



*Radico*  
SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE

# ONE MISSION. ONE SPIRIT. ONE NATION.



# KARGIL

## — 26 YEARS —

**Celebrating the valour of the Indian Armed Forces  
who stood as one on the heights of Kargil.**



INDO-PAKISTAN WAR



INDO-PAKISTAN WAR



KARGIL WAR



SCAN AND WATCH THE  
WAR VETERANS OF  
INDIAN ARMED FORCES  
NARRATE THEIR STORIES  
& EXPERIENCES OF  
1999 KARGIL WAR

**HONOURING THE MARTYRS & WAR WIDOWS AND THANKING ALL OUR SOLDIERS  
FOR ALWAYS SAFEGUARDING US & OUR MOTHERLAND**

SCAN AND  
WATCH/HEAR  
THE VICTORY  
SONG OF 1999





# The World

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Philippines Vice President Sara Duterte

### PHILIPPINES

## Top court rejects impeachment bid against V-P

**Manila:** The Philippine Supreme Court ruled Friday that an impeachment case filed against Vice President Sara Duterte violated the country's constitution due to a technicality, a decision that would block her scheduled trial over a raft of criminal allegations including her threat to have the president assassinated. The House of Representatives, which impeached Duterte in February and sent the case to the Senate for trial, violated a rule that only one impeachment case could be processed by the lower chamber against an impeachable official in a single year, court spokesperson Camille Ting said. **AP**

### UNITED KINGDOM

## Doctors start 5-day strike for better pay

**London:** Thousands of doctors in England's state-funded health system walked off the job Friday in a five-day strike over pay that the government says will disrupt care for patients across the country. Resident doctors, whose early in their careers who form the backbone of hospital and clinic care, took to picket lines outside hospitals after talks with the government broke down. The National Health Service said emergency departments would be open and hospitals and clinics would try to carry out as many scheduled appointments as possible. **AP**

### CANADA

## 3 rescued from mine after 60 hrs underground

**Iskut:** Three workers who were trapped at a gold and copper mine in Western Canada have been rescued after more than 60 hours underground. Red Chris mine operator Newmont Corp said the three men were safely brought to the surface late Thursday after being trapped underground by two rockfalls Tuesday morning. Kevin Coumbs, Darien Maduke and Jesse Chubaty, contractors for Canada based Hy-Tech Drilling, were in good health ,it said. "This was a carefully planned and meticulously executed rescue plan," Newmont said. **AP**

## WILL WORK TO CONVINCE OTHERS TO FOLLOW SUIT: MACRON

# France to recognise Palestinian state, draws fire from Tel Aviv, Washington

### JOHN IRISH

PARIS, WASHINGTON, JULY 25

FRANCE INTENDS to recognise a Palestinian state in September at the United Nations General Assembly, President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday in hopes of bringing peace to the region, but the plan drew angry rebukes from Israel and the United States.

Macron, who unveiled the decision on X, published a letter sent to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas confirming France's intention to press ahead with Palestinian recognition and work to "mobilise all its international partners" to follow suit.

"True to its historic commitment to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, I have decided that France will recognise the state of Palestine," Macron said. "I will make this solemn announcement at the United Nations General Assembly next September."

Home to Europe's largest Jewish and Muslim communities, France will become the first major Western country to recognise a Palestinian state, fuelling a movement so far dominated by smaller nations generally more critical of Israel. The news sparked anger in Israel and Washington.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the decision by one of Israel's closest



Palestinians at a charity kitchen in Gaza City on Friday. *Reuters*

est allies and a G7 member, saying such a move "rewards terror and risks creating another Iranian proxy." In a post on X, he added, "A Palestinian state in these conditions would be a launch pad to annihilate Israel — not to live in peace beside it... Let's be clear: the Palestinians do not seek a state alongside Israel; they seek a state instead of Israel."

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz described the move as "a surrender to terrorism," adding that Israel would not allow the establishment of a "Palestinian entity that would harm our security, endanger our existence."

In response, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the United States "strongly rejects plan to recognize a Palestinian state at the UN general assembly." In a post on X, he said, "This reckless decision only serves Hamas propaganda and sets back peace. It is a slap in

the face to the victims of October 7th." In June, the United States said it opposed steps to unilaterally recognise a Palestinian state, even saying it could go against US foreign policy interests.

## 'Will seek alternatives to truce talks': Israel

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Friday his government was considering "alternative options" to ceasefire

## EXPLAINED

## Who else? And who next?

At least 144 of the 193 United Nations member states recognise Palestine as a state, including most of the global south as well as Russia, China and India. But only a handful of the European Union members do so. France's decision may put pressure on major countries like Britain, Germany, Australia, Canada and Japan to take the same path. In the immediate term, Malta and Belgium are expected to be the next countries within the European Union to do so.

talks with Hamas after Israel and the US recalled their negotiating teams, throwing the future of the talks into further uncertainty.

The teams left Qatar on Thursday as President Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, said Hamas' latest response to proposals for a deal showed a "lack of desire" to reach a truce. Witkoff said the US will look at "alternative options."

### REUTERS WITH AP INPUTS

# Thailand and Cambodia exchange heavy artillery fire as border battle expands

**SHOON NAING & ARTORN POOKASOOK**  
SURIN (THAILAND) JULY 25

THAILAND AND Cambodia exchanged heavy artillery fire for a second day on Friday as border fighting intensified and spread, while Cambodia's leader said Thailand had agreed to a Malaysian ceasefire proposal but then backed down.

At least 20 people have been killed and more than 130,000 people displaced in the worst fighting between the Southeast Asian neighbours in 13 years. Both sides have blamed each other for starting the conflict and on Friday ratcheted up the rhetoric. Thailand accused Cambodia of deliberately attacking civilians and Cambodia condemned Thailand for using cluster munitions, controversial and widely condemned.



Thai people evacuate from homes in Sisaket on Friday. *AP*

Thailand's acting prime minister, Phumtham Wechayachai,

said Cambodia had attacked on multiple fronts. "The situation has intensified and could escalate into a state of war. At present, it's a

confrontation involving heavy weapons," he told reporters.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet said in a social media post he had agreed to a ceasefire proposed by his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim, chair of the ASEAN regional bloc, who had informed him that Phumtham had also agreed. "However, it is regrettable that just over an hour later, the Thai side informed that they had reversed their position," Hun Manet said.

Thailand late on Friday said it agreed in principle with the idea of a ceasefire and would consider it, but that it must be based on "appropriate on-the-ground conditions".

Fighting re-erupted before dawn on Friday, with clashes reported in 12 locations, up from six on Thursday, according to Thailand's military. **REUTERS**

# EU chief to meet Trump tomorrow, may reach framework trade deal this weekend

**JULIA PAYNE & JAN STRUPCZEWSKI**  
BRUSSELS, JULY 25

EUROPEAN COMMISSION President Ursula von der Leyen will meet US President Donald Trump on Sunday in Scotland after EU officials and diplomats said they expected to reach a framework trade deal this weekend.

The deal would likely include a 15% baseline tariff on all EU goods entering the United States and probably a 50% tariff on European steel and aluminium, the officials and diplomats said.



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Beijing on Thursday *Reuters*

"Following a good call with @POTUS, we have agreed to meet

in Scotland on Sunday to discuss transatlantic trade relations, and how we can keep them strong," von der Leyen said in a post on X.

Trump on Friday said there was a 50-50 chance or perhaps less that the US would reach a trade agreement with the European Union, adding that Brussels wanted to "make a deal very badly".

"We are close to an agreement and it is possible we will reach it during the weekend," one senior EU official said. Trump will visit his golf courses in Scotland and meet British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday.

European luxury and auto shares - two of the sectors most exposed to tariffs along with wine and spirits - rose, with LVMH and Europe's largest car manufacturer Volkswagen closing up around 4% and 3%, respectively, the biggest gainers.

Combining goods, services and investment, the EU and the United States are each other's largest trading partners by far. The American Chamber of Commerce in Brussels warned that any conflict jeopardised \$9.5 trillion of business in the world's most important commercial relationship. **REUTERS**



People outside the Iranian consulate in Istanbul, where the talks with European countries are held, on Friday. *Reuters*

# Iran holds n-talks with E-3 countries over UN sanctions

## Sanctions to resume by Aug if no results

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
ISTANBUL, JULY 25

TALKS BETWEEN Iranian and European diplomats in Istanbul ended Friday with the sides agreeing to meet again to seek to unpick the deadlock over Tehran's nuclear programme.

Representatives from Britain, France and Germany, known as the E3 nations, gathered at the Iranian Consulate building for the first talks since Iran's 12-day war with Israel in June, which involved US bombers striking nuclear-related facilities.

The talks, which ended after four hours, centred on the possibility of reimposing sanctions on Iran that were lifted in 2015 in exchange for Iran accepting restrictions and monitoring of its nuclear programme. Iranian negotiator, Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi, said the "serious, frank and detailed" meeting focused on the nuclear issue and the status of sanctions while agreeing to further discussions.

The E3 nations had earlier warned that sanctions could return under a process known as the "snapback" mechanism, which al-

lows one of the Western parties to reimpose UN sanctions if Tehran doesn't comply with its requirements.

"Both sides came to the meeting with specific ideas," Gharibabadi said in a social media post. "It was agreed that consultations on this matter will continue." As the talks were ongoing, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Esmail Baghaei, said that he hoped that the meeting would see the E3 nations reassess their "previous unconstructive attitude".

European leaders have said sanctions will resume by the end of August, if there is no progress on containing Iran's nuclear programme. The snapback mechanism "remains on the table," a European diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

Tehran, meanwhile, has said that Washington, which withdrew from the 2015 deal during the first term of US President Donald Trump, needs to rebuild faith in its role in negotiations.

Gharibabadi previously said Iran's engagement was dependent on "several key principles" that included "rebuilding Iran's trust — as Iran has absolutely no trust in the United States".

### FIRST VISIT SINCE OPERATION SINDOOR

# Pak Army chief in China, holds talks with top leadership

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
BEIJING, ISLAMABAD, JULY 25

PAKISTAN ARMY chief Asim Munir, who is on his first visit to China after his elevation as the Field Marshal, on Friday held talks with top Chinese leaders and discussed ways to deepen cooperation across all sectors.

Munir held separate meetings with Vice President Han Zheng, top military official General Zhang Youxia and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, according to official media reports here.

This is Munir's first visit to China after India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terrorist infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan in response to the Pahalgam terror attack. The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the strikes on May 10.

During the conflict, Pakistan used extensive military equipment supplied by China.

This is also Munir's first visit

to China after his trip to Washington, where he met US President Donald Trump and sought to establish close ties with America, Beijing's strategic rival.

Coinciding with Munir's visit to Beijing, Pak Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar is in Washington, where he is expected to meet US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Dar was in China on July 14 to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Foreign Ministers' meeting.

A statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the media wing of the Pakistan military - said that in their talks with Munir, the "Chinese leadership lauded the Pakistan Armed Forces as a cornerstone of resilience and a vital contributor to peace in South Asia". The "Chinese military leadership reiterated full confidence in the strength of the bilateral defence partnership and acknowledged Pakistan's pivotal role in promoting regional peace," Pakistan daily *Dawn* quoted the statement as saying.

## FOREIGN-BORN RESIDENTS MAKE 3% OF POPULATION, BUT FAR-RIGHT PARTY FOCUSES ON FEARS ABOUT CHINESE STUDENTS, TOURISTS

# YouTube generation propels Japan's anti-foreigner politics into the mainstream

**TIM KELLY & JOHN GEDDIE**  
TOKYO, JULY 25

YUTA KATO is increasingly annoyed by foreigners ignorant of Japan's social etiquette, whether that involves blocking the streets near his work in Tokyo's upscale Giza district or distracting commuters by playing loud videos on their phones. The 38-year-old hairdresser is among a growing number of Japanese voters drawn to the right-wing Sanseito party, whose warnings about foreigners helped it establish a strong foothold in an upper house election on Sunday.

"It is not about discrimination,

it's just like, why don't they notice?" said Kato, who, like many Sanseito supporters, obtains his information from YouTube and other social media sites, a space the party has utilised to amplify its "Japanese First" message.

Japan's foreign-born residents account for just 3% of the total population, a fraction of the corresponding proportion in the US and Europe, but record numbers of tourists in recent years have made foreigners more visible in major cities. While Sanseito largely avoids identifying specific immigrant groups, Romeo Marcantouni, a Tokyo-based academic who has studied the party, said it taps into latent concerns

ranging from badly-behaved tourists to conspiracy theories about sneaking Chinese influence.

Kato said he believes the Chinese, the biggest cohort of foreign residents in Japan and among the largest visitor groups, are quietly taking over the country. Chinese are also often the focal point for anti-immigrant rhetoric propagated online.

Sanseito leader Sohei Kamiya and other leaders have raised concerns about Chinese buying up land and resources in Japan. One of the party's policies listed on its website is to "stop the silent invasion of Japan by foreign forces".

The party did not immediately respond to a request for comment



Sanseito party also wants to scrap Japan's pacifist constitution and restore the Emperor's authority. *Reuters*

and Kamiya has previously denied criticism that it is xenophobic. Sanseito is most popular among 18 to 39-year-olds, with men favouring the party more than women, according to a poll by public broadcaster NHK, a trend increasingly seen among support for right-wing parties in democracies worldwide.

In contrast, support for Ishiba's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which lost its majority in Sunday's election, is deepest among those aged over 70 with no clear gender divide, the NHK poll showed.

Sanseito's presence online has given them visibility among younger voters that the LDP has

struggled to reach, Kato said.

The party's official YouTube channel has three times as many followers as the LDP's, with engagement in their content far higher than other parties, a study by Asahi newspaper found.

"They are the party of YouTube," said Jeffrey Hall, a lecturer at Kanda University of International Studies who has authored a book on right-wing politics in Japan. YouTube did not respond to emails seeking comment on Sanseito's use of the platform. On its community guidelines page, YouTube says it closely monitors content and removes videos it deems to promote "harmful or dangerous behavior".

Birthered during the COVID-19 pandemic when they spread conspiracy theories about vaccinations, Sanseito has broadened its appeal with its tough immigration policies and pledges to help households struggling with rising prices.

It also wants to scrap Japan's pacifist constitution and restore the Emperor's authority, fringe ideas promoted by other right-wing groups that regularly drive around cities in black trucks blaring imperial-era military songs. Sanseito has set its sights on emulating the successes of other far-right groups in Europe, such as Germany's AfD and Britain's Reform UK. **REUTERS**





## BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY

Two cheers for that good old import from Britain — Parliamentary Practice.



## GURUGRAM DIGITAL ARREST SCAM

Court rejects bail plea of key accused, points to bank chairman role



The Indian Express report published on June 30

RITU SARIN

NEW DELHI, JULY 25

A COURT in Gurugram has rejected the second bail application of a former cooperative bank director from Hyderabad in a Rs 5.8-crore digital arrest scam case while noting that “the chairman of the bank is also involved” according to the accused’s disclosure statement and has “to be joined into the (police) investigation”.

In the order rejecting bail on July 21, Judicial Magistrate Arun Dabla found the allegations in the case to be “grave and serious” and stated that the accused, Samudrala Venkateswarlu, committed a “socio economic offence which has deep rooted impact on the society”.

The scam, which targeted a top advertising executive, was at the heart of a series of investigative reports published by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION OF ROLLS

Phase 1 over, 65 lakh electors likely to be dropped from draft rolls

EC: 22 lakh dead, 7 lakh duplications, 35 lakh migrated, could not be traced

DAMINI NATH

NEW DELHI, JULY 25

AS THE first phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Bihar’s electoral rolls concluded on Friday, the Election Commission (EC) said about 92% of 7.89 crore registered electors in the state would remain on the draft rolls to be published on August 1. About 8%, or approximately 65 lakh names, are likely to be removed from the draft rolls after they were found to be either deceased, registered in more than one place, permanently migrated to another place, or untraceable, according to the EC.

The poll panel said 7.23 crore

## ALL-WEATHER FRIENDSHIP: MODI

## Line of credit, trade talks, direct flights: Modi, Muizzu mark turnaround in ties



PM Narendra Modi being received by Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu upon his arrival in Maldives, Friday. PTI

PM Guest of Honour at Maldives Independence Day today

DIVYAA

NEW DELHI, JULY 25

INDIA IS proud to be the most trusted friend of the Maldives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday after announcing a Rs 4,850-crore line of credit to the island nation.

A day after sealing the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United Kingdom, India also announced the launch of talks on an FTA with Maldives during the PM’s two-day state visit to the country.

“Mausam chahe jaisa bhi ho (whatever the weather may be)... our friendship will always remain bright and clear. India will continue to support the development of Maldives’ defence capabilities,” Modi said, addressing a joint press conference alongside Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu.

This marked a significant turnaround in the relationship

EXPLAINED  
Chill to warmth

THE VISIT marks a defining reset in ties that had come under strain almost 20 months ago. Arguably, New Delhi’s sustained efforts, including its assistance to the island nation to deal with economic hardship, helped bring the relations back on track.

which had seen some unease in the beginning of last year.

“Peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region are our shared goals. Together, through the Colombo Security Conclave, we will strengthen regional maritime security,” Modi said in his remarks after the two leaders held wide-ranging talks

focusing on consolidating cooperation in areas of trade, defence and infrastructure.

Besides FTA negotiations, Modi also announced that the two countries will work towards finalising a bilateral investment treaty. Later, addressing a media briefing, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said that both sides expect this FTA to be completed “fairly quickly”.

The Maldives holds an important place in India’s ‘Neighbourhood First’ policy, Modi said, underlining that mutual cooperation in defence and security is a testament to the mutual trust. “India will always support the Maldives to strengthen its defence capabilities,” he said.

In his remarks, President Muizzu — who had visited India in October last year, signifying a thaw in bilateral ties — said: “I am also pleased to announce the initiation of negotiations for a free

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## RS NOTICE MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED



LS Speaker Om Birla, RS Deputy Chairman Harivansh look on as former Speaker Somnath Chatterjee’s grandchildren pay tribute to him on his birth anniversary. PTI IN PARLIAMENT, P 6

## Process to remove Justice Varma will begin in LS, has to be joint call: Govt

LIZ MATHEW & APURVA VISHWANATH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE NOTICE for removal of Justice Yashwant Varma is likely to be taken up in the Lok Sabha, with that “received” by former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar in the Rajya Sabha unlikely to be considered.

The announcement by Dhankhar, as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, that he had “received” a notice for the removal of Justice Varma from 63



Justice Yashwant Varma

Opposition MPs is believed to have triggered the series of events leading to his resignation as V-P.

Speaking to reporters Friday, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said: “All the political parties have agreed that the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

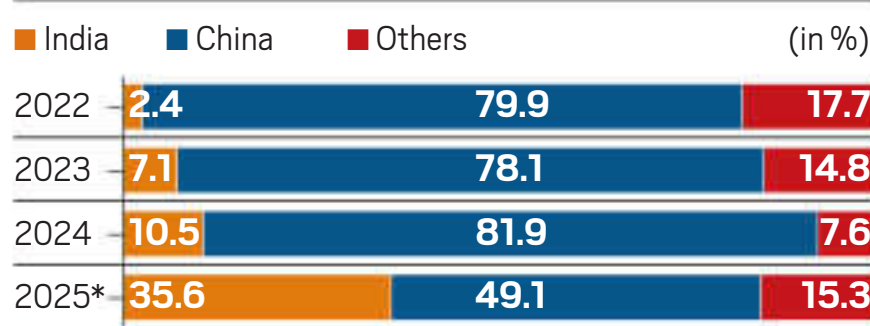
## 1 in 3 US smartphone imports now made in India, China’s lead shrinks

AGGAM WALIA & SOUMYARENDRA BARIK  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

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.

India’s growing share — now 1 in 3, driven largely by Apple iPhones — comes amid ongoing trade talks with the US. While smartphones are India’s top export to the US by value, President

## SHARE IN U.S. SMARTPHONE IMPORTS



\*2025 data from Jan to May; Source: US International Trade Commission data

Donald Trump has threatened a 25 per cent tariff on Indian-made iPhones.

US smartphone imports from India jumped by over three times year-on-year to 21.3 million units

between January and May this year, according to data from the US International Trade Commission (USITC). In value terms (CIF), imports of Indian-made

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Be patriots... focus on causes here: HC junks CPM plea for Gaza protest

Smacks of bias: CPM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, JULY 25

DISMISSING A plea by the CPI(M) against Mumbai Police’s refusal to allow a protest against the alleged genocide in Gaza, a Bombay High Court bench on Friday observed that instead of being “short-sighted”, the petitioner should focus on issues in India.

In oral remarks, Justice Ravindra V Ghuge, heading a two-judge bench, said, “Look at your own country. Be patriots. This is not patriotism. Speak up for the causes in our own country.”

The bench said that petitioner CPI(M) had no locus standi to challenge the police decision as it was not an applicant seeking permission for the protest.

On June 17, police had rejected an application of the All India Peace and Solidarity Foundation (AIPSF) to stage a protest on the Gaza issue at south Mumbai’s Azad Maidan, which is a designated site for protests and rallies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## STUDENT SUICIDES SC ISSUES GUIDELINES

- Institutions should engage counsellor or psychologist
- Display helpline numbers prominently
- Staff should undergo training at least twice a year
- Set up internal committee to take immediate action, and provide psycho-social support

REPORT, PAGE 11

## Seven students killed as roof of govt school collapses in Rajasthan



At the site of the school building collapse in Jhalawar. PTI

PARUL KULSHRESTHA  
JHALAWAR, JULY 25

THE ROOF of a government primary school in Piplodi village of Rajasthan’s Jhalawar district collapsed Friday morning, killing seven students and leaving eight critically injured. The incident

prompted the state’s Bhajan Lal Sharma government to order a probe and led to the suspension of five government teachers.

The incident occurred at 8.30 am, when students of the Government Higher Primary School gathered for morning prayers. One student described

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Restaurant named July 30, new house: Wayanad man who lost 11 of family in landslide rebuilds life

PAGE 1  
ANCHOR

SHAJU PHILIP

MEPPADI (WAYANAD), JULY 25

ON JULY 30 last year, the catastrophic Wayanad landslides wiped out 11 members of his family, including his wife and three children. But Kalathingal Noufal decided to rebuild his life, brick by brick. A year later, Noufal’s story is one of grit, determination and massive community support.

The 43-year-old has found a new partner in life, started a restaurant — named ‘July 30’ — and got a new house.

Noufal lived at Mundakkai, the village in Kerala’s Wayanad district that was totally wiped out in the landslides that claimed 298 lives, washed away houses and buildings, and buried whole families.

On the day of the tragedy, Noufal was in Oman, where he worked as a chef. The next day, he flew back home, only to find just rubble where his house once stood. He soon learnt that his



K Noufal, 43, in front of his restaurant

wife, parents and other close relatives were among 11 of his family to have died in the landslides.

“I had to go through the trauma of seeing their bodies. Of the 11, I could only identify five. The rest were identified through DNA tests,” he said.

A few days after the tragedy, he said, “I made the decision that I should look forward. I realised that my lost life, my family and belongings will never come back. While lodged in a temporary building, I decided not to dwell on the tragedy and the loss.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Save on your electricity bills with the power of the sun.

Switch to **Union** **₹** **ROOF TOP SOLAR** PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

Rate Of Interest **6.00%\***

Easy and hassle-free Processing

Subsidy Up to **₹78000**

Nil Processing Fees

No Income Proof Required

Digital Journey available (STP)

(Toll Free No.) 1800 208 2244 / 1800 425 1515 / 1800 425 3555 | 9666606060 | www.unionbankofindia.co.in

unionbankofindia UnionBankTweets unionbankinsta UnionBankofIndiaTub Unionbankofindia unionbankinst

\*Subject to changes in EBRK

\*Terms & Conditions Apply

Scan for more information

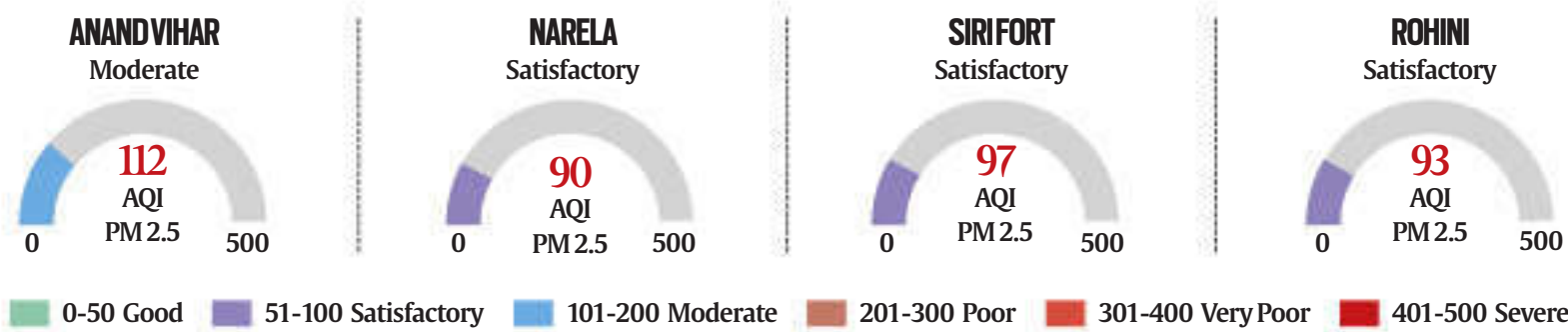










FORECAST: July 26  
Partly cloudy sky; very light to light rain with thunderstorm/lightningMAX: 35-37  
2.1°C above normal  
MIN: 24-26  
1.3°C below normal

## Rs 32.5 lakh looted from electronics store in Lajpat Nagar

UPASIKA SINGHAL  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

AN ELECTRONICS franchise store owner was in for a rude shock when he opened his store Monday to find it had been looted the previous night.

Gunjan Narula, the owner, alleged that Rs 32.5 lakh in cash was stolen, in her complaint to the police on Monday.

The store, near Lajpat Nagar's Central Market, sold TVs, AC units, and refrigerators. "I noticed that all my cash drawers at the cash counters were open. There was a big vault... which was also missing... apart from this, I have a cabin in the basement and the cabin cash counter was also broken and all the cash from it was taken," wrote Narula in the complaint.

According to the police, two men on scooters wearing helmets broke into the store on Sunday night, looted the money, and fled. According to the complainant, the cash counters contained around Rs 2.5 lakh while the vault contained Rs 30 lakh.

"What has been the most difficult in this investigation is the fact that the owner would switch off the CCTVs in the store after closing it," said a police officer, privy to the investigation.

"However, our team managed to track the culprits to a great extent using the network of CCTVs from nearby stores and areas," the officer added.

"By the looks of it, the robbers knew where the money had been stored," said the officer.

## AFTER OIL AND SUGAR BOARD WARNING, EDUCATORS PUSH MESSAGE FURTHER

# Whole wheat burgers, millet pasta: How schools are rewriting the menu

SOPHIYA MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

PRITI BALI works her magic in the kitchen by asking one question: How can a meal be made more interesting?

"Kids love flavour, texture, variety," says the Delhi-based award-winning food entrepreneur who consults for six private schools in the city. "If the food looks exciting and tastes good, they're not going to ask whether it has maida or not."

Bali's approach aligns well with the Central Board for Secondary Education's recent directive to display oil and sugar boards in schools. The boards are to be installed in shared common spaces with the aim to educate students and teachers on the harmful effects of high consumption of fat, oil, and sugar.

But for Bali, it's not just about nutritional transparency. It's going a little further by changing habits subtly. "You can't just tell children what not to eat. You have to show them there's something better."

From millet-based pizzas to homemade corn chips, her menu reads like a chef's answer to a nutritionist's wishlist. "I make *dal makhani* without cream... I use butter and crushed cashews and almonds," Bali says.

"Healthy food doesn't have to come with warnings," she adds. "It should come with flavour."

Schools, meanwhile, have taken a leaf out of her book by revamping canteen menus and introducing food-related projects.

At ITL Public School, Ritu Sharma, academic coordinator,



A sugar board at Mamta Modern School in Vikaspuri; (below) at ITL Public School, there are food planners, and sugar and oil boards in different floors. *Sophiya Mathew*



says she accompanied a group of Class 12 students to Shimla earlier this year. The students were given full freedom—but not one reached for instant noodles.

"They stuck to the school's planned meals. Some even brought home-packed food. That was new."

The school tracks daily cafeteria feedback, conducts interdisciplinary projects around

food labels and health, and ensures every student undergoes medical checkups twice a year.

"Fruit breaks, peer educator programmes, and now the CBSE's sugar and oil boards have all helped build awareness," says Sumana Goswami, coordinator of Class 9 and 10 classes at the school.

For Shalini Choudhary, headmistress at Mamta Modern School in Vikaspuri, the shift was

noticeable at home. "My son came back from school and said, 'Mama, *kal lunch mein pickle dena* (Ma, don't add pickle to my lunch tomorrow),' she recalls. "He didn't even know what a pickle was... we don't eat it at home. He'd tasted it from a classmate's tiffin."

That one sentence said everything about how children absorb food culture through their peers, and how schools influence food choices, Choudhary realised.

At her school, sugar boards are now displayed in the secondary wing, and fruit and vegetable theme days are held to nudge children towards healthier choices.

At DPS Mathura Road, a revamped menu now features *rajma* rice, whole wheat burgers, semolina pasta, and drinks like *chaach* and coconut water. "We've cut down on oily dishes like *puri chole* to once a week," says Kamna Arora, coordinator for Classes 3 to 5. "And we reserve one day when children can have what they like, French fries, honey chilli potato. But the rest of the week is clean."

In pre-primary classes, 'Healthy Tiffin Weeks' are now frequent, with games, story sessions, and reward charts encouraging children to bring fruits, vegetables, and homemade snacks.

At Sri Venkateshwar International School, the canteen doesn't sit in a corner; it is brought to the students.

Each day, a mobile food stall is set up outside a different classroom. Trisha, a Class 12 student, loves (millet-based) pasta day. Her friends, Avni and Tuhina, say that between coaching classes and long school days, planning healthy meals at home is a struggle. "At least here, we know the

food's strictly healthy," Avni says.

"We use palm oil instead of refined, limit spice, and constantly update our menu based on feedback," says Ushma Kapoor, foundational years in charge. "It's not just about what's in the food, but about teaching children how to think about food."

Doctors agree that the food boards are a step in the right direction in educating students. "It's not about eating less," says Dr Nitin Verma, Director of Paediatrics at Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital. "It's about eating the right food."

The CBSE boards, she says, are a good start, but he emphasises that more is needed: "Schools should offer real alternatives: avocado toast, sprouts, protein-rich meals. Don't ban. Replace."

Schools are also trying to balance health goals with student preferences.

At Amity International School, Saket, the canteen menu includes familiar favourites like *rajma chawal*, *chhole chawal*, *chana kulcha*, *idli sambhar*, and vegetarian fried rice with *manchurian*.

Principal Divya Bhatia says, "Chips and aerated drinks are not served. We are also contemplating adding sprout *chaat*, wheat *kathis* and beetroot rolls."

At DPS Mathura Road, Kamna Arora, coordinator for Classes 3 to 5, explains, "There are two kinds of parents. Some are very health conscious and support these changes. But others insist on keeping items their child likes—like noodles." To find a middle ground, the school includes items like fries or veg manchurian once a week, focusing on healthier options the rest of the time.

## BODY FOUND EARLIER THIS MONTH

# Gang of 13 sexually assaulted boy, stabbed him 24 times; suspected he was informer: Cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

ON JULY 1, a teenage boy was found dead near a water treatment plant (WTP) in Outer Delhi. His post-mortem report has now revealed that he was allegedly sexually assaulted before being stabbed 24 times, said police.

According to police, the boy was killed allegedly by 13 people—many of them minors—as they suspected he was an 'informer' for incarcerated gangster brothers Monu and Sonu, also known as the Bandhwa brothers. Police had earlier arrested two men and apprehended four juveniles in connection with the case. Three more people were arrested on July 18 from Meerut; police said they had tried to disguise themselves as kanwariyas.

"One of the accused and two juveniles took part in the Kanwar Yatra... they were in a kanwar camp in Meerut. Police personnel also disguised themselves as kanwariyas to enter the camp and arrested the accused," an officer said.

A total of 9 people have been apprehended in the case, including the main accused.

Police said the main accused had allegedly been beaten up by

the Bandhwa brothers last November and blamed the victim for it. He and his group abducted the victim on June 30, before they sexually assaulted and stabbed him one by one, the officer claimed.

The incident came to light on July 1, when police received a PCR call at 3.10 pm regarding a body found near the WTP. On reaching the location, police discovered the body in the Munak Canal, with a scarf tightly wrapped around his neck and multiple stab wounds.

A case under BNS sections 103(1) (murder) and 238(b) (causing disappearance of evidence) was registered. Later, the investigation had revealed that the murder stemmed from personal enmity between the deceased and two brothers from the same locality, said police. Police said Section 6 of the POCOA Act has been added to the FIR.

"The main accused had suspected that the victim and a couple of his friends were informers and had connived with the Bandhwa brothers to assault him last Diwali. He was planning revenge for a long time. On the intervening night of June 29-30, he and seven others gathered together and planned to execute the murder," DCP (Outer North) Harehsar Swami had said.

## Rs 100-cr drug cartel busted, 5 Nigerian nationals arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

AS SOON as this call centre in

Nigeria received a phone call from India, the operator jotted down the ask—how many kilograms of cocaine and MDMA are required. Kallis, the call centre owner, would then dispatch women, on whose bodies the packets of pure grade narcotics would be taped, to Delhi. From the airport, the Indian handlers of Kallis would collect the packets, process it in "kitchens" of South Delhi's Chattarpur, and hand it over to "delivery agents".

The agents would then prepare two batches of drugs, one to be transported to Australia and New Zealand, and the other for doorstep delivery in Delhi.

This was how, the police said, an inter-continental drug smuggling network operated.

The Delhi Police Crime Branch said on Friday that it has now dismantled the operation, by seizing drugs worth over Rs 100 crore and arresting five Nigerian nationals, who were allegedly working for cross-continental drug kingpin Callistus alias Kallis. The police identified the accused as Kamenji Phillip, Adore, Victor, Kelechi Chikwe and a person known as 'Tall Guy'.

Kallis, police said, operates out of Nigeria, and primarily deals in MDMA and cocaine. The police trail started on June 13, when a constable tracked a package to a godown in Moti Nagar. The package, containing more than 800 gm of cocaine, was wrapped among packed suits. "The parcel led us

to Cameroonian national Kamenji Phillip (44) in Rajpura. From him, 2,012 gm of cocaine was recovered," Additional CP (Crime) Mangesh Kashyap said.

The police said that Phillip had come to India in 2017 on a Nigerian passport. He returned to Cameroon in 2020, and came back again in March 2025 on the instructions of Kallis, his uncle. Police said Phillip was sent to Delhi to be Kallis' eyes and ears, as Kallis didn't trust his India operator—a Nigerian named Adore (53).

"His (Phillip's) associate, Victor, supplied MDMA, which they packaged into parcels bound for New Zealand and Australia. Later, Kallis provided him with pure Columbian cocaine bricks," said Kashyap.

According to the police, Phillip distributed the cocaine in Delhi via Victor by using delivery boys Kelechi Chikwe and 'Tall Guy', both of African origin.

The money collected from the delivery agents was given to Phillip, who would facilitate a hawala-like network to re-wire the money back to Kallis using a Nigerian shell company, said police. Kallis also allegedly provided money exchange service to Indians in Nigeria, who wished to send cash home. "He would collect the amount in Naira from Indian clients, and direct Phillip to facilitate the payment in rupees to the relatives of the client in India, cleaning his drug money in the process..." Kashyap said.

The police said Adore was arrested from his Chattarpur kitchen with 146 gm of MDMA, 156 gm of cocaine and 1,028 gm of ganja.

## Rahul visits slum hit by demolitions in Delhi's Ashok Vihar, assures help

SAMAN HUSAIN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi on Friday made a quiet entry into Jailorwala Bagh in Northwest Delhi's Ashok Vihar. The slum cluster is one of several across Delhi where homes were razed in recent weeks under the BJP government's ongoing anti-encroachment drive.

Accompanied by Congress national spokesperson Ragini Nayak, who unsuccessfully contested the Wazirpur Assembly seat earlier this year, Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, stood with residents.

The residents, many of whom have now been rendered homeless, described the impact of the anti-encroachment drive on their lives. They talked about their tribulations post being displaced—cooking in the open, children having to miss school, and falling ill as their homes have been razed.

"Rahul ji patiently heard every story—from that of school students who cannot attend classes anymore, to that of families who said their homes were demolished despite having court stays... there has been no electricity for the past 2-3 weeks as the electric poles were uprooted during the demolition," said Nayak.

"He has assured us that we are going to move court, and we are



Rahul Gandhi at Jailorwala Bagh in Northwest Delhi's Ashok Vihar. *Express*

also going to fight this battle on the street and in the Parliament. We cannot fight in the Delhi Assembly because we have no MLAs there, and those who do have representation are not raising the matter. We have asked our team to follow up with the people and take the matter to court..." she added.

Nayak's words underline the Congress's political isolation in Delhi after it drew a blank in this year's Assembly polls. Her visit to Ashok Vihar comes in the wake of the party's efforts to reframe itself as a voice for the jhuggi-jhopri clusters, as it seeks to capture the vacuum left by the AAP.

AAP has struggled to find its foothold in the Capital, following its rout in the Assembly polls.

Over the past month and a half, jhuggis in Madras Camp, Batla House, Taimoor Nagar, and Bhoomiheen Camp have been razed. Jhuggis along the railway line in Wazirpur were also demolished, citing 'line of visibility' requirements.

The slum cluster that Gandhi visited was an extension of the Wazirpur railway track area.

"The notice was to remove the upper construction, but instead of partial removal, they brought everything down," Nayak alleged. "This area has thousands of workers who have lived here for years. Even those who managed to get temporary relief from courts have had their homes demolished," she added.

## Month after Sunjay Kapur's death, mother claims forced to sign documents behind locked doors

NIRBHAY THAKUR  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

OVER A month after businessman and actor Karisma Kapoor's former husband Sunjay Kapur died of a heart attack while playing polo in London, his mother Rani Kapur has written to the board of directors of family-owned auto components firm Sona Comstar—a part of Indian conglomerate Sona Group—suggesting that she had been "forced to sign documents behind locked doors" and "left to the mercy of a select few for survival".

The letter was written by Rani Kapur hours before an annual general meeting (AGM) of the company was scheduled for Friday.

The letter, in which Rani identified herself as the majority shareholder of the Sona Group, stated: "I was approached multiple times and compelled to sign various documents without explanation or even having time to read and understand the same. Despite being under immense mental and emotional distress, I was coerced into signing such documents behind locked doors... the contents of such documents have never been revealed to me."



Sunjay Kapur

In the letter, which was also copied to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Rani also alleged that she has lost access to all her bank accounts. "Please also take note that I have been totally denied access to my accounts and have been left to the mercy of a select few for survival. All this, in less than a month of my only son passing away," she said.

Rani further said that her late husband, Surinder Kapur—the founder of Sona Group, who had passed away in 2015—had via a will dated June 30, 2015, made her the sole beneficiary of his estate and also a majority shareholder of the Sona Group.

"It is unfortunate that while the family and I are still in mourning, some people have chosen this as an opportune time to wrest control and usurp the family legacy," she wrote while requesting that the AGM be postponed by two weeks.

She further alleged that in the AGM, a resolution would be passed to appoint certain direc-

tors in the company as being representatives of the Kapur family, without her involvement.

"Unfortunately, once again, nothing has been told or explained, let alone discussed with me regarding the same by the company or people involved," she said.

Rani, who is being represented by senior advocate Vaibhav Gaggar and advocate Smriti Churiwal, added that she had "not given any consent or officially nominated any person to come on the board of the company or any other Sona Group company after my son's demise or given any consent to any person to represent me in any capacity before the company and or any other Sona Group company".

The *Indian Express* has learnt that Sona Comstar, while denying all allegations, has said that it did not defer its AGM—which was "scheduled in full compliance with the law"—despite the request from Rani Kapur, as she is not a shareholder in the company.

On June 12, Sunjay Kapur had died at the age of 53 following a heart attack. Some reports claimed that he had swallowed an insect while playing polo, which possibly sent his body into shock.

## CITES DRUG SHORTAGE IN DELHI, HC RAPS GOVT

# Have to travel to Jaipur twice a week for treatment, says haemophilia patient

SOHINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

SINCE 2023, 37-year old Mukul Gandhi, a haemophilia patient in Delhi, has been rushing to Jaipur to get a dose of recombinant factor drug. Exasperated, he, along with a few other haemophilia patients, moved the Delhi High Court last November.

Eight months on, the Delhi government, on July 14, assured the HC that it will proactively ensure that adequate stock of recombinant factor injections are made available in the Capital's hospitals. The HC further directed the government "to ensure that adequate numbers of haematologists are recruited and

deployed in hospitals run by GNCTD to attend to the patients". Gandhi was diagnosed at AIIMS New Delhi with haemophilia when he was three years old—a cut during his mundane ceremony had resulted in incessant bleeding.

While crossing paths with others in a similar situation, his parents came to know of an NGO that ensures availability of fresh frozen plasma (FFP) for haemophilia patients, the prevalent therapy at the time. Over time, the more advanced therapy of recombinant factor, also known as Antihemophilic Factor (AHF), was introduced and made available as therapy for haemophilia patients in India.

Speaking to The Indian

Express, Gandhi said, "Between 2013 and 2019, government hospitals in Delhi were administering recombinant factor therapy. However, after 2019, we started seeing irregular availability of recombinant factor—held to be scientifically more efficacious than plasma... Many government hospitals started seeing plasma-derived factors being made available instead."

"We would also suffer side effects of the plasma therapy, such as nausea and nose bleed. By 2023, we started witnessing an acute shortage of the recombinant factor therapy in Delhi's government hospitals. Twice a week, I would take a bus from Dhaura Kuan to Jaipur, which was offering a variety of recom-



Mukul Gandhi (left) with Munna Roy, another haemophilia patient and petitioner in the case. *Express*

binant factor therapies. While the recombinant factor therapy is easily available in tier 2 and 3 cities such as Jaipur and Haridwar, it is not available in the National Capital," he added.

On July 14, the Delhi government, while admitting to have witnessed a supply shortage of the recombinant factor therapy, brought two experts to the HC—State Blood Cell officer Dr Seema Kapoor and Hemophilia in charge Dr Sunita Aggarwal at Lok Nayak Hospital. They impressed before Justice Datta that from their experience, they have seen "no difference in efficacy between recombinant or plasma... techniques are so much developed that efficacy is same".

Justice Datta, however, coun-

tered, "I would generally accept what you have to say. But the court's concern is only one, when doctors prescribe recombinant, it should be available... if your hospital's doctor has prescribed recombinant factor, then that's what the patient should get... The court isn't competent to get into this but only thing is if recombinant is prescribed it should be available."

The government then informed the HC that "currently, there are adequate stocks of recombinant factor injections". It went on to assure that "proactive efforts shall continue to be made to ensure that there is adequate stock of recombinant factor injections in future as well".

However, Gandhi—repre-

sented by advocate Amit Khanna—pointed at other systemic issues faced by haemophilia patients.

"Most government hospitals in Delhi do not have haemophilia daycare centres and there is no dignity in the way we are treated. Hematologists are not available, which is essential since they will be the ones deciding on the dose, in accordance to the patients' age, weight and other factors. Instead, this is being done by general medicine doctors."

"At Lok Nayak Hospital, my doses were not given according to my weight. After being administered a dose, they would ask me to come again in 12 hours for the next one. Given our condition which already makes us

weak and prone to fatigue, this is harassment..." said Gandhi, who works in a Delhi-based tendering company.

Owing to haemophilia, which has caused internal bleeding over the years making his joints weak, Gandhi has 69% disability. He said that he was advised knee replacement surgery around five years ago but has been unable to consider the same in the absence of a steady supply of recombinant factor therapy.

"There have been instances where my knees got locked while crossing the road. Any surgery means I will require several doses of the recombinant factor... I have postponed the surgery as there is uncertainty over the availability of the drugs," he added.



FAKE DIPLOMAT ARRESTED IN GHAZIABAD

Two micronations, a US non-profit snap ties with accused

SAMAN HUSAIN  
GHAZIABAD, JULY 25

TWO MICRONATIONS and a US-based charitable organisation have cut all ties with a Ghaziabad fraudster, who allegedly posed as a diplomat of these nations and ran an elaborate con built on forged documents, a fake embassy, and claims of global influence.

