 NI Act PS DBG Road, Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Rajesh Kumar Singh** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Rajesh Kumar Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Rajesh Kumar Singh** of case **CC No. 11567/2018 U/s 138 NI Act PS DBG Road, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **29.08.2025**

By Order  
**Arushi Parwal**  
**LD., JMFC-05, NI Act**  
**Central Annexure-01, Room No. 02**  
**Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi**

DP/10041/CD/2025  
(Court Matter)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**

**(See Section 82 Cr. PC)**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Rajiv Bhadu S/o Sh. Krishan Kumar R/o No 79, 3rd Floor Adhchini Desu Office Malviya Nagar, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 159/2024 Dt.: 24.03.2024 U/s 279/338 IPC at PS: Vikasपुरi, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rajiv Bhadu** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rajiv Bhadu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rajiv Bhadu** of **FIR No. 159/2024 Dt.: 24.03.2024 U/s 279/338 IPC of PS: Vikasपुरi, New Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **11.09.2025**.

By Order  
**Rishabh Kapoor**  
**Judicial Magistrate, First Class-05**  
**South-West District, Court No.09**  
**Dwarka Courts New Delhi**

DP/9768/WD/2025

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**

Tender Notice No. 74-W-CSP-25-26-02 Date:24.07.2025

**E-Tender Notice**

Dy. Chief Engineer/Concrete Sleeper Plant, North Central Railway/ Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites **e-TENDERS** for the following works up to **15.00 hrs.** on the due date of tender opening. The details of the Tenders are as under: -

Tender No.: 74-W-CSP-25-26-02	Approx. Cost of work (₹) : ₹ 52.62 Lakh
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**Name of work:** Supply of Coarse Aggregate, 20 mm nominal size of granite stone to Concrete Sleeper Plant, Subedarganj, Prayagraj

Earnest Money (₹) : ₹ 105200.00	Completion Period : 12 Month
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Date of Opening of tender : 18.08.2025

**Note:** 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tender will be uploaded and shall be available up to 15.00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening on Website **www.irops.gov.in**. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. Tenderers are required to submit Annexure-V online on IREPS Module. 5. For detailed information, please refer the tender document uploaded on website **www.irops.gov.in**. 6.Payment of Earnest Money Deposit / Bid Security in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or e- payment gateway only. 7.In case of any difficulty helpline on the website of IREPS may be approached. 8. Tender can be submitted online up to 15.00 hrs: on the due date of tender opening and will be opened after 15.00 hours. 9.Suppliers of Goods and/or services would be subject to GST Act, and Rules as applicable from time to time. 10. The Railway reserves the right to amend/postpone/cancel any tender/s without assigning any reason thereof. 1318/25(DG)

North central railways @CPROICR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**

Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division  
Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru-560 052.

**No:EE(SJN)/KPPP/TEND/10/2025-26 Date: 30.07.2025**

**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (NIT)**  
**(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (STD KW 3 & 4)**

(Through GOK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)  
The Executive Engineer, (Shivajinagara Division), East Zone BBMP, Bengaluru, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike KPWD/CPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Providing Men and machineries for Immersion of Ganesh, Durga, Kali Idols during festival and Performing Chetta Pooja at Halasuru Kalyani in Ward No-121 Halasuru Approx. value of work : ₹60.00 Lakhs EMD: ₹1,20,000.00
2.	Resurfacing to Asphalt Roads and Repairs to Concrete Roads in Bad Reaches and Improvements to Drains and Allied Works in Ward Jurisdiction in Ward No-119 Shivajinagara Approx. value of work : ₹120.00 Lakhs EMD: ₹1,80,000.00
3.	Resurfacing to Asphalt Roads and Repairs to Concrete Roads in Bad Reaches and Improvements to Drains and Allied Works in Ward Jurisdiction in Ward No-120 Bharathinagara Approx. value of work : ₹120.00 Lakhs EMD: ₹1,80,000.00
4.	Resurfacing to Asphalt Roads and Repairs to Concrete Roads in Bad Reaches and Improvements to Drains and Allied Works in Ward Jurisdiction in Ward No-121 Halasuru Approx. value of work : ₹120.00 Lakhs EMD: ₹1,80,000.00

**Calendar of Events :** (1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka from **01.08.2025**. (2) Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **08.08.2025** upto 4:00 pm. (3) Date of Opening of Tenders is on **11.08.2025** at 11:00 am if possible or next working day.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala - 147001)  
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SC033813  
Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in) Phone No. 01881275289  
E-mail: [sc-hq-ggstpr-ropar@pspcil.in](mailto:sc-hq-ggstpr-ropar@pspcil.in)

Press (Open) Tender Enq. No:522P-3/EMP-W-13082 Dated 29.07.25  
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites Press Tender for Painting of DM water storage tank installed in water treatment plants of Stage II & III at GGSSTP, Roopnagar.  
For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to PSPCL website [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in) from 29.07.25 from 05:00 P.M. onwards.  
Notes:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at PSPCL website [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)  
No. 1701/PSPCL. RTP 89/25

**BRAHMAPUTRA CRACKER AND POLYMER LIMITED (BCPL)**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
Lepetkata, Dibrugarh, Assam - 786006, CIN: U11101AS2007GOI008290