The accused, Harsh Vardhan Jain (45), was arrested on Wednesday following a raid by Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) on a fake “embassy” he was allegedly running out of a rented double-storey bungalow in Ghaziabad, Jain, who styled himself as the Ambassador of Westarctica — one of several fabricated titles — faces serious charges including fraud, forgery, and operating a hawala network through a web of shell companies.

In a statement issued Wednesday, Seborga, an unrecognised micronation in Italy’s Liguria

province, said, “In light of the reports received, the Principality of Seborga has suspended Mr Harsh Vardhan Jain from all positions and firmly distances itself from any potentially unlawful activities he may have carried out, of which the Principality was unaware.”

It said Jain had approached them in 2012, and he was appointed “in good faith” to an honorary and symbolic role as ‘Councilor for India’. “It was always clearly explained to all Foreign Representatives that such appointments were purely symbolic and representative in nature, and did not confer any official or diplomatic status,” the Principality said.

It added that Princess Nina, the Principality’s royal heiress, has personally reached out to all other Indian representatives of Seborga, all of whom confirmed that they were aware of the micronation’s non-recognised status and have been acting lawfully.

When *The Indian Express* had visited the ‘embassy’ running out



Harsh Vardhan Jain

of a rented flat in Ghaziabad’s Kavi Nagar, a small golden nameplate at the door introduced him as “His Excellency Harsh Vardhan Jain, Royale Consigliere, Principato di Seborga (Royal Advisor to Seborga)”. Four cars parked outside bore fabricated diplomatic number plates and titles like ‘Honorary Consul Baron Westarctica’ and ‘Honorary Consigliere Principato Di Seborga’.

US-based non-profit Westarctica also distanced itself from Jain. Calling him a “bad actor”, it said he had once been an

authorised representative but engaged in “unauthorised activities”.

Founded in 2001 by American national Travis McHenry, then serving as an intelligence analyst in the US Navy, Westarctica describes itself as an environmental advocacy group focused on protecting the West Antarctic Ice Sheet. In a statement, the organisation said: “In 2016, Mr H V Jain made a generous donation to Westarctica and was subsequently invited to join our team... His official title was ‘Honorary Consul to India.’ He was never granted the position or authority of ambassador.”

“As a result of his unauthorised activities, Jain has been indefinitely suspended as a representative of our organisation,” the statement added.

The Royal Republic of Ladonia, a micronation based in southern Sweden, confirmed to *The Indian Express* that Jain was never officially appointed to any honorary, representative, or diplomatic position by its government. In a detailed response, Ladonia’s Press Officer, Julia Andersson, said Jain became a “symbolic citizen” on November 12, 2016, and “purchased” an honorary barony title, which is “cultural and symbolic only,” conferring no legal rights or diplomatic standing.

The micronation alleged that in November 2017, Jain had forged a certificate falsely claiming to be Ladonia’s Ambassador to India, backdating it to September 15, 2016, in an attempt to predate the symbolic appointment of another Indian individual.

According to the STF, Jain’s financial operations dated back nearly two decades — he had registered multiple shell companies abroad and maintained at least 11 bank accounts in four countries.

Police said their probe revealed that he had 12 diplomatic passports and visited around 40 countries — including UK, UAE, Mauritius, Turkey, France, Italy, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Switzerland,

Poland, Sri Lanka, and Belgium — over the past 10 years. “During the investigation, it was revealed that Jain frequently visited several Gulf and European countries to liaise and manage operations of his shell companies,” sources said.

“In some of these companies, he listed himself as the secretary... in others, he projected himself as the director. He has made more than 30 trips to the UAE alone in the past 10 years,” the source said.

A police officer privy to the investigation stated that, so far, evidence suggests Jain made money through his shell companies by offering fake business deals and promising jobs to people in foreign countries. The officer added they have filed an application in a city court seeking Jain’s custody. On Tuesday, he was remanded to judicial custody following his initial questioning after the arrest.

Another officer said that more than five persons have been identified as having close associations with Jain in running the scam.

2020 NORTHEAST DELHI RIOTS

Court orders FIR against men accused of giving hate speech

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

A DELHI Court on Thursday directed the Delhi Police to register an FIR against various men accused of giving hate speech during the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots, which left 53 dead and 700 injured.

“It is hereby directed that the SHO (Station House Officer), police station Karawal Nagar, shall register a separate FIR based on the complainant’s complaint and shall proceed to conduct a fair investigation in accordance with law. However, it is hereby clarified that no direction is being given to him to immediately arrest any accused person,” said Judicial Magistrate First Class Isra Zaidi of Karkardooma Courts in her order dated July 24.

“In view of the above discussion, this court is satisfied that the complaint discloses commission

of cognizable offences and that the police have failed to act upon the same appropriately at the relevant time. Accordingly, the application stands allowed,” the judge said while hearing a complaint filed by Rahees Ahmed.

“In the present case, the complainant’s allegations disclose commission of grave and cognizable offences. The complainant has made serious allegations of communal violence, looting, arson, hate speech naming specific individuals with their detailed roles,” the court added.

Ahmed has alleged that his family was subjected to a violent attack by a mob. He also claimed that the attackers, armed with weapons like lathis, iron rods, and petrol bombs, raised provocative slogans and used hate speech with the intention to incite violence and instill fear. Ahmed further accused the mob of vandalising and looting his house.

Cybercrime syndicate busted in Delhi, 5 arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

WITH THE arrest of five persons, the Delhi Police on Friday said it has busted a cybercrime syndicate that defrauded a woman of over Rs 17.29 lakh through a bogus online work-from-home task scam.

The police identified the accused as Krish, Deepa, Gaurav, Manthan and Nidhi Agarwal, who allegedly operated as a crypto-currency handler.

An FIR was registered into the matter July 2 based on a complaint filed by a 29-year-old woman from Burari, who alleged that she was lured into a fraudulent Telegram-based scheme while searching for jobs. The fraudsters allegedly persuaded her to complete fabricated online “tasks” and make UPI payments with the promise of commissions. Unbeknownst to her, the accused also misused her credentials to take out personal loans worth Rs 8.8 lakh, police said.

Through technical surveillance, digital forensics, and financial transaction analysis, the police said they uncovered a complex laundering trail. The defrauded money was funneled through multiple mule bank accounts, converted into cryptocurrency (USDT Tether), and routed via Telegram-based crypto dealer groups, said police.

During questioning, the key accused, Krish from Ashok Vihar, emerged as the central link between the victims and the crypto buyers, said police.

“Krish managed the flow of defrauded funds. He admitted to collecting UPI IDs and bank account details from his associates and forwarded the same to crypto-currency buyers through a Telegram-based channel. The

‘WHO initiative to ensure affordable eyecare services for all by 2030’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

OVER 800 million people across the world have vision problems and do not have access to eye care, said Dr Yutaro Setoya, Team Lead Non-communicable Diseases and Comorbidities, World Health Organisation (WHO) India.

Dr Setoya was addressing a conference on adolescent eye health in India — with a special focus on the alarming increase in myopia — at Amity University, Noida. The conference was organised by WHO and Drishti, an NGO working to create awareness on eye care, founded by Amity student Sanjana Chauhan.

“Vision problems affect millions of people worldwide. It not only affects your eyesight, but also affects your education, economic productivity, and overall well-being. Children and adolescents between five and 15 years of age suffer from vision impairment and refractive errors,” Dr Setoya said.

Dr Setoya added that the WHO has launched a global initiative — ‘Global Specs 2030’ — to ensure that everyone has access to affordable eyecare services by 2030. “Our vision health champions are the youth ambassadors for adolescent eye care, because we believe in the power of youth as catalysts of change.”

**IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**  
NAVRATNA COMPANY  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
Website : [www.ircon.org](http://www.ircon.org), CIN - L45903DL1975GOI0006171

**e-Procurement Notice**  
e-Tender No.: **IRCON/CGRP/SET/14537/01** Dated: **25.07.2025**  
e-Tender for and on behalf of Chhattisgarh East Railway Limited is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of “Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Electronic Interlocking based Signalling & Telecommunication System for CERL-II Project in Bilaspur Division of SECR.”

Estimated Cost of the WorkRs. 94,85,81,923.13

Last Date & Time of Bid Submission22.08.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. (IST)

For further details, visit website <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.

PDCGRP,  
1st Floor, ARK, Link Road, Opposite Zudio, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh-495001

**डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी राष्ट्रीय जल एवं स्वच्छता संस्थान**  
DR. SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WATER AND SANITATION  
(An autonomous Institution under Dept. of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt) Email: [spn.niwas@gov.in](mailto:spn.niwas@gov.in) Website: [www.spmniwas.in](http://www.spmniwas.in)

**VACANCY NOTIFICATION**  
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS), Kolkata, an autonomous institution under the Dept. of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt invites applications for the following positions on deputation basis:  
1. Finance & Accounts Officer - 01 No.  
2. Technical Officer-01 No.  
3. Chemist-01 No.  
4. Assistant-01 No.  
Details of eligibility conditions is available in [www.spmniwas.in](http://www.spmniwas.in), <https://jalshakti-ddws.gov.in> & DOPT websites.  
Last date of receipt of application: 22.09.2025.

CBC45128/12/0003/2526

No. 18-24/2023-DB-III/NF  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment)**  
**Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)**

**Subject: Engagement of Accountant in the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) on contract basis-regarding.**  
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) invites applications from eligible individuals for contractual appointment in the Department as under:

Details of Post	Essential Qualifications	Experience	Monthly Remuneration
Accountant (01 post)	Retired Government Servant with experience in Administration and Finance.  Or <b>Professionals from Open Market:</b> a. Having Graduate degree in Commerce or related courses from recognised University Institution. b. Having knowledge of accounting software such as tally etc. c. Having Knowledge of MS Word, excel and PowerPoint.	<b>For Retired Government Employees:</b> Minimum 10 years experience in Programme division or Finance Division of a Ministry/ Department/ Government organization. <b>For Professionals from Open Market:</b> Relevant experiences in related field for at least two years. Preference will be given for working knowledge in government sector.	<b>For Retired Government Employees:</b> Remuneration as per guidelines laid down in Department of Expenditure’s OM No. 3-25/ 2020-E.III A dated 09th December, 2020 i.e. Fixed monthly amount arrived at by deducting basic pension from the pay drawn at the time of retirement. <b>For Professionals from Open Market:</b> Consolidated monthly remuneration of Rs. 45,000/- including TA Rs. 3000/-

  
2. Detailed information regarding eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions may be seen at Department’s website: [www.depwd.gov.in](http://www.depwd.gov.in). Interested and eligible candidates may send their application in the prescribed proforma within 21 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News to [nfdepwd@gmail.com](mailto:nfdepwd@gmail.com).  
**Under Secretary to the Government of India**  
Email: [sultan.meena@nic.in](mailto:sultan.meena@nic.in)

CBC-38117/11/0009/2526

**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	DADA LAKHMI CHAND STATE UNIVERSITY OF PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS, SECTOR-6, ROHTAK	REPAIRING, SERVICING, RADIATOR CLEANING OF 06 NO. VARIOUS CAPACITIES DG SETS OF DLCSUPVA, ROHTAK	17.07.2025 02.08.2025	RS. 6,76,022/- HA CONTRACTOR RS. 13,520/- FOR L&C SOCIETY RS. 6,760/-	<a href="http://discsupva.ac.in">http://discsupva.ac.in</a>	9466628298 <a href="mailto:devenderrathesh918@gmail.com">devenderrathesh918@gmail.com</a>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) No- 36994/HRY

**Lady Hardinge Medical College**  
*100 Glorious Years of Excellence*  
1916 - 2016

File No. A-/171/2022-ADMIN II/E-1451/531  
Applications are invited to fill up the various posts by transfer on deputation basis in the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Smt. S. K. Hospital, New Delhi.  
The details are available in the website:- <http://lhmc-hosp.gov.in> for these posts:-

Sr. No.	Name of the post	Level in pay matrix or pay scale	No. of Vacancies
1	Administrative Officer	Level-8 (Rs. 47600-151100/-)	4
2	Assistant Administrative Officer	Level-7 (Rs. 44900-142400)	4
3	Library and information Assistant	Level-6 (Rs. 35400-112400)	1

The duly filled application may be sent by Speed/Registered post through proper channel along with the documents mentioned in the Advertisement. Upload on the website mentioned above, addressed to Director Lady Hardinge Medical College and Smt. S. K. Hospital, New Delhi, within 30 days from the date of Publication of this advertisement in Employment News.  
**SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**  
LHMC & SSKH, New Delhi.  
CBC17148/12/0004/2526

**Land Ports Authority Of India**  
(A statutory body under Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)

**INVITATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT IN VARIOUS POSTS**  
Land Ports Authority of India invited applications vide E-13012/2/2025/LPAI/Rect FTS No.3748400 Date: 26-05-2025 from the serving employees of Central /State Government / Union territory Administration/Statutory Body/Autonomous Body, for filling up various posts of Levels 6, 7 and 11 of Pay Matrix Level ( 7th CPC) mentioned below at its Headquarter in New Delhi and ICPs at Attari and Dera Baba Nanak (Punjab). Petrapole (West Bengal), Raxaul and Jogbani (Bihar). Moreh (Manipur), Dawki (Meghalaya). Rupaidiha (UP). Agartala. Sabroom and Srimantpur (Tripura). Sutarkandi, Mankachar, Darrang and Golakganj (Assam) on deputation (Foreign Service): -  
**LPAI Sectt.. New Delhi**

Sl NO.	Name of Post	Pre-revised Pay Band + Grade Pay	Pay Matrix Level (7th CPC)	No. of posts to be filled up
1.	Private Secretary	Pay Band-2+4600	Level-7	1
2.	Junior Engineer (Civil and Electrical)	Pay Band-2+4200	Level-6	4
3.	Personal Assistant	Pay Band-2+4200	Level-6	1
4.	Assistant	Pay Band-2+4200	Level-6	1
			Sub Total (A)	7

**For ICPs:**

Sl NO.	Name of Post	Pre-revised Pay Band + Grade Pay	Pay Matrix Level (7th CPC)	No. of posts to be filled up
1.	Manager/Port Administrator (New Designation)	Pay Band-3+6600	Level-11	2
			Sub Total (B)	2
			GRAND TOTAL (A+B)	9

2. Complete information of posts, eligibility criteria, application format and other details are available on the website at <http://mha.nic.in/vacancies> and <http://lpai.gov.in>,  
3. The last date for receiving of applications through proper channel is here by extended from 10-07-2025 to 10-08-2025. Incomplete applications received after the last date shall not be considered.  
4. Address for sending applications:  
Deputy Secretary (Administration)  
Land Ports Authority of India  
First Floor Lok Nayak Bhawan  
Khan Market New Delhi-110511  
Tel: No. 011-24340708  
E.mail: [dsga-lpai@lpai.gov.in](mailto:dsga-lpai@lpai.gov.in)

CBC 19142/11/0007/2526

दिल्ली की माननीय मुख्यमंत्री श्रीमती रेखा गुप्ता जी द्वारा दिल्ली की बहनों के लिए स्नेहभरा निमंत्रण

**तीज महोत्सव 2025**

दिनांक: 25 से 27 जुलाई 2025 | समय: सुबह 11 बजे से रात 9 बजे तक

स्थान: दिल्ली हाट, पीतमपुरा, नई दिल्ली

25 जुलाई शाम 5 बजे माननीय मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा उद्घाटन

**तीज पर मेहंदी हमारी तरफ़ से**

**मुख्य आकर्षण**

प्रश्नोत्तरी, म्यूजिकल चेयर सभी 3 दिन

स्लोगन लेखन, महिलाओं हेतु तीज विज्ञ प्रतिযোগिता सभी 3 दिन

सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम सभी 3 दिन

बिंदी प्रतियोगिता 26 जुलाई 2025

मेहंदी प्रतियोगिता 26 जुलाई 2025

रंगोली प्रतियोगिता 26 जुलाई 2025

मिस तीज 2025 27 जुलाई 2025

**कलाकार**

25 जुलाई - जसवीर जस्सी

26 जुलाई - स्तुति तिवारी, डीजे

27 जुलाई - रविदार - शिबानी कश्यप

माननीय मुख्यमंत्री की ओर से दिल्ली की सभी बहनों को तीज की शुभकामनाएं और स्वागत

**सभी के लिए प्रवेश निशुल्क**

epaper.indianexpress.com



# 6 IN PARLIAMENT MONSOON SESSION

HC seeks NIA’s reply on Rashid plea seeking travel cost waiver to attend House

SOHINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE DELHI HC Friday sought the NIA’s response on the plea filed by Baramulla MP Abdul Rashid Sheikh, also known as Engineer Rashid, challenging the costs imposed by a trial court as part of his custody parole conditions to attend Parliament.

Rashid has also sought interim bail.

On Tuesday, a Delhi court granted custody parole to Rashid from July 24 to August 4 to attend the Monsoon Session of Parliament, but rejected his interim bail plea. Rashid urged the trial court to either grant interim bail or permission to attend Parliament in custody, without payment of travel costs, as he was seeking to attend the session as part of his public duty and not for personal work.

Additional Sessions Judge Chanderjit Singh, however, imposed travel costs on him.

Challenging the trial court’s order, Senior Advocate N Hariharan told a bench of Justices Vivek Chaudhary and Shalinder Kaur Friday that despite the custody parole, Rashid was losing each day of the relief as he had not been able to attend the session due to the huge costs. Hariharan also submitted that Rashid has been “saddled” with a cost of ₹17 lakh to “represent the public at large.”

The bench posted the matter for further consideration on July 29, and issued notice to NIA. On the same day, the HC is also due to consider a plea by Rashid seeking regular bail after a trial court rejected the request on March 21.

## Rlys got over 19,000 complaints for bad food in 5 yrs, fines in 3,137 cases

COMPLAINTS ABOUT FOOD IN TRAINS						
Year	Number of complaints	ACTION TAKEN				
		Fine imposed	Warnings issued	Licence terminated	Advised suitably	Any other
2020-21	253	46	89	1	77	40
2021-22	1,082	157	601	0	232	92
2022-23	4421	616	2,653	0	871	281
2023-24	7,026	977	3,289	0	1,740	1,020
2024-25	6,645	1,341	2,995	0	1,547	762
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,427</b>	<b>3,137</b>	<b>9,627</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4,467</b>	<b>2,195</b>

*'Any other' includes complaints not substantiated & those resolved on board*

*Source: Ministry of Railways*

DHEERAJ MISHRA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE RAILWAYS received over 19,000 complaints related to supply of bad quality food in trains in the last five years, according to the data submitted in the Rajya Sabha Friday.

The data shows that while the number of cases has marginally reduced from 7,026 in financial year 2023-24 (FY24) to 6,645 in FY25, it is much higher than 253 complaints recorded in FY21.

In a written response to the questions from CPI (M) MP John Brittas, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that prompt and appropriate punitive actions, including imposition of

fines, disciplinary action, counselling, warning, etc., were taken in case any instance of adulterated/unhygienic food or passenger complaint was reported.

According to the data, out of 19,427 complaints of bad quality food in trains received in the last five financial years, fines were imposed in 3,137 cases.

In 9,627 cases, warnings were issued and in 4,467 cases, the vendors were “advised suitably”. The data shows that the licence of one entity was terminated (in FY21) for supplying bad quality food to passengers. Apart from this, 2,195 complaints were found to be “not substantiated” and resolved on board.

The Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Limited

(IRCTC) floats tenders to select service providers for provision of onboard catering services in trains, including Vande Bharat and other long distance trains. These tenders are awarded through a competitive bidding process.

Vaishnaw said that at present, contracts of clusters of trains have been awarded by IRCTC to 20 entities. He listed some of the key measures taken to improve the quality of food in trains including supply of meals from designated base kitchen, installation of CCTV cameras in base kitchens for monitoring, deployment of food safety supervisors at base kitchen, deployment of on-board IRCTC supervisors on train, regular food sampling, surprise inspections by Railway/IRCTC officials, etc.

government in December, 2023. In August 2024, the Kerala government gave its conditional consent to the estimate. Later, the Railways Ministry asked the state government to give unconditional consent for sharing the cost. The ministry also asked the Kerala government to enter into a tripartite MoU among the state government, Ministry of Railways and RBI for the project.

“However, in a memorandum submitted by Kerala government to the Railway Minister on June 3, 2025, it has been intimated that the Kerala government does not agree to enter into tripartite agreement,” Vaishnaw said. An MoU was inked between the state and the Railways Ministry in January 2016 but work could not be started due to ambiguity over financing and sharing of total cost.

### OPPOSITION LEADERS MEET SPEAKER BIRLA, AGREE TO AGENDA

## After logjam in first week, Parliament to discuss Pahalgam, Sindoor from Monday

16-hour discussion in Lok Sabha on July 28, same duration for debate in Rajya Sabha next day

VIKAS PATHAK  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

AFTER A week of disruptions and adjournments, Parliament is all set to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor next week as the Opposition has agreed to the agenda for special discussions.

The breakthrough came in a meeting of Speaker Om Birla with senior leaders of various parties, where it was decided that the LS would discuss the April 22 terror attack and Operation Sindoor, beginning Monday for 16 hours, and the RS would discuss the same beginning Tuesday, again for 16 hours, said Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju.

Criticising the Opposition for “disrupting” Parliament proceedings during the week, Rijiju told reporters, “All issues cannot be discussed together... The Opposition has raised several issues, like the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar and others. We have told them that Operation Sindoor will be discussed first. We will decide which issues will be discussed after that... Operation Sindoor will be debated for 16 hours in Lok Sabha on Monday (July 28) and for 16 hours in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday (July 29)...”

Asked if PM Narendra Modi will speak in Parliament during the discussion, another key demand of the Opposition, Rijiju said the government cannot decide the speakers of Opposition parties, and vice versa.

He expressed hope that the



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla chairs a meeting with leaders of all parties on Friday. PTI

“Opposition will allow Parliament to function from next week” and lamented the waste of resources and efforts gone into preparing answers for questions to be asked by MPs during Question Hours, which did not take place in first week amid Opposition protests.

#### SIR debate

The Congress, meanwhile, accused the government of hiding behind technical reasons and not clarifying whether there will be a discussion on the SIR or not. “We didn’t raise the Pahalgam and Operation Sindoor issue in the House as we had demanded that PM Narendra Modi should be in the House during that, but he is abroad and it’s not possible,” Congress’s deputy leader in the LS Gaurav Gogoi said after the meeting with the Speaker.

“We were demanding that the

Bihar SIR be discussed in the House, but the government is not clarifying whether this issue will be discussed in the House or not. They are hiding behind technical reasons,” he said.

Though the Opposition has been demanding that PM Modi be present in the House during the discussion, there is no final word on whether he would reply to the debate. A BJP leader said the list of BJP speakers for the special discussion in both Houses was being prepared, adding that top ministers were expected to participate.

#### First week washout

Friday again saw no significant legislative business in both Houses, much like the four days preceding it. BJP MP Jagdambika Pal, who was in the chair when the LS met post-lunch at 2 pm, re-

buked the protesting Opposition MPs. “Nobody is benefiting from this ruckus. People have sent you to raise their issues and you are disrupting the House,” he said.

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said the ‘Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill, 2024’ is a very important proposal concerning STs and should be taken up for discussion.

“It is a very important Bill. Are they (Opposition) against the STs?” Meghwal said. As the Opposition MPs continued their protest, Pal adjourned the House till Monday.

In the first half, Speaker Om Birla began the House proceedings with a mention of the 26th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26 (Saturday).

“In the Kargil war (1999), our Army faced geographical and climatic challenges and showed its valour... Today, we pay homage to the soldiers who sacrificed everything for the nation,” Birla said, following which the House observed brief silence.

When the Opposition began its protest again, the Speaker told them: “Come to meet me if you want a discussion. In consultation with the government, I will find a way out to discuss issues. This is not the proper way in the largest democracy of the world... Planned obstruction is not good for democracy. In Question Hour, we should uphold the healthy tradition of the House.” As the din continued, the Speaker adjourned the House till 2 pm.

The Rajya Sabha too saw Opposition uproar over SIR in Bihar, forcing the Chair to adjourn the House for the day. The Upper House witnessed the first adjournment till noon soon after it convened at 11 am.

When the House met at noon for the Question Hour, BJP MP K Laxman sought to know the details of Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan from Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

When Chouhan rose to speak, the Opposition MPs raised slogans that the SIR exercise be stopped. Chouhan said he wanted to answer the question, but the Opposition protests continued.

BJP MP Ghanshyam Tiwari, who was in the Chair, requested the protesting MPs to return to their seats. With the Opposition members unrelenting, the House was adjourned for the day.



## IN MP ROLE

Deputy Chairman Harivansh with newly sworn-in member of Rajya Sabha Kamal Haasan, DMK MP Tiruchi Siva, VCK MPs Thol Thirumavalavan and D Ravikumar during the Monsoon Session of Parliament. PTI

## Initiated by Pak, direct contact between DGMOs led to cessation of firing: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

INDIA AND Pakistan agreed on May 10 for a cessation of firing and military activity as a result of “direct contact” between the director generals of military operations (DGMOs) of both nations, which was “initiated by the Pakistani side”, the Centre informed Parliament on Friday.

The MEA was asked whether it is a fact that the “ceasefire between India and Pakistan was arrived at the behest of the US interference just after three days of operations against Pakistan when

the Indian Armed Forces had the upper hand in the conflict”.

In a written response to the query in LS, MoS for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said, “All our interlocutors were given a common message that India’s approach was focused, measured and non-escalatory.” Singh said India and Pakistan agreed for a “cessation of firing and military activity as a result of direct contact between the DGMOs of both nations. This contact was initiated by the Pakistani side”.

India had “already achieved on 08 May the main objectives” that it had set forth in terms of destroying designated terrorism infra-

structure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, he added. Between April 22 when the Pahalgam terrorist attack happened and May 10, there were a “number of diplomatic conversations with various countries at different levels, including with the United States,” the minister said in his response.

“With specific regard to the US, it was conveyed to Vice President JD Vance on May 9 that India would ‘appropriately respond’ if Pakistan launched a major attack. The issue of our trade discussions did not come up in the context of conversations pertaining to the conflict,” he added.

## Despite more allocation, funds released under NREGS fell: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE OVERALL fund released under MGNREGS have gone down over the last five years, even as the allocations in the Budget have gone up, information by the government in RS showed.

According to a written reply by MoS for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan to a question by Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, the year of

the Covid lockdown 2020-21 saw many migrant workers return to their native villages and ₹1,11,170.86 crore was released under the rural job scheme, the highest in the five-year period.

At the Budget Estimate stage at the beginning of the financial year, ₹61,500 crore was allocated for MGNREGS.

In 2021-22, ₹98,467.85 crore was released under the scheme, against a Budget Estimate of ₹73,000 crore, while in 2022-23, ₹90,810.99 crore was released,

well over the estimate of ₹73,000 crore when the Union Budget was announced.

In 2023-24, ₹89,268.30 crore was released under the scheme, against a Budget Estimate of ₹60,000 crore.

In 2024-25, ₹85,838.76 crore was released under the scheme, which was less than the Budget Estimate of ₹86,000 crore at the start of the fiscal year, a first in five years.

The funds released for the MGNREGS have declined every

## V-P election: Poll panel appoints RS Secretary General as returning officer

Joint Secretary Garima Jain, Director Vijay Kumar appointed assistant ROs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

TAKING THE next step for holding elections to the post of Vice-President, the Election Commission on Friday appointed Rajya Sabha Secretary General PC Mody as the Returning Officer (RO) and two Rajya Sabha secretariat officers as Assistant ROs.

The post of Vice President fell vacant on Monday after Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned mid-term, citing health grounds.

In a statement Friday, the EC said it has appointed an RO and Assistant ROs under Section 3 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, in consultation with the Central Government, for holding election to the post of the Vice President.

“As per convention, either Secretary General, Lok Sabha or Secretary General, Rajya Sabha is appointed as Returning Officer by rotation. During the last Vice-Presidential election, the Secretary General of the Lok Sabha was appointed as the Returning Officer. Therefore, the Election Commis-

sion, in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice and with the consent of the Hon’ble Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, has appointed the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha as Returning Officer for ensuing Vice-Presidential Election, 2025,” the EC said.

In addition, Rajya Sabha Secretariat Joint Secretary Garima Jain and Director Vijay Kumar had been appointed as assistant ROs, the EC said.

The EC issued two gazette notifications, one for appointing the RO and one for the AROs.

As per the Act, the EC has a 30 to 32-day timeline for conducting election after notifying the schedule, including 14 days for filing nominations, one day for scrutiny and two days for withdrawal of candidature. If the election is contested, the polling has to be held at least 15 days after the date of withdrawal of candidature.

The electoral college for vice presidential election comprises MPs from both Houses, including nominated members. The polling takes place in Parliament, using secret ballot. Each MP’s vote carries equal value.

#### 5 QUESTIONS

TMC MP SAGARIKA GHOSE TALKS TO ASAD REHMAN ABOUT TMC’S ALLEGATION OF BJP ‘UNLEASHING LINGUISTIC TERROR’

### ‘Bangla speakers being targeted, facing torture and harassment’

On what basis has the TMC accused the BJP of “unleashing linguistic terror” in the country?

It is very clear that in every BJP-ruled state, Bangla-speaking migrant workers are being targeted. They are being dubbed as Bangladeshi and Rohingya. They are being taken to police stations and asked to produce documents. They are citizens of India and they are producing the documents, compelling the police to let them off, but only after going through torture and harassment. Their only crime is that they are Bangla speakers and are being called Bangladeshis... These migrants are the ones who have built our cities.



journalment notices seeking discussion on this issue. None of the notices are being taken up. Our leader (in Rajya Sabha) Derek O’Brien spoke in Bangla during the farewell remarks for Mr Vaiko in the House.

Have you discussed this issue with your INDIA bloc allies, and will they also raise this in the Houses?

All the allies are with us. They are aghast at the manner in which this is happening. All of this is related to the Bihar SIR, which is being undertaken with a malafide intent. This is what the EC is doing with political parties. It is based on exclusion. Who is the EC to decide who is a citizen? All of us (Opposition) are on board on this issue. This is an attack on Bangla speakers and part of “linguistic terrorism” unleashed by the BJP.

Almost all the parties in Opposition have raised questions on the resignation of V-P Jagdeep Dhankhar. The TMC has been largely silent on it. Why?

Our leader Mamata Banerjee has spoken. She has said that he didn’t seem to be suffering from any health issues. I have also said that the government needs to bring clarity on why such a high Constitutional dignitary demitted office overnight.

ing continued support for the scheme,” he said. As of July 21 this year, 3.83 crore households availed employment and 106.77 crore person-days have been generated under the scheme, he said in a written reply to another question.

In another written reply, Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that ₹44,479.79 crore has already been released to states/UTs this FY, out of which ₹36,616.99 crore is for payment of wages.





# 7 GOVT & POLITICS



**DELHI CONFIDENTIAL**



## SWEET OFFERING

DMK'S ARUN Nehru, a first-time MP from Perambalur, has a sweet trick to make new friends in Parliament. The 41-year-old is popular among Opposition benches for his delicious homemade chocolates that he generously distributes among his colleagues. Nehru is also promoting a small venture — Kocoatrait, which makes ethically sourced zero waste bean-to-bar chocolates — from his constituency. He says it's one way of supporting a sustainable and circular economy. Nehru's sweet offering has won him praise from the Treasury benches too. While he has introduced some NDA MPs to his home-made delights, the DMK leader says he is still amassing courage to go to the senior leaders. He recently offered a few chocolates in different flavours to Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, who said he relished each one of them.

## OVERHAUL ON CARDS

RIDDEN BY factionalism, the Haryana unit of Congress may soon get new District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents under the party's *Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan* (organisational rejuvenation campaign). The party had kickstarted the organisational overhaul in Gujarat, where it appointed new DCCs in June. It recently sent observers to Haryana and Madhya Pradesh to oversee a similar exercise. Sources in the Congress say they are not sure when the Madhya Pradesh appointments will be finalised, but in Haryana the revamp will begin in the next few days. The party high command has meticulously gone through suggestions made by the observers, and will soon announce the appointments. In party circles in Haryana, meanwhile, speculation is rife about which faction — former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda or party MP Selja Kumari — will have more people among the new DCCs.

## OLD OFFICE, NEW ROLE

SENIOR FOREST service officer Gobind Sagar Bhardwaj, who was till recently a member secretary of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), returned to his former institution — the Wildlife Institute of India — as its director. Bhardwaj had earlier served as a scientist and faculty at the autonomous wildlife research body and has moved there after a one-year stint at NTCA.

## Rahul makes another OBC push: 'Didn't know issues, will work at double speed'



Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, former CMs Bhupesh Baghel and Ashok Gehlot during 'Bhagidari Nyay Sammelan' in New Delhi on Friday. Anil Sharma

**ASAD REHMAN**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

A DAY after conceding that the Congress "fell short" of understanding issues faced by OBCs, which "opened up the space" for the BJP, Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said on Friday that he didn't protect the community's interests earlier as the issues they faced were "complex" and not "easily visible". Henceforth, he said, he would work at "double speed" for the community.

During his speech, Gandhi also highlighted the party's "achievements" in Telangana where its government conducted a "comprehensive" caste survey. The Congress would conduct such surveys wherever it is elected, and once that happens, the "wall" of 50 per cent cap for reservation would be broken, he said.

Gandhi made these remarks at the "Bhagidari Nyay Sammelan" of Congress OBC leaders and workers at Talkatora Stadium, as part of a larger initiative launched by the Congress in

the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls last year to reach out to the community.

Gandhi also took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying that after meeting him a few times, he realised Modi was all about "show" with no "substance". He also targeted the RSS, describing it as the community's "biggest enemy" and accusing it of having "wiped out" the history of OBCs.

According to Gandhi, while he scored well on issues related to Dalits, tribals, minorities and women, he has not done enough for the OBC community.

"When I look back, and in a way, analyse myself. Where I did the right thing, and where I lacked. I see a couple of big issues. I worked on the Land Acquisition Bill, MGNREGA, right to food, Tribal Bill... These things I did well. I feel I should get good marks on issues of Tribals, Dalits, minorities, women... When I look back, I see things clearly. I lacked on one thing, made a mistake — what was it. The Congress and I made a mistake. I should have protected the OBC section, I

didn't. The reason for this was that I didn't understand your issues at the time," he said.

He said that around a decade ago, he "could see the problems faced by Dalits". "It was clear and I understood it... Untouchability is their history," he said. On tribals, he said: "It is easy to understand issues of tribals — jungle (forest), jal (water), zameen (land) are right there for you to see."

On OBCs, Gandhi said: "But the OBC issues are hidden, and not easy to see. My regret is that if I knew your history and issues, I would have got the caste census done then. And it is my mistake and not the Congress's. The good thing is that if I had got the caste census done then, it wouldn't have been as good as it will be now."

The Congress leader went on to describe his party's caste survey in Telangana as a "tsunami".

"In Telangana, it is black and white that laborious work is done by Dalit, OBC, Adivasi communities. (Bhupesh) Baghel ji (former Chhattisgarh CM) said something very correct — 'ut-padak shakti' (productive force).

Meaning, who runs the country... It is the productive force which runs it. But the main question is that this force gives the country so much... Then, what does the country give it? You make the country, build roads and schools, temples... If you build the country, what does it give you? It is giving your private schools where you have to pay lakhs in fees... Your reservation is robbed," said Gandhi.

"My target is to get the productive force of the country respect and share," the MP said.

Gandhi then asked the crowd what the "biggest problem" in politics was, prompting some to shout the name of Modi. "No, Narendra Modi is not a big problem... I had not met him earlier, but now I have met him two-three times, there is nothing in him... It is all show and no substance. I am saying the biggest problem in politics is a person who doesn't understand their own power. My biggest complaint from OBC youth is that they don't understand their power... The day you understand it, it will all topple," said Gandhi.

## Based on caste survey, Telangana may give curated benefits to each SC/ST sub-caste

**SREENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, JULY 25

THE 59 SC sub-castes and 33 ST sub-castes in Telangana could receive tailor-made benefits in education, employment, and need-based financial support to individual families, based on the findings of the state's caste survey, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

While the focus till now had been on Madigas, the largest SC sub-caste, followed by Malas, it will shift to the remaining 57 sub-castes that have been left behind as per the caste survey report.

Similar customised schemes will be applicable to nearly 50 sub-castes of the 134 BC castes in Telangana.

The 11-member expert committee headed by former Supreme Court Judge B Sudarshan Reddy submitted a 300-page review of the caste survey report to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at the Marri Chennareddy HRD Institute last

Saturday.

Deputy Chief Minister (Finance and Planning, Energy) Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu told *The Indian Express* that the report places an even greater responsibility on the government to assemble community-specific schemes.

"The report provides an insightful understanding of how people of each caste and sub-caste are faring. Their standing socially and economically... whether they have jobs or any means of livelihood. Those are not just statistics in the report; they are people. We now know the numerical strength of each community. We need tailor-made solutions to address each community's issues, down to family units," Bhatti said.

An official explained, "Based on the numerical strength, we will design not just government schemes and benefits, but provide quotas in education and employment, individual financial assistance, political representation down to Mandal and



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy

Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies."

There were a few surprises, too, in the caste survey report. For instance, the BC population has crossed 56 per cent in the state. On July 11, the state government had passed a Bill providing a 42 per cent quota for BCs in local bodies, and another bill providing a 42 per cent reservation in education and employment opportunities, assuming that the BC population hovered between 55-56 per cent and would cross 56 per cent by the 2028 elections.

The state government sent the two Bills to the President and the Centre for their consent.

As the Telangana government received indications that the President may send back the

Bill without approval, Chief Minister Reddy, Deputy CM Bhatti, and others rushed to New Delhi to make a presentation at the AICC, in a bid to mount pressure.

Another surprise was that at least four per cent of Telangana's population declared that they have no caste.

According to the finalised data, the state has 1,15,71,457 households and the population surveyed was 3,55,50,759. Of this, the SC population was 61,91,294 (17.42%), the ST population was 37,08,408 (10.43%), the BC population was 2,00,37,668 (56.36%), while other castes were 56,13,389 (15.89%).

CM Reddy has said that the social, economic, educational, employment and political caste (SEEPCC) survey, conducted by the Telangana government through door-to-door visits and self-certification of the people, is a role model for the country. The government has collected 88 crore pages of data in the survey.

## 'CAN'T CLAIM PARITY WITH J&K'

# SC rejects plea for delimitation in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

REJECTING A plea seeking directions to the Centre to start the process for delimitation of constituencies in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the Supreme Court has said that granting relief would be "contrary to the letter and spirit of constitutional design".

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N K Singh said this while dismissing a plea which said that holding the exercise only for UT of J&K while leaving out Andhra Pradesh and Telangana "reeks of arbitrariness". It urged the top court to direct the Centre to operationalise Section 26 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, which deals with the delimitation of constituencies.

Rejecting the request, the bench said the "exclusion of the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana from the purview of the delimitation process under the impugned notifications does not suffer from the vice of arbitrariness or discrimination." On the delimitation in J&K, the bench held that the provisions regarding the delimitation of states and UTs were different.

"Article 170 has no application to Union Territories, including the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The Petitioner(s), therefore, cannot claim parity between the position of Jammu and Kashmir and that of the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, which remain subject to the constitutional scheme governing States. The delimitation exercise carried out in J&K — being governed by a distinct constitutional and statutory regime — cannot be analogically extended to States that are explicitly bound by the constitutional restraint imposed under Article 170(3). The impugned

notifications thus do not violate Article 14 of the Constitution," said the SC.

The SC said that "a plain and harmonious reading of the statutory and constitutional provisions makes it evident that Section 26 of the AP Reorganisation Act is expressly made subject to the provisions in Article 170 of the Constitution. There is no dispute regarding the operation of the proviso to Article 170 (3) which categorically and overarchingly provides that it shall not be necessary to readjust the allocation of seats in the legislative assembly of each state including the division of each state into territorial constituencies until the relevant figures for the first census which takes place after 2026 have been published."

It added that an even more compelling reason to turn down the request is "the inevitable consequence that will follow if the relief sought in the writ petitions were to be granted".

The court said allowing the plea "would open the flood gates to similar demands from other states each seeking early delimitation on the ground of parity or administrative convenience. Granting such relief in contravention of the constitutional timeline provided under Article 170(3) of the Constitution will not only destabilise the uniform electoral framework envisaged by the Constitution but also blur the clear demarcation of the constitutional prescription and political distribution."

It said that "permitting such isolated departures from the constitutional embargo would also amount to an impermissible deviation from the equality principle embedded in Article 14 of the Constitution, and would amount to a facially discriminatory practice without any valid classification."

## Indian embassy warns citizens against visiting 7 Thailand provinces

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

FOLLOWING A fresh bout of violence near the Thailand-Cambodia border, the Indian embassy in Thailand Friday issued an advisory for Indian nationals urging them to avoid travelling to seven provinces in Thailand. The Mission also urged travellers to check for updates from Thailand official sources, including the Ministry of Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), before planning any trip.

The embassy of India said on X, "In view of the situation near the Thailand-Cambodia border, all Indian travellers to Thailand

are advised to check updates from Thai official sources, including TAT Newsroom. As per the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the places mentioned in the following link are not recommended for travelling."

Earlier, TAT Newsroom on X had said that amid the ongoing unrest, seven provinces are now not recommended for visiting — Ubon Ratchathani, Surin, Sisaket, Buriram, Sa Kaeo, Chanthaburi and Trat. As per the Ministry of Tourism and Sports of Thailand, during 2024, around 2.1 million Indian tourists visited Thailand, making Indians the third-largest tourist group visiting Thailand during this period.

### AMID BIHAR ROLL REVISION ROW

## If you cannot defeat us, you seek to delete us: Stalin warns Centre 'not to play with fire'

**ARUN JANARDHANAN**  
CHENNAI, JULY 25



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister MK Stalin Thursday issued a warning to the Union government and the Election Commission, accusing them of using the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to quietly erase voters from "disadvantaged and dissenting communities," ostensibly to tilt electoral outcomes in favour of the BJP.

"This is not about reform. It is about engineering outcomes," Stalin said in a statement. "What happened in Bihar says it all: the Delhi regime knows the same electorate that once voted for it will now vote it out. That is why it is trying to stop them from voting altogether."

His remarks come amid the SIR exercise, which was launched in Bihar in June 2025. The revision is aimed at cleansing the rolls of ineligible, deceased, duplicate or relocated voters. But opposition leaders and civil society groups have warned that the scale and timing of the process could lead to mass disenfranchisement.

"Don't play with fire," Stalin said, declaring that "any threat

to our democracy will be met with firm resistance." He said Tamil Nadu will raise its voice "with full force" and vowed to fight this "injustice with every democratic weapon at our disposal."

The CM's statement framed the SIR not as an administrative necessity but as a political tool deployed by the ruling BJP. "If you cannot defeat us, you seek to delete us," he said.

"To every citizen who believes in the Constitution," Stalin said, "this is not just about one state, this is about the very foundation of our Republic. Democracy belongs to the people. It will not be stolen."

His comments come at a time when the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have seen disruptions over the SIR, with slogans of "SIR wapas lo (roll back SIR)" and repeated adjournments.

The Bihar Assembly has also seen a stormy session over the exercise.

## Remarks on Col Qureshi: SIT questions MP minister

**Bhopal:** Two months after Madhya Pradesh minister Kunwar Vijay Shah sparked outrage with his remarks on Colonel Sofiya Qureshi in the backdrop of Operation Sindoor, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) tasked with looking into the matter has finally recorded his statement.

Sources said the questioning lasted nearly an hour and took place earlier this week in Jabalpur.

The SIT is expected to submit its report to the Supreme Court ahead of the next hearing in the matter on July 28.

The delay in recording Shah's statement has prompted strong reactions from the Opposition. Shah came under fire after he was heard saying at an event that India taught a lesson to those responsible for the Pahalgam terror attack using "their own sister". **ENS**

## 'Nothing less than sabotage, they were silent for six years': Congress raising its pitch on J&K statehood irks ally NC

**BASHAARAT MASOOD**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 25

THE CONGRESS's sudden announcement last week of protests in Jammu, Srinagar, and New Delhi seeking the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood has not gone down well with ally National Conference (NC), with several leaders in the Omar Abdullah-led party labelling it a sabotage of its own efforts.

The J&K Congress's announcement coincided with the joint letter that Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, the Leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, respectively, wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 16, demanding that a law be brought in the Monsoon Session of Parliament to restore J&K's statehood.

"This is nothing less than sabotage," said an NC leader. "For six

years, they were silent about our plight, fearing it would hit their prospects in the elections. For nine months (since the formation of the government) we have been fighting for statehood and they have remained silent. Now that they have developed a sudden interest in statehood. What else can it be but sabotage?"