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**TENDER NO. BCPL/HR/OFFICE-GUEST HOUSE/DELHI/001/2025**

BCPL invites tender submission in sealed bids in two-bid system for "Hiring a well-maintained premises for BCPL Office cum Guest house of approximately 400 to 500 sqm carpet area suitably at a prime location in New Delhi with proximity to main road, marketplaces and preferably metro rail service for a period of 03 years. Cost of application fee: NIL.  
Mode & Date of submission of tender document: Hard Copy of Bid to be submitted at BCPL office at House No. 17A, Eastern Avenue, Maharani Bagh, New Delhi - 110065. Last date of bid submission: **16-08-2025 (till 5:00 PM)**  
Details of tender available on BCPL website: [www.bcplonline.co.in](http://www.bcplonline.co.in)  
Corrigendum / addendum (if any), to this tender would appear on above website only & will not publish on any other Media/Press. For any clarification contact [jkbarnuah@bcplindia.co.in](mailto:jkbarnuah@bcplindia.co.in) (9706050807) / [ajdutta@bcplindia.co.in](mailto:ajdutta@bcplindia.co.in) (9435736432)

**FORM NO. CAA. 2**  
**[Pursuant to Section 230(3) and rule 6 and 7]**

**CA(CAA)/34(AHM)/2025**  
Citizen Infoline Limited ...Applicant Company No.2 (Transferee Company)  
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013;  
AND  
In the matter of Sections 230 to 232 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013;  
AND  
In the matter of Scheme of Amalgamation of Citizen Solar Private Limited, into Citizen Infoline Limited and their respective shareholders and creditors

**CITIZEN INFOLINE LIMITED**  
(CIN: L31100GJ1994PLC023561)  
A Public Listed Company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act  
Having its registered office at  
411, Sakar-II, Ellisbridge, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad-380006, Gujarat  
...Applicant Company 2 Transferee Company

**NOTICE AND ADVERTISEMENT OF MEETING OF EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS OF CITIZEN INFOLINE LIMITED**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that by an order dated **21<sup>st</sup> July, 2025** passed in **CA(CAA)/34(AHM)/2025**, the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Ahmedabad Bench ("NCLT") has directed for convening and holding the meeting of Equity Shareholders of Citizen Infoline Limited, for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving, with or without modification(s), the Scheme of Amalgamation of Citizen Solar Private Limited into Citizen Infoline Limited and their respective shareholders and creditors

Take Further Notice that in pursuance of the said order, the meeting of Equity Shareholders of Citizen Infoline Limited shall be held through video conferencing or other audio-visual modes as per details mentioned herein below:-

Sr.	Class of Meeting	Date of Meeting	Time (IST)
1	Equity Shareholders	03.09.2025	12:00 Noon

Copies of the said Scheme of Arrangement, Explanatory Statement with annexure can be obtained free of charge from the registered office of the Company or from the office of Thakkar and Pahwa, Advocates at 71, New York Tower-A, Thaltej Cross Roads, S.G. Highway, Ahmedabad-380054, Gujarat during 12.00 Noon to 5:00 pm on all working days and including date of meetings (except Holiday and Sunday). Since meeting is held through VC/OAVM, the provisions regarding proxy are not applicable.

The Tribunal has appointed Mr. Dipak Rachchha, Advocate as the Chairperson of the said meeting including any adjournment thereof. The Court has appointed Mr. Akash Modh, Advocate as Scrutinizer of the meeting.

The Scheme, if approved in the aforesaid meeting, will be subject to the subsequent approval of other regulatory authorities and sanction by Hon'ble NCLT.

Place: Ahmedabad  
Date: 28.07.2025  
Dipak Rachchha Chairman appointed for the Meeting

**DAY TODAY** BY PETER VIDAL

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
The risky planetary situation is compounded by lunar formations which create confusion. You may wish to turn down lively opportunities and go for quiet. A few minutes of meditation could help you work out your true purpose.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
Nobody understands better than you that sometimes it is prudent to walk away from upsetting situations. It is best to be magnanimous in victory. That, after all, is the way to turn defeated rivals into permanent friends.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
Quite aside from the difficulties posed by planets influencing both domestic and professional sectors, others, influencing travel and adventure are utterly favourable. Surprisingly, emotional complications may put you on the right track.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
Listen to experienced colleagues. Unless you follow cautious advice, you may find that projects in the pipeline may have to be abandoned. I think you're finding it easier to stand on your own feet, though.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
The correct way for you to go is towards ethical actions. Be graceful if others offend you and be charitable if they need help. Events at work may be just a little muddled, but that's precisely why your clarity of mind will be so useful.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
As Venus, planet of love, departs from its cautious, careful position, a number of points may be cleared up. Older friends are the best, especially where money is concerned. Team up with people who are more experienced than you.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
However much you would like to be the centre of attention, if you are a typical Cancerian you will find it very difficult to be truly selfish. Something keeps pulling you back to the need to put others' interests first. And that has to be a good thing!

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
No matter how hard you try to control your financial affairs, you always end up failing to maximise your profits. This is very much an all-or-nothing situation. Hopefully you're a winner rather than a loser.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
Life has been an up-and-down experience lately. Something truly worthwhile will emerge from all the struggles you are going through. You can only go up if you've been down first. Great things await.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
What you find out could place an old situation in new light. It indicates that you are entering a rather charming phase. If at all possible, please do put extra energy into all professional aspirations.

**VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
The Moon is aligned with your seventh solar house, the repository for all Virgoan feelings of partnership and relatedness. In plain English, you'd better get on with other people. If you offend someone you might find that they don't fight back – they just give up.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
You're in a strong position, even though you're just a little more emotional than usual. Let others make the running. There is no need for you to dive in first, if you feel that the waters of life are looking rather too risky. A fish you may be, but you must still watch out for sharks.

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita-2023**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Vicky Verma, S/o Sh. Shiv Kumar Verma, R/o Plot No. 44, Chandra Park, Old Palam Road, Dwarka, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 84/2025, U/s 109(1)/309(5)/312/61(2)/3(5) Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita-2023, P.S. Dwarka North, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Vicky Verma** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Vicky Verma** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Vicky Verma** accused of **FIR No. 84/2025, U/s 109(1)/309(5)/312/61(2)/3(5) Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita-2023, P.S. Dwarka North, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **10.09.2025**.

By Order  
**Ms. Neetika Kapoor**  
**Judicial Magistrate First Class-06**  
**South-West District, Room No. 514**  
**Dwarka Courts, New Delhi**

DP/9976/DW/2025

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 Cr. P.C**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Anil Gupta, S/o. Panna Lal Gupta, R/o.: H-185, Mangolpuri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **FIR No.731/2016 U/S 354A/354D/506/509 IPC, P.S Mangolpuri, Outer District, Delhi** and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said accused **Anil Gupta** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Anil Gupta** is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Anil Gupta**, accused of **FIR No. 731/2016 U/S 354A/354D/506/509 IPC, P.S Mangolpuri, Outer District, Delhi** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **01.09.2025**.

By Order **Reetika Jain**  
**Judicial Magistrate First Class**  
**North West District, Court No.105**  
**First Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi**

DP/9988/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 **Mohd. Iflikar, S/o. Mohd. Ishtiyak, R/o.: E-2/384, Nand Nagri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **FIR No.291/2016 U/S 380/411 IPC registered at PS GTB Enclave, Delhi** and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said accused **Mohd. Iflikar** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Mohd. Iflikar** is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Mohd. Iflikar**, accused of **FIR No.291/2016 U/S 380/411 IPC, P.S GTB Enclave, Delhi** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **26.09.2025**.

By Order, **Ms. Sanghmitra**  
**Judicial Magistrate First Class-01,**  
**Shahdara District, Room No. 54,**  
**Second Floor, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi**

DP/9824/SHD/2025  
(Court Matter)



New York: Venus Williams' comeback is headed to the U.S. Open next month, when she will enter the redesigned mixed doubles tournament with Reilly Opelka via a wildcard entry. **REUTERS**

# Sparks fly at Oval as curator asks Gambhir to stay 2.5m away from pitch



**SANDEEP DWIVEDI**  
LONDON, JULY 29

WHEN INDIAN coaches Gautam Gambhir and Sitanshu Kotak walked to the Oval central square to have a routine pre-match look at the pitch, local curator Lee Fortis, through a messenger, asked them to stay 2.5 metres away from the playing surface. He also shouted at the Indian support staff to not take a 'cooler' to the ground.

This is the back-story of India head coach Gambhir's angry exchange with Fortis and his "you don't tell us what we need to do" comment that was caught on camera and went viral.

The final India-England Test of the two-

month-long, but riveting, tour starts on Thursday but the mercury around the series-deciding game continues to climb. After England skipper Ben Stokes's sermon on cricket morality to Indian batsmen Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar – the chief Bazballer didn't want the Indians to complete their hundreds since there was no point in continuing a Test that was headed for a draw – comes the lesson on field of play decorum by an English curator.

Though Gambhir, after the Manchester Test, didn't say much about the Stokes-Jadeja 'handshake' incident, the Indian team management didn't mince words at The Oval. Batting coach Kotak, who was close to the action and played the pacifier when an animated Gambhir was talking to Fortis, gave details about the net session altercation.

"When we went to see the pitch, we were asked by someone to keep a 2.5-metre distance. This was surprising. The Test would be in a few days and we were wearing joggers. So it felt a bit odd. We all have been on the ground enough, we have played so much cricket. Curators are pos-



**Gautam Gambhir with Akash Deep at The Oval nets on Tuesday. PTI**

sessive about the ground and the square but they need to understand that they are speaking to highly skilled and intelligent people." Kotak said.

"If you see, no bowler is wearing spikes .. we also know the ground shouldn't be

**When we went to see the pitch, we were asked by someone to keep a 2.5-metre distance. This was surprising. The Test would be in a few days and we were wearing joggers. So it felt a bit odd."**

**SITANSHU KOTAK**  
INDIA ASSISTANT COACH

damaged. End of the day, it's a cricket pitch ... it's not an antique that is 200 years old and can be broken. Today, we were wearing shoes with rubber soles and in a day's time, a batsman will be sliding to survive a run-out or a bowler will be sliding there to stop the ball."