Since returning to power in a landslide win last year, the NC has limited its demand to the return of statehood rather than pushing for the reinstatement of Articles 370 and 35A. This has divided the NC itself, with leaders such as Srinagar MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi criticising what they see as a climbdown by the party. However, the NC leadership led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah opted for a more practical and realistically achievable goal rather than antagonise the BJP-led Central government. This section of pragmatists in the party be-



CM Omar Abdullah says Congress did not inform his party about the campaign; others in NC say it will be counterproductive. File

lieves their approach is working and is hopeful that the Centre will soon decide on the statehood question. This is why these NC leaders believe that the Congress is either trying to take credit for their party's work or foil any possibility of return to statehood.

"We fail to understand the logic behind this campaign at this

point," said an NC leader. "The common sense is that the Modi government is not going to buckle under pressure, or at least they will not let it be perceived that they have come under pressure. In this context, the Congress campaign will only create hurdles rather than facilitate it (return of statehood)."

Another leader wondered if the Congress had received any feelers about the restoration of statehood and wanted to take the credit for themselves. The CM, too, did not hide his frustration about his ally's actions, saying on Tuesday, "We passed a resolution for it (statehood) in the very first Cabinet meeting and later in the Assembly. It is good that Congress is finally remembering this issue after a long time. But if they need our support, they should first talk to us."

The CM said Congress had not reached out to the NC. "We only read about these things in newspapers. No one reached out to us. Even during the recent INDIA bloc meeting, there was no mention of these things. Had they informed us, we would have joined."

Congress leaders said they do not require anybody's permission before undertaking any political activity. "What can the NC tell us?

Whether it is Article 370, 35A or statehood, it was the Congress's gift to Kashmir. It is the Congress's responsibility to get back statehood for Jammu and Kashmir. National Conference doesn't look beyond the power binary. For them, the chair is everything," said one leader. Another Congress leader said it was incorrect to say the party was silent for the last nine months. "We are a national party and we have to follow the central command. Rahul ji and Kharge ji wrote to the PM. What else could we have done? Once the central command made a decision, the J&K unit followed."

Though the Congress and the NC jointly contested the Assembly polls, the alliance has seen friction from day one. Leaders in both parties were against any pre-poll alliance and following the NC's win and the Congress's failure to make a mark, the latter stayed out of the government.



**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA STATE  
PUBLIC HEALTH & MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

NIT No. 09/SE/PH/WGL/RWP/AMRUT-2.0/Spl. Tranche/4th Call/2025-26/415 Dt: 24-07-2025.  
Name of the work: MA & UD-PHMED - Rejuvenation of 50 Water Body Projects in 45 ULBs under AMRUT 2.0 (Special Tranche) under the jurisdiction of Adilabad, Karimnagar, Khammam and Warangal PH Divisions in Package-I (4th call). **Total Estimated Cost: Rs. 132.45 Crores:** Bid Submission Start Date: 26.07.2025 @ 11.00 AM.; Bid Submission Closing Date: 11.08.2025 @ 04:30 P.M. For details visit <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>. Contact No:- 9704601864, 9392920307.

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer,  
P.H. Circle Warangal.

R.O. No. : 5548-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26

**RAIL WHEEL FACTORY**  
YELAHANKA, BENGALURU – 560 064.

**ONLINE 'VENDORS MEET' JULY 2025**

Rail Wheel Factory will be conducting online Vendors' Meet on **29.07.2025 at 15:30 Hrs. to 17:30 Hrs.**

The primary focus of the event is to identify potential sources for development of vendors for import items and development of additional sources for items for which limited sources/one source is available etc. It is also proposed to promote Vendors to aim at adopting sustainable manufacturing methods in Green Supply Chain Policy.

The meeting link is given below:  
<https://railnet10.webex.com/railnet10/j.php?MTID=m512317ea4aa71b8e18b6266f40bcb5e>

Meeting number: 25119226373 Meeting Password: 123456

The weblink will be activated at 15:15 Hrs on 29.07.2025.

For details, mail to:  
E-mail IDs: dycmm.1@rwf.railnet.gov.in, smm.qmc@gmail.com

**TENDER NOTICE NO.RWF/S/146/2025-26/02 Dated: 23.07.2025**

On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager/RWF invites electronic tender for the following work through the website <http://www.iimps.gov.in> from experienced/reputed contractors in the field.

Tender No.	Due Date	Distance Slab	Qty.	Tender Value
RWFSTPT_FW_3rdSlab_25-26	18.08.2025 at 14:15 Hrs	Above 1000Kms (with a mean distance of 2500Kms)	14,900MT	Rs.8,08,32,500/- EMD: Rs.5,54,200/-
RWFSTPT_FWS_1stSlab_25-26	21.08.2025 at 14:15 Hrs	Zero (0) to 500 Kms	12,300MT	Rs.3,07,50,000/- EMD: Rs.3,03,800/-
RWFSTPT_FA_1stSlab_25-26	27.08.2025 at 14:15 Hrs	Zero (0) to 500 Kms	6000 MT	Rs.1,08,30,000/- EMD: Rs.2,04,200/-

**Scope of Work:** Please refer RWF/IREPS website. **Contract Period:** Minimum 12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance.

**PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER**

**DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS KATHUA**

E- mail: [sspkathua@jkpolice.gov.in](mailto:sspkathua@jkpolice.gov.in)  
Fax/Phone No.: 01922-234010

**LOOK OUT NOTICE**

On 20-07-2025, one person namely Swaran Singh S/O Gian Singh R/O Katli Tehsil Dinga Amb District Kathua lodged a written report at P/S Hiranagar stating therein that on 17-07-2025 at about 1000 hrs, his daughter namely Arti Devi, age 22 years went to college and did not returned home. The complainant tried his best to search his daughter, but all in vain. On this, missing report vide DD No. 07 dated 20-07-2025 has been entered at Police Station Hiranagar.

During the course of investigation, best efforts were made to locate missing individual, whereas she is still un-traced.

As such Description Roll/Photograph of said missing individual is being shared with the appeal that anybody having clue/information about her whereabouts may inform us accordingly. The informer will be rewarded suitably:-

**DESCRIPTION ROLL**

1. Name	Arti Devi
1. Father	Swaran Singh
1. Permanent Address	Village Katli
1. Present Address	Village Katli
1. Tehsil	Dinga Amb
1. Police Station	Hiranagar
1. Age	22 years
1. Height	5 feet 01 inch
1. Complexion	Wheatish
1. Build	Normal
1. Face	Oval
1. Eyes	Black
1. Languages known	Hindi/ Dogri

**PHOTOGRAPH**



Any information related to the whereabouts of the subject may be communicated on following contacts:-

1. DPO Kathua- 01922-234010 (Phone/Fax)
2. dpokathua@jkpolice.gov.in (Mail ID)
3. PCR Kathua-01922-234311(Phone/Fax)
4. Police Station Hiranagar - 01922-27422

Sr. Superintendent of Police,  
Kathua.

DIP/J-3905/25 Date: Jul 25 2025

**GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR  
DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS  
(Administrative Reforms Division)  
NOTIFICATION  
Imphal, the 23rd July, 2025**

No CASE-108/1/2023-AR-AR-Part (2): Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the appointment to the post of State Information Commissioner as under:-

Sl No.	Position	Number of Position
1.	State Information Commissioner	1 (one)

2. **A. Eligibility condition:**

As provided under Section 15(5) and 15(6) of the Right to Information Act, 2025 as detailed below:

(i) The State Information Commissioner shall be persons of eminence in the public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.

(ii) The State Information Commissioner shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature of any State or Union Territory, as the case may be, or hold any other Office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession

**B. Other essential qualification:**

(i) The person should be a Citizen of India.

(ii) The person should not be of unsound mind, insolvent or convicted for any crime.

3. **Age: Person who have attained the age of 65 years shall not be eligible for appointment.**

4. **Terms of Office:** Under section 16 (2) of the RTI Act, 2005 read with Section 12 of the Right to Information Rules, 2019 (notified vide Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Deptt. Of Personnel & Training No. G.S.R. 810 (E) dated 24<sup>th</sup> m October, 2019):-

Every State Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of three years from the date on which he enters upon his office or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier and shall not be eligible for reappointment as such State Information Commissioner:

Provided that every State Information Commissioner shall, on vacating his office under this sub-section, be eligible for appointment as the State Chief Information Commissioner in the manner specified in sub-section (3) of section 15.

Provided further that where the State Information Commissioner is appointed as the State Chief Information Commissioner, his term of office shall not be more than five years in aggregate as the State Information Commissioner and the State Chief Information Commissioner.

5. **General conditions for Recruitment:**

(i) Candidates must fulfil the qualification and experience on the date of application. Education qualification must have been obtained from recognised University/Institute/Board/College only.

(ii) Selection/appointment will be subject to fulfilment of eligibility conditions, experiences etc., as also to verification of testimonials, antecedents and past service.

6. The salary, allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the State Information Commissioner shall be as per the Right to Information Act, 2005 read with Right to Information (Term of office, Salaries, Allowances and Other Terms and Conditions of Service of State Information Commissioner in the State Information Commission) Rules, 2019.

7. Person fulfilling the criteria and interested for appointment to the above post may send their particulars in the prescribed Proforma, by post or by hand to Under Secretary (AR), Room No. 84 A, 3rd Floor, North Block, New Secretariat, Imphal West, Manipur-795001 or through e-mail to [darmanipur@gmail.com](mailto:darmanipur@gmail.com). Prescribed Proforma may be obtained from the office of the Section (AR), New Secretariat, 3rd Floor, North Block, Imphal West or download from the website [www.manipur.gov.in](http://www.manipur.gov.in).

Person serving under the State/Central Government or any other Organisation, should send their particulars through proper channel (Administrative Ministry/Department of State- UT/Central Government or the Controlling Officer).

8. **Last date of receipt of application: 5 p.m. of 22nd August, 2025.**

Sd/-  
(A. Shivadas Sharma)  
Joint Secretary (AR)  
Government of Manipur

**Office of The Chief Executive Officers, SMVDSB, Katra**

For and on behalf of the Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, eligible bids are invited from the firms for the work - Survey, Design, Preparation of DPR, Estimation and Execution of works after vetting from IIT/ NIT including all works related to Laying of Sewage Line Network connecting different Toilet Blocks with STP (based on MBR technology) on EPC Basis including O&M for 5 years after successful completion of free trial run of 3 months:

1. 01 No STP with capacity of 600 KLD at Sanjichhat.
2. 02 Nos STPs with capacity of 400 KLD each 01 at Tarakote Langar & 01 No at Base camp Tarakote

The last date for submission of tenders is 05.08.2025 upto 04:00 P.M and the bid detail may kindly be downloaded from <https://tenders.gov.in> & <https://www.maavaishnodevi.org>  
No. COI/SW/STP/172/1321 Sd/-  
Dated: 25.07.2025 ACF, SMVDSB

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused persons Namely **Mohd. Tosif@Shahzada S/o Siraj R/o H. No. 22777, Kucha Challan, Nawab Sarfuddin, Gali Chandini Mahal, Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case **FIR No. 264/2023, U/s 25/54/59 A. Act PS: Jama Masjid, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Mohd. Tosif@Shahzada** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Mohd. Tosif@Shahzada** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Mohd. Tosif@Shahzada** accused of **FIR No. 264/2023, U/s 25/54/59 A. Act PS: Jama Masjid, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **24.09.2025**.

By Order  
Ms. Hamanshi Tyagi  
JMFC-13, Room No. 33  
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/9772/CD/2025  
(Court Matter)

**ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
SADAR BAZAR ROAD, DELHI CANTT-110010  
[www.apsdelhicantt.com](http://www.apsdelhicantt.com)

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited from interested parties for construction of Volleyball court at Army Public School, Delhi Cantt. RFPs with specification can be downloaded from school website [www.apsdelhicantt.com](http://www.apsdelhicantt.com). Tender Form duly completed in all respect be submitted to APS Delhi Cantt by **18 Aug 2025 at 1000h along with DD (Tender Form Fee & EMD) as per RFP in favour of Army Public School, Delhi Cantt.** For any queries contact APS Delhi Cantt on 25693777, 25692720.

**Presiding Officer**

**BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI- 221004**

Tender Notice No. PCE/BLW(ET)/Publish/2025-26/06 Date:24.07.2025

**E-TENDER**

Dy. Chief Engineer, Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi on behalf of the President of India invites "Open" Tender through E-Tendering from the contractors: SN: 1, Tender No: BLW-WAT-ET-013-25-26, **Name of work: Replacement of Sewerage Line work under SSE/W/CT & Repairing of Back Lane in Bunglow area Under SSE/W/CT**, Tender cost (₹): ₹ 3,51,37,073.41. Earnest Money (₹) : ₹ 3,25,700.00, Time of Completion: 18 Months, Closing Date of Tender: 22.08.2025 at 15.00 PM. Date of Opening of Tender: **22.08.2025 at 15.30 PM. Special Notice:** To see the detailed terms & conditions of tender and for submission of tender, please visit- [website: http://www.iimps.gov.in](http://www.iimps.gov.in).

PRO/BLWC-06 Dy. Chief Engineer  
f t i /blwvaranasi Website- blw.indianrailways.gov.in

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(Regd.Office:PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)  
Corporate Identity Number U40109PP20SGC03813  
website ([www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)) Phone No. 01881-275289,  
E-mail-se-hq-ggsstp-ropar@pspcl.in

E-Tender Enquiry No. 648/P-2/EMPW-12828 Dated 17.07.2025  
Dy.Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Purchase Cell-2) GGSSTP, Rupnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2025\_POWER\_145251\_1 for Repair of Electronic Modules of Honeywell make LM-PLC system installed in Dry Fly Ash Handling system, GGSSTP, Rupnagar.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 21.07.2025 onwards.  
Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

No. 1586/PB RTP-87/25

**BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED**  
(wholly owned government of Karnataka undertaking)  
(CIN : U04010KA2002SGC030438)

**NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT)  
(Through KPP Portal)**

**Enquiry. No: BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK\_INDENT541**

**Name of work:** Conversion of existing LT Overhead line into Aerial Bunched (AB) cable at various locations in Vijayapura town, Devanahalli subdivision of Hosakote division, Bangalore Rural circle, BRAZ, BESCOM on percentage basis quoting.

**Availability of Bid documents:** 30.07.2025 onwards. **Last date for bid submission:** 30.08.2025 at 15:00 Hrs. **Opening of Technical Bids:** 01.09.2025 at 15:30 Hrs. **Pre-Bid meeting:** 14.08.2025 at 11:00 Hrs. **Venue:** Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, Belaku Bhavana, Corporate Office, BESCOM, K.R. Circle, Bangalore-560001. The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. **KPP portal Help Desk:** Phone No. +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777, Email: [support@eprocelpdesk.com](mailto:support@eprocelpdesk.com). Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Bidders can take the assistance from the KPP during working hours.

Sd/-  
(Ramesh Gudi)  
Chief General Manager, Electy.,  
Projects, BESCOM

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912  
Download "BESCOM Mitra" Mobile APP

**OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF SECRETARY  
IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT  
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI  
L.M. BUND SHASTRI NAGAR,  
DELHI-110031  
Telephone No. 011-21210894  
INDICATIVE ADVERTISEMENT**

Applications are invited to fill up **50 posts** of Assistant Engineer (Civil)/Assistant Surveyor of Works (Civil) in Pay Level-7 and **09 posts** of Assistant Engineer (Mech.)/ Assistant Surveyor of Works (Mech.) in Pay Level-7 on **Transfer on Deputation** basis in Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Govt. of NCT Delhi.

Detailed advertisement is available on websites <https://delhi.gov.in> and <https://ifc.delhi.gov.in>. Duly filled applications shall be sent in the manner at the address prescribed in detailed advertisement.

**SECTION OFFICER (GAD Flood)**  
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0148/25-26

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused persons Namely **Shivam@Shiva S/o Ram Khiladi R/o Vegabond New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Also at: Village ShivSingh Pur District Etava U.P.** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case **FIR No. 204/2020, U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act PS: Pahar Ganj, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Shivam@Shiva** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Shivam@Shiva** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Shivam@Shiva** accused of **FIR No. 204/2020, U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act PS: Pahar Ganj, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **03.09.2025**.

By Order  
Ms. Neetu Sharma  
ACJM-01, Room No. 366  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/9804/CD/2025  
(Court Matter)

**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED REGION I JODHPUR**  
Tele-0291-2651750, E-Mail: [rj\\_acejo@nic.in](mailto:rj_acejo@nic.in)

No. ACE/PHED/Region-Ist/Jod/T/2025-26/4030-45 Date:- 11/7/2025

**Notice Inviting Bid (NIT No. 07/2025-26)**

Bid for following work is invited from interested bidders up to 6.00 pm of 04-08-2025.

S. No.	NIT No.	Work Description	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Unique Bid No. (UBN)
1	07/2025-26	WORK OF CONVERSION OF REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME MANIHARI-DEERI-BHANWARI, DISTRICT PALI UNDER JM ON RISK AND COST	798.89	PHE 2526 WLOB 04611

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal- <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>. <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> of the state, and PHED department website.

(SAVE WATER-SAVE LIFE)

Sd/-  
(Dinesh Kumar Nagori)  
ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER  
PHED REGION (I) JODHPUR

DIPR/C/10224/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT  
HARMADA WATER RESOURCES WATER SUPPLY & KALPSAR DEPARTMENT  
E-TENDER NOTICE NO.01 OF 2025-26 (Reinville) (Correction-12)**

Sl.	Name of Work	Desilting of river Tapi in up stream of Singanpor weir
2.	Downloading of tender Document	Dt. 20/05/2025 to Dt. 28/07/2025 up to 18.00 Hrs.
3.	Tender Uploading Date	Dt. 20/05/2025 to Dt. 28/07/2025 up to 18.00 Hrs.
4.	P.Q bid opening Date	Dt. 29/07/2025 , 12.00 Hrs.
5.	Last date & Physical Submission of Tender fee, EMD & Other Document s in Division office during office hours by RPAD/ Speed Post/ Courier only.	dt. 29/07/2025 to Dt.05/08/2025, up to 18.00 Hrs. (during office hours)

INF-SURAT-586-2025

**राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हमीरपुर  
हमीरपुर ( हि.प्र. ) 177005 ( भारत )**

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY HAMIRPUR  
HAMIRPUR (H.P.)-177005 (INDIA)**

**WALK-IN FOR ADMISSION TO MBA  
PROGRAMME FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26**

Walk-in round for MBA admission in National Institute of Technology Hamirpur will be conducted on 31/07/2025. For more details please visit institute's website [www.nith.ac.in](http://www.nith.ac.in).

**Registrar**

**V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY  
Civil Engineering Department  
TUTICORIN - 628 004.**

**GLOBAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
(Only Through E-Tendering Mode)**

VOCPA E-Tendering Website : <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>  
NIT No. 01/ PD/OH/IH/DR VOCPA/2025-26/D.2347 Dated: 24.07.2025  
V.O.Chidambaranar Port invites tenders (Online tenders) in "Two bid system" from interested, reputed, well experienced DPR Consultants

Name of Work	Consultancy services for Preparation of Detailed Project Reports for Deepening the Inner Harbour basin and Development of Outer Harbour at VOC Port, Tuticorin
Bid Security Amount	Rs.20,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs only)
Downloading of Tender from VOPCA online e-tendering website	24.07.2025 to 18.08.2025
Pre Proposal Conference date	31.07.2025 at 12:00 hrs through Video conference (Link will be sent to the bidders who show interest via mail)
Last date and time for submission of Tender through online	18.08.2025 upto 15:00 Hrs
Online Technical Bid opening date and time	19.08.2025 at 15:30 Hrs
Period of completion	12 months
Validity of tender	120 days from the last date fixed for receiving the tender

For further details, visit port Website: [www.vocport.gov.in](http://www.vocport.gov.in)  
Ph.No : 0461-2372306  
Email : [ce@vocport.gov.in](mailto:ce@vocport.gov.in)

Sd/-  
**CHIEF ENGINEER**

**ICICI Bank**

**Registered Office:** ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara – 390007, Gujarat  
**Corporate Office:** ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai 400051, Maharashtra

**Branch Relocation Notice**

On Behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd., Bhanpuri-Raipur Branch

Dear Customers,

This is to intimate you that with effect from August 5, 2025, we are relocating to a more convenient location. The address of the new location is as mentioned below:

**New Location:** ICICI Bank Ltd., Q2 Business Centre, Shop No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Ground Floor, Ring Road No. 2, Khasra No. 98/20, Ward No. 4, Gondwara, Bhanpuri, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-493221.

There would be no change in your Account Number or the security items issued to you.

The following guidelines are applicable for customers holding lockers with our Bhanpuri-Raipur Branch.

In the process of relocating our branch, we will also be relocating the safe deposit lockers to the address, as specified above. The shifting of the locker units will begin on August 2, 2025 and they will be installed at the new location on August 5, 2025.

In case you wish to continue to operate your locker at the new location, we request you to empty your locker and take charge of its contents. Please do so before August 2, 2025. You may replace them at the new location, anytime, during banking hours after August 5, 2025, at your convenience.

In case you are unable to empty your locker, we shall have to move the locker units, along with its content. The locker units will be moved under proper supervision and every precaution will be taken to handle them carefully.

Assuring you of the best services, at all times.

Sincerely,  
**Branch Manager, Bhanpuri-Raipur Branch**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita-2023**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Aman @ Akash @ Abhishek, S/o Jagdish, R/o H. No. E-171, Shakurpur, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 000253/21, U/s 379/411/34 IPC, P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Aman @ Akash @ Abhishek** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Aman @ Akash @ Abhishek** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Aman @ Akash @ Abhishek** accused of **FIR No. 000253/21, U/s 379/411/34 IPC, P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.08.2025**.

By Order  
Ms. Manuj Kaushal  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-04  
Central, Room No. 37  
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/9537/N/2025

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 CrPC**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Anshu @ Parveen S/o Ashok Kumar, R/o H. No. C-288, Jawala Nagar, Gautam Gali No.-6, Shahdara, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 142/20, U/S 25/54/59 Arms Act, P.S. Vivek Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Anshu @ Parveen** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Anshu @ Parveen** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Anshu @ Parveen** of **FIR No. 142/20, U/S 25/54/59 Arms Act, P.S. Vivek Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the date of 30.08.2025.

By Order,  
Ms. Swati Sharma  
Chief Judicial Magistrate  
Room No. 59, 3rd Floor, Shahdara District  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/9814/SHD/2025(Court Matter)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED**

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused persons **1. Sandeep @ Bobby S/o Ranjeet Singh, 2. Naval Devi W/o Ranjeet Singh & 3. Khshboo D/o Ranjeet Singh** all R/o H. No. 235, Ground Floor, Janta Flat, GTB Enclave, Delhi have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence **FIR No. 295/2016 u/s 323/341/506 IPC at P.S. G.T.B. Enclave, Delhi** and it have been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the above said accused cannot be found and whereas it have been shown to my satisfaction that the above said accused has absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. have been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **1. Sandeep @ Bobby, 2. Naval Devi & 3. Khshboo** accused of **FIR No. 295/2016 u/s 323/341/506 IPC at P.S. G.T.B. Enclave, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on **08.09.2025**

By Order: Ms. Sanghmitra,  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-01,  
Room No. 54, Second Floor,  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/9817/SHD/2025

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 CrPC**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Abid Malik S/o Ijail Malik R/o Shanu Wali Gali Near Shiv Vihar, T Haji Ikbai Ka Makaan, Mustafabad, New Usmanpur, North-East, Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 477/2018, U/S 380/457/374/174A IPC, PS Kanjhawala, Rohini Distt., Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Abid Malik** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Abid Malik** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that **Abid Malik** the said accused of **FIR No. 477/2018, U/S 380/457/374/174A IPC, PS Kanjhawala, Rohini Distt., Delhi**, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.08.2025**.

By Order  
Sh. Apoorv Bhardwaj  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-02,  
North-West, Court No.-113, 1st Floor,  
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/9858/RD/2025  
(Court Matter)

**RAJASTHAN STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT CORPORATION LTD.  
(A Rajasthan Government Undertaking)**

Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur- 302005, Phone- 0141-2227751, 4593201  
E-mail: [rico@rico.co.in](mailto:rico@rico.co.in) Website-[rico.rajabhaskar.com](http://rico.rajabhaskar.com)

**TENDER NOTICE**

RIICO invites sealed tenders/bids through [eproc.rajabhaskar.com](https://eproc.rajabhaskar.com) for the following works/ services/supply etc.

Sr. No.	Office & Type of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.in Lacs)
1.	<b>Unit Head, Nagaur</b> 1.1 Development Scheme of Remaining Portion of Ind. Area Gogelav Nagaur. UBN-RDC2526WSOB00622	235.67
2.	<b>Unit Head, Sriganganagar</b> 2.1 Upgradation of Existing Infrastructure at Industrial Area Hanumangarh Ph-II. UBN-RDC2526WSOB00634	213.75
3.	<b>Unit Head, Bhiwadi-II</b> 3.1 Improvement of Roads Shoulders at Industrial Area Karoli. UBN-RDC2526WSOB00636	211.94
4.	<b>Unit Head, Jaipur(North)</b> 4.1 Construction of Cement Concrete Road and Replacement of Old Damaged Drains by RCC Box Culverts at Industrial Area Jhotwara (T.A.), Jaipur. UBN-RDC2526WLOB00644	557.65
5.	<b>Unit Head, Alwar</b> 5.1 Strengthening & Recarpeting of Road, P&L of Interlocking Tiles and Const. of CC Road at Ind. Area MIA. UBN-RDC2526WLOB00652	614.16

Bidders/contractors may download and submit tender online. Detailed information of tenders and any kind of corrigendum/ date extension, if any in future, may be seen by bidders on websites [rico.rajabhaskar.com](http://rico.rajabhaskar.com), [www.sppp.rajabhaskar.com](http://www.sppp.rajabhaskar.com) and [www.eproc.rajabhaskar.com](http://www.eproc.rajabhaskar.com). For queries please contact: GM (Civil) Ph. 0141-4593243 Raj Samwada/C/25/6935

**verka®**  
Har Din Da, Har Dil Da [www.verka.coop](http://www.verka.coop)

**THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.**  
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX No. 0172-5041812,66

**NOTICE INVITING e TENDER**

Name of Work / Item
---------------------





**Government of India's Transformative Steps  
towards accelerated Development in Tamil Nadu**

**Laying of Foundation Stone, Inauguration and Dedication to the Nation of  
Projects worth ₹4900 Crore related to Airport, Highways, Railways, Port and Power in Tamil Nadu**

**Laying of Foundation Stone of**

**Transmission System under ISTS for evacuation of Power from Kudankulam Unit-3&4**

**Inauguration of**

**New Terminal building of Tuticorin Airport**

**North Cargo Berth-III of VOC Port, Tuticorin**

**Dedication to Nation of**

**Four Laning of Sethiyathope-Cholapuram section of NH-36**

**Six Laning of Tuticorin Port Road section of NH-138**

**Doubling of Nagercoil Town-Nagercoil Jn.-Kanniyakumari Railway Line**

**Doubling of Aralvaymozhi-Nagercoil Jn. and Tirunelveli-Melappalaiyam Railway Line**

**Madurai-Bodinayakkanur Railway Line Electrification Project**

**Benefits of the Projects**



Tuticorin's **New Airport Terminal** spanning across 17,340 sqm. with all modern facilities to **enhance annual passenger capacity** by six-fold to 20 lakh, to boost air connectivity



Built at a **cost of ₹452 Cr.**, the **eco-friendly Airport Terminal** to foster travel & tourism, generate new avenues for employment, resulting in economic growth



The enhanced **road projects worth ₹2557 Cr.** to strengthen connectivity, quicker cargo movement, bolster logistics while alleviating congestion and boosting trade



**Doubling and Electrification of Rail Network costing ₹1032 Cr.** ensure sustainable **connectivity & speedy transportation** of industrial products, alongside reduction in carbon emissions



**2 Giga Watt transmission** of clean and sustainable energy **costing ₹548 Cr.** caters to the beneficiary states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Puducherry (U.T.)



**Port Project of ₹285 Cr.** poised to transform cargo handling capabilities at V.O. Chidambaranar Port, advancing its multi-dimensional development in a futuristic and sustainable manner

• The sustainable **Air, Road, Rail, Port, and Energy projects** to expedite the Govt's vision of achieving Viksit Bharat goals by 2047

by

**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

*in the august presence of*

**Shri R. N. Ravi**  
Governor, Tamil Nadu

**Shri M. K. Stalin**  
Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu

**Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari**  
Union Minister of Road Transport  
& Highways

**Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw**  
Union Minister of Railways; Information &  
Broadcasting; and Electronics & Information Technology

**Shri Manohar Lal**  
Union Minister of Power; and  
Housing & Urban Affairs

**Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu**  
Union Minister of Civil Aviation

**Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**  
Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

**Shri Murlidhar Mohol**  
Union Minister of State for  
Civil Aviation; and Cooperation

**Dr. L. Murugan**  
Union Minister of State for  
Information & Broadcasting

**Smt. Kanimozhi Karunanidhi**  
Member of Parliament  
(Lok Sabha)

**Shri C. Shunmugaiah**  
Member of Legislative Assembly

**Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2025 | 08:00 PM | Tuticorin Airport, Tamil Nadu**



Watch the event live on DD News

epaper.indianexpress.com



# Rahul, Pradhan spar over ‘vacant’ reserved varsity teaching posts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

AFTER LS Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi flagged vacancies in teaching positions for SC, ST, and OBC categories in central universities Friday and referred to it as a “planned conspiracy”, Education Minister Dhamendra Pradhan hit out saying the Centre has increased the number of teaching positions in the past 10 years.

Citing data presented in response to a question in the RS Wednesday, Gandhi said on X: “Data presented by the Modi government in Parliament is evidence of the deprivation of Bahujans and institutionalized Manuvad.”

Stating that these posts “are deliberately kept vacant”, Gandhi said: “This is not mere negligence but a well-planned conspiracy—to keep Bahujans out of education, research, and policymaking.”

“In the name of NFS (Not Found Suitable), thousands of qualified SC, ST, OBC candidates are being declared unfit under a

Manuvadi mindset, and the government is unwilling to take any accountability. This is completely unacceptable,” he said.

Around 80% of posts sanctioned in central universities for professors under the OBC category, 83% in the ST category, and 64% in the SC category remain vacant, the RS was informed.

In response, Pradhan said Friday: “Rahul Gandhi has raised the matter of ‘not found suitable.’ In 2019, the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers’ Cadre) Act was passed. For the first time in independent India, reservation for SC/ST/OBC categories in the posts of assistant prof, associate prof, and prof was ensured through an Act. The Act also says that if a suitable person is not found, the post won’t cease to exist or lapse.”

“I would like to ask Rahul Gandhi... in their (Congress) tenure how many posts were converted into ‘general’ category where candidates were ‘not found suitable.’ And in Modi’s tenure... not even one has been converted,” he said.

# Political slugfest as search ops begin after ‘illegal’ coal mine collapse in Jharkhand

SHUBHAM TIGGA  
RANCHI JULY 25

THE NATIONAL Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have begun search operations at a mining site in Jharkhand’s Baghmara, where several men are feared trapped after the collapse of an “illegal coal mine”. The alleged collapse has sparked a political slugfest in the state, with the Opposition accusing the state’s Hemant Soren government of complicity.

According to officials, a 35-member team of the NDRF, which has been camping in Baghmara since Wednesday, have begun

search operations along the Jamunia river, where the roof of a mine allegedly collapsed Tuesday. Officials of the NDRF told *The Indian Express* that in the two days since the operations began, they had identified three suspected collapse sites, “one of which appeared freshly levelled with soil”.

“We began digging at most probable location, but the district administration provided a non-functional earth mover. In two days, just 6-7 ft of soil has been removed,” an NDRF official said.

Giridih MP Chandraprakash Choudhary, who visited the site, has accused district officials of complicity. “Illegal coal mining cannot happen without the ad-

ministration’s knowledge. The incident is being whitewashed. I have given names of five missing workers, whose families are yet to hear from them,” he told *The Indian Express*.

MLA Saryu Roy claimed the area was blocked and that locals were stopped “half a kilometre away”. “The spot appears freshly filled as if to bury the evidence,” he said. Leader of Opposition Babul Marandi accused the state government and police administration of “protecting mining mafias” and called for a thorough investigation.

“The mafias have turned the coal belt into death traps, not just illegal mines. Poor labourers are

losing their lives prematurely,” Marandi said on X. “The greed for money of JMM-Congress and RJD leaders has ruined so many poor families.”

Inspector Asit Kumar, SHO of Baghmara police station who is part of the search efforts, claimed “nothing concrete” had been found. “As of now, nothing’s confirmed. From our (district authorities) side, we can only say it is ‘so-called,’” he said.

Meanwhile, the JMM said in a statement, “This is a time for solidarity and compassion — not for politics. It is unfortunate that certain political parties are attempting to use this human tragedy to serve their political motives.”

## Agniveer dies in landmine blast

*Jammu:* An Agniveer was killed and two others injured in a landmine blast along the Line of Control in Poonch district of J&K on Friday.

Identifying the deceased as Lalit Kumar of 7 JAT Regiment, official sources said that the injured have been shifted to Army hospital and their condition is stated to be stable. They have been identified as Havildar Gajender Singh and Subedar Hari Ram.

“I pay my heartfelt tributes to Agniveer Lalit Kumar who made the supreme sacrifice in service to the nation. My deepest condolences to the bereaved family. The nation stands firmly with them in this hour of grief,” Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said in a statement.

## Participants’ list for Australia India Youth Dialogue out, to be held from Sept 15-18

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE ANNUAL Australia India Youth Dialogue (AIYD) has announced its list of participants for this year’s edition, which is scheduled to take place in Mumbai and Delhi from September 15 to 18. This year’s Dialogue will explore the Future of Leadership.

For more than a decade, AIYD has been gathering 30 young leaders from Australia and India — 15 from each country. Held in Australia and India in rotation, it fosters connections between young Indians and Australians, aiming to spark collaboration and

partnership, and focuses on the issues of significance for the next generation of bilateral leaders.

From Australia, the 2025 edition will feature cricket commentator Bharat Sundaresan; Clare Murphy, international business development adviser from Melbourne; Medha Majumdar, Policy Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade; Meg Washington, singer-songwriter and composer; and Varun Ghosh, Senator for Western Australia.

The Indian side includes illustrator Alicia Souza, musician Ambi Subramaniam; Deepthi Bopaiah, CEO, GoSports Foundation; Paras Parekh, Advisor, Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways;

Sathvik Shetty, Co-Founder, SmartX Technologies Australia; and Vandana Kasravalli, dancer, choreographer and educator.

Michelle Jasper, AIYD co-Chair, said: “With India’s demographic strength and Australia’s research and regional capabilities, our countries have a shared opportunity — and responsibility — to design leadership models fit for the future.”

Fellow co-Chair, Bindu Subramaniam, said: “The AIYD has grown into the leading Track II diplomacy forum for young leaders from Australia and India... At the heart of the dynamic relationship between two countries are human connections.”

# ED attaches assets worth ₹106 crore of UCO Bank ex-CMD

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE ED has attached properties worth around ₹106.36 crore linked to Subodh Kumar Goel, former chairman and MD of UCO Bank, two months after he was arrested on May 16 in connection with a case of alleged corruption and money laundering.

According to the agency, Goel was arrested for allegedly taking a bribe and approving a loan of ₹6,210.72 crore to Concast Steel and Power Ltd (CSPL). “On July 11, the Kolkata Zonal office of ED has filed a supplementary prosecution complaint against accused entities, including S K Goel, his family members, close aides and other related companies,” an ED spokesperson said.

“A provisional attachment order was issued on July 9, attaching movable and immovable properties valued of around ₹106.36 crore of Goel and related entities,” the ED spokesperson said, adding that in this case so far assets worth around ₹612.71 crore have been provisionally attached.

According to ED, the investigation was launched based on an FIR registered by CBI’s Bank Security and Fraud Bureau, Kolkata, regarding the sanction of credit facilities to CSPL and the alleged diversion and siphoning of ₹6,210.72 crore



Subodh Kumar Goel

(excluding interest).

“Probe has revealed that during the tenure of Goel as CMD of UCO Bank, large credit facilities were sanctioned to CSPL by UCO Bank, which were subsequently diverted and siphoned off by the borrower group. In turn, Goel received substantial illegal gratifications from the CSPL,” an ED spokesperson said.

“Probe has also revealed that the illegal gratification was layered and channelled through various entities to give a facade of legitimacy. Investigation has also revealed that Goel received cash, immovable properties, luxury goods, hotel booking, etc., routed through a web of shell companies, dummy persons and family members to conceal the criminal origin of the money,” the spokesperson said.

According to the ED, the probe found that Goel received bribes from an iron ore company, a loan defaulter, and used the funds to buy a property. “He also forced the loan defaulter to fund his family’s travels and purchase of personal items such as goggles and dry fruits,” the ED said.

## Bengal Gov sends back Aparajita Bill to govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JULY 25

GOVERNOR CV Ananda Bose has sent the Aparajita Bill back to the West Bengal government for consideration of the observations by the Centre over the proposed changes to the BNS that the legislation seeks, a highly placed source in the Raj Bhavan said.

The Centre, in its observation, found that the Aparajita Women and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, passed in the Assembly in September 2024, seeks changes in punishment for rape under multiple sections of the BNS that are “excessively harsh and disproportionate,” the source said.

A senior official at the Raj

Bhavan, who did not wish to be named, said, “The Governor had reserved The Aparajita Women and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2024 for the consideration of the Hon’ble President of India. The Centre has since conveyed its observations on certain amendments proposed to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 through this Bill.”

The official said, “One of the proposed amendments seeks to enhance punishment for rape under Section 64 of the BNS, 2023, raising it from the existing minimum of 10 years to life imprisonment for the remainder of one’s life or death. The Ministry of Home Affairs has termed this change as excessively harsh and disproportionate.”

WITHPTIINPUTS

### AMITY UNIVERSITY JOINS WHO & DRISHTI TO ADDRESS ADOLESCENT EYE HEALTH IN INDIA

World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with “Drishti,” an eye care initiative founded by Amity student Sanjana Chauhan, hosted a conference titled “Vision Health Champions: Empowering Youth Ambassadors for Adolescent Eye Care” at Amity University Noida. The event focused on the rising public health concern of adolescent eye health, particularly myopia, and aimed to promote preventive measures like regular check-ups, outdoor activities, and awareness of digital eye strain. Dr. Yutaro Setoya (WHO India) emphasized the role of youth as catalysts for change, while Sanjana Chauhan shared Drishti’s efforts in providing eye care to over 78,000 children.



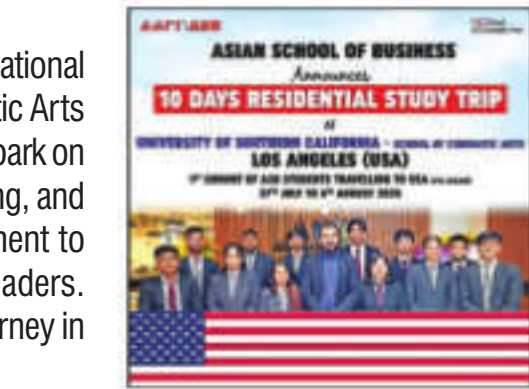
### DPG College Hosts AICTE-Sponsored National Workshop on Sustainability

DPG Degree College organized a two-day national workshop, “Exploring the Contribution of Human Society and Environment for a Sustainable Future”, on July 9-10, 2025. Sponsored by AICTE, the workshop featured expert speakers like Dr. Avni Khatkar (CSIR-NPL), Dr. Anupam Kulrwal (MDU), and Dr. Pawanesh Kumar (IGNOU), discussing sustainable practices and youth involvement. Activities included a tree plantation drive and a hands-on training session. Over 120 participants, including students and faculty, engaged in meaningful discussions, reinforcing the importance of sustainability in shaping a better future.



### ASIAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ANNOUNCES FIRST INTERNATIONAL STUDY TRIP TO USC’S SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS

Asian School of Business (ASB) is excited to announce its inaugural international study trip to the University of Southern California (USC) – School of Cinematic Arts in Los Angeles, USA. From July 27 to August 5, 2025, ASB students will embark on a 10-day residential experience designed to foster innovation, global thinking, and cinematic excellence. This trip marks the beginning of ASB’s commitment to providing cross-cultural exposure and preparing future-ready leaders. Congratulations to the students who will experience this transformative journey in one of the world’s most prestigious cinematic institutions!



### Jamia Hamdard Hosts Delegation from Daegu Haany University for Academic Collaboration

2025: Jamia Hamdard welcomed a high-level delegation from Daegu Haany University, Republic of Korea, on July 23, 2025, to explore academic and research collaboration. The delegation, led by Dr. Se-Zin Hwang and Dr. Jichung Song, discussed joint research initiatives and student exchanges with Jamia Hamdard’s leadership team. Both universities expressed interest in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote cooperation in oriental medicine, pharmacology, and cosmetology. The delegation also visited the Centre of Excellence in Unani Medicine, commending the advanced infrastructure and ongoing clinical research.



### Justice Rajesh Bindal Inaugurates Moot Court at Sharda University

Justice Rajesh Bindal of the Supreme Court inaugurated the moot court at Sharda University’s School of Law, Greater Noida, during the Shri Anand Swaroop Gupta Memorial Law Lecture Series. Addressing students and faculty, Justice Bindal emphasized the importance of active listening, critical analysis, and logical thinking for aspiring lawyers. He also cautioned against over-reliance on AI, particularly in legal matters. Chancellor PK Gupta highlighted the role of lawyers as “sentinels of the nation” and encouraged students to adopt a global legal perspective.



## CORPORATE BRIEFS

### EDUCATION

#### Seeds of Innocens and Jamia Hamdard Collaborate in Reproductive Sciences

On June 27, 2025, Seeds of Innocens Infertility and Maternity Clinic signed an MoU with Jamia Hamdard to advance academic and clinical excellence in reproductive sciences. The partnership will offer specialized training in Embryology, Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART), and reproductive genetics. Seeds of Innocens, with over 30 centers globally, will provide expert faculty and hands-on training. The collaboration aims to empower future fertility experts and foster advancements in reproductive medicine through practical and academic excellence.



#### GGSIU and CEMCA Join Forces for Educational Innovation

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIU) and the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch CEMCAIPU, a collaborative initiative aimed at enhancing education through innovation, accessibility, and technology. The partnership focuses on empowering both educators and learners with cutting-edge tools and resources. GGSIU’s Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Mahesh Verma, and CEMCA’s Director, Dr. Basheerhamad Shadrach, emphasized the commitment to making education more inclusive and impactful. Spearheaded by Prof. Saroj Sharma, the collaboration seeks to transform the educational experience for the global community.



#### GIMS Hosts Grand Orientation Program Meraki 2025

GNIoT Institute of Management Studies (GIMS) organized Meraki 2025, a grand orientation for its newly admitted PGDM students at India Expo Mart Center. The event featured prominent speakers like Sonu Sharma, Shubhankar Mishra, Gaurav Taneja, and Akash Gupta, who inspired students with insights on skill-based learning, entrepreneurship, and social responsibility. IPS Nidhin Valsan urged students to stay dedicated to their purpose. CEO Swadesh Kumar Singh and Director Dr. Bhupender Som highlighted GIMS’s focus on developing leadership, networking, and self-confidence. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Ruchi Rayat.



#### GIMS Organizes 5-Day Outbound Training for PGDM Students at Jim Corbett

GNIoT Institute of Management Studies (GIMS) successfully conducted a five-day outbound training for its newly admitted PGDM batch at Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand, from July 10 to July 14, 2025. The training focused on developing leadership, teamwork, decision-making, and problem-solving skills through real-life experiences. Students participated in activities like Trust Fall, Leadership Role-Plays, and a Jungle Safari, enhancing their emotional intelligence and strategic thinking. Swadesh Kumar Singh, CEO of GIMS, emphasized that such programs equip students with real-world management skills and foster personal development.



#### KIET Group of Institutions Signs MoU with INTI International University, Malaysia for Global Academic Collaboration

On July 9, 2025, KIET Group of Institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with INTI International University, Malaysia. This collaboration, facilitated by KIET’s Department of PR & International Relations, aims to enhance global academic engagement through student mobility, joint research, faculty exchanges, and international conferences. The virtual signing ceremony featured Prof. Dr. Shamsul Nahar Abdullah, Pro-Vice Chancellor of INTI, and Dr. Adesh Pandey, Director Academics at KIET. Both leaders expressed enthusiasm for fostering innovation and cross-cultural academic growth. This partnership reinforces KIET’s commitment to expanding its global academic footprint.



#### Honoring Greater Noida Police Personnel

On June 23, 2025, GL Bajaj Educational Institutions, in collaboration with The Times of India, hosted Samman 2025 at their Greater Noida campus. The event recognized the remarkable contributions and dedication of the Greater Noida Police Force. Chief Guest Smt. Anandiben Patel, Hon’ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh, delivered a keynote on the importance of police service, highlighting initiatives for societal progress. Other dignitaries, including Dr. Mahesh Sharma and Ms. Laxmi Singh, graced the occasion. The ceremony also featured the felicitation of distinguished officers and emphasized values like duty, discipline, and civic responsibility.



#### Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan Conferred with “Agriculture Leadership Award-2025” by Shri Piyush Goyal

Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President of Amity Education Group, was honored with the “Agriculture Leadership Award-2025” by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, at the 16th Agriculture Leadership Conclave in New Delhi. This prestigious recognition was awarded for Dr. Chauhan’s significant global contributions to agricultural innovation, sustainability, and international collaboration. Under his leadership, Amity has championed research in agriculture, focusing on food security and rural development. Dr. Chauhan expressed gratitude, highlighting Amity’s commitment to integrating science and education to impact agriculture, with student innovations like the “So-Apt Agro Vehicle” leading the way.



#### KIET Hosts Tree Plantation Drive

KIET Group of Institutions organized a tree plantation programme in support of the Uttar Pradesh Government’s “Plant a Tree, Save a Life” and “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” campaigns. The initiative aims to plant 37 crore trees for environmental conservation. The event was attended by Dr. Adesh Pandey (Director Academics), Dr. Pratibha Kumari (Associate Dean-Student Welfare), and Dr. Ashish Karnwal (Dean, Mechanical Engineering). Dr. Pandey emphasized the importance of sustainability. Participants planted trees in honor of their mothers and loved ones, symbolizing both environmental commitment and personal tribute.



#### 9TH CHHATRA SANSAD INDIA CONCLAVE – INDIA RISING AT GL BAJAJ

GL Bajaj Educational Institutions, Greater Noida, is proud to host the 9th Chhatra Sansad India Conclave – India Rising. This prestigious platform empowers youth to become catalysts of social & political transformation. The event will feature distinguished guests including Jaya Kishori, Rakesh Asthana, Sundararaman Ramamurthy, Charu Pragna, Rahul Shivshankar, Swati Maliwal, Bansuri Swaraj, Dr. Kalbe Rushaid Rizvi, and Shri Vijender Gupta. We invite members of the media to cover this grand conclave and witness powerful conversations that will shape India’s future. The event will be held at SHD Hall, GL Bajaj, Greater Noida.



# Suicides on campus: SC issues 15 guidelines, calls for mental health policy

Measures binding until legislation is enacted, says top court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

OUTLINING THE rise in suicides and mental health issues among students in educational institutions, the Supreme Court on Friday issued pan-India guidelines to combat the problem.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said there remained a "legislative and regulatory vacuum" in the country with respect to a unified, enforceable framework for suicide prevention of students in educational institutions, coaching centres, and student-centric environments. While issuing 15 guidelines, the bench said the measures should remain in force and binding, until such time as appropriate legislation or regulatory frameworks were enacted by the competent authority.

All educational institutions were directed to adopt and implement a uniform mental health policy, drawing cues from the "Ummeed" draft guidelines, the "Manodharpan" initiative, and the National Suicide Prevention Strategy. "This policy shall be reviewed and updated annually and made publicly accessible on institutional websites and notice boards of the institutes," the bench said.

The top court highlighted Centre's preventive steps to mitigate the situation, with "Ummeed" (understand, motivate, manage, empathise, empower, and develop) draft guide-

lines — meant to prevent school student suicides — released by the Ministry of Education in 2023.

For a broader reach, the court said, the Ministry of Education launched "Manodharpan", mental health and well-being of students during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

The verdict came on an appeal against an order of the Andhra Pradesh HC, rejecting the plea to transfer the probe over the unnatural death of a 17-year-old National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test aspirant, preparing in Vishakhapatnam, to the CBI.

The bench said all educational institutions with 100 or more enrolled students should either appoint or engage at least one qualified counsellor, psychologist, or social worker with demonstrable training in child and adolescent mental health. "Institutions with fewer students shall establish formal referral linkages with external mental health professionals," the verdict said.

The bench continued, "All residential-based institutions shall install tamper-proof ceiling fans or equivalent safety devices, and shall restrict access to rooftops, balconies, and other high-risk areas, in order to deter impulsive acts of self-harm." All educational institutions, particularly coaching institutes or centres, were asked to refrain from segregating students' batches on the basis of academic performance, public shaming, or assign-

ment of academic targets disproportionate to their capacities.

"All educational institutions shall establish robust, confidential, and accessible mechanisms for the reporting, redressal, and prevention of incidents involving sexual assault, harassment, ragging, and bullying on the basis of caste, class, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or ethnicity," the order said.

The bench stressed on the need for zero tolerance when it came to retaliatory actions against complainants or whistleblowers. In all such cases, immediate referral to trained mental health professionals must be ensured, and the student's safety, physical and psychological, should be prioritised, it said.

"Failure to take timely or adequate action in such cases... shall be treated as institutional culpability, making the administration liable to regulatory and legal consequences," the bench added.

The guidelines would apply to all educational institutions, including public and private schools, colleges, universities, training centres, coaching institutes, residential academies and hostels, irrespective of their affiliation.

The top court in a separate case took cognisance of suicides in educational institutions and directed the constitution of a National Task Force on mental health concerns of students and prevention of suicides in higher educational institutions.

Op Sindoor ongoing, preparedness must remain high, says CDS

New Delhi: Asserting that Operation Sindoor "still continues", Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Friday said the country's military preparedness must remain at a "very high" level, round-the-clock and throughout the year.

In his address at a defence seminar hosted at Subroto Park here, he also said the military in future will also need "information warriors, technology warriors and scholar warriors." And, in a merging landscape of warfare, a future soldier will need to be a mix of all three "info, tech and scholar warriors," the CDS said.

The seminar on 'Aerospace Power: Preserving India's Sovereignty and Furthering National Interests' was held under the aegis of the 'No.4 Warfare and Aerospace Strategy Programme'.

The CDS said there are no runners-up in a war, and any military must be constantly alert and maintain a high degree of operational preparedness.

"An example is Operation Sindoor, which still continues. Our preparedness level has to be very high, 24x7, 365 days (a year)," Gen Chauhan said. India launched Operation Sindoor early on May 7 and decimated multiple terror infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK.

PTI

## ₹1.5 KG GOLD, OTHER HIGH-VALUE ASSETS SEIZED Odisha forest official's 'secret chamber with ₹1.43 cr cash' unearthed

SUJIT BISOI  
BHUBANESWAR, JULY 25

CASH TOTALLING ₹1.43 crore concealed in a secret chamber, bank deposits of ₹1.32 crore, gold weighing 1.5 kg and 4,637 kg of silver, multiple residential properties, and high-value land parcels — these were among the assets unearthed by Odisha Vigilance after raiding a junior-rank forest official. Vigilance sleuths on Friday conducted simultaneous raids at six properties linked to Rama Chandra Nepak, a deputy ranger at Jeypore forest range in Koraput district, Vigilance said in a statement. The raids were conducted in Jeypore and in Bhubaneswar by multiple teams after allegations that the official possessed disproportionate assets. He is scheduled to retire from service after five months.

Vigilance officials said they unearthed Rs 1.4 crore concealed in a secret treasury at one of his flats in Jeypore town.

They used counting machines

to count the large amount of cash recovered during the raids. They also found gold biscuits and gold coins during the raids.

Among his immovable properties, the anti-corruption wing unearthed a three-storey building in Jeypore, a 3bhk flat with an area of 1,800 sq ft in Bhubaneswar, and two 1,500 sq-ft flats and two high-value plots in Jeypore town. Vigilance's technical wing is conducting detailed measurements and valuations of the identified properties, said officials.

With the raids continuing, Vigilance sources said they may recover more properties linked to the forest official. He is likely to be arrested under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

According to records, Nepak joined government service as a village forest worker in March 1989 at the Koraput social forestry division.

Currently, he holds a deputy ranger rank and is the in-charge ranger of Jeypore forest range, receiving a gross salary of Rs 76,880 per month.

## Uma Kanjilal appointed IGNOU's first woman V-C

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

UMA KANJILAL has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), becoming the first woman to hold the post since the university's establishment in 1985. The announcement was made by IGNOU on Thursday, marking exactly one year since she took over as Acting Vice Chancellor on July 25, 2024.

With over 36 years of experience in the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system, Kanjilal has been associated with IGNOU in several key academic and administrative roles. Prior to her current role, she served as Pro Vice Chancellor from March 2021 to July 2024.

She has also led several university bodies in the past, including the Centre for Online Education, the Inter-University Consortium for Technology Enabled Flexible Education, the Advanced Centre for Informatics and Innovative Learning, and the School of Social Sciences.



Prof Uma Kanjilal

A Professor of Library and Information Science since 2003, Kanjilal is known for her work in digital education, e-learning, and ICT in libraries.

She has contributed to several national digital education initiatives and is currently the National Coordinator for SWAYAM and SWAYAM PRABHA — two programmes launched by the Ministry of Education to expand access to online learning and educational television.

"She brings a wealth of academic leadership, digital innovation, and institutional knowledge to the helm," IGNOU said in a statement on Friday, adding that her appointment is a "historic milestone" for the university.

She was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign from 1999 to 2000 and has worked with the UNRWA in Jordan.

## Udaipur Files: SC declines to extend stay on release, 'those against it can move HC'

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE SUPREME COURT on Friday declined to extend the stay on release of the film Udaipur Files: Kanhaiya Lal Tailor Murder and told those objecting to it to approach the Delhi High Court for any further relief.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joydeep Chakrabarti told senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Menaka Guruswamy, who appeared for those opposing its release, that they can approach the high court if they want to challenge the order by the expert committee set up by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to review the certificate granted to the movie by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The committee, set up following an order of the Delhi HC, had recommended allowing the release subject to certain changes, including a new disclaimer.

While Sibal was appearing for Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind president Maulana Arshad Madani, Guruswamy was appearing for Mohammed Javed, one of the

accused in the Kanhaiya Lal murder case. "We have not touched the merits... We will pass an order asking the high court to take it up on Monday... Whatever arguments you have to make, go to high court," the bench said. As the counsel for those objecting to the release sought a stay in the meanwhile, Justice Kant said, "meanwhile nothing."

Appearing for the filmmakers, senior advocate Gaurav Bhatia opposed the request for extending the stay ordered by the high court. "What is happening is very peculiar. This is my SLP [special leave petition] challenging the stay. Can they ask for stay in my SLP when they have a legal remedy before the HC?" Bhatia asked.

The court pointed out that it had not granted any stay. Sibal said, "I am not disputing that. In any case he can't screen the movie after tomorrow. You have to get 1,800 cinema halls." Another counsel urged the bench, "Your Lordships need only say HC will hear it on Monday. Meanwhile, the movie will not be screened, that is all." The bench, however, did

not agree.

Bhatia referred to the objections raised to the release of the film, Kerala Story, and the SC subsequently allowing its release. "Every time the SC has allowed release. Let them go to HC. The HC will give them a detailed hearing. If there is a case made out for a stay, the HC will grant them. Why should this court, where I am the aggrieved party, pass an interim order stopping the release of the movie?" he said.

Bhatia added, "All preparations at my end are being done. I have lost 12 days already. I have abided by every instruction... Now today they couldn't make out a case. The revisional authority has passed an order. It would not be appropriate for Your Lordships to grant relief to them at this juncture."

Pointing out that around 1,200 screens had been blocked to screen the film, Bhatia said, "And what are we encouraging Your Lordship? Is that question not relevant? Any person... comes forward, says I am aggrieved, my feelings are hurt. Can there be a... movie which will not hurt the

sentiments of anyone? And then there are orders passed by the HC. A special screening was done for them. 55 plus 6 plus disclaimer edited by them... Now any further stay would be unfair." The CBFC had ordered 55 cuts and the committee constituted by the Centre had recommended six further changes in addition to a new disclaimer.

A counsel backing demands for its release said that no one was vilified even when films like Kashmir Files were released. "The argument is this film will vilify the community and jeopardise the social fabric of the country. Earlier also similar arguments were made... Did any incident happen after the Kashmir Files? Was any Muslim targeted? Was the community vilified? Were even Kashmiri Muslims targeted?" he submitted.

Justice Kant said, "Today, only short question here is once you withdraw your petition, should there be a condition from this court (to not screen) for 2 days, 3 days...?"

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

## With Vindhya's Rich Heritage MP's Tourism Set to Reach New Heights

### MADHYA PRADESH TOURISM REGIONAL TOURISM CONCLAVE

26-27 JULY, 2025 | REWA

*Wildlife & Offbeat Destination*

## INAUGURATION by Dr. Mohan Yadav

Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Dr. Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister

26 July, 2025 | 6:00 pm

Krishna Raj Kapoor Auditorium, Rewa

### Charting New Horizons for Tourism

- Six major investors investing in hotels, resorts, wellness, and eco-tourism sectors will be awarded 'Letter of Award'
- The booking of PM SHRI Tourism Air Service, will now be integrated with the IRCTC portal
- Rural Home Stays will be connected with national and international travel agencies like Make My Trip, Yatra and Ease My Trip
- Strategic partnership MOU's will be signed with two leading digital marketing companies Barcode Experiential and Qyuki Digital
- Food Craft Institute in Shahdol will be inaugurated this will generate new employment opportunities
- Agreements will be signed with Gram Sudhar Samiti MM Foundation and Samarth Sanstha to set-up art and craft centres

LIVE STREAMING

@Cmmadhyapradesh  
@jansampark.madhyapradesh

@Cmmadhyapradesh  
@jansamparkMP

jansamparkMP

Designed by M.P. Madhyam / 2025

Released by the Department of Public Relation, M.P.





The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

More than a trade pact

India-UK FTA is a launchpad: ‘Global Britain’ meets ‘Make in India for the World’



SOUMYA BHOWMICK

MISSING IN MANIPUR

Continued absence of a popular government in the state is the problem. Extending President’s Rule is not a solution

IN FEBRUARY THIS year, the N Biren Singh-led government’s failure to stanch ethnic violence since May 2023 prompted the Centre to intervene and impose President’s Rule in Manipur. The provision is intended as a temporary mechanism to ensure the governance of a state in which there has been a “failure of [the] constitutional machinery”. It is not designed to be a permanent solution or a substitute for a popular government. President’s Rule is a means to an end, not the end by itself. In this context, the government’s move to extend President’s Rule by another six months, scheduled in this Parliament session, raises questions about whether the Centre’s efforts so far have significantly advanced the objective of restoring normalcy in the state.

While it is reassuring that no major episode of violence has occurred since last November — when 22 people were killed over 11 days, most of them in Jiribam district — it is also true that there has been little progress in the dialogue between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities. Three key issues require urgent resolution: Free movement, the relocation of internally displaced persons, and the circulation of weapons. In early March, Home Minister Amit Shah had called for unrestricted movement across Manipur in an effort to reverse the segregation of the two communities. However, that initiative collapsed on its very first day. According to this newspaper, fresh negotiations are now underway between the government and Kuki militant groups under the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement to reach a deal that would allow free movement of people and goods. That effort, former Manipur Chief Secretary P K Singh announced earlier this month that reforms are being made to resettle those displaced by the conflict in three phases, with the goal of completing the process by the end of the year. As per estimates from the Manipur Home Department, around 57,000 people continue to struggle in over 280 relief camps across the valley and the hills. Finally, despite the Governor’s efforts to curb the circulation of illegal weapons, roughly 3,000 looted arms are still unaccounted for.

It is only natural for the people of Manipur to feel increasingly restless over the continued absence of a popular government. This is why the NDA’s Meitei and Naga MLAs have also been campaigning for months to push for its restoration, while Kuki-Zo groups are wary of the prospect of another partisan leader at the helm. The Centre may believe that extending President’s Rule is in the state’s best interest for now, but it needs to move with urgency to restart the political process. Simultaneously, it must take steps to curb the influence of militant groups on both sides that could derail attempts at reconciliation. Peace — and the return of the mediating role of politics — must no more be held hostage to entrenched ethnic rivalries.

ON A WARM July afternoon at Chequers, Prime Ministers Keir Starmer and Narendra Modi finally signed the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which negotiators from London and New Delhi have been pursuing since 2022. The deal is the largest the UK has sealed since Brexit and India’s first with a G7 economy in over a decade, marking the end of a stop-start process that spanned four Indian budget cycles and two British prime ministers.

For London, the agreement is intended to deliver the “Global Britain” dividend that has eluded successive Conservative governments since the United Kingdom departed from the European Union. Labour’s new leadership can now point to preferential access to a market of 1.4 billion people for sectors ranging from premium spirits to cutting-edge aerospace. At the same time, India gains early access to European markets just as its export-led “Make in India for the World” strategy accelerates. Strategically, the pact aligns neatly with the wider India–UK Roadmap 2030, which already encompasses cooperation on climate action, critical minerals, and maritime security, providing both capitals with a rules-based alternative to supply-chain dependence on China.

At the heart of CETA lie steep tariff cuts. Average Indian duties on British goods drop from around 15 per cent to just 3 per cent on 90 per cent of tariff lines, with the eye-catching reduction on Scotch whisky — from 150 per cent today to 75 per cent immediately and 40 per cent over 10 years. High-end cars arriving from the UK will see levies plummet from well over 100 per cent to 10 per cent within a quota of 25,000 units, and British salmon, chocolates, and cheese will enter on near-zero tariffs. In return, the UK eliminates duties on almost every Indian export, from labour-intensive textiles and leather to gems, generic pharmaceuticals and marine produce.

While India–UK trade currently represents a relatively modest share of each country’s overall external sector — accounting for approximately 2.4 per cent of the UK’s total trade and about 1.8 per cent of India’s combined merchandise and serv-

For London, the agreement is intended to deliver the ‘Global Britain’ dividend that has eluded successive Conservative governments since the United Kingdom departed from the European Union. Labour’s new leadership can now point to preferential access to a market of 1.4 billion people for sectors ranging from premium spirits to cutting-edge aerospace. At the same time, India gains early access to European markets just as its export-led ‘Make in India for the World’ strategy accelerates.

ices trade as of 2024 — the bilateral relationship has demonstrated consistent upward momentum. Investment linkages are equally significant, reflecting a mutually reinforcing economic interdependence supported by a dynamic ecosystem of transnational firms.

Against this backdrop, the proposed trade agreement carries both symbolic and material promise. The UK Treasury anticipates an annual GDP increase of approximately £4.8 billion by 2040, alongside investment and export gains valued at £6 billion. Concurrently, India’s Ministry of Commerce projects a potential expansion of up to \$34 billion in bilateral trade over five years. Though these figures may appear modest in terms of aggregate GDP — translating to less than half a percentage point of output for either country — they hold considerable significance at the sectoral and regional levels. Targeted tariff reductions and regulatory alignment are poised to deliver significant benefits for key constituencies, including Scottish distilleries, Midlands car manufacturers, Tirupur knitwear exporters, and India’s rapidly growing processed food and marine sectors.

Less talked about, but extremely valuable, is the way CETA plugs both countries into the Indo-Pacific’s fast growing supply chains. The treaty allows up to 60 per cent of a product’s parts to come from third-country suppliers without losing its “Made in the UK” or “Made in India” label. These flexible rules of origin could multiply the agreement’s benefits, as firms gain access to cheaper inputs and larger markets simultaneously. Add India’s new freight corridors and Britain’s emerging free port zones, and the deal looks more like a springboard into the “China plus one” production shift now reshaping global manufacturing.

Still, the agreement leaves several concerns unaddressed. Delhi had lobbied strongly for a more expansive “Mode 4” mobility framework to facilitate the movement of its IT professionals — seeking concessions on par with those granted to Australia. However, Britain’s domestic immigration policies constrained the scope of the offer. Meanwhile, Britain’s financial and legal sectors are frustrated by the absence

of the preferential access they enjoy under the UK-Australia deal, just as Indian agricultural exporters continue to face rigorous sanitary and phytosanitary checks on goods like mangoes, chillies, and seafood.

Crucially, the bilateral investment treaty, intended to anchor investor-state dispute settlement provisions, remains under negotiation, leaving key protections undefined. The agreement’s implementation is also not immediate — it must first pass through parliamentary scrutiny in Westminster and receive cabinet approval in New Delhi — a process that could be delayed if domestic lobbies or legislators seek exemptions. India was also unsuccessful in securing an exemption from the UK’s forthcoming Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, which could result in future tariffs on carbon-intensive exports.

Moving forward, several critical dimensions merit attention: Whether subnational actors such as Maharashtra or Gujarat design targeted incentive frameworks to optimise access to UK public procurement markets; how India’s existing goods trade deficit with the UK shapes domestic political discourse, particularly if imports of Scotch whisky or luxury vehicles expand significantly; and whether a potential digital trade protocol can facilitate the UK’s fintech integration with India Stack’s public digital infrastructure, contingent upon India’s willingness to revisit data localisation policies.

Finally, the India-UK trade pact may not constitute a transformational macroeconomic breakthrough, but it holds considerable geopolitical significance and commercial relevance across a diverse array of sectors. The substantive value of the agreement will depend less on its formalisation at Chequers and more on the efficiency of its ratification processes, the robustness of regulatory implementation, and the extent to which both governments can resist domestic protectionist pressures that risk diluting the intended liberalising thrust.

The writer is fellow and lead, *World Economies and Sustainability* at Centre for New Economic Diplomacy at Observer Research Foundation

BELLING THE BOARD

National Sports Governance Bill empowers government to clean up sports federations, including BCCI. There will be challenges

NEARLY A DECADE ago, when the Supreme Court was hearing the recommendations made by a panel led by Justice R M Lodha, set up by the Court to suggest reforms to the Board of Control for Cricket in India, then Chief Justice T S Thakur asked the BCCI a rhetorical question: “Are you refusing to be reformed?” In the coming days, the cricket board could, again, face a similar question. For years, the BCCI has acted on its own on governance issues. Through the National Sports Governance Bill, which Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya introduced in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, the government has shown a will to bell the cat.

So far, the BCCI has resisted all attempts to bring it under government regulation. Its main argument has been that since it does not seek funding from the sports ministry, it isn’t answerable to it. Unlike other sports, the cricket board, an autonomous body, isn’t covered under the Right to Information Act, 2005. However, with cricket returning to the Olympics in 2028, it could be forced to align with other national federations and follow the standard good governance practices. The government aims to achieve this by bringing the BCCI under the National Sports Board (NSB), as the Bill envisages. The NSB will have sweeping powers to lay down rules and oversee the functioning of all federations — from unconventional games like atya patya to mainstream sports like cricket.

Indeed, sports governance issues go beyond cricket. The Bill seeks to bring in legislation to improve “the governance of the sports bodies and achieve better results in sports and reduce the disputes and litigation, inter alia, involving sports federations”. It relies on two main pillars — the NSB will be a SEBI-like body that will govern all sports, and the creation of a National Sports Tribunal, which will take the burden away from the lower courts and high courts. With the NSB, there are fears of government overreach and the question of appointing the right people, free of conflicts of interest or bias, to head the organisation. At the same time, there are concerns that the formation of the Tribunal, which will have the powers of a civil court and decide on disputes ranging from selection to election, could disenfranchise athletes and administrators of their right to approach the courts. Whether or not the government, through this Bill, succeeds in cleaning up the messy Indian sports administration depends on whether or not it manages to enforce its provisions in letter and spirit.



E P UNNY

WITHOUT V S

Kerala will miss V S Achuthanandan, who was always in the frame

LIKE CARTOONISTS OUTSIDE Kerala, the national Opposition missed V S Achuthanandan. From Rahul Gandhi to Akhilesh Yadav and M K Stalin to Omar Abdullah, not a single player from the multiple parties that seek to build a country-wide alternative was present at his funeral. More than the 101-year-old himself, people’s response to his demise could have set them thinking. In an entirely non-choreographed public gesture, grieving men, women and children waited for hours in pouring rain to get a last glimpse of the hearse.

Had V S been an unlikely Delhi presence like the late Congress party veteran K Kamaraj in the late 1960s and early ’70s, cartoonists outside his home state would have taken to him. Kerala’s cartoonists loved V S. He looked, moved, spoke, and gesticulated with a stylised flair that verged on the comic. You only had to complete the caricature. He didn’t seem to mind at all. He was happy to pose on occasion for dozens of cartoonists who sat around and sketched. He knew it was vital to be in cartoons as much as in newspaper headlines and later on TV screens and social media.

Early on in his public life, under medical advice, he shed weight to become the familiar shoulders-raised, ramrod-straight figure

Mostly in Opposition with no immediate prospect of office, he never lost public attention through these distracting times. For six long years before he died, V S was out of the news, and at his funeral four- and five-year-olds were seen hoisted on parental shoulders. He had become a bedside story and the kids wanted to see their hero. This goes against the palpable anxiety of younger politicians about getting out of sight, out of mind.

with not an ounce of flab. White dhoti, white kurta, black rimmed glasses and a wrist watch. He managed to defy age and look mostly the same through some five decades in public life, out of which he was in power as CM for a mere five years. Mostly in Opposition with no immediate prospect of office, he never lost public attention through these distracting times. For six long years before he died on July 21, V S was out of the news, and at his funeral four- and five-year-olds were seen hoisted on parental shoulders. He had become a bedside story and the kids wanted to see their hero.

This goes against the palpable anxiety of younger politicians about getting out of sight, out of mind. If you are in office for less than one-tenth of your extra-long political life, how do you remain so visible, so popular, and so effective a campaigner in poll after poll? Those were decades when Kerala experimented with politics more than most other states. Coalitions rose and fell every once in a while, to eventually settle down to a neat pattern of alternating in power every five years. This comfort zone has since been breached by the incumbent two-term Left government, but the basic electoral transaction remains. Parties ask for your votes, and you expect returns — *sarkari* freebies and welfare. Coalitions vie with each

other to woo micro-segments of voters.

V S had to deliver in this kind of competitive transactional space, and he did, but on his terms with no guarantees. He would get you land if you were landless and a home if you were homeless, not as a favour or out of mercy but because he was convinced that was your right. When he fought the corrupt, what came across more than his clean image was his crusading zeal. He went after the corrupt till they were brought to book. For women’s rights, few mainstream politicians could have fought as relentlessly. When live TV came to Kerala, his activism played out in field trips cut out for televising. As sceptical about the bourgeois courts as any doctrinaire comrade, he didn’t hesitate to build up a fine network of lawyers to advance public causes in courtrooms.

It took 25 years for the non-Congress stalwarts of the freedom movement to unseat the Congress party in 1977. And that happened after a traumatic excess like the Emergency. Now, again, when the ruling party is clearly dominant, the opposition has to be ready for a long-distance run. They should take a good look at the life of this centenarian marathoner.

ep.unny@expressindia.com

AMERICAN ICON

Hulk Hogan was the best-known face of pro wrestling worldwide. Hulkamania will live on

IN THE EARLY 2000s, a pair of heels (unsympathetic wrestlers) might be taking turns to pound on an unfortunate babyface (sympathetic wrestler) in the ring, or Mr McMahon, the promoter of WWE, might be getting too full of himself. And then the opening notes would ring out, and the wrestling fan could whoop in joy; it was what one didn’t dare hope for. As the lyrics of his entrance music followed, Hulk Hogan in all his roaring, shirt-ripping, bandana-ed glory would emerge. Someone was about to get leg-dropped. This was an American icon, and the macho righteousness that he and his theme song, “Real American”, projected, stood in stark counterpoint to the alternative representations on offer: Green Day’s “American Idiot”, or *Team America: World Police*. It also foreshadowed his later political trajectory. As US President Donald Trump posted after the news of his death on Thursday, Hogan was “MAGA all the way”.

This wasn’t the peak of Hulkamania, the great fan craze that had its first wave in the 1980s, or the time of his most famous feats, such as body-slamming André the Giant — supposedly weighing 520 pounds. Terry Bollea, the son of a construction worker, got the nickname “Hulk” thanks to his size and 24-inch biceps even before he joined what was then the World Wrestling Federation in 1979. He would go on to become the best-known face of professional wrestling worldwide.

Hogan also tried his hand at other ventures, including acting, with a filmography ranging from *Rocky III* to low-budget ’90s films. In the 2000s, there was the inevitable reality TV series, *Hogan Knows Best*, in which he appeared alongside his family. There were scandals, too, such as a leaked sex tape of him with a friend’s wife, which led to a legally consequential case against media site Gawker that pitted freedom of speech against the right to privacy. As far as sports entertainment is concerned, though, few would dispute fellow wrestler Sting’s characterisation of Hogan — “the greatest of all”.



JULY 26, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

JOGINDER REJECTS PACT

THE “MERGED” AKALI Dal of Joginder Singh has rejected the “so-called memorandum” jointly signed by Harchand Singh Longowal and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to settle the Punjab problem. According to a resolution, unanimously adopted at a meeting of the ad-hoc advisory committee of the “merged” Akali Dal, the agreement is unacceptable because Longowal does not “represent” the Sikh masses. Joginder Singh presided over the meeting.

NO WATER SHARING

RAJASTHAN HAS REFUSED to accept that

portion of the Centre-Akali accord which deals with sharing of river waters. The Chief Minister, Hari Dev Joshi, told the Vidhan Sabha during a stormy three-hour debate that he had discussed the relevant portion of the agreement with the former law minister and called a meeting of his cabinet, which supported his stand.

PUNJAB POLLS

THE PUNJAB GOVERNOR, Arjun Singh, said in New Delhi that he would send his recommendations on holding elections in the state to the Centre by August 15 at the latest. Singh said the Government would consult the Akalis as well as other Opposition par-

ties before making a final recommendation to the Centre.

STARVATION DEATHS

AT LEAST SIX persons have died of starvation since last fortnight and many more are struggling for survival in the Komna block of Kalahandi district, which the Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, is to visit. The Chief Minister, J B Patnaik, got first-hand knowledge of four deaths when he visited the bereaved families in Chhata village, 10 km from Komna on July 20. This knowledge, however, does seem to have percolated to other authorities. There is no estimate of the number of starvation deaths in the district in the past three months.



# Start-up at the policy table

An evolution in the G20 architecture showcases the power of a dual approach: It harnesses both the stability of the large and the agility of the small



CHINTAN VAISHNAV, GIULIA AJMONE MARSAN, VUYANI JARANA

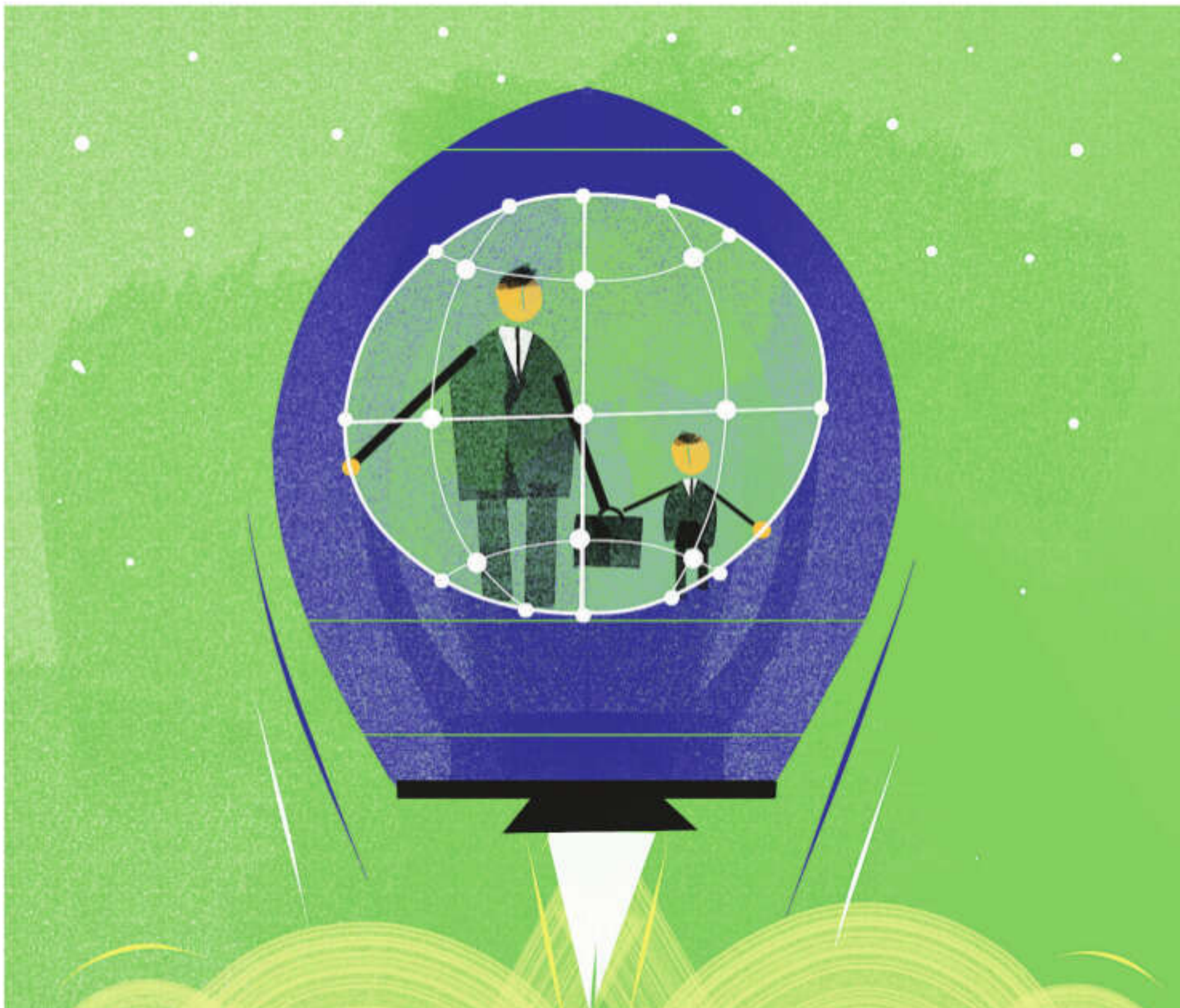
A LANDMARK DEVELOPMENT occurred under India's G20 presidency in 2023: World leaders formally recognised Startup20 as an official Engagement Group of the G20. This marked a significant evolution in the G20's architecture. Until then, all business-related issues — whether for multinational corporations or early-stage start-ups — were channelled exclusively through the Business 20 (B20) group. With the inception of Startup20, the G20 now hosts two distinct business-focused platforms: B20 for large, established enterprises, and Startup20 for emerging and early-stage ventures — each with an equal policy voice.

This achievement was the culmination of nearly a decade of gradual progress. In 2015, under Turkey's presidency, the SME and Entrepreneurship Task Force was organised. Japan followed in 2019 with the formation of the Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance, an initiative that continues independently. Italy's 2021 presidency introduced the first G20 start-up competition — the G20 Innovation League — which was expanded by Indonesia in 2022 into the G20 Digital Innovation Network. These efforts, spanning continents and income levels — from emerging markets like Turkey and Indonesia to advanced economies like Italy and Japan — were early signals of a growing recognition: That start-ups and SMEs are critical engines of inclusive and sustainable global growth.

India capitalised on this momentum, propelled by its own rapidly expanding start-up ecosystem, to propose the formal establishment of Startup20. This initiative brought an ambidextrous character to G20 — making it able to harness both the stability of the large and the agility of the small. The Covid pandemic showcased the power of this dual approach: For the first time in history, vaccines were developed and deployed within a year. Relatively smaller companies like Moderna, and Bharat Biotech, and Oxford's labs drove early development, while giants like Pfizer and AstraZeneca scaled them globally through partnerships. It was a clear case of large and small working in tandem to deliver unprecedented impact.

When we launched Startup20 in India, the overarching objective was to produce policy recommendations to harmonise the global start-up ecosystem while retaining the autonomy and vibrant diversity of national ecosystems. When Brazil assumed the G20 presidency in 2024, this vision faced its first real test. Brazil sought both to strengthen its domestic start-up ecosystem — earning recognition from its government and visibility on the world stage — and to advance the global policy priorities inherited from India. Both objectives were achieved, and important lessons emerged as the forum prepared for its next chapter in South Africa in 2025.

The first two years of Startup20 suc-



C R Sasikumar

ceeded in creating a structured process for producing a policy communiqué that captured the collective demands of global start-up and SME ecosystems. However, they also revealed two critical gaps: There was no systematic process for translating these recommendations into national policies, and no mechanism for long-term continuity. In response, the forum proposed the creation of an international secretariat to address these gaps — an inherently “start-up-like” solution for a start-up-focused platform.

India's inaugural policy communiqué had issued a bold call: To increase G20 nations' collective investment in the global start-up ecosystem to \$1 trillion by 2030. To realise this ambition, it proposed several foundational steps. One, developing a global start-up definition and harmonising governance standards. Two, creating mechanisms for accessing global capital, talent, and markets. Three, promoting inclusion by supporting underrepresented groups and four, identifying and scaling start-ups aligned with global priorities like the SDGs.

Brazil refined these themes and introduced new ones. In the area of finance, it proposed standardising investment information, leveraging tokenisation for access to capital, and using blended finance instruments for deep tech. It elevated environmental sustainability as a core theme, emphasising start-ups in renewable energy, circular economy, and social enterprise — core pillars of Brazil's G20 agenda. Additional emphasis was placed on education, capacity building, and corporate governance. A new

When Brazil assumed the G20 presidency in 2024, this vision faced its first real test. Brazil sought both to strengthen its domestic start-up ecosystem — earning recognition from its government and visibility on the world stage — and to advance the global policy priorities inherited from India. Both objectives were achieved, and important lessons emerged as the forum prepared for its next chapter in South Africa in 2025.

task force on regulation and public policy was created to develop guidelines for ethical innovation and harmonised regulatory frameworks across nations.

Now, with South Africa's G20 presidency having launched Startup20's 2025 convening on July 21 in Johannesburg, the work continues with five dedicated task forces — foundation and alliances, finance and investment, inclusion and sustainability, trade and market access and township and rural entrepreneurship.

Several firsts define the South Africa chapter. For the first time, townships and rural areas are receiving focused policy attention. For the first time, private-sector leadership is being encouraged to represent national interests. And crucially, for the first time, there is a concerted effort to develop a mechanism for implementing policy recommendations — not just producing them.

As Startup20 enters its third year, we must still ask the foundational question: What is this forum doing that wouldn't happen otherwise? The answer is clear: Startup20 provides the world's highest policy platform where G20 nations' start-up and SME ecosystems can collectively articulate their needs — needs that no single country can address alone. In doing so, it ensures that the agility of the start-up world has a seat at the global policy table — right alongside the powerhouses of business and government.

*Vaishnav is founding chair, Ajmone Marsan is member, the International Secretariat, and Jarana is the South Africa chair of Startup20. Views are personal*

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“The horror unfolding in Gaza is a collapse of the very global norms the UN was founded to uphold. The UN's moral failure in Rwanda and Bosnia must not be repeated in Gaza. This time, the world must not look away.” — **DAWN, PAKISTAN**

# All parties should welcome SIR

Periodic revision of electoral rolls is a mandatory practice in any country. Opposition's criticisms are misplaced



RAM RAJYA  
BY RAM MADHAV

IT IS HEARTENING to see the Election Commission of India (ECI) stand firm on its now-complete Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar ahead of the upcoming elections to the state legislature. The Opposition parties have been stalling Parliament, arguing that the SIR is politically motivated and intended to deprive lakhs of voters of their voting rights. They threaten to boycott elections, too. The ECI is a constitutional body with autonomous powers and responsibilities. Those critical of its actions have approached the Supreme Court. They could have gone to the ECI itself.

The Supreme Court did raise some concerns and sought clarifications from the ECI, but it refused to stay the verification process as demanded by the petitioning NGOs. The ECI refused to budge before the political threats and reacted strongly to their criticism, asking whether “fearing these things”, it should “pave the way for some to cast fake votes in the name of deceased voters, voters who have migrated permanently, or those registered in two places, fake voters or foreign voters?”

India opted for universal adult franchise at the time of Independence, which was not so common even in Western countries. The US reached that stage only in 1965 through the Voting Rights Act. Full suffrage became a reality in the UK through the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act, 1928. Learning about India's decision, Britain's then-Prime Minister, Clement Atlee, found it appropriate to warn Jawaharlal Nehru that “the Asiatic republics are few and of recent establishment. Their record is not very encouraging. They tend to degenerate into dictatorships or oligarchies.”

But the Indian leadership had decided, while drafting the Nehru Report in 1928, that every eligible citizen aged 21 years or above would have the right to vote. BR Ambedkar was insistent that it should be a fundamental right. However, in its wisdom, the Constituent Assembly decided to incorporate it not as a fundamental right under Part III of the Constitution, but as a constitutional right under Article 326. This distinction is important to keep in mind because too much is said about the burden of proof being shifted onto citizens under the SIR. The right to vote, being a constitutional right, is subject to scrutiny from time to time for the eligibility of a given individual. In fact, the Representation of the People Act clearly stipulates several disqualifications with respect to the right to vote. They include non-citizenship, being of unsound mind, convictions for certain offences, non-residency, and being in prison.

It is in exercise of these provisions that

the ECI sought to undertake this SIR. It concluded the first phase of door-to-door verification with the help of thousands of Block Level Officers (BLOs) and other officials. Setting aside criticisms, the ECI declared that 99 per cent of electors had been covered through this exercise and that it had helped the ECI identify 2.16 million voters who were dead. Another 3.15 million were found to have permanently migrated while one lakh people were untraceable. This number constitutes around 8 per cent of the total 72.1 million voters in Bihar. There shouldn't be any controversy over those who are deceased or have migrated. Less than 1 per cent of voters failed to submit their forms about whom both the political parties and the ECI should seriously bother.

This is not the end of the process anyway. The revised lists of voters will be supplied to the 12 registered parties by August 1. Parties will have one full month to challenge any of the deletions since the petitioners in the Supreme Court argued that the BLOs didn't do their job “given the impossible deadlines”. The BLOs had one month to complete this exercise during which time they were expected to visit around 300-400 households. This accounts for less than 15 houses on a given working day, a task the petitioners think is “impossible”. They even accused those BLOs, who often belong to poor and lower-middle-class sections, of harassing, cheating, and even seeking bribes from voters.

Electoral reforms are never easy. It took four decades and an officer like T N Seshan to attend to booth capturing, bogus voting and impersonation. Seshan, a courageous officer, faced innumerable challenges when he attempted to clean up electoral rolls, introduce voter ID cards and force leaders to religiously follow the Model Code of Conduct, which was otherwise considered just a piece of paper by them. Attempts were made to impeach him in Parliament at least twice. Two additional election commissioners with equal powers were added, making the Commission a three-member body to curtail Seshan's authority. Seshan determinedly fought back and took the matter to the Supreme Court. “I have politicians for breakfast,” he once commented.

Seshan's efforts resulted in major reforms. More importantly, they gave teeth to the Commission, which was until then seen by the political class as a paper tiger. Subsequent election commissioners upheld the majestic and independent role of the Commission in conducting elections in a fair and transparent manner. Over the past few decades, India's electoral system, despite being of humongous size with 960 million voters and one million polling stations, has proved to be one of the most successful and efficient systems, one that several countries wish to emulate.

The occasional revision of electoral rolls is a mandatory practice in any country. Given the large-scale migration happening in our country, the Commission's decision to undertake an intensive revision of the rolls in the entire country, starting with Bihar, must be welcomed by all parties.

*The writer, president, India Foundation, is with the BJP. Views are personal*



VAMSEE JULURI

TINTIN FANS WILL never forget the funny exchange between General Alcazar and his rival, the just-deposed General Tapioca, in *Tintin and the Picaros*. After Tapioca has surrendered, his ADC asks Alcazar what should be done with the old fellow; whether he should be executed promptly by firing squad. Alcazar refuses to do so, having promised Tintin that there would be no bloodshed in the coup. A seemingly disappointed Tapioca and a grouchy determined Alcazar then talk like a couple of serious elder figures about how the youngsters like Tintin have no respect for traditions like firing squads these days!

The bitter brawl in America between the Democrats and Republicans, or between the pro-Trump and anti-Trump forces, has acquired all the twists and turns of a “Picaresque” adventure. Critics of President Donald Trump had a triumphant run for a while watching the growing split among his supporters over his seeming backtracking on the long-running saga of the notorious “Epstein files”. However, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard's announcement that former president Barack Obama's actions over allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 election were tantamount to an attempted “years-long coup” has swung the pendulum once again.