Kotak said that the curator told them that they were trying to grow grass on the pitch next to the main wicket. "I don't know how much grass will grow in one day and what will happen in the next five days. So sometimes, you want your ground and

square to be good but at the end of the day, it's a cricket pitch."

## Curator's reputation

Kotak also gave details about curators yelling at Indian support staff members for carrying a water-cooler to the ground.

"He was sitting on the roller and from there, he shouted at the support staff asking them not to take the cooler to the ground. The weight of that cooling box is about 10 kilos ... it wouldn't have mattered. It is good to be a little possessive and protective about the pitch and the outfield, but not that much. The support staff work under the head coach, so Gautam will say that you cannot shout at them."

The batting coach hinted that the Oval curator has a reputation that they were aware of.

"To be very honest, before coming to The Oval, most of the teams know that the curator is not the easiest person to get on with."

Later in the press conference, Kotak would get questioned by the English media and the batting coach would once again repeat his version of events. A few more details would emerge.

"So we were there standing on the wicket (when) one of the groundstaff came and said that we need to stand 2.5 metres away from the pitch. In my cricketing career, I have not heard anyone saying that ... He was literally telling the head coach 'you go outside the rope and see the wicket ...' I don't know how you see ... if somebody is brushing their shoes on the pitch or trying to put something in the wicket or somebody wearing spikes, the curator feels that way, it is fine. But in this case, it was a very strange way of saying you go and stand two-and-a-half metres away from here ..."

Kotak said they have had conversations with other curators in this series but none like the one they had with Fortis.

"Gautam is someone who does not even speak about unnecessary things. He does not talk to anyone. Last four games we played, everywhere, wherever we go, all the curators where they talk, they even tell you when they are going to cut the grass, whether they are going to cut the grass. And if they do not want to give an answer, they will say 'we will see the weather, we will decide tomorrow.' That is a good answer ..."

## WHICH WAY WILL THE SELECTORS TURN?

# Lack of trust in No 3 and 'keeper behind Kuldeep's exclusion from XI

**VENKATAKRISHNA B**  
CHENNAI, JULY 29

**"Ni ena periya Prasanna va?"** (are you the great (EAS) Prasanna?) This was a question that a young Washington faced from his father, M Sundar, in 2016 over a dinner table in Kolkata.

In the lead-up to that year's Under-19 World Cup, as Washington was leaking runs in the preparatory fixtures in Kolkata, Sundar only found out what was wrong once he saw his son bowling at the venue. "He was tossing them up like a classical off-spinner would do. And Sarfaraz Khan hit him for three-four sixes over mid-wicket in one over. I couldn't believe what he was doing," he tells The Indian Express.

That night, Sundar would drop in to the team hotel to have a quiet word or two to remind Washington what he originally is. "He is not Prasanna or (R) Ashwin. Washington's strength is constantly attacking the stumps and bowling in the same spot again and again and testing batsmen's patience. Now that Ashwin isn't around, you can't expect him to bowl like him. He is a great with over 500 Test wickets. Washington has to bowl like Washington..." Sundar pauses before completing the sentence: "And bat like Washington."

In India's ongoing tour of England, Washington has shown with the ball and bat why he would be an integral member of the national team squad going forward. At Edgbaston and Lord's, he has shown his off-breaks don't need favourable conditions and that he has enough guile to create opportunities. And on the final day at Manchester, his unbeaten 206-ball 101 showed why he deserves to bat up the order. With a strong defence as his base, he is capable of constructing innings like any other top-order batsman.

Washington is now shaping up into the cricketer that Sundar has been dreaming of all along. "I wanted him to be the captain's go-to man across formats with bat and ball. When you are switching formats, I didn't want anything to be compromised. If your foundations are strong, you can manage everywhere. I have given Washy a strong base," Sundar says.

## Subtle refinements

The traits that Sundar spells out are what caught Stephen Fleming and MS Dhoni's attention in the 2017 IPL. In 2025, it is why India are counting on Washington every time they pick him in the XI, knowing he won't give away easy runs and can make telling contributions with the bat.

The 25-year-old has delivered that through the series, leaving so much of a mark with the ball that Shubman Gill's captaincy came under sharp scrutiny for not bowling him till the 69th over of England's innings at Manchester. He may not be a conventional off-spinner, but the drift alone has caused England batsmen plenty of trouble.

"Very early in his age, all that I would make him bowl was spot bowling. I would drop a handkerchief on the pitch just outside the off-stump line. Washington's job was to keep landing the ball repeatedly on it and hit the top of off-stump. With that line and the drift he was getting, I believed, he had more chances to succeed because he would constantly be bowling in the line of the stumps and even if it holds its line, then the outside edge will come in play. As a spinner, he can still test both the edges," Sundar says.

Being tall, Washington's high-arm release and open-chested action mean he has the sight of batsmen at all times, allowing him to make adjustments till the point of release. Those huge fingers, impart plenty of revs, which in turn enable him to get the drift. That has become the sucker punch for batsmen.