But unlike a pendulum that eventually seeks a position of quiet rest in the middle after having expended its energies at the ex-

# Two many Americas

Is the news all about Epstein? It depends on the reality you live in

tremes, the experience of living in American democracy continues to feel frantic, feverish, and fragmented for all camps concerned. It is not just political opinion, but one's sense of reality itself that seems polarised. Since the rise of social media, friends, family members, neighbours, students, everyone seems to be living in a different silo now as far as their knowledge, or even impression, of what is happening in the world is concerned.

For those who consume National Public Radio and *The New York Times*, the news is still about the alleged troubles in the MAGA world over Epstein. Few of my friends in the Bay Area, for example, had even come across news of Gabbard's statements on Obama. But for those who follow a different set of sources, the news, and its implications for their sense of faith in the Trump presidency, will be very different indeed.

Two differing tales will now unfold, much as they have these past 15-odd years. Critics of Trump will perceive what they see as a witch-hunt being unleashed against Obama. Trump's supporters, in turn, will see, or hope to see, their faith vindicated that “Russiagate” was a hoax, and Obama-Biden-era officials who persecuted Trump and his supporters will be called out now for their actions. In one silo, the Democrats will wonder aloud at how their record of fair play and decency all these years has not been reciprocated at all by the Republicans. They will say that Hillary Clinton

had the grace to concede in 2016, while Trump refused to do so in 2020. In the other silo, Trump's supporters will argue the opposite; they will point out that the Democrats relentlessly sought to deny legitimacy to Trump and his voters from all the way back in 2016, and that the Biden administration unleashed a witch-hunt on a former president and tried every nasty trick it could to keep him from running again in 2024.

The real divide in America, as one of my old students once pointed out, isn't just between political loyalties, but simply a function of whether one is consuming editorialised news from “legacy media” or long-form, direct, videos in the form of podcasts, campaign speeches, and interviews. For people who do both, the contradictions between these two worlds are astounding as is the possibility of a change, a halt to the onto-epistemological hostilities, a reality-reconciliation, if you will. Forced, or incentivised into performing their opinions on social media constantly, people have become incapable of humility, of a pause in their belief-torrents, of an opportunity to consider they may have been lied to, or at least misled in their understanding of things by partial pictures and frames in their news and social media feeds. And the institutions that might have played a role in helping to elevate real-life interactions and conversations over virtual reality-traps, schools, colleges, media

education in particular, have themselves lost the plot, or at least a sense of memory about how we got here in just a few decades.

Was it the victory of attention-seeking communication tactics over the soporific calm of political platitudes that marked the end of not just civility, but a shared sense of political reality? Was it the technology that came so fast no one had anything to work around it except for technocratic (pseudo) solutions of the “Ministry of Truth” kind? It is fascinating to recall that even the complicated 2000 presidential election result did not end with supporters of Al Gore and George W Bush marching off into different sunsets. But by 2016, everything was different. Now, as the second decade of the Trump era unfolds, and the possibility of an ex-presidential inquisition once again lurks around the corner, the idea of how winners and losers, leaders and followers, can live together once again after the fall that was digital media remains a mystery.

To conclude with a lesson from *Tintin and the Picaros*, let's remember that in the end, whether the sign over the slum says “Viva Tapioca” or “Viva Alcazar,” the reality of the mess there will still remain. But so will the hope that truth and loyalty, whether in Tintin or in real life, will win the day, too.

*The writer is professor of Media Studies, University of San Francisco*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### STOP ISRAEL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Starving Gaza’ (*IE*, July 25). The continued suffering of Gazans must stop. Nothing in the world can justify such a brutal oppression of civilians. We all must raise our voice in support of the besieged Palestinian people. How can the conscience of world leaders allow any of this? Not just Gaza, there is human suffering one way or another in every corner of our planet because of the power plays of a few old men. Have we shut our eyes completely? Or do we see terms like international law and rules-based order selectively? We must recentre empathy and common sense and show our leaders that we value these virtues. We cannot allow them to push us back into the stone age.

**Sanjeev Raina, Greater Noida**

### A DANGEROUS BILL

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Spell out LW’ (*IE*, July 2025). There have been many instances due to which the scope of dissent in India has come into question. India has very poor ranking on the World Press Freedom Index. The Vice President of India just resigned. Then there are numerous cases of unlawful preventive detentions. It is no surprise then that the Maharashtra Assembly has passed a law with unambiguous terms and unclear definitions pertaining to “left wing extremism”. Although its use and importance is yet to be seen, passing

such bills with no significant opposition raises serious questions.

**Daksh Solanki, New Delhi**

### GOOD DEAL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Closing the Deal’ (*IE*, July 25). The India-UK trade deal, between two large economies of different spheres of the world, stands as an ideal plank for developed nations to follow to make a deal with India as it offers the most attractive market with an expanding economy and rising disposable incomes. India, however, must be careful to ensure that trade directly benefits both partners, and not just the developed world. The “rules of origin” ensure that only genuine goods get preferential access and no third player sidesteps these and exploits the terms of the deal.

**Abhinav Shah, Lucknow**

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Closing the Deal’ (*IE*, July 25). The India-UK trade deal has finally come into effect. This will help Indian products become more competitive in the British markets, as the tariff barriers have been lifted. Even India will become a more open economy, with the facilitated ease of doing business. In this era, we need to diversify our trade even further and make our economy resilient. All-in-all, this is a welcome step amid increasing geopolitical and economic uncertainties.

**Prachi Dixit, Jodhpur**



## ‘Serious offence’: Cops oppose bail plea of accused in Saif attack case

**Mumbai:** The Mumbai Police has opposed the bail plea filed by the alleged attacker booked for stabbing actor Saif Ali Khan at his residence. The police, in a reply to bail plea filed on July 24, claimed there was strong evidence against accused Shariful Islam. The reply added the probe has revealed that he is a Bangladeshi national illegally residing in India. Therefore, if he is released on bail, there is a strong possibility that he will flee to Bangladesh.

The police referred to a report by the Forensic Science Laboratory and reiterated its earlier claim that the knife fragment that got lodged near the actor's spine, the broken blade recovered from the accused and knife blade part found at the crime scene matched and all three pieces are part of the same knife. The police further claimed that the crime committed by the accused was of "very serious nature" and if he is released on bail, there is a possibility of him repeating such crimes.

Through the bail plea the accused had claimed that he did not commit the offence and there was no evidence to level charge of attempt to murder. **ENS**

## SC allows Kerala to withdraw pleas against Governor over assent to Bills

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE SUPREME Court on Friday allowed the Kerala government to withdraw its pleas against Governor over the delay in approving bills passed by the state assembly.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and A S Chandurkar passed the order after senior advocate K K Venugopal, appearing for the Kerala government, sought withdrawal of the plea and said the issue had turned infructuous in view of the recent judgment passed in the Tamil Nadu Governor case.

Attorney General R Venkataramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta opposed the submission and urged the court to await the top court's decision on the reference of the Constitution over the grant of assent to bills.

On April 22, the top court said it would examine whether the recent judgement on a plea of Tamil Nadu, fixing timelines for the grant of assent to bills, covered the issues raised by the Kerala government in its pleas.

Acting on a plea of Tamil Nadu government, an apex court bench on April 8 set aside the reservation of the 10 bills for President's consideration in the second round holding it as illegal, erroneous in law. The bench, for the first time, also prescribed a time limit for President to decide on the bills reserved for her consideration by Governor. It set a three-month timeframe from the date on which such reference was received. Kerala sought similar directions in its petition.

In 2023, the top court ex-

## Take all commentary constructively with grace, open mind, A-I CEO tells employees

**SUKALP SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

WITH AIR India going through a period of "intense scrutiny"—internal as well as external—in the wake of the June 12 Ahmedabad crash, the Tata Group airline's chief executive officer Campbell Wilson has urged employees to take "all commentary constructively with grace and an open mind" and act wherever there is an opportunity to do so. Wilson also underscored that Air India's systems and culture must "prize transparency and integrity as well as action".

"It is natural that, following an accident, there is a period of intense scrutiny. Some of it must come from internal examination and self-reflection, while some of it will come from external parties. Sometimes the extra attention means that normal issues get misinterpreted or sensationalised, but sometimes the scrutiny highlights genuine areas for improvement. We must take all commentary constructively with grace and an open mind and, where there is an opportunity to act, must do so. For, as I have said before, continuous improvement is a hallmark of aviation, and it is why the industry



**Air India CEO Campbell Wilson.** *File*

has become so dramatically safer over the years," Wilson said in a message to employees.

Wilson's comments come close on the heels of a few highly publicised aircraft snags over the past few weeks, which have drawn significant public attention in the wake of the Ahmedabad air crash, in which 260 people died.

The airline is also understood to be under the scanner of the DGCA on safety-related issues. Over the past few weeks, Air India has been subject to a few regulatory actions by the DGCA, the latest being four show-cause notices that were issued Wednesday—following voluntary disclosures from Air India—over lapses pertaining to inadequate cabin crew deployment, mandatory crew rest periods and crew training and op-

erational procedures. Of its own accord, the airline has taken a "safety pause", which involves additional voluntary technical checks on aircraft and adopting a cautious approach in flight operations. "As we approach the half-way mark of our Safety Pause, you will have read that we have now completed the inspection of fuel switches on our B737 fleet following the earlier exercise on our B787s. In both cases, nothing untoward was found. Reliability enhancement work, using the additional ground time made available by the Pause, continues, while partial restoration of our temporary schedule reduction commences on 1st August ahead of full restoration planned for 1st October," Wilson said.

A preliminary investigation report into the June 12 accident said that the Air India Boeing 787-8 aircraft crashed after both its engines were starved of fuel as the two fuel control switches transitioned from 'Run' to 'Cutoff' position within a second of each other moments after lift-off. Following the initial probe report, the airline started voluntary checks of the fuel control switches on its Boeing 787 fleet, which was followed by a DGCA directive to all operators

to do so on most of the Boeing aircraft registered in India.

"To improve, our culture and systems must prize transparency and integrity as well as action. And to support this, in recent years we have improved training and promulgated SOPs to give direction and clarity, strengthened standards, instilled processes to drive compliance and consistency, and introduced performance management practices to rise higher," Wilson said.

The Air India CEO said the airline has invested significantly in the adoption of digital systems to replace paper-based ones, in order to have "more complete, accurate, accessible and usable data" that does not reside in silos. He said that Air India has focussed on improving reporting—on safety or other matters—by "making it easier to do" with more encouragement and better protection for those reporting.

"But ultimately, performance and improvement are dependent on people. People following prescribed processes. People acting in a conscientious manner. People striving to do better. People doing the right thing. All the time, not just when someone else is watching," Wilson said.

### SEVEN STUDENTS KILLED



People protest in front of Jhalawar hospital on Friday. *Express*

## Chaos and anxiety at Rajasthan hospital after school roof collapse

**PARUL KULSHRESTHA**  
JHALAWAR, JULY 25

OUTSIDE THE Intensive Care Unit at the S.R.G. Government Hospital in Jhalawar, Pahalwan Lodha sits anxiously, waiting for word on her 12-year-old niece, Aarti. Aarti is critical and Pahalwan is looking after her while her parents attend to a tragic business—laying to rest her 8-year-old brother Kartik.

"She's unwell and has trouble speaking. My sister and brother-in-law can't leave home," Pahalwan says. "Kartik was the only son among five sisters. I will be taking care of my niece till the funeral is complete."

Kartik was one of seven students who died when the roof of a government primary school collapsed in the district's Pipodi village. The incident occurred at 8:30 am, when students of the Government Higher Primary School gathered for morning prayers. Aarti studied in the same school, and was present when the roof collapsed, critically injuring her. Like her, 10 other students are

critically injured, while 15 others sustained serious injuries. The funerals of the seven deceased children will be held in the Pipodi village Saturday.

The incident led to protests and demands for compensation, prompting Rajasthan's Education Minister Madan Dilwar to announce ₹10 lakh compensation and a job to one member of the deceased's family.

The S.R.G. Government Hospital, where the critically injured students were admitted, has been unusually busy all day. The road outside the hospital was repaired, furniture and ceiling fans dusted and staff's holidays cancelled, all in an attempt to cope with the influx of VIP guests—from Education Minister Dilwar to Jhalawar MP Dushyant Singh, and his mother and former chief minister of Rajasthan, Vasundhara Raje. There is also heavy police deployment outside, with only those with passes being allowed to enter wards.

"There was chaos in the hospital this morning. Everyone sprang into action," one nurse

said. "Staff on night duty were asked to join immediately. Every hospital nurse, cleaning staff, and doctors were called to join duty. By 11 am, the road outside had been repaired." But for parents Devi Lal Lodha and Lalita Lodha, neither the repaired road nor the clean ceiling fan matters, as they anxiously wait outside the ICU, watching for signs that their six-year-old son Murlu would get better. Murlu, who had a head injury and still has trouble recalling what happened, was to start school in August but their parents sent him there early "to get him acquainted".

"I dropped my son to school at 7 am and went to the fields as usual," Lalita, a farm hand, says. "Suddenly, my neighbour came running and asked me where my son was. Then she told me about the roof collapsing and I ran towards it," she says.

A few metres away, Badri Lal is furious. His 11-year-old son Milan is in the ICU and all Badri Lal wants is "good medical facilities for my child and strict action against negligent officials".

## ULLU, ALTT among 25 OTTs blocked over obscene, porn content

**AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE MINISTRY of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has directed intermediaries to disable public access to 25 OTT platforms, including ULLU, ALTT and Desiflix, for streaming obscene and, at times, pornographic content, sources in the government said.

The direction to block the websites and apps of these 25 OTT platforms, the sources said, came from the I&B Ministry on July 23. Action was taken in consultation with the ministries of Home Affairs, Electronics and Information Technology, Department of Legal Affairs, industry bodies FICCI and CII as well as experts working in the domain of women and child rights. According to the directive, public access to 25 video streaming platforms, content from 26 websites and 14 apps will be blocked under provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and IT Rules, 2021.

This is not the first time that platforms such as ULLU and ALTT have come under the government's scanner. In July and August last year, references were received from the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), flagging the obscene content streamed by both platforms.

Action was also taken earlier by the Digital Publisher Content Grievances Council (DPCGC), a self-regulatory body—headed by



**Last year, references were received from the NCPCR, flagging the obscene content streamed by both platforms.** *File*

a former judge of the Supreme Court—with a membership of about 40 OTT platforms, including ALTT and ULLU.

The council had directed removal of over 100 web series from ULLU after it was found that while the platform removes or edits the web series for a temporary period, it either re-uploads or publishes the unedited version after a certain period, thereby attempting to circumvent warnings.

While ALT Digital is a subsidiary of Balaji Telefilms, promoter directors of which are Ektaa Kapoor and Shobha Kapoor, media entrepreneur Vibhu Agarwal is the founder of ULLU App.

Over the last two years, the government had received multiple public grievances against the 25 platforms. In September 2024, the government issued communications to them highlighting the issue, but the plat-

forms continued to publish obscene, in some cases pornographic content.

An advisory was issued in February this year for the OTT platforms to adhere to the Code of Ethics prescribed under IT Rules, 2021 and laws related to obscenity in India. However, five platforms that were blocked earlier in March 2024 started publishing obscene content on new website domains, the sources said.

The said content streamed by all these platforms included sexual innuendos and in some cases long portions of sexually explicit scenes involving nudity, which were pornographic in nature. "There was hardly any storyline, theme or message in a social context. A large portion of the content was obscene and vulgar," a government source said.

Sources said the content of the platforms was in violation of Section 67 of the IT Act, Section 292 of the IPC, and Section 4 of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986. Some platforms published sexually explicit content in violation of Section 67A of the IT Act.

Apart from Ullu and ALTT, the other apps found violating various laws are Big Shots App; Desiflix; Boomex; Navarasa Lite; Gulab App; Kangan App; Bull App; Jalva App; ShowHit; Wow Entertainment; Look Entertainment; Hitprime; Feneo; ShowX; SolTalkies; Adda TV; HotX VIP; Hulchul App; MoodX; NeonX VIP; Fugi; Mojflix; and Triflicks.

## Bengal migrant worker allegedly pushed into Bangladesh after being detained in Rajasthan

**RAVIK BHATTACHARYA**  
KOLKATA, JULY 25

A 19-YEAR-OLD migrant worker from West Bengal has allegedly been pushed into Bangladesh after being detained in Rajasthan.

The incident came to light after a purported video of the man, identified as Amir Sheikh from Jalalpur village under Kaliachowk police station in Malda, went viral on social media earlier this week. The family has lodged a formal complaint with the West Bengal police.

This comes at a time when the Trinamool Congress is protesting in Parliament over the alleged harassment and detention of migrant workers from Bengal in various states during ongoing drives against alleged illegal Bangladeshi immigrants. CM Mamata Banerjee is scheduled to lead a protest rally in Kolkata on July 27.

In the video, accessed by *The Indian Express*, Sheikh is seen speaking to residents in Bangladesh. He identifies himself, shares his West Bengal address, and alleges that after being detained for two months, he was recently sent across the border into Bangladesh.

"This is most unfortunate. Earlier too, Indian citizens from West Bengal were labelled as Bangladeshis and pushed into that country. We were able to bring some of them back through state government intervention. This cannot continue. I have spoken with the family members over the phone. Our government is trying. We may also go for legal recourse," said Samirul Islam, chairman of the West Bengal Migrant Welfare Board and TMC Rajya Sabha MP, speaking to *The Indian Express* from Delhi.

"About two months ago, we were told by the contractor that he had been detained as an illegal Bangladeshi national. He had documents with him, like an Aadhaar card and birth certificate, which he showed. But they still put him in a detention camp. On Tuesday, we saw a video on social media of him," said Muhammad Ajmal Sheikh, Amir's uncle, speaking over the phone from Malda.

"Later yesterday, police officials came to our house and took all Amir's documents," he said. "We went to the police station and submitted a written complaint. We've lived here for generations, and Amir has all the documents. We want our boy back."

## Tribal man's death in Jammu police firing leads to political storm

**ARUN SHARMA**  
JAMMU, JULY 25

THE DEATH of a 21-year-old tribal man in police firing on the outskirts of Jammu has led to protests by his family and strong condemnations from J&K's top political leadership on Friday.

Identified as Mohammad Parvez of Niki Tawi area, he died Thursday after sustaining a bullet injury in the Phallian Mandal area.

Police claimed on Thursday that a small police team were fired upon by drug peddlers and that when they fired back, "one unknown person got injured". Sources later said the injured man had succumbed.

On Friday, Jammu and Kashmir CM Omar Abdullah described the incident as "highly unfortunate and deeply regrettable".

"The use of force by the police has to be calibrated and cannot be indiscriminate," Omar Abdullah wrote in a post on X.

Former CM and PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti also took to X, saying, "Mohammad Parvez... was killed by the police... He's now been labelled a drug dealer, but even if that is the case, we still live in a democratic country where justice is served through rule of law as opposed to khap panchayats or kangaroo courts."

## Kerala rape case convict escapes from jail, caught within hours; three suspended

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 25

A NOTORIOUS convict, who has been undergoing life imprisonment in the 2011 case of rape and murder of a young woman in a moving train, escaped from a high-security cell of the central prison in Kerala's Kannur on Friday morning, but was apprehended by police hours after the escape.

Although the escape of Govindachami, a native of Virudanagar in Tamil Nadu, exposed serious security lapses in the prison, police saved the face of the government by nabbing him within hours after the escape.

Three officials of the central prison were suspended over security lapses.

Govindachami has been undergoing life imprisonment in the case of the rape and murder of the 23-year-old woman, who was subjected to brutal assault after being pushed out of a mov-



**Govindachamy alias Govindaswamy in police custody on Friday.** *PTI*

ing train near Thrissur in 2011. Kannur City Police Commissioner P Nidhinraj said his plan was to escape to Tamil Nadu. Regarding his preparations for escape, the commissioner said he had been on a weight loss plan to wriggle out of the cell. He had used some weapon to cut the iron bar of the cell.

Govindachamy had escaped from the prison cell around 1.15 am, and managed to escape over the 7.5-meter high compound wall at around 5 am. He then

walked along the national highway in front of the prison compound for around three kilometers. Jail authorities came to know about his escape only in the morning. They alerted police and TV channels flashed the news around 8 am, getting people alerted about the escape of the prisoner.

At Tala in Kannur, a person named Vinoy noticed a person similar to Govindachami walking along the road. When he was confronted with calling his name, Govindachami moved to nearby shrubs and sneaked into an abandoned building. Police swung into action, after being alerted by local people.

Police and local people started to search the premises of the abandoned building and Govindachami apparently moved to a nearby compound and jumped into a wall. The police found Govindachami, who has only one hand, in the well clinching to a rope.

Police said Govindachami

had avoided eating rice in recent weeks to get emaciated in order to come out of the cell. He had cut the iron bar of the cell over a period of time using some sharp weapon sourced from the prison. To escape over the jail compound wall, Govindachami had made a rope tying together clothes.

The murder of the woman, then an employee at a shopping mall in Kochi, had shocked the state as the violent crime exposed the lack of security for women passengers in ladies' compartments in trains.

In 2012, a trial court awarded the death sentence to Govindachami who had been earlier convicted in eight cases in Tamil Nadu.

The Kerala HC had upheld the death sentence. However, the SC in 2016 dropped the murder charge against Govindachami, and commuted his sentence to seven years in prison. The top court also upheld the life imprisonment handed to him by a trial court on charge of rape.



PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ajay S/o Sunder Lal R/o H.No. 246/6, Old Chandrawal Nagar, Civil Lines, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 241/2018 U/s 33/58 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Alipur, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ajay** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ajay** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ajay** of case **FIR No. 241/2018 U/s 33/58 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Alipur, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.08.2025**.

By Order

**Ms. Ruby Neeraj Kumar**  
Ld Chief Judicial Magistrate / North Room No. 115  
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/9759/ON/2025(Court Matter)

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 **Rahul Rawat S/o Virender Rawat R/o H.No. 210/18, K-Block, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi** have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR No. 211/2022 U/s 25 Arms Act** has been registered at **P.S. Sangam Vihar, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, **Rahul Rawat** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Rahul Rawat** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, **Rahul Rawat FIR No. 211/2022 U/s 25 Arms Act** registered at **P.S. Sangam Vihar, New Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **30.08.2025**.

By Order

**Sh. Chatinder Singh**  
JMFC-04, Room No. 211  
South District, Saket Court, New Delhi

DP/9715/SD/2025 (Court Matter)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

(E-Auction Notice)

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (<http://ireps.gov.in/>) for the allotment of under mention contracts at following Railway stations/locations:

E-Catalogue No.	Date & Time of bidding	Railway Stations/Locations/Lots
Parking-33-2025	12.08.2025 at 11.00 Hrs	Karnal (Cycle-Scooter-Motorcycle-Car) = Total 01 Site
Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen.		<a href="https://ireps.gov.in/">https://ireps.gov.in/</a>

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids: 1. Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module -Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module; 2. Payment of One Time Registration Fee; 3. Current Account in State Bank of India; 4. Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account; 5. Lien Marking of Funds; 6. Updation of Turnover Details; 7. Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender /E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query

Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi 110055.  
Email: [pkg.delhidivision@gmail.com](mailto:pkg.delhidivision@gmail.com),  
Tel:011-23743084

No.23AC/393/E-Auction/Pkg/2025 Dated: 25.07.2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2273/25

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Harpreet Singh S/o Shankar Singh R/o Illdr B-61, Second Floor, Near Bhatta Sahab Gurudwara, Vishnu Garden, Tilak Nagar Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR. No.207/22 Dated 14.02.2022 u/s 420/467/468/120B IPC, P.S. Vikaspuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Harpreet Singh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Harpreet Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Harpreet Singh** of **FIR. No.207/22 Dated 14.02.2022 u/s 420/467/468/120B IPC, P.S. Vikaspuri, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **01.09.2025**.

By Order,

**Sh. Rishabh Kapoor**  
Ld. Judicial Magistrate First Class-05, South - West District  
DP/9777/WD/2025 Court No.09, Dwarka Courts, New Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 CrPC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **RAVI S/o Sher Singh R/o H.No. 233, Double Storey, Harijan Colony, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No.394/2019 Dt. 30.09.2019, U/S 356/379/411/34 IPC, PS Vikaspuri, West Distt., New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **RAVI** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **RAVI** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant); Proclamation is hereby made that **RAVI** the said accused of **FIR No.394/2019 Dt. 30.09.2019, U/S 356/379/411/34 IPC, PS Vikaspuri, West Distt., New Delhi**, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **17.09.2025**.

By Order

**Sh. Rishabh Kapoor**  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-05, South-West Distt., Room No.-09, Dwarka Courts, New Delhi

DP/9842/WD/2025 (Court Matter)

URBAN LOCAL BODIES DEPARTMENT, HARYANA

There are 87 municipalities (11 Municipal Corporations, 23 Municipal Councils and 53 Municipal Committees) under the supervision of Urban Local Bodies Department in the State of Haryana. These municipalities are entrusted with the task of providing civic amenities to the urban population of the State.

Urban Local Bodies Department intends to engage 55 Legal Experts in the municipalities or other office of Urban Local Bodies Department across the State of Haryana, having requisite qualification & experience, on contract basis initially for a period of one year, further extendable to three years.

The detailed terms & conditions, selection criteria, remuneration and prescribed application form etc. can be viewed on the website of the Department i.e. <https://ulbharyana.gov.in/Home/RecruitmentDetails>. The date for applying online is now extended from 31st July, 2025 to 31st August, 2025. The interested candidates can apply online only on the link <https://ulbharyana.gov.in/recruitment> well before 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2025.

No physical applications will be entertained for such engagement.

Dated: 25th July, 2025

Sd/-

**Additional Director**  
for Director General, Urban Local Bodies,  
Haryana, Panchkula.

No.36971/HRY

झारखण्ड सरकार

ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

कम्बाईड बिल्डींग, ओल्ड चास कोर्ट एरिया, बोकारो

ई- अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई- अल्पकालीन निविदा संख्या :- 16/RJ/2024-25/RWD/EE/BOKARO दिनांक-24.07.2025

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement प्रद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.सं.	आईई-टी अंक में संख्या / वीकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में) अंक में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल नं०
1	RWD/EE/BOKARO/22/2024-25	ग्राम पंचायत गांगजोरी में विरसा नवन तिलैया से डोमनड आररडई ओ रोड तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लम्बाई- 1.235 कि०मी०)।	1,32,35,500.00	एक करोड़ बत्तीस लाख पैंतीस हजार पाँच सौ रु० मात्र	द्वितीय

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:- 29.07.2025

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- 08.08.2025 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।

4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 11.08.2025 अपराह्न 03.30 बजे।

5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो, कम्बाईड बिल्डींग, सिविल एंस्डओओ, ऑफिस ओल्ड चास कोर्ट एरिया, चास बोकारो, झारखंड, पिन- 827013

6. ई-निविदा प्रक्रांध का दूरमाप सं०- 9431060119

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट [jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता

ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो

PR 358166 Rural Work Department(25-26)#D

INDEL MONEY

Corporate office: **Indel Money Limited**,  
Illdr Floor Indel House, Changampuzha Nagar,  
South Kalamassery, Ernakulam -682033.  
Ph: 0484-2933999 E:customercare@indelmoney.com

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges in specific and the public in general are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 11-08-2025 at 11:00 am We are auctioning the gold ornaments of the defaulted customers who have failed to make the payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified through various communication. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice of changes in venue or date and the same shall be displayed at concerned branches without any further notice.

**ADHYAK NAGAR** - 32904070000973, 32904080000962, **KARAWAL**-33904080000820, 334008024, 0408/0841, 33904090000903, 0409/00912, 0409/00914, 33904100000853, 0410/00860, **KIRARI** - 0408/080000475, 33404100000475, **POOTHKALAN**-34004070000454, 0407/00466, 0407/00470, 34004080000415, 0408/00418, 0408/00420, 0408/00421, 0408/00429, 34004090000484, 0409/00537, **SHAHABAD DIARY** - 33103860000413, 33104070000410, 0407/00424, 0407/00432, 0407/00433, 0407/00438, 33104080000387, **VISHNU GARDEN** - 35404090000132, **SHALIMAR GARDEN**-36204070000018, 0407/00020, 36204080000009, 0408/00016, **IMAMI GATE** - 32204070000517, **ITARSI** - 32104090000658, **NARIMADAPUR**-32504070000725, **BETUL** - 34904090000337, **KAMLA NAGAR** - 322040700001192, 0407/01200, 0407/01201, 0407/01248, 0407/01251, 34804080001161, 0408/01170, 0408/01183, 34804080001283, **MANDIDEEP**- 35204080000365, 352040900000387, **MARIMATA** - 323040700000746, 0407/00750, 0407/00765, 0407/00797, 0407/00809, 0407/00817, **MHOW** - 324040700000411, 0407/00441, **SAGAR** - 359040700000294, 0407/00307, 0407/00323, 35904080000280, 0408/00286,  **FARIDABAD** - 338040900000614, 0409/00646, 338041000000584, 0410/00592, **JAWAHAR COLONY**- 389040700000075

In case we are unable to complete the auction at the branch on the notified date, the same will be conducted through Shriram Automall India Limited (SAMIL) on their online e- auction platform <https://gold.samil.in> or e-Procurement Technologies Limited (Auction Tiger) on their online e- auction platform <https://egold.auctiontiger.net> on 13-08-2025 between 12.30 PM to 3.30 PM. Please note if the e- auction does not completed on 13-08-2025 the same will be re-auctioned on subsequent working days on the same terms and conditions.

By Authorized Officer  
Indel Money Limited

उपसिदा

कार्यालय उप महाप्रबंधक (सिविल), निर्माण खण्ड-प्रधान

अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

एवम्हारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जगहों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में निम्नलिखित कार्यों, विकास एवं अनुसंधान एवं-सहाय के कार्यों हेतु सरकारों / सर्वजनिक उपक्रमों / निगमों / प्राधिकरणों / संस्थानों / नगर निकायों में नवीकृत कर्मों / ठेकेदारों से अल्पकालीन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	सर्वसाधारण
1	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF NILGIRI/ MEXICAN GRASS AT ENTRY POINT, DIVIDER CUTS NEAR CEL SHRAMIK SEVA KENDRA UPTO 2 KMS OF SURYA URZA MARG AT I.A. SAHIBABAD SITE-IV GHAZIABAD	7.94

उक्त कार्य की निविदा प्राप्त दिनांक 26.07.2025 को 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 02.08.2025 को सायं 05.00 बजे तक कार्यालय से प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। निविदाएं दिनांक 02.08.2025 को अपराह्न 05.00 बजे तक खाली जखानों में प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं। प्राप्ति दिनांक 04.08.2025 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे खाली कार्यालय निर्माण खण्ड-प्रधान, यूपीसी, गजियाबाद में खाली जखानों में नोट :- 1. निविदा दाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कार्य सहित दत्त अंकित करें। जीएसटी जलज से देय होगा। (अवसलु नदर) उप महाप्रबंधक (सिविल), निर्माण खण्ड-प्रधान, नं०- 920569928

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused persons **Heera@How S/o Balwan Singh R/o F-5 M.S. Park, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case **FIR No. 281/2020, U/s 392/411/ 34 IPC PS: GTB Enclave, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Heera @How** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Heera@How** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Heera@How** accused of **FIR No. 281/2020, U/s 392/411/ 34 IPC PS: GTB Enclave, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **11.09.2025**.

By Order

**Ms. Sanghmitra**  
JMFC-01, Room No. 54  
Karkardooma Court Delhi

DP/9820/SHD/2025 (Court Matter)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement System

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	08255383A	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF IP BASED	1363 SET	21.08.2025
02	16255026	STANDBY INVERTER FOR FUEL COMPRESSOR	250 NOS	22.08.2025
03	19250135	AOH/TOH KIT FOR ELGI COMPRESSOR	343 SET	25.08.2025
04	16250544	IOH KIT FOR TRC-2507	75 NOS	25.08.2025
05	15245083B	SHOT BLASTING AND PEENING PLANT	1 NOS	02.09.2025
06	09253071A	PETROLEUM HYDROCARBON SOLVENT	128979 LTR	09.09.2025
07	08255028	24 FIBER ARMoured OPTICAL FIBER CABLE	482 KM	11.09.2025
08	12250030	EARTHING CABLE COMPLETE FOR WHEEL SET	5989 NOS	22.09.2025

**Note:-** 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for details. 2. No manual offer will be entertained.

Tender Notice No.: 35/2025-2025 Dated: 25.07.2025 2272/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

S.E. RAILWAY – E-TENDER

Tender Notice No.: PCMM/GENL/TP/2025/28 Dated : 25.07.2025

TENDER FOR "E" PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

The Principal Chief Materials Manager, South Eastern Railway, Hd. Qrs. Office (5th Floor), New Administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India invites open E-tenders which have been uploaded on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) as follows. All the tenders will be closed at 14.00 hrs.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Due Date	Brief Description	Quantity	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1.	33251491A	21.08.25	Wheel set Earthing Equipment etc.	4050 Set	14,31,790/-
2.	31253709	19.08.25	Magnet valve assembly with intermediate etc.	151 Nos.	1,77,470/-
3.	77250003	28.08.25	Supply of set of Epoxy Paint, Thinner and Putty for LHB Coach	1750 Set	5,01,750/-
4.	29253133	11.08.25	Kit IOH for ELGI make RR20100CG (M) etc.	140 Set	9,74,030/-
5.	29255064	10.09.25	Blower for Traction Motor along with Motor etc.	28 Nos.	1,07,710/-
6.	25253874	17.09.25	Magnet Valve Assembly etc.	196 Nos.	2,36,370/-
7.	29254742	27.10.25	POH Kit for RR20100 CG (M) air compressor.	13 Set	1,10,000/-
8.	46253102A	12.08.25	Porcelain Stay Arm insulator R.L. 6000-2 (1050 mm CD) etc.	2500 Nos.	1,22,130/-
9.	77250001	17.09.25	Supply of Paint Gentian Blue (RAL-5010) PU based etc.	46580 Ltrs.	1,24,220/-
10.	65255014	18.08.25	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Training and Prove out of Wagon manipulator (Pre-bid meeting on 08/08/25, 12.00 hrs. at PCMM meeting Room SER/GR/Col-43	01 No.	1,33,810/-
11.	80251787	15.10.25	Engine oil CF4, 15W40.	60900 Ltrs.	1,45,530/-
12.	38251505	13.08.25	AAR Approved Cartridge Taper Roller Bearing etc.	4300 Nos.	13,18,300/-
13.	38251568	01.09.25	37 mm Packing for height adjustment of CASNUB Bogie etc.	8195 Nos.	1,36,350/-
14.	38253934B	23.09.25	Air Brake Hose Coupling Support etc.	81600 Nos.	3,00,420/-
15.	81251807A	04.08.25	FOG Signal Detonating etc.	30153 Nos.	2,19,890/-

Interested tenderers may visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for full details/description/ specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. N.B.: Prospective Bidders may regularly visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) to participate in all other tenders & any Corrigendum published thereafter. (PR-443)

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

NOTICE FOR DISCHARGED ONLINE E-TENDER

TENDER Notice No. EL-50-DNR-Open-11-2025-26, Danapur

Tender was floated of tender no. EL/50/DNR/OPEN/11/2025-26 on IREPS website dated 15.07.2025, due to some technical reason the tender no. EL/50/DNR/OPEN/11/2025-26 has been discharged on IREPS e-tender website dated 21.07.2025 and fresh tender for the work will be floated in due course details is given below:-

Tender No.: EL-50-DNR-Open-11-2025-26. Name of work with its location : Provision of AMF panel in DG sets working in manual mode over DNR Division. Notice : Due to some technical reason the tender floated on 15.07.2025 no. EL/50/DNR/OPEN/11/2025-26 has been discharged on IREPS e-tender website dated 21.07.2025 and fresh tender for the work will be floated in due course. Date for discharge of tender : Date for online discharge of tender 21.07.2025.

Divn. Railway Manager (Electrical)/G/ECR/Danapur

PR/0654/DNR/ELECT/IC/25-26/32

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER Notice No. AGC-ELG-T-03R-2025-26 Date : 24.07.2025

E-Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N.C. Railway, Agra on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only (E-Tendering) for the following works.

Tender No. : AGC-ELG-T-03R-2025-26

Name of work with its location & Completion period : Supply and installation of cable transit entry sealing & footproof protection system with multi diameter halogen free EPDM modules to prevent rodent entry into HT compartment of switch board cabinet (SBC) of LHB AC coaches & Power cars of Agra Division.

Completion period : 04 months

Approx. Cost of the work : Rs. 656086.90/- including GST

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) Tenders can only be submitted through web portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) up to 15:00 hrs on 18.08.2025 1305/25 (C)

उपसिदा



# 16 CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

## Classifieds

### PERSONAL

I Ambika W/o Ajay Kumar D/o Bhoop Singh R/o 19/18, First Floor, Shakti Nagar, Kamla Nagar, North Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Ambika Alwani for all purposes.

0040801537-4

I Ajay Kumar S/o Murari Lal R/o 19/18, First Floor, Shakti Nagar, Kamla Nagar, North Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Ajay Alwani for all purposes.

0040801537-2

Deepak Goel, S/o Sh. Krishan Chand Goyal would like to change his name to Deepak Goel and would request that the new name be used for every document now and every legal application

0070980428-1

It is for general information that I,Kishan Singh Papra,S/o Hayat Singh R/o H.No.-126,C-Pocket-A, Dilshad Garden,Old Seemapuri, East Delhi-110095,declare that name of my wife and my daughter has been wrongly written as Kamlesh and Pragati in my minor daughter namely Pragati Papra age-13 years in her school record.The actual name of my wife and my daughter are Kamlesh Tomkyl and Pragati Papra respectively,which may be amended accordingly.

0040801649-9

It is for general information that I,Kishan Singh Papra,S/o Hayat Singh R/o H.No.-126,C-Pocket-A, Dilshad Garden,Old Seemapuri, East-Delhi-110095,declare that name of my wife and my daughter has been wrongly written as Kamlesh and Anshika in my minor daughter namely Anshika Papra age-12 years in her school record.The actual name of my wife and my daughter are Kamlesh Tomkyl and Anshika Papra respectively which may be amended accordingly.

0040801649-10

IT IS for general information that I, WAQAR AHMAD KHAN,S/O ANWAR AHMAD KHAN,R/O S-3/12,FLAT.NO-301, 3RD-FLOOR, JOGABAI-EXTN.,OKHLA,JAMIA NAGAR,BNEW,DELHI-25, DECLARE HERE THAT MY NAME HAS BEEN WRONGLY WRITTEN AS VIQAR AHMAD KHAN IN MY PASSPORT WIDE NO.N2900298 ALSO IN MY 10TH EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTS.THAT MY ACTUAL NAME IS WAQAR AHMAD KHAN WHICH MAY BE AMENDED ACCORDINGLY.

0040801638-9

I,Yogesh Kumar,Son of,Shri Dinesh Kumar,Residing at 2/11, Shivaji- Nagar,Gurgaon,Haryana-122001,have use my name as Yogesh and Surname as Kumar,for all,purpose

0040801638-3

I,Vikram Aggarwal, S/o-Mahesh Aggarwal,R/o Flat No.1 B,Block -14, Ist-Floor,Aravali-View Rail Vihar, Sector -56,Gurgaon (Haryana)-122011,have changed my name to JACKSON ALEC GOMES, Permanently.

0040801638-5

I,VIRENDER VERMA,S/O-Sohan Lal,R/O-Flat.No.-3011,Tower-3,ATS HomeKraft Nobility,Sector-4,Greate-Noida West,U.P.-201306, have changed my name,from VIRENDER KUMAR to VIRENDER VERMA, Henceforth I,would be,known by the name,of VIRENDER VERMA for,all future purposes.

0040801671-1

I,VIKAS MATHUR S/o DEVENDER KUMAR MATHUR R/O-59,SECOND-FLOOR PITAMPURA DELHI-110034, have changed my name to VIKAS KUMAR MATHUR.

0040801670-5

I,Tanvi Jain W/o Prince Arora R/o-WZ-956 First-Floor Near,Gurudwara Rani Bagh Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Tanvi Jain Arora

0040801670-4

Monu Chauhan, R/o K-1631,32, Jahangir Puri, Distt. North west Delhi-110033, changed my name as MONIKA W/o Neeraj Kumar.

0130054235-1

I,Sweety W/o Ashish Kumar R/o H.NO.44, Village,Shadipur Narela Delhi 110040 have changed my name to Sweetty Puniyaa

0040801664-2

I,Sukriti D/o-Laxmi Narayan Baweja,Address-Plot no-203,F/F Pkt-A2, Sector-Dwarka,Delhi-110075, changed my name to Sukriti Baweja.

0040801638-1

I,Simran D/o.Sh.Ram Kumar R/o,A-1/68-A, Chanakya Place, Gali No.11, Part-1, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 changed my name Simran to Simran Kanojia for all future purposes.

0040801540-1

I,Santosh Devi W/o,Late Ramesh Chander,R/o B-858A, Sangam-Vihar, New Delhi-110062,declared that my correct name and date-of-birth is "Santosh Devi and 01-Jan-1961" as per Aadhar-Card. Both names i.e. Santosh Devi (Civil-Record) and Santosh Kumari(as per Naval Record) belongs to one and the same person."

0040801664-3

I,Sandeep Bhardwaj, Sandeep Kumar,S/o Sh.K.K.Bhardwaj, R/o H.No.1869/139,Shanti Nagar, Tri Nagar,Delhi-110035,have changed my name to Sandeep Kumar Sharma.

0040801638-6

I,SWATI JUNEJA,W/O-GAURAV DHAWAN,H.No.-C148,RISHI NAGAR,RANI-BAGH,NEW-DELHI 110034,changed my name to SWATI DHAWAN,for all,future purposes

0040801638-7

I,Ravi Kant Choubey R/o Flat-No.150B, Block-38, LIG Flats, Sector-99, Noida (U.P-201301), have changed my minor son's name from Aarav to Aarav Choubey for all future purposes.

0040801628-1

I,Ramesh Ram Arya,S/o-Har Ram. R/o-252-D,KH-141/146 F-F-Block,Phase-6,Aya Nagar, South Delhi-110047, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Ramesh in my minor daughter Shweta Arya aged-13 years in her School Records. Correct name is Ramesh Ram Arya.

0040801671-2

I,Raj Kumari W/o-Bhagwan Dass R/o A-117,Narang Colony, Janakpuri,Delhi-110058,inform that given name Raj And surname Kumari.

0040801649-8

I,PREM ARORA,S/O RAM LAL,R/O F-19/33,SECTOR-8,ROHINI HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PREM KUMAR ARORA FOR ALL PURPOSES

0040801638-2

I,Navneet S/o Rakesh Sharma R/o,D-23, Mahindra-Park, Pankha Road,Uttam Nagar,Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Navneet Sharma.

0040801649-2

I,Manoj Kumar,S/o-Vedprakash Prakash,R/o-VPO.Syana, Mahenderagarh(Haryana),inform that Given name Manoj and Surname Kumar Permanently.

0040801649-6

I,Manish Kumar Khattar,S/o Suresh Kumar Khattar,R/o,Flat No.204,Tower-A,The View Ramprastha City,Sector-37D, Gurugram(Haryana)-122001,have changed my name to Manish Khattar.

0040801649-3

I,Kiran W/o-Satender Gosain,R/o- H.No.236,Gali No.5,Parvatiya Aanchal Part -1,Sant-Nagar Burari, Delhi-110084,have changed my name Kiran Gosain.

0040801649-4

I,MD ARIF,S/o-Shamsuddin, R/o Ward.No.03,Surigaon,PO-Baisi, Distt.Purnia,Bihar-854315,have changed the name of my minor daughter ADIBA,aged-14 years and she shall hereafter be known AABEDA.

0040801638-8

I,Bhagwan Dass,S/o Ram Chand R/o A-117,Narang Colony, Janakpuri,Delhi-110058,inform that given-name Bhagwan And surname Dass.

0040801649-7

I,Jackson Gomes,S/O-Walter Gomes,House no-A-1,Second floor(B/S) Main-Joga Bai-Road New-Delhi-110025,Have Changed my name to JACKSON ALEC GOMES, Permanently.

0040801670-2

I,HARDIK S/o Gauri Shankar Bansal R/o AP-67C, Pitampura Shalimar North West Delhi-110088,have changed my name to HARDIK BANSAL.

0040801670-3

I,Avinash Pandey,S/o-Prakash Pandey,Add-Guru kripa Gau Seva Dham,Anand-Vatika,Vrindavan, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh-281121,have changed my name to Swami Shri Gurukripanand

0040801638-4

I,Ashish alias Aashish Kumar S/o Subhash Chand R/O H.No.44, Village Shahpur Garhi Narela Delhi-110040, have changed my name to Aashish Puniia.

0040801664-1

I,AKSHAY PANDE,S/O-MILIND PANDE,resident of,FLAT.NO-109 TOKAS-HOUSE FLAT.NO-402 STREET.NO-2 SDMC-PARK NANDA-ENCLAVE AMBERHAI-EXTENSION DWARKA,SECTOR-19 B DELHI-110075,have changed my name to AKSHAY MILIND PANDE,permanently

0040801670-1

I,ABID S/O KALAMUDDIN R/o-232,Chatta Lal Mian,Darya Ganj Delhi,have changed my name to MOHD ABID,for all purpose

0040801649-1

I,hitherto known as AMTA DIWAN W/O NARENDER LUTHRA R/O 211, B-2, PASCHIM VIHAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110063 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANITA LUTHRA.

0070980372-1

I, Zafar son of Motiur Rahman (Aadhar Card No. 2970-7794-4623) present address: Ahmad Khan, H.No.248, Gali 10, Hans Enclave, Gurugram(HR) and permanent resident at Village-Chainpura, Post Office Mujia, Dist East Champaran-855430 (Bihar) have changed my minor son's name from Manovair Alam to Yasir Zafar for all future purposes.

0040801552-1

I, VINOD KUMAR PANWAR, S/O JAGDISH PAWAR, R/O E-19/21, SECTOR-3, ROHINI, NORTH WEST DELHI-110085, have changed my name to VINOD KUMAR PAWAR for all future purposes

0070980388-1

I, Shresha Sharma W/O, Shanish Sharma R/O D1901 Great Value Sharma Sector 107 Noida have changed my name to Shresha Srivastava for all purposes

0040801550-1

I, Sanjay Bansal S/o Jagdish Bansal R/O C-520, Sector-Beta-I, Greater Noida Distt G.B. Nagar, U.P-201306, have changed my name to Sanjay Kumar for all future Purposes.

0070980441-1

I, Ronak D/o No.1559922Y Rank NAIK (Late) Mumtaj Khan R/o B-786, Jwalapuri Sunder Vihar, Delhi-110087 have changed my name to Ronak Nisha Vide affidavit Date 22-7-2025 before Delhi.

0070980370-1

I, Priyanshi Goyal, D/o Mukesh Kumar Goyal, resident of, Mohalla Bohran, Awagarh, District Etah, Uttar Pradesh - 207301, have changed my name from Priyansh to Priyanshi Goyal for all future purposes.

00709804031-1

I, Devender Singh S/O Late Sh. Darwan Singh R/O House No. 2121, Nagla Enclave Part-II, NIT Faridabad-121005. Haryana have changed my name to Devender Singh Negi for all future purposes.

0040801541-1

I, G. Suresh Kumar, Suresh Nair & Suresh Kumar G S/O PNG Nair, residing at B-7/1, Third Floor, Sector-17, Rohini, Delhi-110089, have changed my name to SURESH KUMAR NAIR as per affidavit IN- DL22719766061103X dated 22-Jul-2025.

0040801192-2

I, Jayaraman Sivasankar S/o Jayaraman R/o Plot No-PK-71, Sector-122, Noida, PO:Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh-201301 has changed my name from Jayaraman Sivasankar To J SIVASANKAR for all future Purposes.

0070980406-1

I,Jitender Rawal, S/o Shri Ramdev Singh Rawal, R/o Flat No. A-506, NRI Residency, Sector Omega-2, Greater Noida, Distt. G.B. Nagar, U.P., hereby declare that I have changed my daughter's name from Janvi to Janvi Rawal for all future purposes.

0070980430-1

I, KM. Versha Agrawal W/O Nagendra Pratap Singh Villa No-67, Kingdon Green Villa Green Residency Greater Noida West Chhipanya Buzurg Chhipanya Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh-201009 has changed my name from KM. VERSHA AGRAWAL to VERSHA AGRAWAL for all future Purposes.

0070980411-1

I, Kanishka Bansal D/O Sanjay Kumar R/O C-520, Sector-Beta-I, Greater Noida Distt G.B. Nagar, U.P-201306, have changed my name to Kanishka for all future Purposes.

0070980434-1

I, Kum Sanju Baber W/o Praveen Kumar R/o 99, Pocket A-8, Kalkaji Extn., Delhi-19 have changed my name to Sanju

0070980418-1

I, MUKESH KUMAR S/O MADAN LAL R/O HOUSE NO- 16/1/83 E, ANAND PURT TANK ROAD, KAROL BAGH, CENTRAL DELHL DELH-110005 have changed trne name of my minor daughter KAVYA aged 12 years and she shall hereafter be known as KAVYA KUMAR

0070980380-1

I, MUKESH KUMAR S/O MADAN LAL R/O HOUSE NO- 16/1/83 E, ANAND PURT TANK ROAD, KAROL BAGH, CENTRAL DELHI, DELHI-110005 have changed the name of my minor son SARTHAK aged 13 years and he shall hereafter be known as SARTHA K KUMAR.

0070980376-1

I, Manju Bansal W/O Sanjay Kumar R/O C-520, Sector-Beta-I, Greater Noida Distt G.B. Nagar, U.P-201306, have changed my name to Manju for all future Purposes.

0070980438-1

I, NARENDER SINGH, S/O FAUJDAR SINGH, R/O NAGLA CHHAND SIRHAUL, JASWANTNAGAR, ETAWAH, UTTAR PRADESH-206245, have changed my name to NARENDAR SINGH TOMAR for all future purposes

0040801625-1

I, Suman Devi W/o No. 6949057A Matkar Baskey R/o Village-Patpur, Lahasia, Mayurbhanj, Odisha have changed my name to NAGIMANI BASKEY for all purposes.

0070980405-1

I, Padam Dwivedi S/o R D Dwivedi R/o 248, 3rd Floor, East Of Kailash, Delhi-65 have changed my name to Padam Bhushan Dwivedi

0070980422-1

I, Aasmeen R/o G51/9, 4th Floor (402), Shaheen Bagh, Okhla, (Abul Fazal Enclave-2, Delhi-25 have changed my name to Aasmeen Ali

0070980424-1

I, PREM PARKASH TANEJA, S/O RAM CHAND TANEJA, R/O B-1/537 G, JANAKPURI, WEST DELHI,DELHI-110058, have changed my name to PREM PRAKASH TANEJA for all future purposes.

0070980393-1

I, Bipan kumar sharma,S/o Parkash chand, R/o-1586, Sector-9, faridabad-121006,have changed my name Bipan kumar to Bipan kumar sharma,for all future purposes

0040801543-1

I, Asif S/o Istekar Ali. R/o H-9 Allavardipur, Greater Noida, Bishrakh, G.B Nagar, U.P have Change my Name to Asif Ali for all future purpose.

0070980425-1

I, Neha C/o Subhash Chand R/o C-18/228, Guru Nanak Pura, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-92 have changed my name to Neha Sharma

0070980413-1

I, Alka Maggon W/O, Sanjeev Maggo R/O B 193, Dif, Capital Green, 15 Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, New Delhi 110015 have changed my name to Alka Maggo for all purposes

0040801551-1

I Yogendra Singh , R/o D-119, near Hero Motors, Shivam Enclave Phase 2, Achheja, Dadri, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-203207, have changed my name to Yogendra Prasad Singh.

0070980319-1

I Urvashi Madaan W/o Shri Nitin Kumar R/O 1036, Sector-17, Faridabad, Haryana-121002 have changed my name after marriage from Urvashi to Urvashi Madaan for all future purposes.

0040801542-1

I Piyush S/o Ajay Kumar R/o 19/18, First Floor, Shakti Nagar, Kamla Nagar, North Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Piyush Alwani for all purposes.

0040801537-1

I Kewal Maggon W/O, Sh Dev Raj Maggo R/O B 193, Dif, Capital Green, 15 Shivaji Marg, New Delhi 110015 have changed my name to Kewal Maggo.

0040801634-1

I Dev Raj Maggon S/O, Sh Ram Sahay Maggo R/O B 193, Dif, Capital Green, 15 Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, New Delhi 110015 have changed my name to Dev Raj Maggo.

0040801633-1

I Chhavi D/o Ajay Kumar R/o 19/18, First Floor, Shakti Nagar, Kamla Nagar, North Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Chhavi Alwani for all purposes.

0040801537-3

## THANKS GIVING

THANK YOU SAINT JUDE THADDEUS PATRON SAINT OF DIFFICULT CASES FOR HELPING ME PASS THE N.E.T PERSIAN EXAM !

0040801539-1

## PROPERTY

## PROPERTY FOR SALE

Platinum-9 World Tower, Wakad, Pune's Tallest Commercial, Iconic Award Winning Project & India's 1st 3 Level 360° Revolving Restaurant, Dream Investment in Premium Showrooms, Retail Shops, Food Court, Smart Corporate Offices & Multipurpose Spaces 15Ft. Height, Your Legacy Starts Here- Once in a Lifetime Opportunity. Contact- 7205970999.

0090379661-1

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to the general public at large that my client Mrs. Monica Wimala is the owner of the property i.e. One Private Shop on the Ground Floor without roof rights, in the portion of built Up Property No. 2453/4, area measuring 9 X 11' 6" situated at Vika Nagar, New Delhi, through Relinquishment deed dated 07.05.2025 executed by Mr. Manginder Singh, Late, Undated, Delhi-110025, after the demise of Mrs. Arjanpreet Kaur, Late, Undated, Delhi-110025 who was the owner through Sale Deed dated 13.08.2000 executed by Mr. Tejinder Singh Khosla vide Document No. 3585. Now, my client intends to sell the said property to intended purchaser. Any persons, institution having any claim and for objection in respect of the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at my address within 08 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person and institution shall not be binding upon the said property or purchaser.

Mohd K. Haseen (Advocate)  
2/34, Ground Floor, Jangpura Extension  
Near Kashmir Park, N.D.-14, 8810391672

Information is given to the general public at large that my client Sh. Ranbir Singh, S/O Shree Sahab Singh, R/O House No. 18, Gali No. 4/3, Swastnagar Nagar, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi, 110040, has served at their relations with their son Neeraj Dabhi and his wife Jyoti Soni for their bad habits. Both of my above-named clients have also disowned and debarred their son, namely Neeraj Dabhi, from all their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Shri Neeraj Dabhi and his wife will do so at their own risk and responsibility, and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed, or dealings by Shri Neeraj Dabhi and his wife Smt. Jyoti Soni.

KARTI YONRA SAHAI (ADVOCATE)  
Enrollment No. D/2803/A/2024

General public is hereby informed that my client Sh. Ranbir Singh, S/O Shree Sahab Singh, R/O House No. 18, Gali No. 4/3, Swastnagar Nagar, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi, 110040, has served at their relations with their son Neeraj Dabhi and his wife Jyoti Soni for their bad habits. Both of my above-named clients have also disowned and debarred their son, namely Neeraj Dabhi, from all their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Shri Neeraj Dabhi and his wife will do so at their own risk and responsibility, and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed, or dealings by Shri Neeraj Dabhi and his wife Smt. Jyoti Soni.

**Public Notice**

Information that my client's Ms. Neeraj is the owner of Upper Ground Floor (RH5) without roof rights, area measuring 184.086 sq. yrd. Built up Property No. E-6 Situated at East Jyoti Nagar, Village Sikdarpur, Illosha Shahdara Delhi, Initially Ms. Bhagwati Devi is the owner of total land area measuring 300.3 Sq. yrd. on the basis of Sale Deed Dated 26.06.1964, later on 11.06.1998 & her husband Mr. Jahimlal Sharma also died on 20.11.1950. Thereafter, Survivor Certificate of late Ms. Bhagwati Devi & Mr. Jahimlal Sharma was not obtained, for the same. Any person dealing with the said Property may do so at his/her own risk and manner whatsoever any claim on the basis of the title document will be entertained within 15 days of publication, failing which any such right, title interest, or claim if any, will be deemed to have been waived and not binding on our client, **Manoj Kumar, Advocate Chamber No. 192, Tis Hazari Court, (Civil Side) Delhi-110054. Mobile No.: 966581889.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Information is given to the general public at large that my client Mr. Manoj Kumar, Advocate Chamber No. 192, Tis Hazari Court, (Civil Side) Delhi-110054. Mobile No.: 966581889, has been the owner of the property situated at 2/34, Ground Floor, Jangpura Extension Near Kashmir Park, N.D.-14, 8810391672. I, dated 26/7/2025, executed a Second floor and foot board above that floor, alternatively as minimum, bequeathed to Mr. Manoj Kumar, Advocate Chamber No. 192, Tis Hazari Court, (Civil Side) Delhi-110054. Mobile No.: 966581889, for the purpose of the said property. I, dated 26/7/2025, executed a Second floor and foot board above that floor, alternatively as minimum, bequeathed to Mr. Manoj Kumar, Advocate Chamber No. 192, Tis Hazari Court, (Civil Side) Delhi-110054. Mobile No.: 966581889, for the purpose of the said property. I, dated 26/7/2025, executed a Second floor and foot board above that floor, alternatively as minimum, bequeathed to Mr. Manoj Kumar, Advocate Chamber No. 192, Tis Hazari Court, (Civil Side) Delhi-110054. Mobile No.: 966581889, for the purpose of the said property.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Be it known to all public that my client Sant. Sanay Wali was late Sh. Bishal Singh Rao S/538, Dakshinipuri Extn. Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi-110062, has disowned/debarred the my daughter namely, Asha wife of Amit kumar, from all their movable and immovable properties' assets and severed all relations due to their disobedience and bad behavior. My clients shall not be responsible for their any acts and deeds in any manner whatsoever.

**KAMAL SINGH (Advocate)**  
Earl.No.D/748/2014

## COURT NOTICE

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING APPEARANCE OF SANJAY KUMAR MATTO, DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT-46), AT: ROOM NO. 304, SHAHDARA DISTT. KARKARDOMA COURTS, DELHI.**  
Case Reg. No.: C5(COMM) No. 138/2025  
MONIKA JAIN — Plaintiff  
VS  
MONIKA MATTO — Defendant

**MONIKA MATTO**  
W/O RAJ TOMAR  
S/O SH. OMPAL TOMAR  
R/O A-412/3  
DILSHAD GARDEN, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032  
ALSO AC: R-56, 3rd Floor, EAST JYOTI NAGAR, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032  
WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 25-08-2025 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.  
You are hereby summoned to file a written statement within 30 days of the service of the present summons and in case you fail to file the written statement within the said period of 30 days, you shall be allowed to file a written statement within the next 30 days, as may be specified by the Court, for the reasons to be recorded in writing and on payment of such costs as the Court deems fit, but which shall be not be later than 120 days from the date of service of summons. On expiry of one hundred and twenty days from the date of service of summons, you shall forfeit the right to file the written statement and the Court shall not allow the written statement to be taken on record. Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this 24.07.2025

Seal

Sd/- Judge

**CONSTRUCTION OF 2 UNITS TYPE-III QUARTERS**

E-Tender Notice No.: 36-Engg-RNY-2025-26 Dated: 23-07-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:  
**Brief Description of Item:** i) At Harmuti-Construction of 2 units Type-III quarters. ii) Rangpura North- Replacement of codal life expired quarters



BRIEFLY

Sebi: Licence of 13 investment advisers cancelled

New Delhi: Sebi has cancelled the registration of 13 entities as investment advisers after they failed to pay the renewal fees. “The purpose of cancellation of certificate of registration is to prevent the misuse of their expired certificate of registration with Sebi on unaware investors,” it said. PTI

Economic Affairs Secy Thakur to join RBI board

Mumbai: The RBI has said the government has appointed Economic Affairs Secretary Anuradha Thakur to the central bank's board. She replaces Ajay Seth, who superannuated on June 30. A 1994-batch Himachal Pradesh cadre IAS officer, Thakur assumed charge of the Department of Economic Affairs on July 1. PTI

‘Nayara names new CEO after EU sanctions’

New Delhi: Russia-backed Indian refiner Nayara Energy has named company veteran Sergey Denisov as chief executive to replace Alessandro des Dorides who CEO resigned following EU sanctions that targeted the company, four sources with knowledge of the matter said. REUTERS

Irdai imposes ₹3.39 cr penalty on Star Health

New Delhi: Irdai on Friday said it has imposed a Rs 3.39 crore penalty on Star Health and Allied Insurance for various violations of Information & Cyber Security Guidelines. It has also issued a warning to the insurer. PTI

AS UK TRADE DEAL SLASHES DUTIES TO 3%

# India not ‘tariff king’, says Commerce Secy Barthwal

SSRAVI DUTTAMISHRA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

COMMERCE SECRETARY Sunil Barthwal on Friday said that India can face competition and is not the ‘tariff king’, as India’s average tariffs for the UK following the trade deal are set to drop to 3 per cent compared to the current levels of 15 per cent.

Barthwal said at a press briefing that India and the UK have managed to strike the “right balance between strengths and sensitivities”, and that the government will begin capacity-building of exporters to make full use of the tariff concessions achieved in the UK trade deal. “FTAs are done, but the gains from the concessions can only come through stakeholder involvement. We have got concessions in textiles, leather footwear and processed footwear sectors, where tariffs were as high as 70 per cent. Now, the Commerce and Industry Ministry will begin capacity-building of our exporters,” Barthwal said.

Barthwal said that fears of dumping are unfounded, as the trade deal has rules of origin and product-specific rules in place to address such concerns, adding that the deal is expected to be ratified by the UK government within a year, as it must pass through both Houses of the British Parliament. “The regulatory ecosystem between the two countries will also be improved. In this FTA, there are timelines as to when the mutual recognition agreement is supposed to be completed. This will improve certainty for businesses operating in both countries,” Barthwal said.

Sectoral gains & sensitivities

Government officials said that India’s major exports — from labour-intensive sectors like textiles, gems & jewellery, leather and footwear, machinery, pharmaceu-



Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds after inking the India-UK CETA in London on Thursday. ANI

tics, and processed foods — are set to gain a major edge with zero-duty access to the UK, improving the competitiveness of Indian goods in the UK market.

“The UK market opens up duty-free for nearly all Indian agri-exports, with just a few limited exceptions like pork, chicken, eggs, rice, and sugar. A golden opportunity for our farmers and agri-entrepreneurs to shine on a global stage,” the Commerce and Industry Ministry said.

The ministry said India has safeguarded its sensitive sectors — dairy, cereals and millets, pulses, and vegetables to high-value items like gold, jewellery, lab-grown diamonds, and certain essential oils. “Strategic exclusions also cover critical energy fuels, marine vessels, worn clothing, and critical polymers and their monofilaments, smartphones, optical fibres — a strong stand to protect farmers, MSMEs, and national interests,” the ministry said.

Notably, India has opened 89.5 per cent of its tariff lines, covering 91 per cent of the UK’s exports, and only 24.5 per cent of the UK’s export value will enjoy immediate duty-free market access. “Strategically important products — particularly those where do-

mestic capacity is being built under flagship initiatives like Make in India and PLI — will see concessions over periods of 5, 7, or even 10 years with gradual tariff reduction,” the ministry said.

Services sector gains

Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Darpan Jain, said that the UK has offered its best FTA deal to India compared to all its trade partners in services adding that the UK has provided comprehensive and deep market access in 137 sub-sectors. India has a service trade surplus of around \$6.6 bn with the UK, with exports of \$19.8 bn and imports of \$13.2 bn in FY25.

Jain said the UK’s commitments on mobility are comprehensive and the best in any FTA. “The UK has provided an assured mobility regime for various categories of natural persons: Business Visitors (BV) for all sectors — 90 days in any six-month period; Intra-Corporate Transferees (ICT) for all sectors including partner and dependent — three years.”

Govt procurement

The ministry said that the UK has accorded Indian suppliers a le-

**EXPLAINED**  
UK offered India its ‘best FTA deal’ in services

JOINT SECRETARY in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Darpan Jain, said that the UK has offered its best FTA deal to India compared to all its trade partners in services adding that the UK has provided comprehensive and deep market access in 137 sub-sectors. India has a service trade surplus of around \$6.6 bn with the UK, with exports of \$19.8 bn and imports of \$13.2 bn in FY25

gal guarantee to participate in the UK procurement market — worth approximately \$122 billion — for procurements conducted at the Central level of government and certain utilities. India, similarly, opens up a market opportunity of \$114 billion. “For the first time, the UK agreed to take a binding commitment to provide non-discriminatory treatment to our suppliers under the UK’s Social Value regime. The UK’s threshold for goods and services is approximately Rs 1.6 crore; India’s threshold is approximately Rs 5.5 crore. For procurement related to construction services, both sides have agreed to a similar threshold of Rs 60 crore,” the ministry said.

A government official said that India has taken a complete carve-out for its MSME preferential procurement policy. “With respect to the Make in India policy, access to UK suppliers is restricted to eligibility to participate as deemed ‘Class-II local suppliers’ in domestic tenders above the agreed thresholds. Indian suppliers will continue to receive preferential treatment as ‘Class-I local suppliers’ in the UK,” the official explained.

# The UK trade deal, and cues for the big one — trade pact with the US

ANIL SASI  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE INDIA-UK trade deal is significant in more ways than one: for London, it is perhaps the most significant deal after Brexit, while for New Delhi, this is the first big trade pact with a major Western nation after the broad-based EFTA deal signed last year. The UK deal could set the template for the negotiations that India is currently having with the EU, and, more importantly, the UK deal could offer cues to India’s negotiation stance in the most consequential deal that New Delhi is currently rushing to wrap up: the one with the US.

India and the US have concluded a week-long round of trade negotiations earlier this month to finalise an interim trade deal seen as crucial for New Delhi to skirt reciprocal tariffs and steal a march over its Asian rivals ahead of the fresh deadline of August 1. Unlike the UK deal, the negotiations with the US are clearly rushed. But then, India could face tariffs of up to 26 per cent if both countries fail to reach an agreement by a repeatedly changing deadline.

The UK deal does offer some takeaways:

■ Agriculture was a clear red line area, if the UK deal is anything to go by. India has excluded several high-sensitivity agricultural products from any tariff concessions, including dairy items, fresh apples, walnuts, whey and modified whey, blue-veined cheese, and specific seed categories such as vegetable seeds and sugar beet seed. The UK too had excluded various meat products and egg-based items, among others, from discussions.

With the US, talks have faced hurdles over agri products, with the US pushing for market access for genetically modified products such as soya and corn, along with broad-based access across sectors.



India and the US concluded a week-long round of trade negotiations earlier this month. File

However, the farmers’ body Indian Coordination Committee of Farmers Movements has urged the government to exclude all aspects of agriculture from the US trade deal in order to protect the interests of Indian farmers.

■ It is clear that the trade deal with the US is likely to be less focused on sectors and more focused on the headline number, unlike the UK deal. But like with the UK, in its talks with the US, India is likely to push for market access in labour-intensive sectors, while trying to ensure a significant tariff differential compared to its Asian peers. After the UK deal, India’s average tariff on British products is projected to drop from 15 per cent to 3 per cent.

Now, if the final tariff deal offered to India by Washington DC is between 10 per cent and 15 per cent, the tariff points offered to the UK and Japan, New Delhi should have reasons to be satisfied. The tariff advantage starts to diminish if the tariff goes over 15 per cent and comes closer to 20 per cent, as was offered by the US to Vietnam. A transshipment clause, of the kind slapped on Vietnam, could be a problem for India, given that a lot of Indian exports have inputs and intermediate goods in sectors such as pharma, engineering goods and electronics coming

in from outside, including China. Also, clarity on the final American duty offer on China is a number that negotiators will be looking at, given the implicit assumption in New Delhi that the Trump administration will maintain a tariff differential.

For Indian negotiators, other tariffs, over and above the US baseline tariffs of 10 per cent and the sectoral tariffs on steel and aluminium, is an added complication. Sectoral tariffs such as the 50 per cent on steel, aluminium and copper are already impacting India’s exports to the US, and Trump’s threat of steep tariffs on BRICS countries over them buying Russian oil is a concern.

■ With the UK, India has shown accommodation in certain areas that the other side has pushed for, which officials in New Delhi termed as part of a “structured and balanced market access offer” that followed a “development-oriented quota based liberalisation” process. For instance, India will first halve the duty on Scotch whisky from the UK to 75 per cent and then to 40 per cent over 10 years. Duties on automobiles will be cut in a phased manner. As per the UK deal, India will lower import duties on British cars over 15 years to just 10 per cent from more than 100 per cent for luxury cars. However, the reduced rate of tariff will apply only to 10,000 units, which will rise to 19,000 in the fifth year.

The concession framework with the UK is designed to provide market access to British exporters mostly on large engine-size ICE vehicles and high price range EVs, while simultaneously protecting sensitive segments of India’s automotive industry (mid and small size engine capacity internal combustion engine vehicles and mid and low price range EVs), the Indian government said.

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

# India missing out on tackling UK carbon tax raises concerns

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

INDIA’S EFFORTS to secure a concession for its small and medium enterprises under the UK’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) did not materialise, as the text of the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) released on Thursday made no mention of a resolution on the contentious issue.

The UK’s CBAM, which is set to come into effect from January 1, 2027, is expected to impact India’s exports of steel, aluminium and other carbon-intensive goods. India’s steel and aluminium exports are already facing steep tariff restrictions from the US after US President Donald Trump raised the tariffs on the items to 50 per cent.

The absence of a resolution not only weakens India’s position, but also casts a shadow over the duty concessions won for 99 per cent of its exports to the UK under the long-negotiated trade deal as UK could raise tariffs on industrial imports once it implements CBAM.

Trade experts believe that if the UK has not conceded ground on the carbon tax, the EU may also refuse to offer any concessions on its own carbon measures. Hervé Delphin, EU Ambassador to India, told *The Indian Express* last month that the EU’s CBAM is not part of negotiations.

Trade experts believe that if the UK has not conceded ground on CBAM, the EU may also refuse to offer any concessions on its own carbon measures

While the Ministry of Commerce and Industry claims that the UK trade deal will allow around 99 per cent of Indian exports to benefit from zero-duty access to the UK market, CBAM significantly could alter that. The UK government has said the carbon tax will apply to both “direct and indirect emissions” embodied in imported CBAM goods, “including those emissions embodied in relevant precursor goods at a point further up the value chain”. This means that London, based on its carbon calculations, could impose duties on Indian intermediate exports as well as finished products. Indian goods exports worth at least \$775 million to the UK, therefore, continue to face the risk of higher duties under its carbon tax mechanism.

Wider scope for CBAM?

As per the CBAM regulation, the UK will place a carbon price on some of the most emissions-intensive industrial goods imported

to the UK — covering the aluminium, cement, fertiliser, hydrogen, and iron & steel sectors — which are considered at risk of carbon leakage. But the scope will increase going forward.

“The sectoral and product-level scope of the CBAM will be kept under review beyond 2027 as new evidence comes to light to reflect changes to carbon leakage risk, as well as methodological and technological advances,” a statement read. India’s exports to the UK rose by 12.6 per cent to \$14.5 billion, while imports grew by 2.3 per cent to \$8.6 billion in FY25. Bilateral goods trade between India and the UK increased to \$21.34 billion in FY24 from \$20.36 billion in FY23.

Challenge at the WTO

As no concession was secured under the FTA, India could challenge the regulation at the WTO on the grounds that CBAM violates special and differential treatment provisions, which advocate longer implementation periods for developing countries to safeguard their trade interests. However, trade law experts warn that the CBAM regulations in both the UK and EU may be in effect by the time the WTO rules on the matter, given the dysfunction of the organisation’s Dispute Settlement Body.

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

‘BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS NEED TO EXPLORE AND EXPAND VARIOUS AVENUES OF RAISING CAPITAL’

# Nagaraju asks banks to raise capital, lend more

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JULY 25

BANKS NEED to further step up lending to meet the economy’s demanding growth requirements, and should not hesitate to explore multiple avenues to raise the capital needed, financial services secretary M Nagaraju said on Friday. He assured all necessary policy support to the lenders, and hinted at relaxations in the foreign direct investment (FDI) rules.

Speaking to *Financial Express* Deputy Managing Editor Shobhana Subramanian at the FE Modern BFSI Summit here, Nagaraju said: “We also actually need to look at reviewing the current FDI rules in the banking sector to enable Indian banks to raise more capital... more patient capital.”

The FDI in private banks is currently capped at 74 per cent, whereas the limit is 20 per cent for public sector banks (PSBs); any single entity cannot hold more than 15 per cent in any Indian bank unless exemption is granted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

“If foreign capital comes at a cheaper rate, I think we should welcome (it). Currently, it is 15 per cent (single entity cap), and if it can be more, the banks will be able to expand credit, that’s the goal,” the DFS secretary said. He stressed the need to have sustained high growth in credit flows to the needy sectors of the economy, including MSMEs. As of June 27, 2025, credit offtake was up 9.5 per cent on year, lagging deposit growth of 10.1 per cent.

Nagaraju’s comments come at a time when the State Bank of



Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju speaking at the FE Modern BFSI Summit. Akash Patil



We actually need to look at reviewing the current FDI rules in the banking sector to enable Indian banks to raise more capital... more patient capital

India (SBI) has raised Rs 25,000 crore through qualified institutional placements (QIPs) to bolster its capital base, and other state-run banks among themselves are set to raise Rs 20,000 crore via this route in the current financial year.

“Credit growth is a little slower in this quarter, but we are expecting that it will pick up... we also want the banks to lend,” the official said. With large corpora-

tions flush with cash, credit growth is now largely directed at MSMEs, the secretary said.

In March 2025, the aggregate capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of 46 major banks reached a record high of 17.2 per cent, but the credit flows haven’t been exactly keeping pace with this, or the investment demand to the assisted via bank capital.

With banks required to play a pivotal role in driving India’s

ambition of becoming a \$30-trillion economy by 2047, he said bank credit to the private non-financial sector should reach around 130 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) from 56 per cent now.

According to Nagaraju, banks and financial institutions need to explore and expand various avenues of raising capital, including conventional equity markets, issuance of Basel III-compliant

AT1 bonds and tier 2 instruments. They could also explore innovative methods like tapping global financial hubs, green bonds, sustainability-linked loans and also foreign debt markets to fund domestic credit expansion. He also urged large incumbent banks to focus on capital conservation by reducing operational costs with the use of technology.

Nagaraju said banks ought to reimagine deposit mobilisation and increase leverage and productivity, deepen digital and data capabilities, and build future-readiness in terms of ESG-resilience and governance. By advancing these strategic themes, Indian banks could actually transform themselves into stronger institutions, he said.

“Therefore, access to capital from all sources needs to be looked at and worked upon by all of us. We need multiple globally competitive large banks facilitating access to global funds, best talent and technical expertise,” he said. Currently, only two Indian banks — SBI and HDFC — are in the top 100 global banks by total assets, which is not enough, he said, drawing comparison to lenders in China and the US.

On further consolidation of PSBs, he said the previous mergers have yielded good results. “We would see that wherever the synergies are, we can always look at them (more PSB mergers).”

Banks anchor inclusive growth by bringing the unbanked under formal financial systems, enabling millions through schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, and more, he added.



# SALUTE THE SOLDIER

## BORDER SECURITY FORCE

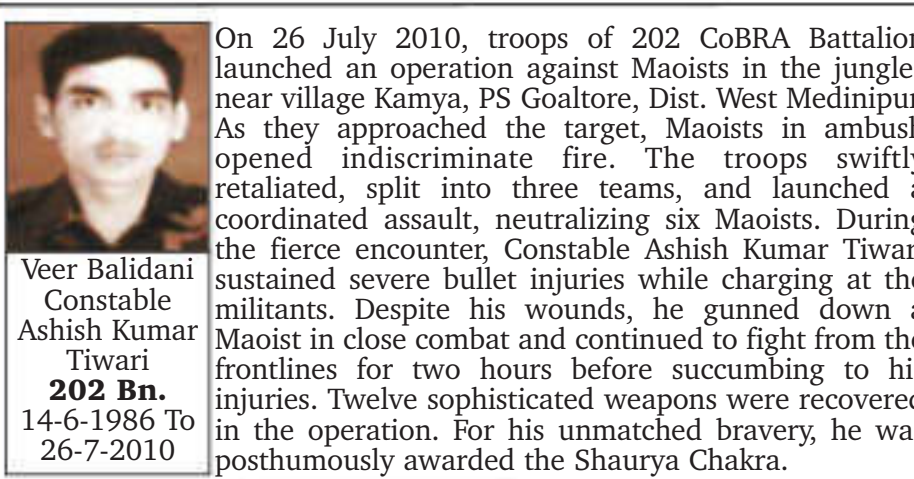
Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawans on their Balidan Diwas.



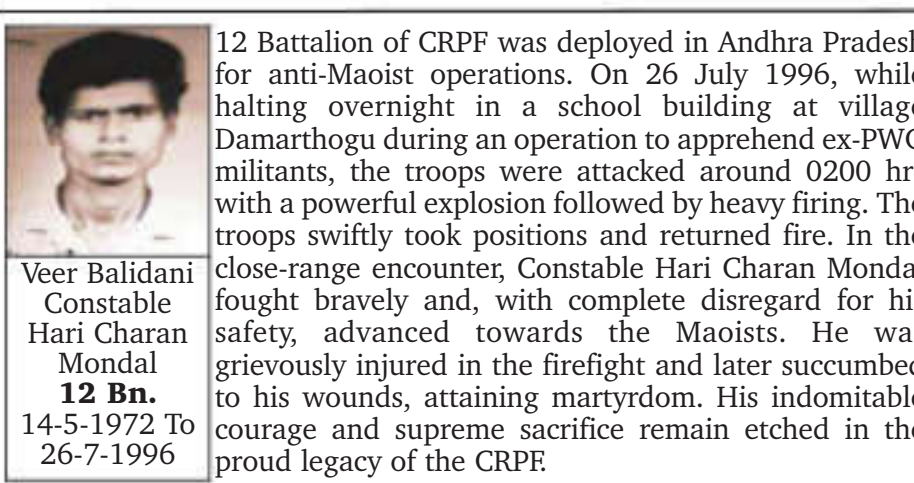
## CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE



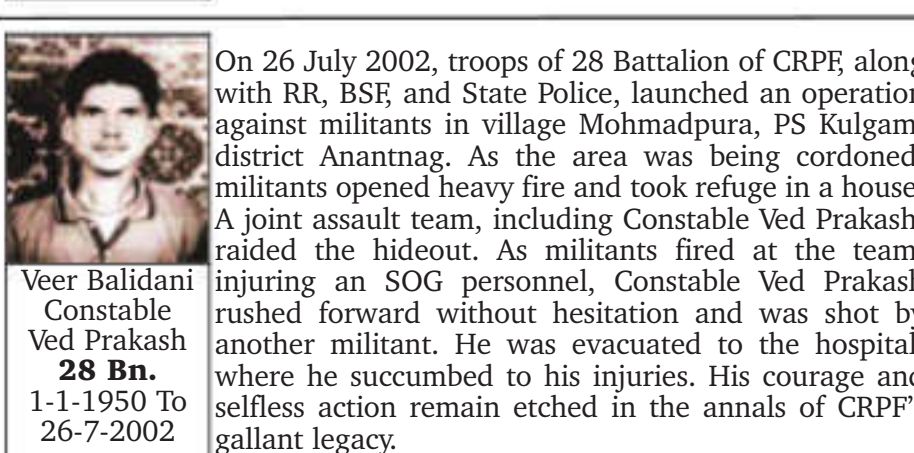
On 26 July 2009, troops of 111 Battalion of CRPF were en route from HQ Dantewada to Barsoor camp in two vehicles for training. Near village Upet on Barsoor-Geedam road, PS Dantewada, the convoy was ambushed by Maoists with an IED blast followed by heavy firing. The leading vehicle bore the brunt of the explosion, injuring several troopers. As Maoists tried to close in and snatch weapons, the injured personnel bravely held their ground and retaliated. Coordinated fire from both vehicles forced the attackers to retreat. In this valiant action, six bravehearts made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.



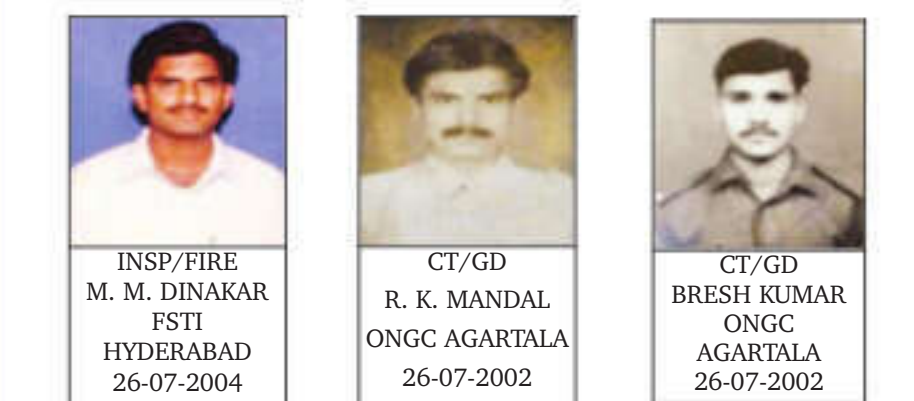
E company of 2nd Battalion, CRPF was deployed in Banihal, a picturesque town 180 km from Jammu, for law and order duties. Around 2200 hrs on 26 July 1992, while patrolling, Naik Anand Prasad and his team apprehended a suspected militant in an inebriated state. After a medical check at the Govt. Hospital, they proceeded to hand him over to PS Banihal, following standard protocol. Suddenly, amidst a power outage, a grenade was hurled at them, followed by heavy firing from three directions—an ambush meticulously planned. Naik Anand Prasad retaliated fiercely despite sustaining multiple injuries and continued fighting till he attained martyrdom. The terrorists fled under the cover of darkness. His supreme sacrifice stands as a shining testament to CRPF's bravery and unwavering dedication to duty.



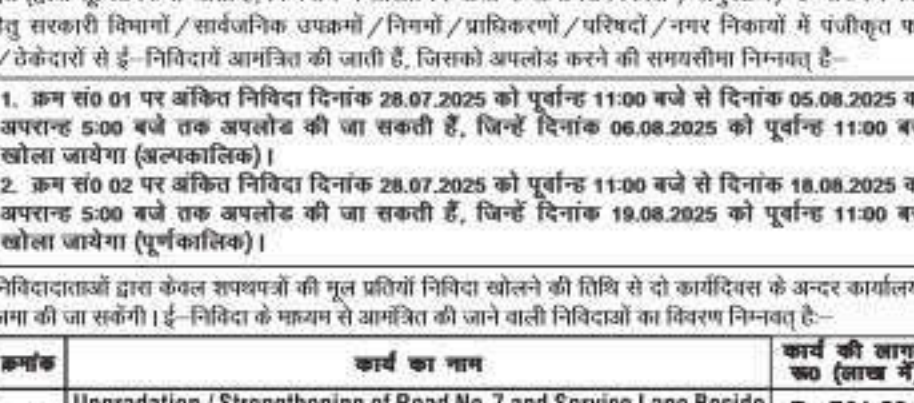
12 Battalion of CRPF was deployed in Andhra Pradesh for anti-Maoist operations. On 26 July 1996, while halting overnight in a school building at village Damarthogu during an operation to apprehend ex-PWG militants, the troops were attacked around 0200 hrs with a powerful explosion followed by heavy firing. In the close-range encounter, Constable Hari Charan Mondal fought bravely and, with complete disregard for his safety, advanced towards the Maoists. He was grievously injured in the firefight and later succumbed to his wounds, attaining martyrdom. His indomitable courage and supreme sacrifice remain etched in the proud legacy of the CRPF.



121 Battalion of CRPF was deployed in Manipur for counter-insurgency operations. On 26 July 1999, during a fierce encounter at Imphal, Constable Rampravesh Pal displayed exceptional courage by advancing on the enemy and inflicting heavy damage. He laid down his life in the line of duty. His gallant action inspired his comrades and added glory to the Force's valiant legacy.



On 26 July 2002, troops of 28 Battalion of CRPF, along with RR, BSF, and State Police, launched an operation against militants in village Mohmadpura, PS Kulgam, district Anantnag. As the area was being cordoned, militants opened heavy fire and took refuge in a house. A joint assault team, including Constable Ved Prakash, raided the hideout. As militants fired at the team, injuring an SOG personnel, Constable Ved Prakash rushed forward without hesitation and was shot by another militant. He was evacuated to the hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. His courage and selfless action remain etched in the annals of CRPF's gallant legacy.



CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-hearts. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noblest deeds.



# SALUTE THE SOLDIER

## SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL 26th July 2010



'Sashastra Seema Bal' fondly remembers the selfless and valiant act of the bravehearts of 15th Bn, SSB, Bongaigaon, who laid down their life in the service of the Nation. Their legacy of valour, sacrifice and devotion to duty will forever inspire the generations to come.

**OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA.**  
**NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR**  
**INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)**

B-323 E-mail ID:cebuildings\_orissa@yahoo.co.in, cebuildings@rediffmail.com, Tel. -(0674)-2391523

File No-B-1-SD&TE-(ITT)-12/2024 Lr. No.-27848 Bhubaneswar, the 16th July, 2025

**Invitation for Bids**  
**Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) – 17/2025-26**

1. The Chief Engineer (Buildings-II), Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** only, for the work, “Construction of Academic-cum-Workshop Buildings (GF, FF, SF) in respect of New Govt. I.T.I., Lakhanpur, Jharsuguda District” as detailed below.

2. Nature of work : Building work  
3. No. of work : 01 No.  
4. Bid Cost. : Rs. 10,000/- (each)  
5. Class of Contractor : 'A' / Special Class  
6. Availability of Bid Documents in the website : From dt.29.07.2025 to 17.00 Hours of dt. 14.08.2025.  
7. Date of Opening of Bid : Dt.16.08.2025 at 11:30 AM.  
8. The Bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer (Buildings-II), Odisha,  
Bhubaneswar

OIPR-34117/11/0123/2526

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,**  
**EASTERN CIRCLE-II, CHANDIKHOLE**  
**Email ID: see2chandikhole@gmail.com**

**“e” Procurement Notice No. ACE, EC-II 05 of 2025-26 (On-line)**

1 Name of work	> Work list attached in the Technical Bid Document.
2 Total No. of package	> 18 nos. individual package.
3 Tender Cost of Packages varies from	> Rs.227.73 Lakhs to Rs.640.29 Lakhs.
4 Cost of Bid Document	> Rs. 10,000/- (On-line Payment)
5 Bid Security varies from	> Rs.2,27,800/- to Rs.6,40,300/-
6 Class of Contractor	> “B” & “A” Class for Sl. No. 1 to 16, A Class for Sl. No 17 & A & Special Class Sl. No.18 Work list attached in the Bid Document.
7 Period of completion	> 06 (Six) Calendar months for Sl.No 1 to 16 and 09 (Nine) Calendar months for Sl. No. 17 & 18.

8. Other details are as follows

Procurement Officer	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)
Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-II, Chandikhole	From 28/07/2025 at 10 AM To 11/08/2025 up to 5.00 PM	12/08/2025 at 11.30 AM

9. e-mail id- see2chandikhole@gmail.com  
10. Further detailed conditions can be seen from the Govt. website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
11. Any corrigendum/addendum/cancellation of tender to the above notice if any can be seen from the above website.

Sd/-  
Additional Chief Engineer  
Eastern Circle-II, Chandikhole

OIPR -32322/11/0020/2526

**GOWORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,**  
**EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE**  
**e-mail: seec\_bls@rediffmail.com**  
**Government of Odisha “e” Procurement Notice**  
**Bid Identification No. CCEEC-04/2025-26**  
**No: 2904 Dt: 19.07.25**

**Nature of work :-** Building Works.  
**Number of works:** 3 Nos Building.  
**Amount put to Tender:** Rs.182.88 lakh to 334.37 lakh  
**Class of Contractor:-** “B” & “A” Class.  
**Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal:-** Dt. 29.07.2025 at 10:00 AM  
**Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal:** Dt. 12.08.2025 up to 05:00 PM  
**Date of opening of bid:** Dt. 13.08.2025 at 11:00 AM  
**Name & address of the Office inviting bid:** Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore  
The bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal “<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.” All future corrigendum will be available on **ONLINE** mode only.