"He has always had the drift," AC Pratheepan, who has been mentoring him of late in Chennai, says. "In the last few years, he has undergone a small tweak, where he wants to use the crease and angles more to create the illusion in the minds



**Washington Sundar has made telling contributions with the bat this series. AP**



**I wanted him to be the captain's go-to man across formats with bat and ball. When you are switching formats, I didn't want anything to be compromised. If your foundations are strong, you can manage everywhere.**

**He is not Prasanna or (R) Ashwin. Washington's strength is constantly attacking the stumps and bowling in the same spot again and again and testing batsmen's patience. Now that Ashwin isn't around, you can't expect him to bowl like him.**

**M SUNDAR**, WASHINGTON'S FATHER

of batsmen that he is getting more turn than what is actually on offer."

Apart from the drift, the angle causes an element of illusion. Pratheepan points out how Washington has slightly changed his grip on the ball, which enables him to impart more revs than before.

"Actually we'd been working on these things for way too long. Unfortunately, he went through a lot of injuries in between, which delayed it a bit. But once he got fully fit, his bowling has just evolved. It might seem like he isn't doing much, but in terms of angles, speed and trajectory, he bowls a lot of variations that will make him effective across conditions," Pratheepan, who also mentors Varun Chakravarthy, adds.

## Stop-start comeback

In January 2021, when Washington left Brisbane, he had put his imprint on a famous Test series win. He would later name his pet dog 'Gabba' and was full of hope. In the next two months, he would play three more Tests, but as India moved on from the Virat Kohli-Ravi Shastri era, it appeared they were doing so without Washington as well, going two entire World Test Championship cycles without considering him.

Injuries played their part, and every time he made a comeback, a lay-off seemed around the corner. Washington would change his diet plans, would go about improving his fitness, yet something seemed to hold him back. "It

was definitely not an easy period," his father Sundar says. "It was difficult to see him because he looked stressed and down."

During his stint as mentor of Lucknow Super Giants, Gautam Gambhir had told assistant coach Sridharan Sriram how Washington was being under-utilised in Indian ranks. Now in the hot seat as India head coach, at his first sight of distress during the New Zealand series, it was Washington that Gambhir turned to. When many expected Kuldeep Yadav to feature in the series – similar to the current circumstance in England – it was Washington who came in after a solid spell in the Ranji Trophy and got a spot in the XI.

He earned the call-up not only for his bowling, but for his batting, which has always gone under the radar, too. In Chennai cricket circles, many, including the reputed WV Raman, have always seen him as a top-order batsman who can bowl rather than a bowler who can also bat. In Washington's formative years, Sundar had ensured his son got equal attention to both facets of the game.

"When Sundar brought him, even as a 14-year-old he could face fast bowlers bowling with a full run-up. He wasn't afraid of facing them," M Senthilnathan, who coaches him at club level, says. "Even when he came here, he had a strong defence. When your defence is strong, you can add shots to your batting. He doesn't need to change his game based on the format. With confidence, he would only get better."

**SANDEEP DWIVEDI**  
LONDON, JULY 29

WILL KULDEEP Yadav get his first game of the series in the final Test of this long tour? The team management is considering that option but it's not going to be an open-and-shut case.

Unfortunately for Kuldeep, according to those in the know, it isn't his skill or talent that the decision-makers doubt. What keeps him out of the team is the unreliability of India's frontline batsmen – namely the No.3 and, surprisingly, also the wicket-keepers. At the start of the tour, it was Rishabh Pant and now it's his replacement Dhruv Jurel. And also the local conditions. More about how The Oval might not be ideal for Kuldeep later.

First the wicket-keepers. Pant has been an enigma for the cricketing world, and also for the team. When dealing with him, the Indian decision-makers stick to 'believe in God but lock your car' philosophy. He has been an asset to the team but not quite a steady stock – before this Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy series.

At one point, there was a school of thought that plans can't be formed around someone with the habit of leaping down the track in the first over he faces. And certainly not someone who has scored just one fifty in nine innings in Australia, India's last Test outing before the England tour.

It's not that those with correct strokes and conventional outlook towards scoring runs don't have bad patches. They also fail but it's human to trust a textbook cricketer playing in a time-tested manner. If a mathematician has to describe the Indian batting line-up, KL Rahul and Shubman Gill will be constants and batsmen like Pant the variables.

On this tour, Pant was becoming one of the constants. In his seven innings here, he has two 100s and three 50s. But just when the team management was getting used to the runs coming from down the order, India's most comfortable-looking batsman on the tour was hit on the foot by a full ball – the fracture ruling him out of the remainder of the series.

In Pant's place comes Jurel, who has played just one Test outside India. His outing at Perth wasn't too long.

## Not instilling confidence

The other Virat Kohli-sized hole in the middle order is at the No.3 spot where Sai Sudharsan and Karun Nair haven't yet given confidence to the team management. They have been given chances but have shown a tendency to get out to innocuous balls and not score in crunch situations. They don't seem to



**Historically, The Oval favours spinners but domestic games this season point towards pacers doing more damage, which may keep Kuldeep Yadav out again. PTI**

be putting a high price on their wicket.

In case India had a settled No.3 and a wicket-keeper playing percentage cricket, Kuldeep would have been a sure-shot selection in most Tests in England. That hasn't happened so India faces the old question again: Should they go with the specialist left-arm wrist-spinner or stick to pace all-rounder Shardul Thakur?

Batting coach Sitanshu Kotak, like many other Team India coaches who have faced the media, explained the complexity of the Kuldeep call. He was asked a pertinent question about playing four specialist bowlers from 8 to 11 – in other words Kuldeep and three pure pacers.

Kotak took his time to say that "scoring 550 to 600 runs is as important as taking 20 wickets" and it was by scoring runs that they won their only Test of this series at Edgbaston.

"Once you play with five bowlers, everyone has to bowl well. In case you play with six bowlers, one of them can be under-bowled. And if that bowler is an all-rounder, you know he will also contribute in batting. But if he happens to be a pure bowler ... when you look back at the game, you will think that instead of an extra bowler, if we had a batsman ..." he explained the quandary.

Kotak indicated that it's always easy to be wise after a game. Before it, the only thing the team management can do is think of playing a balanced side. But he still didn't rule out Kuldeep. "That also depends on the wicket and what we feel about it ... the captain and coach will take a look at the

pitch and decide who they will play."

## Surface tension

Now to the pitch and the question of adding Kuldeep to the spin department that has undroppable all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar. Can India play three spinners at The Oval?

Historically, the venue helps spinners but this time around, the domestic games here have seen teams scoring in the range of 250-300 with pacers doing most of the damage. This is clear from the new addition to the England squad – homeboy Jamie Overton.

With offie Shoab Bashir injured and Liam Dawson not really effective at Manchester, England will focus on their quicks. Overton joins Gus Atkinson, another Surrey boy, who knows his way around The Oval.

Does that mean India will play Jasprit Bumrah? That looks unlikely but can't be ruled out. If the World No.1 bowler sits out, India in all likelihood will play Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep and, finally, Arshdeep Singh.

Is it worth burdening Bumrah with extra workload? It was something that coach Gautam Gambhir, at one point on this tour, was dead against. But then India's only win on this tour came when Bumrah wasn't in the XI. And has he become less impactful with the new ball and gotten slower as the series has progressed? At The Oval, India needs to bring out stone, paper and those sharp scissors.

# Overworked pace attack

As the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy heads for a climax at the Oval, England have tired legs in their dressing room. They were on the field for 5 consecutive sessions in the 4th Test. The Indian Express takes a look at England seamers workload...

## CHRIS WOAKES

Nobody has sent as many as 167 overs as the 36-year-old, who returned after a long injury lay-off. With not much movement on offer, has picked up just 10 wickets and would be interesting to see if England play him at the Oval if the pitch retains its green look.

## BRYDON CARSE

Another England seamer who has had to toil hard. He has sent down 155 overs, accounting for just 9 wickets. By the end of the Manchester Test, Carse looked down and out with his pace dropping as India's resistance grew. Could possibly be benched for the decider.



## JOSH TONGUE

Played the first two Tests, where he troubled the Indian batsmen with his sharp pace and movement, taking 11 wickets. Since then has played one County fixture and given Woakes and Carse workload, the 27-year-old could get a look-in at the Oval.

## JOFR ARCHER

He has bowled only 88.3 overs. But that is already plenty for someone who didn't play Tests for four years. Has had his moments, but hasn't looked the part completely. Remains to be seen if he can play three on the bounce with just three days to recover.

ENS



BRIEFLY

Pandit parts ways with IPL team KKR

**Kolkata:** IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders on Tuesday announced the departure of head coach Chandrakant Pandit, ending his two-year stint with the team following a disappointing 2025 season. Pandit, who guided KKR to their third IPL title in 2024, oversaw a sharp decline in fortunes this year with the side finishing eighth in the 2025 edition, matching their lowest ever finish in tournament history. "Mr. Chandrakant Pandit has decided to explore new opportunities and will not continue as Head Coach of Kolkata Knight Riders," KKR said in a post shared on 'X'. **PTI**

Nagal in second round in Germany

**New Delhi:** Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal moved to the second round of the Platzmann Open with a straight set win over Spain's Carlos Sanchez Jover in Hagen, Germany on Tuesday. The 307-ranked Indian defeated the higher-ranked Jover 6-2, 6-2 in the opening round of the ATP Challenger event which is being played on clay. He will take on 17-year-old German tennis player Niels McDonald in the round of 16 on Wednesday. Nagal entered the tournament on the back of two semifinal finishes in the Triste Challenger and Tampere Open earlier this month. **PTI**

Women's Asian Cup: India in tough group

**New Delhi:** India were on Tuesday drawn with powerhouse Japan, former champions Chinese Taipei and Vietnam in Group C of the AFC Women's Asian Cup, the continent's showpiece tournament, to be held in Australia next year. The draw ceremony for the 12-team tournament to be run from March 1 to 21, 2026 was held at the Sydney Town Hall with Indian midfielder Sangita Basfore being one of the three draw assistants. The 12 teams were divided into three groups of four teams each. The Blue Tigresses will begin their campaign with a match against Vietnam on March 4, 2026, at the Perth Rectangular Stadium. **PTI**

How Humpy keeps ticking at 38

Her second Krishnater says veteran's game is constantly evolving due to familiarity with latest trends

AMIT KAMATH & MAYANK  
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, JULY 29

KUSHAGER KRISHNATER calls the week gone by the 'most draining seven days' of his career as a chess second. You have a feeling that Koneru Humpy, who at 38 is experiencing a second wind in her path-breaking career, would agree. Humpy ended second in the FIDE World Cup on Monday, after losing to 19-year-old Divya Deshmukh in a battle of generations at Batumi.