Sd/-  
Chief Construction Engineer,  
Eastern Circle (R&B) Balasore  
OIPR-34026/11/0014/2526

**बिहार सरकार**  
**न्यायालय अनुमंडल दण्डाधिकारी, हथुआ**  
**आम-सूचना**

सर्व सधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि निम्नांकित कोडिका 05 में अंकित बिहार महानियेध और उत्पाद अधिनियम 2016 के तहत जप्त वाहन के अधिग्रहण की कार्यवाही अद्योहस्ताक्षरी के न्यायालय में चल रही है लेकिन कुछ वाहन मालिक का नाम पता प्राप्त नहीं हो सका है एवं कुछ संवेधित वाहन मालिक अब तक इस न्यायालय में उपस्थित होकर अपना दावा प्रस्तुत नहीं किये हैं।

**अधिग्रहण (उत्पाद) जप्त वाहनों की सूची**

क्र. सं.	अधिग्रहण सं. सं.	विषयी का नाम/पता	वाहन का सं.	निवेदन सं./ विवरण	वेचल सं./ विवरण	इंजन सं./ विवरण	वाहन वाहरी का प्रकार
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	124/25	अज्ञात	वीरराज खाना काण्ड-40 / 7	DLU58F5831	MEUCJ36 5888028 723	JC36EQ 117952	बोटर साइकिल

**अनुमंडल दण्डाधिकारी, हथुआ**  
**PR. No. 009555 (District) 2025-26**  
उक्त सूचना [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) पर भी देखी जा सकती है।  
**गर्भावस्था की पहली तिमाही में माँ की एच.आई.वी. और सिफलिस की जाँच जरूर कराये।**

**Department of Agriculture**  
**Bihar Horticulture Development Society, Patna**  
**(State Horticulture Mission)**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Krishi Bhawan, Mithapur, Patna-800001,**  
**Phone Fax: 0612-2547772, e-mail: dir-bhds-bih@nic.in,**  
**Website: horticulture.bihar.gov.in**  
**NOTICE – INVITING E-TENDER**  
Through e-procurement mode only over (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)  
**Short e-Tender for empanelment and fixation of rate for supply of Honeybee Colony (Box+ Hives)/Honey Extractor/Food Grade Container for FY 2025-26 in the State of Bihar.**

For the holistic development of horticulture in the state of Bihar, Bihar Horticulture Development Society (BHDS), Bihar, Patna invites e-tender for empanelment to ensure timely availability of Honey Bee Colony (Box+ Hives)/Honey Extractor/Food Grade Container from interested Govt. and private organizations reputed.

Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers/Firms/ Agencies/Government/Companies. The interested specialized organizations/firms/companies, which are involved and having experience of in related activities towards horticulture/ agriculture and allied activities may apply. Empaneled firms will be eligible for supply Honey components mentioned above under different schemes executed by BHDS in the state.

E-tender forms including terms and conditions for technical qualification, specifications, as well as quality and quantity of Bee Colony (Box+ Hives)/Honey Extractor/Food Grade Container is available on website: [horticulture.bihar.gov.in/](https://horticulture.bihar.gov.in/) or <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>. Applicants may upload/submit their tender along with all required documents for technical qualification through the online portal <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>. Financial proposals should also be proposed on that portal in prescribed form separately.

**Proposal can only be uploaded/submitted on the website <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> while EMD and Tender fee payment should be through online mode (NEFT/RTGS).**

SN	Activity	Date/Time: Duration
1.	Start Date & Time for Downloading of Tender document	07.08.2025 (10:00 Hrs.)
2.	Date and place for pre-bid meeting	11.08.2025 (11:00 hrs.), Department of Agriculture, Directorate of Horticulture, 2nd Floor, Krishi Bhawan, Mithapur, Patna - 800001
3.	Last Date & Time for Downloading of Tender document	18.08.2025 (11:00 Hrs.)
4.	Last Date & Time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid	22.08.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)
5.	Date and time of technical bid opening	22.08.2025 (15:30 Hrs.)
6.	Date and time of financial bid opening	To be intimated to technically successful bidder only
7.	Nodal officer/Contact person for queries	Nitesh Kumar Ray, Deputy Director Horticulture (Mob No.-9031643034)
8.	Mode of Selection	Empanelment and rate Fixation based on Least Cost Based Selection- LCBS (LI)

Mission Director, Bihar Horticulture Development Society, Patna reserves the right to revise/change/ cancel the proposal without assigning any reasons thereof.

**Director Horticulture cum Mission Director,**  
**Bihar Horticulture Development Society,**  
**Bihar, Patna**

**PR- 009726 ( Agriculture ) 2025-26**  
**नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।**

**CHENNAI METRO ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED**  
**MetroS, Nandanam**  
**CHENNAI-600 035, INDIA, Ph 044-24378000**

**E-Tender Notice**

CMAML invites tenders through CPP Portal (<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>) from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible consultants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender document under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial) system for the assignment mentioned below:

Tender No: CMAML/CP/TDR-09-CS/2025 – “Preparation of Detailed Project Report, Feasibility Study, Market Analysis, Transactional Advice, Concept plans, Land use report etc including submission of documents to CMDA/GCC for approval, preparation of Cost Estimate and Tender Documents for development of Multimodal Transit Hub with Connectivity to Suburban/ Bus Terminus/ Metro station at Guindy.”.

(i) Tender document available from : **01/08/2025**  
(ii) Deadline for Bid Submission : **29/08/2025 up-to 15:00 Hrs.**

For further details, please visit : **[www.chennaiMetroRail.org](http://www.chennaiMetroRail.org)**.

Any Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on above mentioned CPP Portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd-  
Director  
For Chennai Metro Asset Management Limited

DIPR/3839/TENDER/2025

**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय**  
**सिचाई यंत्रिक प्रमंडल, बौसी**  
**Email id- EEIMDBAUNSI@GMAIL.COM**  
**ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या :-07/2025-26**  
**केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट-<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/> पर**

1. ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने की तिथि :- दिनांक 22.07.2025।  
2. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पदनाम :- कार्यपालक अभियंता सिचाई यंत्रिक प्रमंडल, बौसी।  
3. निविदा कागजात कोटेशनल करने की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान :- दिनांक 12.08.2025 से दिनांक 21.08.2025 (3:00 Pm) तक। (Only On Website - <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/>)  
4. प्री-ब्रीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान :- दिनांक 19.08.2025 (AT 2-00PM) अथवा अभियंता (सीओ) सिचाई यंत्रिक अंचल, मोरगापुर, पटना के कार्यालय में।  
5. निविदा कागजात असेलोज करने की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान :- दिनांक 22.08.2025 (3:00 Pm) तक। (Only On Website - <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/>)  
6. तकनीकी बीड कोलने की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान :- दिनांक 23.08.2025 at 3:30 PM (Only On Website - <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/>)  
7. वित्तीय निविदा कोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा तकनीकी बीड की स्वीकृति के पश्चात अलग से सूचना दी जायेगी।  
8. निविदा बैट्टा की समय-तीना :- 120 दिन।  
9. कार्य का विवरण :-

क्रम सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्रान्कलित राशि (रुपये में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रुपये में)	परिमाण मूल्य (नही लीटाने योग्य)	वेल्डिंग को देय प्रोसेसिंग फी (अग्रव्यपत्तीय) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड)	कार्य सम्पत्ति की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Fabrication, Supply, Fitting, Fixing, Erection and Installation of 01 No. U/S gate and Foot Bridge of Karighati Weir under Irrigation Division Tarapur, Munger.	30,69,173.00	61,400.00	5,000.00	As applicable	02 (Two) Months

10. निविदा के नियमों / शर्तों एवं विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु अद्योहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय एवं सूचना पट्ट पर सम्यक् किया जा सकता है।  
विस्तृत जानकारी [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

**PR. No. 009462 (WRD) 25-26**  
**नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।**  
**(ईओ धीरेन्द्र कुमार)**  
**कार्यपालक अभियंता**  
**सिचाई यंत्रिक प्रमंडल, बौसी**

**बिहार सरकार**  
**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय**  
**पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, मोतिहारी।**  
**शुद्धि पत्र**  
**(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)**

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक-1227 अनु. दिनांक 12.07.2025 द्वारा निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-RCD/MOTIHARI/02/2025-26, जिसका PR No.-008572(RCD), 2025-26 एवं प्रकाशन की तिथि दिनांक-17.07.2025 ( दैनिक समाचार पत्र) है, अपरिहार्य कारण से उक्त प्रकाशित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना के क्र.0 सं. 3, 4, 5, 6 एवं 7 को अपरिहार्य कारणवश निम्नरूपेण संशोधित एवं विस्तारित किया जाता है:-

क्र.	विवरण	पूर्व से निर्धारित तिथि	संशोधित तिथि
3.	Period For Download of Tender Document	From 29.07.2025 to 04.08.2025 Up to 15:00 hrs. (From Website: <a href="https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> ) Only.	From 06.08.2025 to 12.08.2025 Up to 15:00 hrs. (From Website: <a href="https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> ) Only.
4.	Date, Time & Place of Pre-Bid Meeting	01.08.2025 at 11:00 hrs. at Office of The Chief Engineer, North, RCD, Bihar, Patna, Q.No. -T5 & T6, Officer's Flat, New Punaichak, Patna	08.08.2025 at 11:00 hrs. at Office of The Chief Engineer, North, RCD, Bihar, Patna, Q.No.-T5 & T6, Officer's Flat, New Punaichak, Patna
5.	Last Date & Time for Uploading Tender Document By Bidder	05.08.2025 Up to 15:00 hrs. On Website: <a href="https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> ) Only.	13.08.2025 Up to 15:00 hrs. On Website: <a href="https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> ) Only.
6.	Date, Time & Place Of Opening Of Technical Bid	Date-06.08.2025 after15:30 hrs On Website: <a href="https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> ) Only	Date- 14.08.2025 after15:30 hrs On Website: <a href="https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> ) Only

7. Details Of Works:-

Group No.	Name of work	पूर्व से निर्धारित Time of completion of work (in months) Including monsoon period.	संशोधित Time of completion of work (in months) Including monsoon period.
1	Construction of RCC Drain & Paver-Block (Both Side) in Main Service Road from Motihari (NH-527D) Bariyarpur to Hawaai adda chowk and divider work in road from Balua flyover to Town thana via Sadar Hospital & town thana (petrol pump) to gayatri mandir under Road Division, Motihari for the year 2025-26	12 Months	9 Months
2	Construction of RCC Drain from Turkauliya school chowk to Bairyia Bazar in Motihari-Turkauliya-Govindganj road SH-54 under Turkauliya block of under Road Division, Motihari for the year 2025-26	6 Months	6 Months
3	Widening & Strengthening of Madhopur-Bahurupiya from Dubauliya Chowk (NH-727) of Majhailiya Block to Sugaulia Railway Station from km. 0.00 to km 7.00 under Road Division, Motihari for the year 2025-26	12 Months	12 Months
4	Widening & Strengthening of Chatauni Thana (NH-527D) to Arya Samaj Mandir Chowk road under Road Division, Motihari for the year 2025-26	12 Months	6 Months
5	Widening & Strengthening of Chatauni (NH-527D) to Rowing Club road km. 0.00 to 0.400 km under Road Division, Motihari for the year 2025-26	12 Months	6 Months

अन्य शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहें।  
**PR- 009629 ( R C D ) 2025-26**  
**कार्यपालक अभियंता**  
**पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, मोतिहारी।**

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**Open E-Tender Notice**  
e-tender Notice No. 21 of 2025-26 (Open)-Engg/DDU  
On line (through e-tendering) for the following works are invited by DR/Engg/DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings:-  
**Tender No.11-DDU-SR-DEN-II-25-26,**  
(i) Name of work with its location : Provision of over run line at DN 1st loop and 2nd loop at Sonargarh station and Bagohi kusa - Increasing of UP Long haul loop line at least up to 1400 Mtr. for accommodating long haul trains., (ii) **Advertised Value :** 18749890.60, (iii) **Earnest Money:** 2,43,800.00,  
**Tender No.15-DDU-SR-DEN-II-25-26,**  
(i) Name of work with its location : Replacement of 01 nos. steel water tank with RCC Tank (Gaya 01 nos.) of Capacity 50000 Gallon each in DDU Division., (ii) **Advertised Value :** 1,12,27,180.04, (iii) **Earnest Money :** 2,06,100.00,  
● Closing Date & time for submission of e-tender : 04.08.2025, Up-to 12:00 hrs.,  
● Website particulars of e-tendering : [www.iireps.gov.in](http://www.iireps.gov.in)  
For Divisional Railway Manager East Central Railway, DDU  
**PR/0669/DDU/ENGG/T/25-26/44**

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE**  
E-Tender notice no.: 24-25-13-HRT-ABS-LHB-3, Date: 23.07.2025  
For and on behalf of President of India, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut invites open e-tender for the following works as detailed:-  
**1. Name of work with its location:** "Connection, Disconnection and associated activities of LHB Air Brake system pipe lines & fittings" at CRW/HRT, 2. **Approx. cost of the work:** Rs. 2,02,57,140.64 (Rupees Two Crore Two Lakh Fifty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Forty and Sixty-Four Paise only).  
**3. Cost of Tender Form:** Nil. 4. **Earnest Money to be deposited:** Rs. 2,51,300.00 (Rupees Two Lakhs Fifty One Thousand Three Hundred only).  
**5. Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of Tender:** The tender have to be submitted online on <https://www.iireps.gov.in> website up to 12:00 hrs. on 13.08.2025 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 hrs. 6. **Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc:** Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website: <https://www.iireps.gov.in> & full details of notice can be seen on notice board in the office of Chief Workshop Manager, Administrative Building, Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut, Nalanda, Bihar-803110. All corrigendum will be uploaded on website if required.  
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer-I Carriage Repair Workshop/Harnaut  
**PR/0651/CRW-HRT/MECH/T/25-26/48**

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-AUCTION NOTICE**  
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, E.C. Railway, Samastipur for and on behalf of the president of India invites open e-auction only through IREPS (Indian Railway Web Portal) for awarding of Parcel lease contract for a period of Two (02) years from the date of commencement.  
**S. No. 01, Train No.:** 11062 (Jaynagar-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus), **S. No. 02, Train No.:** 15279 (Saharsa-Anand Vihar Terminal), **S. No. 03, Train No.:** 15267 (Raxaul-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus), **S. No. 04, Train No.:** 14005 (Sitamarhi-Anand Vihar Terminal), **S. No. 05, Train No.:** 14673 (Jaynagar-Amtsar), **SL No. 1 to 5 SLR:** F1, S. No. 06, Train No.: 15559 (Darbhanga-Ahmedabad), **SLR:** F2, All Trains No. Period: 2 Years from the date of commencement.  
**Instruction to Tenderers: 01. Availability of e-auction document :** E-Auction document is available on the web site of Indian Railway Electronic Procurement System (IREPS). **02. Date and Time fixed for bidding of e-auction:** 01.08.2025, 14:00 hrs., **03. Details of Website where e-auction is to be submitted:** Tenders are to be submitted online only through IREPS. For details please visit website [www.iireps.gov.in](http://www.iireps.gov.in). No Manual tender will be accepted.  
**Divisional Railway Manager (C)/SPJ**  
**PR/0658/SPJ/COMML/EAN/25-26/44**

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-Auction Notice**  
On behalf of president of India, DRM (Commercial), E.C Railway, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay invites e-auction for allotment of under mentioned Catering Stall, Water Vending Machines & Multi Purpose Stalls for 05 years. Detail is as under:-  
(1) **Name of work with its location and completion period :** AA/1 - Catering Stall No. 08 on PF No. 3/4 at Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya station., **E-Auction Lot No.:** Catg-DDU-DDU-SMU-89-24-1, **Date & Time for E-Auction :** E-auction will start at 10.00 hrs and close at 10.30 hrs on 08.08.2025.  
**BA/1 - Water Vending Machine No. 01** on PF No. 1/2 at Bhabhua Road station., **E-Auction Lot No.:** MSS-DDU-BBU-WVM-3-24-1, **Date & Time for E-Auction :** E-auction will start at 10.00 hrs. and close at 10.50 hrs. on 08.08.2025.  
**CA/1 - Multi-Purpose Stall No. 03** on PF No. 5/6 at Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya station., **E-Auction Lot No.:** MPS-DDU-DDU-MPS-16-25-1, **Date & Time for E-Auction :** E-auction will start at 10.00 hrs. and close at 11.00 hrs. on 08.08.2025.  
**CA/2 - Multi-Purpose Stall No. 01** on PF No. 1 at Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya station., **E-Auction Lot No.:** MPS-DDU-DDU-MPS-1-24-1, **Date & Time for E-Auction :** E-auction will start at 10.00 hrs. and close at 11.10 hrs. on 08.08.2025.  
**E-Auction Catalogue No.:** CATG-DDU-MIX-2, (2) Website particular where complete details of E-Auction available : [www.iireps.gov.in](http://www.iireps.gov.in)  
for Divisional Railway Manager (C), ECR, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Division  
**PR/0672/DDU/COMML/EAN/25-26/56**



# 19 BIG PICTURE

## KNOW YOUR SALT



### TABLE/ COMMON SALT

The most commonly used cooking salt. In India, common salt is made by evaporating sea water in shallow pond-like structures. The resulting salt crystals are then harvested and processed, including fortification with iodine, before being packaged and sold in the market



### ROCK SALT

Popularly known as *sendha namak* and consumed largely during fasting seasons, this salt is harvested by mining salt rock deposits in the mountains. The salt rocks, after being cleaned to remove impurities, are broken into smaller granules, before being packaged and distributed



### HIMALAYAN PINK SALT

Like *sendha namak* it is mined from salt deposits on rocks, primarily in Pakistan's Khewra salt range — the world's second largest salt mine. However, following a ban on imports from Pakistan India is looking at other markets such as the UAE, Iran and Malaysia



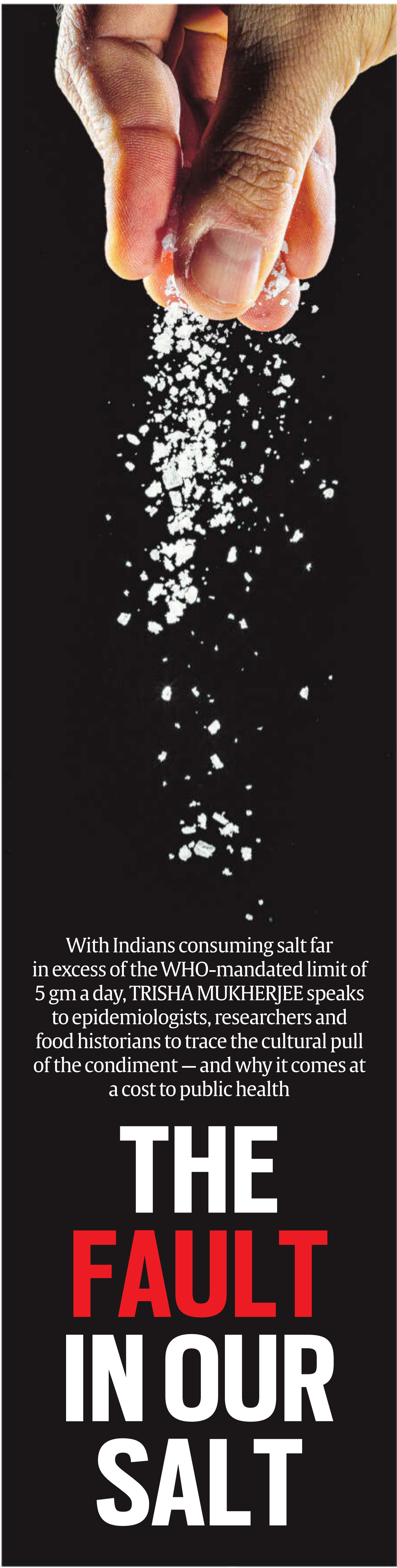
### BLACK SALT

Also a form of rock salt, it is made by mixing the mined rock salt with a blend of spices and herbs, including Babul bark and *triphal*. It is then heated in a kiln under high temperatures causing a chemical reaction that lends it a very distinctive smell



### LOW-SODIUM SALT

The low-sodium salts that are available in the market are essentially table salt, where a part of the sodium chloride is replaced with potassium chloride



With Indians consuming salt far in excess of the WHO-mandated limit of 5 gm a day, TRISHA MUKHERJEE speaks to epidemiologists, researchers and food historians to trace the cultural pull of the condiment — and why it comes at a cost to public health

# THE FAULT IN OUR SALT

ONE OF Hindi cinema's most iconic scenes, Kalia in *Sholay* swears by a pinch of salt — “*Sardaar, maine aapka namak khaaya hai*” — as he pledges his loyalty to Gabbar. The ubiquitous grainy white condiment failed to save his life and in the 50 years since, a shift in consumption patterns and lifestyles has seen salt slowly eating away at Indians' health.

While the permissible amount of salt consumption, as prescribed by the World Health Organisation, is 5 gm a day per person (2,000 mg of sodium or about a teaspoon of salt), several studies have pointed to how Indians consume more than double the amount, posing risks of hypertension, stroke and heart diseases.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Nutrition's (ICMR-NIN) 2024 Dietary Guidelines for Indians, existing evidence reveals a “deleterious impact of high salt intake on blood vessels and blood pressure”, which in turn can cause heart attack, stroke and/or kidney problems. High amounts of salt in the body results in water retention, which further increases the pressure on the heart to pump larger volumes of fluid, causing hypertension.

The primary culprit, experts agree, is ultra-processed food. According to the NIN's Dietary Guidelines, processed foods such as “snacks, savouries, soups, sauces, ketchup, salted butter, cheese, canned foods, papads, and salted dry fish, salted nuts/dry fruits contribute to higher intake of salt. Preserved meats/vegetables and ready-to-eat foods contain a lot of sodium”.

Prompted by the “alarming” salt consumption patterns, earlier this month, ICMR-NIE (the National Institute of Epidemiology) launched Project Namak, a three-year-long community-led programme that focuses on salt reduction in individuals with hypertension.

Sharan Murali, senior scientist at ICMR-NIE and the principal investigator of Project Namak, says, “Our research team evaluated the hypertension component of the NP-NCD (National Programme for Control and Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases) programme in 21 districts in the country and understood that 78 per cent of the individuals with hypertension who come for follow-up receive some counselling for behavioural change in the OPD. This opportunity may be used to counsel the individuals with hypertension on dietary salt reduction as an add-on along with the medications.”

Over the last two decades, there have been several such studies, including those published in the *Journal of Hypertension*, *Journal of the American Heart Association* and *Nutrients*, among others, that point to high salt intake among Indians.

According to India Salt Market Report and Forecast 2025-2034 by Claight Corporation published this year, the India salt market reached around USD 2.32 billion in 2024. The market is projected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 6.20% between 2025 and 2034, reaching almost USD 4.23 billion by 2034.

With experts also warning against too little salt — Dr Vivekanand Jha of the George Institute of Global Health says “physiologically, at least 500 mg of sodium is compatible with good health” — how does one strike a balance with something as ubiquitous as salt?

### The search for salt

Historians say that the earliest evidence of salt production in India can be traced to the Indus Valley Civilization, although consumption would date even further back, “particularly 11,000 years ago or a little later when they realised that they need to add salt to their diet,” notes Kurush Dalal, archaeolo-

gist and culinary anthropologist.

“Salt is indispensable to all mammals. As a rule, hunter gatherers used to get all the salt they needed from the food they ate. They didn't need to add anything at all. It's only when we became farmers that we started adding salt,” he says.

“On every continent”, notes Mark Kurlansky in his book *Salt: A World History*, “once human beings began cultivating crops, they began to look for salt to add to their diet. How they learned of this need is a mystery... however, most people choose to eat far more salt than they need, and perhaps this urge — the simple fact that we like the taste of salt — is a natural defense.”

With that, salt became one of the most valuable commodities of trade. Kurlansky notes, “Where people ate a diet consisting largely of grains and vegetables, supplemented by the meat of slaughtered domestic farm animals, procuring salt became a necessity of life, giving it great

symbolic importance and economic value. Salt was one of the first international commodities of trade; its production was one of the first industries and, inevitably, the first state monopoly.”

In India, salt holds a deeply symbolic value given how Mahatma Gandhi shook an empire with a fistful of salt with his Salt Satyagraha.

While the origins of salt consumption are global, Indians took to salt more organically.

In the absence of any recorded evidence, Subba Rao M Gavaravarapu, scientist and Head of Nutrition Information, Communication and Health Education at NIN, cites “traditional knowledge” to explain Indians' tendency to consume higher amounts of salt. “We are a tropical nation and many of our people would work outdoors and perhaps to compensate for the sodium loss through sweat, sodium was incorporated through food,” he says.

To understand the detrimental effect of this condiment, however, it is important to know that salt (NaCl, with sodium and chloride ions in a 1:1 ratio) is only as harmful as its sodium content. And that, given our shifting eating patterns, sodium comes from more than just the salt we consume.

While, as the NIN guidelines say, “a major amount of sodium does come from the visible addition of salt”, there are also innocuous ways sodium makes its way into our bloodstream. For instance, there is sodium bicarbonate or baking soda, the indispensable ingredient in bakery products. There's also monosodium glutamate or

MSG which gives food its umami or savoury flavour and is commonly present in canned food. Then there's sodium nitrite, which is commonly used by commercial meat processing units to preserve meat, and sodium benzoate, which gives acidic foods and beverages such as colas, soft drinks, pickles, salad dressings and jams and preserves their shelf life. And for those into carbonated drinks such as diet soda, there's sodium saccharin to reckon with — all of which add to our sodium intake without any real addition of salt itself or table salt as we know it.

Food critic and historian Pushpesh Pant reiterates the need for broadening the understanding of salt to manage one's sodium consumption. “In Sanskrit, the word for salt is *lavana*, which does not necessarily mean sodium chloride, which we know as table salt. It could mean potassium chloride, sodium bicarbonate. It could be anything which is alkali,” he says. *Khar*, the alkali ash that is commonly used in food in the Northeast, is sodium carbonate, he explains.

Experts broadly agree that among the easiest ways to combat this excessive supply of sodium to our bodies is to consume less table salt — and achieve a better balance of flavours.

## EXPERTS ANSWER

### 1 Should you switch to low-sodium salt and is it worth the trouble?

While the ideal way to reduce salt intake, Dr Srinath Reddy says, is to reduce common salt in your food, and consume natural sources of potassium like fruits and vegetables to maintain the sodium-potassium balance, those who are unable to bring about the behavioural change can switch to low-sodium salts. However, those with any underlying conditions, especially with kidney-related issues, must seek proper medical advice before making such a switch.

### 2 Are low-sodium salts linked to sodium and iodine deficiencies in the body?

No. On concerns of iodine deficiencies from low-sodium salt, Subba Rao M Gavaravarapu, scientist and Head of Nutrition Information, Communication and Health Education at NIN, says that all pre-packaged salt sold in India, including low-sodium salt, has the same FSSAI mandate — that it “should be necessarily iodised”.

On whether low-sodium salt would lead to sodium deficiency in the body, Dr Ashok Seth, Chairman, Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, notes that the human body maintains normal sodium levels. “Sodium levels go down only due to hormonal and kidney disease processes, dehydration, diarrhoea and vomiting, and some drugs, in which case doctors would recommend patients to consume more salt.”

## EXPERTS ANSWER

### 3 With a variety of salts — from rock salt to Himalayan pink salt — available in the market, is any one better than the other?

“The concerning ingredient in any salt is sodium. There is no real difference in sodium levels between the table salt that we use and other salts — Himalayan pink salt, black salt, rock salt etc. They have sodium in almost the same levels: 96-97 per cent. And if somebody says that the latter is better for health because it has minerals, and has been sourced from the Himalayas, please understand that you are not consuming salt for iron or zinc (even if it may be present in minuscule amounts). These are present only as remnants of what is already there in nature. It is not a source of that particular nutrient,” says Subba Rao M Gavaravarapu of NIN.

### 4 Is there a recommended minimum amount of sodium that one must consume everyday?

“While there isn't a recommended amount, physiologically, 0.5 gm of sodium, which roughly translates to 1.25 gm of salt everyday, is compatible with good health,” says Dr Vivekananda Jha, Executive Director at The George Institute for Global Health, India.

In his seminal 1998 work, *A Historical Dictionary of Indian Food*, the late food historian K T Achaya notes that there are six ‘pure’ tastes: *madhura* (sweet), *aml*a (sour), *lavana* (salty), *katu* (pungent), *tikta* (bitter) and *kasaya* (astringent). “Every meal was expected to include all the six tastes, and in the order just listed, according to Sushruta (ancient Indian physician and doctor),” the book says.

Traditionally, the use of salt in cooking has been in tandem with the other five tastes, Pant explains, while saying that different regional cuisines in India have their own equation with salt. “If you are a coastal person, most of your salt would come from sea water fish. The pungency of mustard oil, which is used generously in Bengali cuisine, ensures a limited requirement of salt... Now, if you are a Marathi living away from the coast line, and you are eating millets, which are not very palatable on their own, you will increase the levels of salt and chillies. Or if you are having preserved foods like *papad* or *bari*, salt content is higher,” Pant says.

### Low-sodium way

Concerns of excessive salt intake and its detrimental effects on public health have prompted a host of studies and small-scale interventions to produce “low-sodium” salt. This involves replacing a part of the sodium in sodium chloride with other additives, primarily potassium. But so far, these experiments haven't achieved the required scale in India.

“The concern in salt is the sodium. To reduce sodium, other kinds of salts are added. Mostly, it is replaced with potassium but there are issues with low-sodium salts — it is expensive and its supply is short,” says NIN's Gavaravarapu.

The practice of adding potassium to packaged common salt, however, is yet to take off on a mass scale in the country given the lack of India-specific studies and with little clarity around its potential benefits or perceived risks.

Dr K Srinath Reddy, founder president of the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) who formerly headed the Department of Cardiology at AIIMS, says that following initial trials across the world, where part of the sodium in salt was replaced with either potassium or magnesium, there were concerns over whether it could “cause harm to people with reduced renal and kidney function”.

“Potassium is a bit corrosive, so we would have to

use it in concentrations that won't damage the lining of the stomach and intestines. There were also concerns over whether low-sodium salt would cause hyperkalemia (excess potassium levels in the blood) in the elderly with renal function though there were successful trials in the US that said it was safe for them. But the findings weren't accepted because the trials were small,” Reddy says, while pointing to a study conducted in China by the George Institute for Global Health.

With a “fairly large” sample size of over 20,000 participants from 600 rural villages in five provinces in the country, the China Salt Substitute and Stroke Study (SSaSS), published in 2023 and conducted over five years, found that “replacing salt with a reduced-sodium added-potassium ‘salt substitute’ significantly lowers the risk of stroke, heart disease, and death”.

The institute has submitted a funding request to ICMR to conduct a similar study in India, said Dr Vivekananda Jha, Executive Director at The George Institute for Global Health, India.

“The study in China proves the point that lower than usual levels of dietary sodium can be tolerated without ill-effects, and a certain amount of potassium is required to balance the sodium. But whether that's going to become public policy in India, whether people are going to accept the altered tastes, we will have to see,” says Dr Reddy, emphasising that “ideally”, potassium, which negates the effects of sodium, should be consumed in the form

of fruits and vegetables rich in the mineral.

“One can consume bananas and coconut water. But everybody may not be able to take all of it all through the year. So introducing a salt substitute like in the China trial is something we should maybe consider... Do some pilots to see what the response is, what the safety is, and what the popular acceptance is,” he adds.

The last time a population-level health intervention in salt was carried out was in 1962, when common salt was fortified with iodine under the National Goitre Control Programme. Presently, all packaged salt sold in India, from common salt to rock salt, is iodised.

NIN's Gavaravarapu flags another, largely behavioural, concern regarding low-sodium substitutes not being “salty enough”. “People think that because it is low-sodium, they can have more of it. Ideally, you should use it even less than usual so that the benefit of replacing it with potassium is passed on,” he says.

### The writing on the package

While we wait for more research and consensus on reducing the sodium component in common salt, experts advocate the need to create awareness among consumers.

Dr Reddy and NIN's Gavaravarapu reveal that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), a statutory body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is looking at the feasibility of ‘front of the package labeling’ that would explicitly warn customers of high levels of sugar, salt and trans fat, among others.

“If a package notes that it has so many grams per cent of fat or carbohydrate or trans fats, unless I have studied nutrition, I wouldn't understand any of it. That's why you require warning labels that communicate clearly and help people recognise there's a problem with the salt or sugar in the product,” says Dr Reddy.

The UK and Ireland, for instance, follow a ‘traffic light packaging’ model, where red, amber and green colours are used to indicate the levels of fat, saturated fat, sugar, and salt in food products.

Public health scientist and epidemiologist Dr Monika Arora says the country needs a behavioural change in terms of salt consumption. “Salt can be reduced in the food served in schools, hospitals and government canteens, which are regulated places. The tongue and

palate get adjusted to a gradual reduction. Midday meal is an excellent way of going about it. Another way is to tax high-salt products, making it an incentive for the industry to start reformulating their products,” she says.

Celebrity chef and entrepreneur Sanjeev Kapoor says he realised the dangers of excess salt much before it became a talking point. “When I dived deeper into healthier food options, I realised that it is not only sugar that is the culprit, but also salt,” he says.

He also joined hands with the government to raise awareness about healthy food habits through FSSAI's ‘Eat Right Movement’ that focussed on “reduction of high fat, sugar and salt foods in the diet”.

“We have to understand that taste is something that you get used to. Your palate gets trained. Salt is a flavour enhancer. If there is low salt in a dish, other flavours may also seem muted. But it also hides flavours. Which means if you add too much salt in a dish, the top note is of salt and you never experience the real flavour of other ingredients. If you want to use less salt, you can start by enhancing the flavour with other ingredients. Lemon works really well as do herbs like mint, coriander, basil and tulsi,” he says.

While cutting down on salt may seem like hard work, Kapoor's new catchphrase may hold the key — around 20 years ago, while he started with ‘*Namak Swad Anusar*’ (salt as per taste), he now swears by ‘*Namak Sehat Anusar*’ (salt as per health).



# Three times the price of other oils: Why coconut oil is on fire

HARISH DAMODARAN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

INDIA'S ANNUAL retail food inflation rate fell to minus 1.06% in June, the lowest since January 2019. But consumers continue to feel the pinch from high prices on some items.

Among them is vegetable oils, where the year-on-year price increase reached 17.75% in June, according to the National Statistics Office.

The all-India average modal (most quoted) retail price of palm oil is currently Rs 132 per kg, compared with Rs 95 a year ago, data from the Department of Consumer Affairs show. The prices of soyabean, sunflower, and mustard oils have risen from Rs 120 to Rs 154, Rs 115 to Rs 159, and Rs 150 to Rs 176 respectively over the same period. However, the increase in prices of these oils is nothing compared to what coconut oil has seen.

Since the beginning of this year, the wholesale price of coconut oil at Kerala's Kochi mar-

ket has zoomed from Rs 22,500 per quintal to Rs 39,000 per quintal. At the retail level, the oil is selling for around Rs 460 per kg, close to double its early-January price of Rs 240-250.

This makes coconut oil more expensive now than even sesame (or gingelly) oil, a traditionally premium oil that is retailing for about Rs 425 per kg.

"Not only are coconut oil prices at all-time highs, I haven't in my 50 years of trading seen these go up so much in such a short time," Thalath Mahmood, president of the Cochin Oil Merchants' Association (COMA), said.

## Global factors

Tom Jose, chairman of the Irinjalakuda (Kerala)-based KSE Limited, India's largest solvent-extracted coconut oil producer, attributes the unprecedented price rise mainly to output in the Philippines and Indonesia falling due to El Niño-induced drought.

These two countries are the world's top producers-cum-exporters of the oil that is extracted from the dried white flesh or ker-

TABLE 1			
COCONUT OIL PRODUCTION IN TOP 3 COUNTRIES			
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Philippines	18.50 (14.90)	16.30 (11.30)	16.65 (11.30)
Indonesia	10.30 (7.06)	9.90 (6.50)	10.00 (6.80)
India	5.70 (0.19)	5.70 (0.15)	5.73 (0.15)

*Numbers in lakh tonnes; figures in brackets are exports; data are for marketing year (October-September). Source: US Department of Agriculture*

TABLE 2	
INDIA'S EDIBLE OIL CONSUMPTION IN 2023-24	
Palm oil	97.54
Soyabean oil	52.8
Mustard oil	37.81
Sunflower oil	35.85
Rice bran oil	11
Cottonseed oil	9.42
Groundnut oil	6.98
Coconut oil	3.9
TOTAL*	58.66

*Numbers in lakh tonnes; \*includes sesame, safflower & other minor oils. Source: The Solvent Extractors' Association of India*

nels of coconuts (Table 1).

The El Niño event, which lasted from July 2023 to June 2024, affected the growth of coconut flowers and fruit development during the 2024-25 marketing year that began in

October. The impact is being felt now, as it takes roughly a year for a single coconut to go from flowering on the tree to a fully mature fruit that is ready for harvesting.

"The weather disturbances, on top of ag-

ing coconut plantations in the two countries, have led to global supply tightness, and to buyers scrambling to stock up," Jose said. Production in India, which is an insignificant exporter, has been flat, if not down.

No immediate supply response to high prices is expected because coconut trees — even the improved dwarf and hybrid palm varieties — start bearing fruit only in 3-5 years.

The price sentiment has been further boosted by reports of the Indonesian government planning restrictions on the export of raw whole coconuts, amid concerns over the shortage of the fruit for local processors.

Meanwhile, the government of the Philippines has introduced a 3% mandatory blending of coconut oil-based CME (coco-methyl ester) in diesel sold in the country from October 2024. The blend could go up to 4% from October 2025 and to 5% from October 2026, which would reduce the exportable surplus of coconut oil further.

## A marginalised oil

Of the 5.7 lakh tonnes (lt) of coconut oil produced in India, only about 3.9 lt is used

for food (cooking and frying). The rest goes into the manufacture of hair oil, cosmetics, soaps, and in other industrial applications.

Like other indigenous cooking oils (mustard, sesame, groundnut), coconut oil has lost market share to the predominantly imported oils — palm, soyabean, and sunflower.

The three imported oils accounted for about 72% of the almost 260 lt total domestic edible oil consumption during the year ended October 2024. The only indigenous oil that has held out is mustard; coconut is low down the list (Table 2).

Even in Kerala — the state that is named after Kera or the coconut tree — the annual consumption of coconut oil is just 2 lt, estimates Mahmood. That is half the consumption of palm oil (4 lt) and more than sunflower oil (1.5 lt). From being the top producer of coconut, Kerala has now slipped to third place, behind Tamil Nadu and the No.1 producer, Karnataka.

On the whole, the record high prices of coconut oil may not hurt that much, given the extent of its marginalisation. If anything, it may accelerate the shift to other oils, particularly imported oils.

## EXPLAINED SCIENCE

# #ARSENICLIFE: STORY OF A VIRAL STUDY & A CONTENTIOUS RETRACTION

FIFTEEN YEARS ago, a group of scientists made the bold claim of having discovered a microorganism that could survive using chemistry different from any known life-form. On Thursday, the journal *Science*, where these findings were reported, formally retracted the 2010 paper, saying it was fundamentally flawed.

While there is broad scientific consensus against the study's findings, the retraction nonetheless is contentious, and potentially opens a Pandora's box for academic publishing.

## Why study went viral

Living beings typically rely on a number of common elements, including carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and sulfur, to build biomolecules such as DNA, proteins and lipids.

In 2009, researchers collected a microbe from Mono Lake, a salty and alkaline body of water in California. In the lab, they claimed to have found that this microbe could replace phosphorus with arsenic, an element that is typically toxic. Phosphorus is essential to the structure of DNA and RNA and to the function of the energy-transporter molecule ATP.

If confirmed, the discovery would change scientists' fundamental conceptions about life on Earth, and possibly beyond. Naturally, the study received a lot of attention, and travelled well beyond the typical terrain of academic conferences and scientific journals.

Many scientists around the world expressed serious concerns with the study's methodology and conclusions. Most notably, the discovery was picked up by the Internet. On the then nascent Twitter, it trended with the hashtag #arseniclife. The study's authors also faced extreme scrutiny into their personal lives.

## Why retraction is contentious

Science has not accused the paper's authors of misconduct or fraud, and in-

stead cited its latest standards for retractions, which allow it to take down a study based on "errors" by the researchers. The decision was made after *The New York Times* last year reached out to *Science* for a comment on about the legacy of the #arseniclife affair.

That inquiry "convinced us that this saga wasn't over, that unless we wanted to keep talking about it forever, we probably ought to do some things to try to wind it down," Holden Thorp, editor-in-chief of *Science* since 2019, told *The NYT*. "And so that's when I started talking to the authors about retracting."

But the paper's authors disagree with the decision. Their defenders, including officials at NASA, which helped fund the original research, say the move is outside the norms of what usually leads to the striking down of a published paper.

Ariel Anbar, a geochemist at Arizona State University and one of the paper's authors, has said that the data itself is not flawed, and if disputes about "data interpretation" were acceptable standards for retraction, "you'd have to retract half the literature".

As justification for the retraction, the *Science* statement cites the technical objections published alongside the paper, and failed replications of the findings in 2012. But the original paper's authors have responded to the objections and criticised replication experiments. Anbar has accused *Science* of not providing any "reasonable explanation" for the retraction.

Ivan Oransky, a specialist in academic publishing, told *Nature* that this retraction raises an interesting question. There are plenty of debunked papers in the literature that could be retracted, he says. Will other publishers get on board with trying to clean up the scientific record? And if so, "where do you start?"

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
INPUTS FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES



AMITABH SINHA

THE WORLD added about 582 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity in 2024, representing an increase of 15% over the previous year, according to a new report by the International Renewable Energy Association (IRENA). This was the largest annual increase in renewable energy capacity in any single year.

Currently, the installed capacity of renewable energy across the globe stands at more than 4,442 GW, and around 30% of the world's electricity is produced from renewable sources.

The new report by IRENA, which was released on July 10, also said that at the current rate of growth, the world would come close to achieving its target of tripling renewable energy installed capacity by 2030. This target is considered crucial for limiting global warming, and was part of the agreement made at the COP28 meeting in Dubai in 2023.

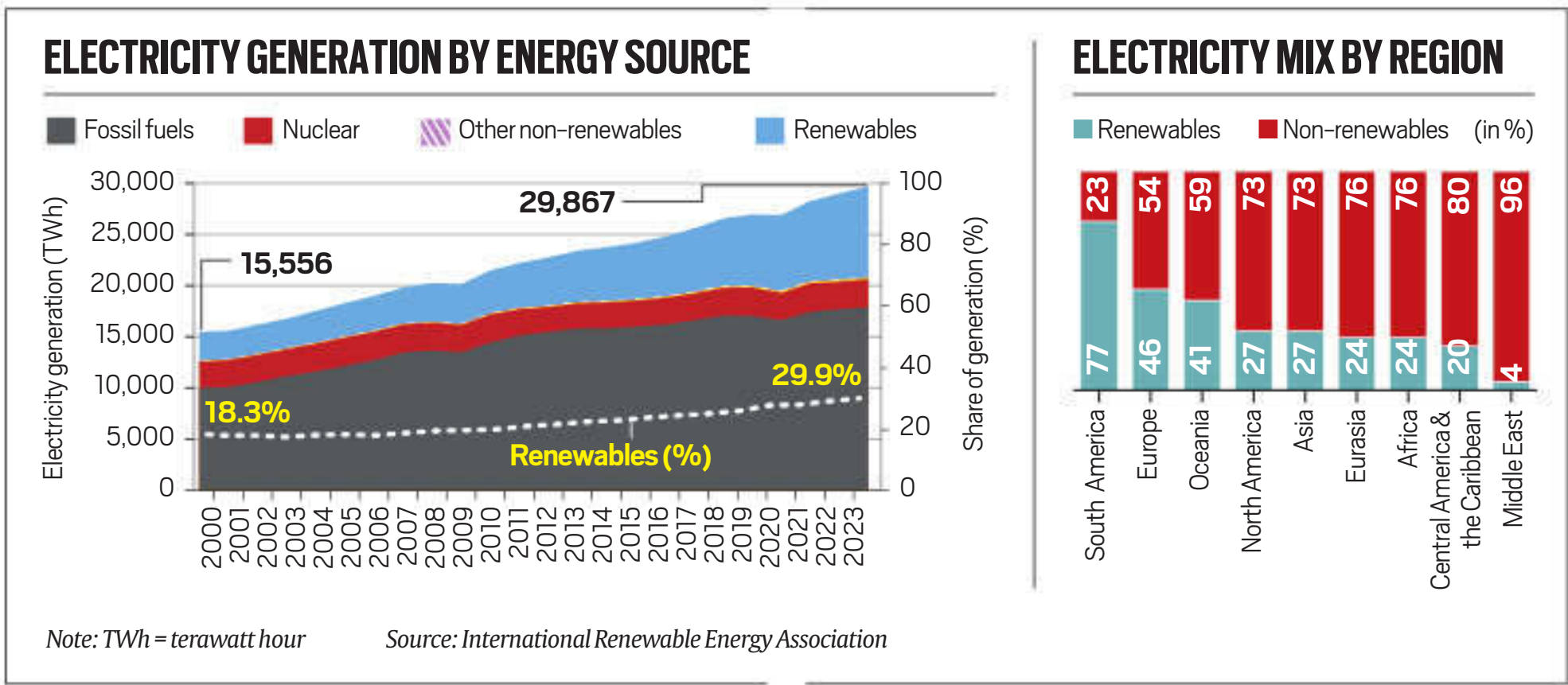
The rapid growth of renewable energy might give the impression that the world has made good progress on meeting its climate objectives. However, renewable energy has not even begun to replace fossil fuels at the global level.