The defeat to Divya came after the first two games in the classical format on Saturday and Sunday ended in draws. Then the first game in the rapid section on Monday ended in a draw as well. Finally, in the second game, there was a breakthrough as Divya managed to clinch victory.

For Humpy and team, finishing second after having come this far left them "gutted", says Krishnater, who has been a second to Humpy since August 2022. This has included working with the Indian women's star during her FIDE Women's Candidates tournament challenge last year. He is an International Master, who has worked with over 10 Grandmasters. This includes super elite grandmasters like Arjun Erigaisi and Vidit Gujrathi, besides Humpy.

A FIDE Master at 16, he was an IM by the age of 18.

Krishnater says that the World Cup is the "most difficult format" for Humpy, since, at 38, it means playing for one month at her peak level, which she managed until the final tiebreak game. He details the intense work that the team did after both classical games ended in draws.

"After the match against Alexandra Kosteniuk, the intensity of our work is something that we have never reached so far in our working relationship. For example, we worked till 11 in the night on Sunday (during the final against Divya). And on Monday morning, we started at 8 am, and went on till 11.30 am, which was just one hour before the game. She gave it all, despite like one month of consistency and her being in a stage of her career where she has played for so many years. It is a physically taxing job, playing nearly one month at a FIDE World Cup," says Krishnater. "I can easily say that since the time we have been working together, this has been the



Humpy lost to compatriot Divya Deshmukh in the final. Anna Shtourman/FIDE

most draining work — physically draining work — for both of us, especially for Humpy."

While he admits he did not discuss her workout regime, he does say: "To do this for 24 days, I don't think it's easy for anyone. I'm sure she was working out diligently before she came. That's why even during the quarter-finals, she was very fresh." It's that freshness, that's allowed her to keep battles going and try to squeeze water out of stone, like in the second classical game against China's Lei Tingjie, where Krishnater thought after a point that there was "no venom left" in the pieces. But Humpy continued playing and soon, she was one move away from victory.

Bearing fruit

On the board, all the work that is happening behind the scenes is bearing fruit.

"The fact that Humpy's style is constantly evolving and she is showing a familiarity with a lot of the latest trends tells me that she is working very hard, that she

The fact that Humpy's style is constantly evolving and she is showing a familiarity with a lot of the latest trends tells me that she is working very hard, that she is still motivated to work and update herself on things. Most importantly, she courageously enters those battles with opponents no matter what their age or training was."

VISWANATHAN ANAND  
FIVE TIME WORLD CHAMPION

is still motivated to work and update herself on things. Most importantly, she courageously enters those battles with opponents no matter what their age or training was," five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand told *The Indian*

Macau Open: Satwik-Chirag in second round

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MACAU, JULY 29

STAR INDIAN shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stormed into the men's doubles second round of the Macau Open Super 300 with a straight-game win over Malaysia's Low Hang Yee and Ng Eng Cheong, here on Tuesday.

The Asian Games champions, who also regained their place in the top 10 of the BWF world rankings on Tuesday, produced a clinical performance to outclass the Malaysian pair 21-13, 21-15 in just 36 minutes.

The women's pair of Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra also moved to the second round after battling past Chinese Taipei's Zih Ling Huang and Wang Szu-Min 21-15, 16-21, 21-17 in a hard-fought three-game encounter.

In women's singles, Anmol Kharb and Tasnim Mir advanced to the main draw after winning their respective qualification matches.

Anmol defeated Azerbaijan's Keisha Fatimah Azzahra 21-11, 21-13, while Tasnim overcame Thailand's Tidapron Kleebyeusun 21-14, 13-21, 21-17.

Tasnim will face top seed Chen Yu Fei of China in the opening round of the main draw, while Anmol is set to take on second seed Busanan Ongbamrunphan of Thailand.

The top seeded women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand suffered a first-round exit after going down fighting 21-16, 20-22, 15-21 in an hour against Lin Xiao Min and Peng Yu Wei of Chinese Taipei.

Apoorva Gahlawat and Sakshi Gahlawat fell to Malaysia's Go Pei Kee and Teoh Mei Xing in the women's doubles Round of 32, while men's doubles pair of Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi also exited in the opening round.

In men's doubles, Dingku Singh Konthoujam and Amaan Mohammad progressed to the main draw after beating Hong Kong's Law Cheuk Him and Yeung Shing Choi 21-18, 21-17. They will face compatriots Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and Sai Pratheek K in the next round.

The mixed doubles pair of Thandrangini Hema Nagendra Babu and Priya Konjengbam also made it to the main draw, where they will take on Thailand's Phuwanat Horbanluekit and Fungfa Korpthammakit.

At £150 million price tag, why Isak is the hot striker available in transfer window

SANDIP G  
JULY 29

ONE EVENING, a teenaged striker for the Swedish club AIK received a video call from an unknown number. He casually picked it up, only for his eyes to leap out of the orbit. At the other end was Ronaldo Nazario, one of his idols. The Brazilian requested him to join Real Madrid. He stumbled for words and just kept nodding his head. But a month after the call, he ignored Madrid and signed for Borussia Dortmund, the lapidarist club where raw stones are polished to shining gems.

Madrid, his parents reasoned, was a step too soon. His parents, migrants from Eritrea who fled the war and settled in the Bagartorp just outside Stockholm in the late 80s believed in steady rather than spectacular promise. Eight years later, tracing unconventional paths with stops at Dutch Club Willem II (loan spell), Real Sociedad and Newcastle United, and suffering occasional setbacks, he could become the third most expensive transfer in the world after PSG recruits Kylian Mbappe and Neymar. His services would come at an eye-popping 150 millions pounds. Add agent fees, add-ons and transfer levy, he could cost around 200 million pounds.

Yet, Alexander Isak is not a name that rolls off the tongues of football audiences with as much marvel as those of Mbappe or Neymar. Eyebrows are twitched, chins are stroked, and sometimes heads are banged. It could be that he turns up for Newcastle, a club that has more cult than mainstream adulation, or that he is not a face that screams from advertisement hoarding, or that he keeps an obscenely low profile off the pitch.

The first question that swims in the head is whether his price is inflated? Is he or the club living a delusional neverland? Naysayers would pour his supreme but inferior numbers (26 goals and six assists in 42 games) as compared to some of the inflows in this season of gluttonous spending spree. Arsenal, after protracted negotiations, have landed Viktor Gyokeres, for half the sum (73 millions pounds) and twice the number of goals (54 goals and 13 assists) last season. Liverpool's latest fetch Hugo Ekitike struck 22 times and assisted 12 goals and cost 79 million pounds. Pure economics suggests Isak's price-tag is a rip-off. But footballing intelligence suggests that Newcastle are not bound by greed. Rather, it's a peep into how the transfers work.

Foremost, he is among the best in the business, just behind Erling Haaland and Mbappe in finishing but more hardworking than them off the ball. Last season, he skinned the Premier League's most trustworthy centre-back pairing of William Saliba and Gabriel of Arsenal in both legs of the League Cup semi-final with his pace, intelligent pressing and precision. By the end of the sec-



Alexander Isak's transfer could become the third-most expensive in the world. Reuters

In Newcastle, he is deservedly hailed as the best player they had on the rolls since Alan Shearer, the highest goal-scorer in the league.

Best player

In Newcastle, he is deservedly hailed as the best player they had on the rolls since Alan Shearer, the highest goal-scorer in the league. Like Shearer, he has the immaculate sense of the goal, to process the patterns of the game and anticipate the ball's passing sequence. The craft of poaching is oversimplified to just being at the right place at the right time. Ignored are their vision and intelligence to be at that place, to weave past his markers, to wander invisibly like a phantom. Last season, Isak was exceptional inside the box. He possessed a conversion rate of 30.26, nearly double as much as Ekitike.

Rewatching both legs of the Arsenal game would offer an affirmation of his poise when hounded by defenders or the onrushing goal-keeper growing big on him, his knack of throwing defenders (Saliba, no less) off-balance is exemplary. He is not averse to scoring from long range either. A 25-yard screamer

Portugal forward Felix joins Al-Nassr

**New Delhi:** Portugal forward Joao Felix has joined Saudi Pro League side Al-Nassr from Club World Cup winners Chelsea on a two-year contract, the two teams said on Tuesday. "Let's win together ...Joao Felix is a Nasraoui," Al-Nassr wrote on X, along with a short video of the striker. "I'm here to have fun and win together," the 25-year-old said. Neither club disclosed any financial details of the deal, but Sky Sports said the transfer could cost up to 43.7 million pounds (\$58.17 million), consisting of an initial 26.2 million fee plus 17.5 million in potential add-ons. Felix moved from Benfica to Atletico Madrid in 2019 when he was only 19 and then joined Chelsea on loan for the 2022-2023 campaign before being loaned to Barcelona the following season. **REUTERS**

against Liverpool was vintage EPL stuff. He is not a see-ball-hit-ball type either. The movements are balletic, he dribbles but with minimalistic precision, he drifts out and slithers in with a casual swivel that throws the frantic marker off-kilter. He was first compared to Thierry Henry because they wore the same jersey No (14); two years in the league, it doesn't seem like a silly hyperbole. Like ex-Liverpool centre forward Roberto Firmino, he drops deeper into the pockets, between the lines of defence and midfield.

An acute shortage of centre forwards adds a few millions. Premier League experience adds a few more. He is Premier League proven, Ekitike is not, Brighton did not consider Gyokeres rounded enough to feature in the league and loaned him out to Bundesliga and Championship sides. Whereas he has improved in recent years and excelled against English teams in Champions League, there are still lingering doubts of him setting the goalscoring charts on fire. Besides, he is 25, just about hitting the peak.

Other factors too are at play. Like the desperation of a club to sell a player. Newcastle is not a club that grooms and sells players, it's ambitious and desperately tried to keep Isak at St James' Park. It's utterly reasonable that the club has stuck a tag that limits his acquisition to only a handful of Europe's elites. Only that his timing of his transfer request came a trifle too late.

The big spenders had already exhausted a bulk of their budget. A heated bidding war is unlikely; it could be just one ambitious club making a decisive swoop. Or a legend making an impromptu video call.

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