As of now, it is catering mainly to the rising electricity demand, which has increased three times since 1990 and is projected to grow even higher.

## Unabated use of fossil fuels across the world

While only around 10% of new electricity generation in 2024 was fossil fuel-based, the use of fossil fuels, in absolute terms, is still growing, according to the IRENA report.

Between 2012 and 2023, global electricity generation grew by 2.5% every year on average, and renewable energy expanded at a rate of about 6% during the same time. This has led to a steady rise in the share of renewables in the electricity generation mix. However, fos-



sil fuels currently account for more than 70% of global electricity production.

In absolute terms, more fossil fuels are being burnt today than 10 years ago to produce electricity. To make matters worse, the increase in use of fossil fuels is expected to continue for at least a few more years. As a result, greenhouse gas emissions have reached record highs in recent years.

Moreover, electricity is still only a small slice of total energy use. Just 20% to 22% of the total energy consumed in the world every year is in the form of electricity. Only 30% of electricity generation comes from renewable sources. This means that about 6% of the world's energy consumption comes from clean sources. More than 90% still comes from fossil sources.

Note that there are some countries, mainly in the Nordic region, where renewables account for a significantly higher share of total energy consumption. However, the special conditions existing in these countries are difficult to replicate elsewhere. According to projections, by 2050, even in the case scenarios, not more than 40% to 45% of the world's total energy consumption would come from clean sources.

This means that energy transition, which involves moving away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy, on its own, is unlikely to help tackle the climate crisis. That is why carbon removal interventions, which are yet to become viable, assume great importance in the fight against global warming.

## Regional imbalance in growth of renewables

There are other concerns with the manner in which the global energy transition is currently taking shape. So far, the bulk of renewable energy deployment has taken place in a handful of countries, while the others have been left behind.

The IRENA report pointed out that while renewable capacity increased by 15% globally in 2024, in Africa it grew by just 7%, and that too from a very low base. Africa is where the largest number of people without access live.

The IRENA report said 71% of the renewable capacity addition last year took place in Asia. This is slightly misleading as China alone accounted for more than 62% of global additions — that is, 364 GW of the 582 GW installed globally. The whole of Africa together got less than 1%.

For the last few years, China has been consistently installing more renewable energy than the rest of the world combined. Apart from developed countries, China, and some large players such as India, the renewable energy footprint has not grown at a fast pace.

It is true that these are the countries that also happen to be the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases. Effective energy transition here would be more consequential from the climate change perspective than in, for example, Africa.

However, this kind of lopsided deployment of renewable energy, coupled with the fact that China has a near monopoly on the

production and supply chains of most of the renewable systems, could leave many countries and regions behind once again.

Renewable energy, such as solar and wind, might be available universally — unlike, say, petrol that is found in only limited geographies — but the technologies needed to harness this energy are getting increasingly inaccessible.

China dominates the production and manufacturing of solar PV systems, for example, but also consumes more than half of it. Large buyers such as the United States and India corner most of what is exported. There is little supply for others.

Also, manufacturing outside of China, which could have filled the gap, is struggling. This is because other countries are not able to compete with China's economies of scale, low labour costs, or state subsidies.

China's control over the renewable energy system has begun to appear similar to the OPEC countries' hold over global oil supplies. Energy security has emerged as one of the foremost concerns of countries, pushing many of them to secure whatever option is available to them, irrespective of whether it is clean or not.

The transition to clean and renewable energy systems is not as simple as it is sometimes made out to be. There are several layers of complexities which make the goal of curbing global temperatures below 2 degrees Celsius look increasingly unrealistic to achieve.

# Why minimum standards for handling diagnostic samples are important

SOHINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE UNION Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) last week assured the Delhi High Court that it will soon notify minimum clinical standards for collection, handling, and transport of diagnostic samples.

The MoHFW said that subject experts held "detailed internal deliberations for formulating minimum standards" following which the draft minimum standards were finalised. The policy is currently being vetted by the legislative department of the Ministry of Law & Justice, the MoHFW told the court.

## Why this matters

Existing Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) guidelines on collection and handling of clinical samples are rudimentary and piecemeal.

For instance, the Pune-based ICMR-National Institute of Virology (NIV) has specific "Guidelines for collection, packaging

and transport of specimens for testing for high risk viral pathogens", which include guidelines for handling samples containing Covid-19 virus. These guidelines, however, are not comprehensive: they only relate to handling of specific "high risk" viruses.

These are also not uniformly enforced owing to gaps in the law governing labs and sample collection centres, as well as its enforcement. Medical professionals have long been calling for reform; the MoHFW's soon-to-be-notified policy seeks to answer this call.

## Current loopholes

Beyond lack of comprehensive clinical guidelines, experts have pointed to a couple of significant loopholes vis-à-vis the medical testing ecosystem.

■ First is the continued existence of standalone collection centres.

In 2018, the Centre had notified that sample collection centres should be part of the main laboratories, and that the parent laboratories should be held accountable for their compliance of norms. But in the ab-

sence of clear-cut standards, standalone collection centres continue to be registered in various states, posing a fundamental problem when it comes to ensuring compliance with clinical standards.

In November 2020, the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) had flagged that "there are mismatches in the declaration (of samples) made by (accredited) lab to NABL and the actual collection centres/facilities/sources of collection which are available on their websites or other documents".

At the time, it advised labs to declare all sample collection centres within 30 days, and cautioned that "any sample collection not under the responsibility of the lab and not covered under its (quality) management system is non-compliant with the accreditation norms and liable to action by NABL." The MoHFW's new policy will likely address this issue.

■ Experts have also called for revisiting

current laws guiding "who" can collect samples and issue reports. In 2019, pathologist Dr Rohit Jain moved the Delhi High Court, challenging the Clinical Establishments (Central Government) Amendment Rules 2018, specifically on minimum requirements for signatory authorities in diagnostic laboratories.

He sought implementation of a 2017 order of the Supreme Court, which said that a lab report should be counter-signed only by a registered medical practitioner with a post graduate qualification in pathology. At the time, he also sought guidelines on minimum standards for medical diagnostic labs with regard to sample collection centres, sample transport, electronic signatures on pathological reports by authorised signatories, number of pathology labs a pathologist can visit in a day and on daily internal quality control.

But the Centre's Clinical Establishment (Central Government) Amendment Rules 2020 did not address the issue, allowing

"unqualified and unregistered non-medical persons viz MSc/PhD were authorised to issue pathology reports without the signature/counter signature of a pathologist," according to Jain.

## One man's fight

Jain challenged these amended rules, and in August 2021, also moved court highlighting an RT-PCR testing "scam" during the Kumbh Mela in Haridwar that year where one lakh fake tests were reportedly conducted on devotees by unqualified intermediaries.

"The accused diagnostic labs in Delhi and Haryana were able to collect samples and conduct a huge number of tests where they have no sample collection centres at Uttarakhnad. It is clear that a scam of such enormity has only been possible because of the lack of essential minimum standards on the issue of sample collection/sample collection centres and sample transport policy," Jain had argued in his submission.

In 2023, the Delhi High Court directed

the Centre to consider Jain's plea as a representation and decide a solution in three months. In May 2023, the government held a meeting under the chairmanship of the Additional Director-General of Health Services, New Delhi, where Jain too was invited to make his representation.

After the meeting, the government decided to constitute four sub-committees of experts — pathology, biochemistry, hematology and microbiology — to define standards of procedure (SOPs) for sample collection, collection centres and sample transport policy.

When these guidelines were not notified even a year later, Jain in May 2024 moved the Delhi High Court again, accusing the government of wilful disobedience of the court's order. It is in this matter that the MoHFW has now assured the court that a policy will be notified at the earliest.

Taking the ministry's submission on record, the court instructed that the standards be notified expeditiously, with a direction that the process "may be accomplished within the next three months".





# REVIEWS

CINEMA & MUSIC



## Dull and Forgettable

**SARZAMEEN**  
★ ★

**Director:** Kayoze Irani  
**Cast:** Prithviraj Sukumaran, Kajol, Ibrahim Ali Khan, Mihir Ahuja, KC Shankar, Jitendra Joshi, Boman Irani  
**Streaming on:** JioHotstar

**SHUBHRA GUPTA**

THERE ARE three people, bound by blood, at cross-purposes in *Sarzameen*. An armyman whose love for his country knows no bounds. His son whose weakness is hard for the strict dad to handle. And his (the armyman's) wife, whose love is divided. Who will win? The father or the son? In either event, will the wife win or the mother?

*Sarzameen* is yet another addition to the line of recent films which wears patriotism on its sleeve. This Karan Johar production tries to add an emotional wallop, giving us the enemy without and a conflict within, and that layer should have helped this film become more than the run-of-the-mill productions we're being besieged with these days.

Colonel Vijay Menon (Prithviraj Sukumaran), brought up on tough love from his own father, pays it forward to Harman (Ibrahim Ali Khan), leading Meher (Kajol) to constantly mediate

**Unpacking this puzzle properly could have led to some depth. But weak writing and execution render it frustratingly flat**

between the two. The boy's kidnapping, staying missing, and returning after a long gap, now a strapping young man, raises questions: is he who he says he is, or is there something sinister going on?

Unpacking this puzzle properly could have led to some depth. But weak writing and execution render it frustratingly flat. It has no business being so. Prithviraj is capable of ratcheting emotion, as is Kajol. And Ibrahim, playing a boy cruelly bullied for an impairment who grows into a young man on the opposite side of the loyalty divide, doesn't have to do any solo lifting, unlike in his disastrous debut *Nadaamniyan*.

We get stunning snow-clad locations in Kashmir, and the mission is to keep the *sarzameen* safe but we've seen it all before: even the big reveal in the end comes off woolly. There is your kohl-eyed baddie from *sarhad ke uss paar*: KC Shankar can be impactful, but here he is turned into a stereotyped villain, helped by his bearded acolyte (Mihir Ahuja). There is your torture-in-the-cells, bazooka-toting terrorists and brave Indian soldiers, including a faithful aide-de-camp (Jitendra Joshi) milling about the mountain-side. There's a senior officer (Boman Irani) stomping about, shooting orders.

And finally, there's the father and son, locked in a face-off, and it is all very dull and forgettable.

## The Geometry of Deception

**MANDALA MURDERS**  
★ ★ ★

**Directors:** Gopi Puthran, Manan Rawat  
**Cast:** Vaani Kapoor, Vaibhav Raj Gupta, Manu Rishi, Jameel Khan, Raghubir Yadav, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Aaditi Pohankar, Akash Dahiya  
**Streaming on:** Netflix

**SHUBHRA GUPTA**

ANYTHING WHICH has *mandala* in its name will let us believe that it has to do with a spiritual-mystic-mysterious sign that symbolises the universe in ancient texts. Created and co-directed by Gopi Puthran and Manan Rawat, with writing credits shared by Puthran, Anurag Goswami, Chirag Garg, Gabe Gabriel, Matt Graham, Avinash Dwivedi, *Mandala Murders* tacks on a series of grisly murders, giving us a tale that goes back and forth in time — post-Independent India, the present day and slices in between — two cops hot on the heels of the killer and a trail of victims strewn on the streets of a town that looks like Benares but is called Charandaspur.

If that sounds like a lot, it is. The eight

**SHALINI LANGER**

AS FAR as world-destruction events go, *First Steps* is as ambitious as they come. Even more, you can say — with a creature by the name and size of 'Galactus', literally eating up planets to satisfy an unquenchable hunger. The 'Devourer', as he is also known, shall be defeated by our superheroes using all the science, chalks, blackboards, rare earth materials, robots, spacecraft, black holes, gravity, non-gravity and Archimedes at their disposal.

It may seem all too familiar if you are just coming off the latest *Superman*. The difference is, unlike the chaos of that film from two weeks ago, you can slide into this *Fantastic Four* reboot and feel safe and warm, like home.

A lot has to do with the Fantastic Four at the heart of this Marvel family, who live together and eat together, and are played by actors who play well off each other, particularly the always-splendid Kirby. As Susan Storm, who is pregnant at the start of the film and a mom not even halfway into it, her superpowers are not just the force field she can generate or the camouflage she can render as Invisible Woman, but also the fierce strength-cum-vulnerability she brings as a mother.

The Fantastic Four inhabit Earth-828, an alternative reality of the Marvel world. In terms of our world, it is the 1960s, with the look and feel retro-futuristic or how the people then imagined the future to be. The TVs remain small and round-edged; there are no other screens barring what Reed (Pascal), the scientist and leader of the group of four, conjures up for his experiments; the people are well-turned-out to a fault; and they turn up good-naturedly to cheer their heroes on.

The most liberating part is that Susan or Sue is not expected to drop everything and play mother now that she is one. Susan and Reed may have misgivings about how or — even what — their child may be, being a product of their cosmically altered DNA, but she heads out to space heavily pregnant when called for duty. No one is ringing alarm

## Neither Colourful Nor Edgy

**RANGEEN**  
★ ★

**Directors:** Kopal Naithani, Pranjal Dua  
**Cast:** Vineet Kumar Singh, Rajshri Deshpande, Taaruk Raina, Sheeba Chadha, Meghna Malik  
**Streaming on:** Prime Video

**SHUBHRA GUPTA**

ANGERED AND hurt by the accidental reveal of his wife's secret life, a husband decides to go down the path of revenge, creating a journey of self-discovery. If she can hire a gigolo, well then, he can be one.

*Rangeen*, in which Vineet Kumar Singh plays the furious cuckold and Rajshri Deshpande the wife-who-strays, may remind you of last year's *Tribhuvan Das CA*. But *Rangeen* creators and writers Amardeep Galsin and Amir Rizvi want to give us more: it's not just the husband who is given a chance to learn life lessons; the same courtships are extended to the wife.



bells about her efficiency, so to speak.

The baby angle is very gratuitous at times, right from delivery to when Galactus (Ineson) decides he wants the extremely cute and very expressive little thing for himself. Called Franklin, he is put successively in harm's way, including being left in a pram-like concoction in the middle of Times Square as bait for an inter-galactic fight.

Where Kirby manages just the right mix of emotions to pull this off, the otherwise-reliable Pascal seems out of his depth. He seems confused between his personas of a cold, rational scientist, with his brain and

stretchability getting him the moniker 'Mister Fantastic', and that of a warm, irrational father — and falls half-heartedly and surprisingly downbeat, in between.

Unlike Johnny (Quinn), the Human Torch, and Ben (Moss-Bachrach), the Thing, Reed doesn't get even that one burst of sheer exhilaration that superpowers call for. Johnny is supposed to be the joker of the pack and Quinn keeps it light and simple, even if he is not as funny as he wants to be. Moss-Bachrach manages to bring real pathos and gravitas to his Ben, which is quite an achievement given he only gets a few moments

without the orange rock that is now his being — and that is in a showreel at the beginning, through which the film conveys the Fantastic Four's back story efficiently, in spare, broad strokes.

Director Shakman, who is relatively new to these big-ticket franchises, even manages to make Julia Garner, who is little more than liquid, shimmery metal mounted on a surf board, as a living, breathing, hurting woman called Shalla-Bal.

The Fantastic Four's First Steps may not yet jump off the page, but hang on: those feet are meant for walking.



What's nice and that's truly the most special part of this nine-part series, is that Deshpande's character, Naina, refuses to apologise for her actions. She's done this not once, as she declares, but several times and she is not sorry. A woman's loneliness, in bed and out of it, is reason enough for her to seek succour outside of her marriage, and no one needs to judge her for it, '*kyunki woh kaam samaaj pehle se hi kar raha hai*', declares Sitar, the madam (Sheeba Chadha) who conducts her business discretely, giving off a sympathetic parlour-aunty vibe. That's on-the-nose dialoguing but here you make space for it,

given Adarsh's (Vineet Kumar Singh) reactions — chasing off after young Sunny (Taaruk Raina) who is caught canoodling with his wife, to give him the beating of his life.

I'm all for the web space getting courageous in matters of sexual freedoms for men and women, given that the movies are harking back in time. But watching the struggle of the self-righteous Adarsh, who makes a precarious living as an honest small-time journalist, trying to switch up his seduction game becomes really trying because *Rangeen* does major straying of its own. Sub-stories featuring jailed petty criminals, fierce-eyed women

who like hunting wild boar and hoods-trying-to-be-menacing crowd the canvas. Why? Because the games men and women play isn't enough to fill nine episodes? It's like something is about to go on the boil and then being allowed to fizzle out. It turns the central pair uninteresting, as well as the series, which ultimately becomes a case of a few lunges, not enough parries.

Good actors and tepid writing plus tonal switches is not a good match. Singh does try hard but to hear a character say '*Bond lag raha ho?*' Um, no. Rajshri Deshpande and Sheeba Chadha, both actors capable of surprising you, do nothing of the sort, which is nothing short of criminal. Taaruk Raina's likeable guy who enjoys what he does and yet wants to run away from his life, is about the only one with any verve: no 3sum, he texts, but gets into it anyway, with the help of some magic mushrooms, helpfully labelled '*kukurmutta*' in Hindi, just in case we didn't get it. A client whose thing is humiliation, brings it forward from her own marital relationship, and it takes Sitar to create an explainer for the clueless Adarsh for him to understand the whys and wherefores.

*Rangeen* attempts to up the sexual intimacy stakes and the feminist bar, while questioning masculine norms. But it's neither colourful nor edgy, both of which it is trying for. I'm still waiting for the definitive *desi* show which will engage with full-blown lust without hedging its bets with caution and surrounding it with superfluous bits and pieces.

**STREAMING WATCH LIST**

BY ALAKA SAHANI



**BLACK BAG**

JIOHOTSTAR  
DIRECTED BY Steven Soderbergh and written by David Koepp, *Black Bag* is a 2025 American spy thriller that features Cate Blanchett, Michael Fassbender, Marisa Abela, Tom Burke, Naomi Harris, Regé-Jean Page and Pierce Brosnan. In the film, British intelligence officer George Woodhouse (Fassbender) faces the ultimate test — loyalty to his marriage or his country — when he is assigned to investigate a list of suspected traitors, one of which is his wife, Kathryn (Blanchett). The film will be available for streaming from July 28.



**HAPPY GILMORE 2**

NETFLIX  
ADAM SANDLER returns to the golf green as Happy Gilmore in this sequel and he brings along a few familiar and fresh faces. Happy Gilmore, the long-driving hero who won the Tour Championship in 1996, isn't done with golf. Sandler's short-fused legend swings for a comeback to make his kid's dream come true. The film also features Julie Bowen, Ben Stiller and Christopher McDonald.



**TOXIC**

MUBI  
THE 2024 Lithuanian drama is Saulė Bliuvaite's directorial debut feature and is also written by her. Featuring newcomers Vesta Matulyte and Ieva Rupeikaite, *Toxic* tells the story of two 13-year-old girls who attend a modelling school that pushes them to their physical and emotional limits. The film premiered at the 77th Locarno Film Festival, where it won the Golden Leopard.



**HUNTER S2**

AMAZON MX PLAYER  
IN *Hunter Season 2*, the stakes skyrocket as Vikram (Suniel Shetty) receives a chilling call from his daughter, presumed dead, only to discover she's with the enigmatic Salesman (Jackie Shroff)," says its synopsis. As Vikram races against time to rescue his daughter, a high-stakes game of cat-and-mouse unfolds. The show also features Anusha Dandekar, Barkha Bisht, Anang Desai, Pramod Pathak and Mazel Vyas.

**THE PLOT**

LIONSGATE PLAY  
GANG DONG-won appears as Yeong-il, a secretive accident designer who turns contract killings into flawless accidents. When a high-stakes job involving a prominent public figure goes wrong, Yeong-il is left injured and consumed by suspicion. Unsure if he has been set up by his own team or a rival group, he begins suspecting betrayal and doubt. As the lines blur between truth and paranoia, every move becomes a potential trap.



houses and kothis in which the characters do their job. Raghubir Yadav-the-shadow worshipper's modest *kutiya* (cottage), Jameel Khan aka Jimmy's colourful homestay, Surveen Chawla's *neta* Ananya Bhardwaj's large *kothi*, Vikram's *pusthaini* (ancestral) abode from where his mother went missing

years ago and his father (Manu Rishi) holds the fort, Rhea's desk in the cop station, the narrow *gallis* leading to the ghats, and the river: this is one of the most vividly shot shows I've seen in a while.

The other is the full-blown leaning into the gruesome. It's also been a while I've seen

scenes so revolting — headless torsos, limbs sewn onto a head minus the body, for example — on constant display. And as no one is allowed to avert their eyes, those horrifying visuals take their time disappearing. This adds to the flavour of unease.

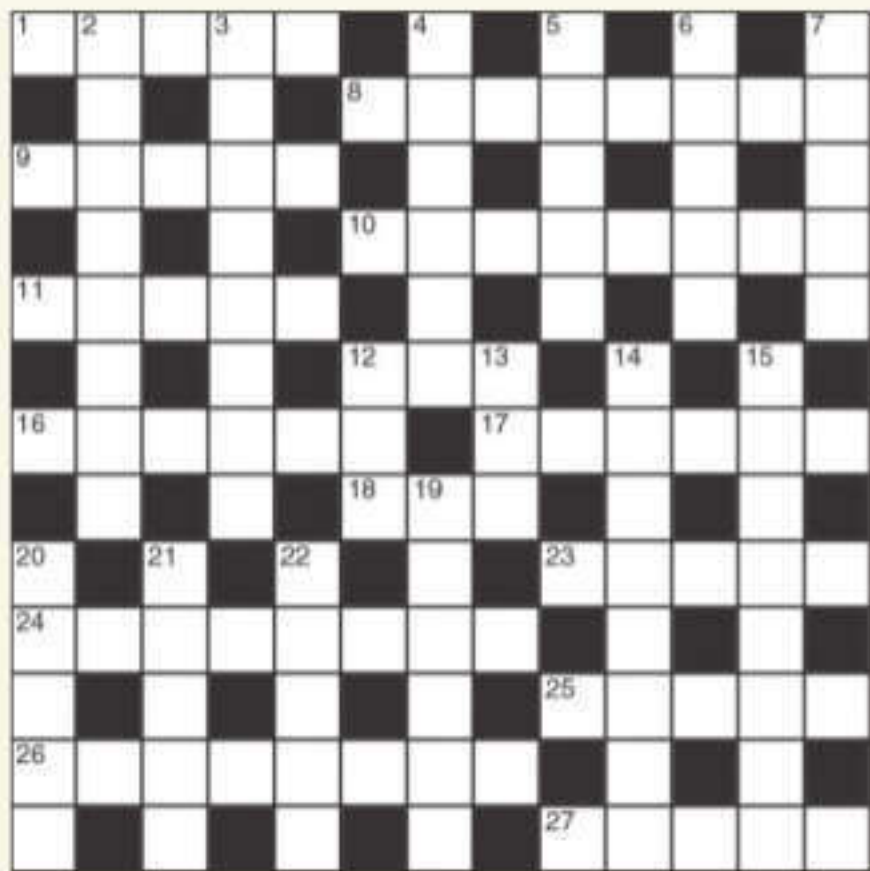
The trouble is the endless mumbo-jumbo and convoluted threads which keep cropping up. Of course, if you have *mandalas*, you expect some amount of gibberish and if you have physicists, you expect jargon. But just as you can get used to even the sickening crunch of broken body parts if repeated too often, *Mandala Murders* runs out of ideas, and then all there's left is repetitive violence, and situations which stretch credulity.

Which is why not every actor in this big ensemble cast leaves an impression. Vaani Kapoor is trying to emulate the kind of movie cop we've seen too often, sporting the severe ponytail-and-tee, toned midriff and well-tailored pants look. Surveen Chawla reminds you a bit of Huma Qureshi's character in *Maharani*, even if the former's saris are far more striking. The one who stays consistently interesting, more or less, is Vaibhav Raj Gupta, whom we have seen in *Gullak*, as the eldest son of a small-town family trying to find his purpose. Here, he makes us forget that character and slips into the skin of a policeman with a troubled past.

Buying into *mandalas* and occult and *dayans* is hard enough. It is harder still if the plot points are left loose. If there is another season, maybe keep it shorter and crisper? And go for a town with a name it can own up to. It does help in making us believe.



CROSSWORD 5738



ACROSS

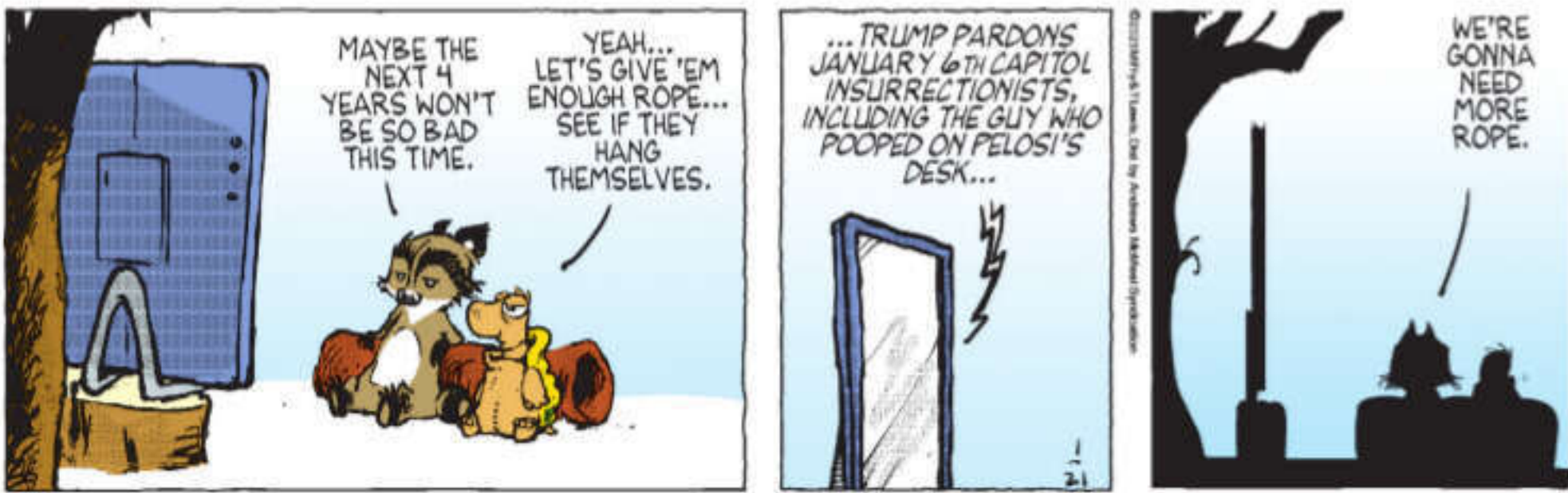
1 Traps specially designed for small fish (5)  
8 Move West from Wyoming in terrible disgrace (8)  
9 In classes children take a point to heart (5)  
10 It's inevitable for one to come round to illustrate (8)  
11 Pronounce complete (5)  
12 She comes back with no change (3)  
16 Performs a new ascent (6)  
17 Happen to get increased yield (4,2)  
18 Hurry up and listen to a salutation (3)  
23 Girl's trousers (5)  
24 Cash exchanged in pure monetary transaction (8)  
25 Cast worth putting into new production (5)  
26 Enthusiast takes charge (8)  
27 Good man on Noah's ship is unqualified (5)

DOWN

2 Indicating work on the wall is needed (8)  
3 People at play (8)  
4 A lodge refurbished in antique style (3-3)  
5 Wrote off loom (5)  
6 He's not easily persuaded to move inside a little (5)  
7 Kinds of characters in print (5)  
12 Has become the possessor of a wooden trunk (3)  
13 Champion one for cards (3)  
14 To a certain extent how meat's cooked (8)  
15 Become embittered and go off (4,4)  
19 Take cover (6)  
20 Upset a lighter (5)  
21 Go for the green (5)  
22 Possibly showed off Eastern craft (5)

Solutions Crossword 5737 Across: 1 Meal ticket, 6 Chip, 10 Copes, 11 Surrender, 12 Take note, 13 Drain, 15 Ability, 17 Tackles, 19 Regatta, 21 Inertia, 22 Ember, 24 Instruct, 27 On the wing, 28 Femur, 29 Tint, 30 Kettledrum Down: 1 Mace, 2 Appealing, 3 Taste, 4 Custody, 5 Earnest, 7 Hydra, 8 Parents' day, 9 Headache, 14 Carried out, 16 Internee, 18 Latecomer, 20 Asinine, 21 Insight, 23 Baton, 25 Rifle, 26 Anum

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson

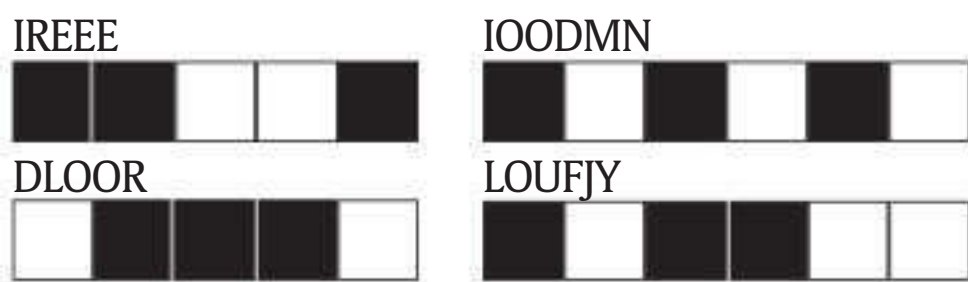


MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLLED 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.  
To \_\_\_\_\_ we have to control ourselves. - Virginia Woolf (5,7)

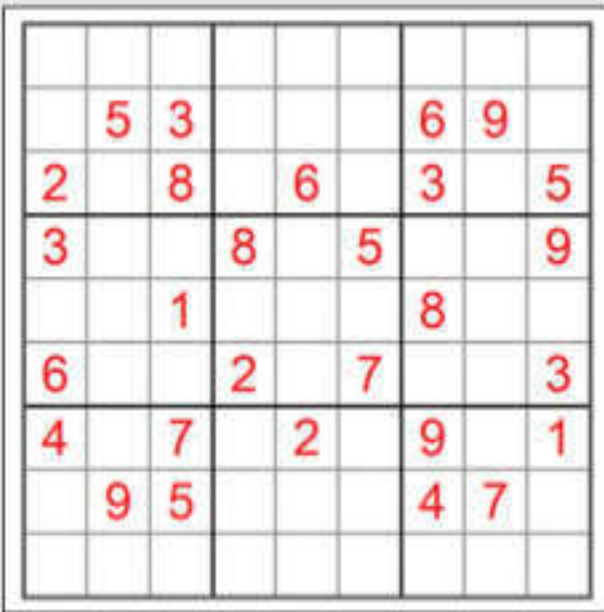


Solution: To enjoy freedom we have to control ourselves. - Virginia Woolf

SUDOKU 6027

Difficulty Level 3s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;  
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;  
5s = Very Hard;  
6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 6026



AWARD—UJJAIN

In the Swachhta Survey 2024, Ujjain city got the first prize of Super Swachhta League in the category of 3 to 10 lakhs. Mayor Mukesh Tatwal, Corporation Chairperson Kalawati Yadav & Corporation Commissioner Ashish Pathak were honored by the President & received shields and certificates in a ceremony organized at Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi.



LAUNCH—PSB

The first NRI Branch of Punjab & Sind Bank in Kerala is launched in Thiruvananthapuram. Ms MG Jayasree, DDG, D/o Financial Services, Ministry of Finance & Swarup Kumar Saha, MD & CEO PSB jointly inaugurated the branch. The new branch is expected to provide a range of benefits to the NRI community in Kerala, including personalized banking services, digital banking solutions and wealth management options.



PRIZE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY—PNB

PNB hosted the Prize Distribution Ceremony of the "Code Against Malware" Hackathon at its Head Office. The hackathon was conducted in collaboration with the IIT, Kanpur, under the guidance of the Department of Financial Services, M/o Finance, and the Indian Banks' Association, with the objective of fostering innovation in cybersecurity and engaging India's young technical talent. The ceremony was graced by M. Nagaraju, IAS, Secretary, DFS, as Chief Guest.



CEREMONY—IHMR UNIVERSITY

IHMR University, Jaipur, organised its annual convocation ceremony recently, at the university campus. Chief Guest was Governor of Rajasthan, Haribhau Kishanrao Bagde. Welcoming the dignitaries and students, Dr. PR Sodani, President, IHMR University, extended his heartiest congratulations to graduating students. Out of 423 graduating students, 247 were women, outnumbering 176 male students.



AWARD—BSES

BYPL has secured 1st position at the 19th National Award for Excellence in Cost Management – 2024, conferred by the ICMAI, in the Service Sector – Power Distribution & Transmission category. Mitesh Shah, CFO, BYPL, along with his team, received the award on behalf of the organization. The award was presented at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, by Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP & Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Finance.



MEETING—CPAI

The National Executive Meeting of CPAI was held at Kasauli & was graced by KC Varshney, whole-time Member, SEBI, along with A Pardhan, Regional Head, SEBI. Varshney reaffirmed SEBI's unwavering commitment to Ease of Doing Business & most importantly, Investor Education & Protection (IEP). He emphasized that under the clear direction of SEBI's Chairman, IEP remains a top priority—essential for building trust and ensuring long-term market development.



EVENT—OCEAN CENTRES

Following its global launch at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France, the Ocean Centres initiative officially began in India in an event convened by the UN Global Compact Network India. The event in New Delhi brought together leaders from a diverse range of organizations committed to advancing a safe & sustainable ocean economy, including businesses & industries, govt. agencies, regulatory bodies, financial institutions, trade unions, NGOs, academic and research institutions, as well as community-led organizations.



BANK OF BARODA observed its 118th Foundation Day by reaffirming its commitment to trust, innovation & sustainable growth. The theme for the Bank's 118th Year is 'Trust Empowered by Innovation', highlighting the Bank's vision to uphold the long-standing trust of its customers, while shaping the future of banking. M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, was the Chief Guest at the Bank's Foundation Day ceremony. To mark the occasion, BoB unveiled plans to introduce a diverse range of innovative products and initiatives spanning Digital & Technology, Sustainable Banking and Green Finance – designed to meet the evolving needs of customers, expand access to banking and support sustainable development.

CORPORATE BRIEFS

MOU—RITES

RITES Ltd. signed an MoU with Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited, a subsidiary of CIL, to establish a strategic framework for collaboration. This partnership aims at identifying, exploring, and jointly pursuing prospective projects and consultancy assignments—both in India and internationally—particularly in the fields of mining, renewable energy and related infrastructure development. Under this MoU, RITES will leverage its international experience, market intelligence, and logistics infrastructure expertise for effective evacuation to support CMPDI in securing mining projects, undertaking consultancy assignments, and designing capacity-building programmes.



AWARD—NTPC DADRI

During the 12th National CSR Summit held in New Delhi, NTPC Dadri was honored in two categories of the CSR Times Awards for its remarkable contributions in the fields of education & skill development. The station received the Silver Award in the Education category & the Bronze Award in the Skill Development category. The event was graced by the presence of Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, GOI, as the Chief Guest, & Rekha Sharma, Member of the Rajya Sabha and former Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, as the Special Guest.



MOU—POWERGRID

POWERGRID has signed an MoU with Vardhman Mahavir Medical College & Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi, to provide seven state-of-the-art medical equipments under CSR for the benefit of urology and renal department patients. Equipments include Video Urodynamic Machine with Near Infra Red Spectroscopy, TRILOGY Lithotripter, Thulium Fibre Laser Machine, Portable Mobile Endoscopy Machine, 3-in-1 endoscopy system, etc. The MoU was signed in the presence of Dr. Y Dwivedi, Dir (Pers.), POWERGRID, J Singh, ED (CSR), POWERGRID, A Tandon, CGM (Corp. Comm.), AK Rai, CGM (CSR), AK Mishra, GM (CSR & HR), NR-I, POWERGRID, Dr. (Prof.) S Bansal, Dir, VMMC & Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. C Bamba, Medical Superintendent, Dr. RK Wadhwa, Sr CMO, Dr. P Vasudeva, HOD Urology Department, Ms. P Dhanda, Medical Social Welfare Officer & Member CSR Committee, VMMC & Safdarjung Hospital.



MOU—HURL

In a significant move toward empowering rural youth and fostering inclusive economic growth, Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited and the National Skill Development Corporation have officially signed MoU to implement HURL's Flagship Project "SAKSHAM" — a comprehensive skill development program under HURL's Corporate Environmental Responsibility initiative. The MoU signing ceremony was held at NSDC Headquarters, New Delhi, in the presence of Dr. SP Mohanty, MD, HURL, senior officials from NSDC, and representatives from HURL. Project "Saksham" will be executed in the districts of Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), Begusarai (Bihar), and Dhanbad (Jharkhand).



OUTREACH PROGRAM—PNB

PNB Divisional Office Moradabad organized the 'PNB Retail Mega Outreach' program at the divisional office premises of the bank, under which acceptance letters were distributed to the customers. On this occasion, information was provided to the customers about various schemes of the bank.



CONFERENCE—PROCON

The two-day national procurement conference, PROCON-2025, organized by Procurement Solutions Provider LLP, concluded in New Delhi, with almost 100 delegates, PSU executives, industry experts, & thought leaders in attendance. It was inaugurated by eminent dignitaries including AK Tiwari (Member, PNGRB), Pramod Narang (Director Technical, Petronet LNG), KK Chatiwal (MD, IGL), P K Dixit (Director, Mecon Ltd.), & Niraj Priyadarsi (Director Finance, CWC). With the theme "Shaping the Future of Procurement," PROCON-2025 focused on strategic sourcing, AI integration, contract management, dispute prevention, vendor development & challenges in infrastructure procurement.



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

A large shot of common sense is always just what is required to get you on the straight and narrow. Your current planets are perfect for practical tasks, and for putting the much-needed effort into social and romantic relationships.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

A high proportion of Taurians will be working hard, even putting in some overtime. Those of you planning to put your feet up should keep active. You'll be much happier if you feel that you have actually achieved something worthwhile.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The crucial planetary patterns today are civilised and enlightened, which is helpful since you are coming up with some fascinating ideas. Everything looks poised for sound, practical decisions and sensible conversations.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You need to sit down and talk to people at home, if only to get something off your chest. The key to a successful future is consultation and co-operation. Stick to familiar paths, and hone the solutions you've applied already.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Occasionally, bite your lip to avoid offending someone needlessly. You must remember that other people don't necessarily see the world in the same way as you, and you need to respect their points of view, regardless of your reasons or motives.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You may be concerned by personal plans, but all new developments in your chart hinge on professionalism and high finance. It's probable that business and pleasure will begin to merge, perhaps because a loved one shows you the way to fulfil a worldly ambition.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The next few weeks are likely to be crucial in shaping your personal affairs over the next twelve months. Today's alignments are ideal for rational thought and reasonable decisions, and favourable for family initiatives.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Your current planets hold a supremely Scorpionic phase of life; intense, secretive and mystical. But today brings an entirely contradictory pattern of light-hearted conversation. Can you handle it? Yes, but only if you take partners' promises with a touch of healthy scepticism.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

If life is like a card game then I must tell you that your fellow players hold most of the trumps. Therefore, in love, at work, at home and at play, think very carefully before making your move. There's no reason why you can't win: it's all in the timing.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

A colleague is about to come to your aid, but what takes place over the next few days may not be public knowledge until next week or even the coming month. Whatever your personal situation, this is a day to stay busy and do what you're best at — or risk boredom.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

What is decided now could have very far-reaching and practical consequences, probably way beyond your wildest dreams. It now looks as if partners will have to agree and admit that you were right all along.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You must pay special attention to close emotional connections with particular reference to relations and anyone else who is lucky enough to live with you. They need to feel that you're paying them the attention they deserve.

AMITY UNIVERSITY: WHO

together with "Drishti", an organization founded by Amity student, Sanjana Chauhan, working to create an awareness on eye care amongst children & adolescents in India, organized a Conference titled, "Vision Health Champions: Empowering Youth Ambassadors for Adolescent Eye Care", at Amity University Noida campus. The Conference aimed to address the rising public health concern amongst adolescent eye health in India, with a special focus on the alarming increase in myopia. It also aimed to bring together stakeholders from the public health, education, & ophthalmology sectors to promote preventive strategies such as regular eye check-ups, increased outdoor activities, and awareness on digital eye strain. Guest of Honor Dr. Yutaro Setoya, Team Lead (NCD& Comorbidities), WHO India, stated, "WHO has launched a global initiative, "Global Specs 2030", wherein India has shown leadership, & it has been launched in India". Chief Guest Dr. RS Dhalivai, Scientist G & Head, Non-Communicable Diseases Division, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, said, "There are several problems of adolescents which exist in the society today. Social skills must be developed, & children must make good friends and share their problems with their friends, teachers and parents."



SCDAV

organized a counselling session for teachers and staff members on Corporal Punishment and the POCSO Act, led by Principal Mrs. Upasana Sharma. The session aimed to raise awareness about corporal punishment and the POCSO law among educators and staff. Key topics covered included, POCSO Act awareness, identifying sexual abuse, Educating about appropriate and inappropriate physical contact, Importance of parents, teachers, school POCSO committees, police, and child helplines. The session emphasized handling cases with sensitivity and responsibility.



APPOINTMENTS

Co-Chairmen of FAI

Dr. SP Mohanty is a name synonymous with expertise & leadership in the fertilizer industry. His achievements & contributions have solidified his reputation as a stalwart whose impact is felt far and wide. He carries more than 36 years of rich experience in various PSUs of the agri-input industry. He started his career with RCF in 1989 & served in different capacities up to 2015. He was the recipient of the Marketing Man of the Year Award in 1995 & Best Employee Award in 2012 for his outstanding performance during his tenure at RCF.



Co-Chairmen of FAI

S. Sankarasubramanian is the MD & CEO of Coromandel International Ltd. A Mathematics graduate from the University of Madras, he is a member of the Institute of Cost & Management Accountants of India & an alumnus of the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School. With over three decades of diverse experience in finance, strategy, & general management, Sankar has played a pivotal role in shaping Coromandel's growth journey. He began his career with E.I.D. Parry (India) Ltd. in 1993 & joined Coromandel in 2003.



NIOS

Prof. Akhilesh Mishra assumed charge as the Chairman of NIOS recently. After assuming office, Prof. Mishra held an important meeting with all HoDs & conducted a detailed review of the ongoing academic & administrative projects. He reviewed the progress of the mandatory 6-month Bridge Course for primary school teachers appointed on the basis of B.Ed. degrees.





## ANAHAT LOSES IN SEMIS

Teen squash sensation Anahat Singh signed off with a bronze medal the World Squash Junior Championships after going down to Egypt's Naden ElHamamy in the women single's semifinals in Cairo on Friday. **PTI**

## CLIMBING UP THE RANKS

During his 150 runs off 248 balls, Joe Root moved three places up in the list of highest Test run scorers — from No.4 to No.2

38

Root became the fifth Test batter to record 38 Test hundreds after Sachin Tendulkar, Jacques Kallis, Ricky Ponting and Kumar Sangakkara.

13409\*

Root surpassed Ricky Ponting's run tally (13,378 in 287 innings) to become the second-highest run-scorer in Test history in one fewer innings.

104

Root surpassed Kallis and Ponting for the second-most Test fifty-plus scores, only behind Sachin Tendulkar (119).

12

Root overtook Steve Smith for the most Test tons against India. His 9 tons versus India are also the most in home Tests against an opposition.

500

England are the first team to score 500 against India in an innings in four years since their 578 in Chennai in 2021.

## Joe uproots India's hopes

England batting great scores a classic 150 to move to second on all-time Test run-scorers' list and hand England a massive 186-run lead at stumps on day 3



EXPRESS IN ENGLAND

SANDEEP DWIVEDI  
MANCHESTER, JULY 25

IT WAS a day when Joe Root made everybody on the field realise that he was in a different zone, league and class. He showed he was better even than the heroes they grew up worshipping. Root's 248-ball 150 saw him climb over Rahul Dravid, Jacques Kallis and Ricky Ponting to be on the Test batting podium. He now has silver while Kallis's bronze has been transferred to Ponting.

The 34-year-old modern-day batting master is now second only to Sachin Tendulkar, who has 15921 runs. Root — eventually stumped off Ravindra Jadeja — took his run tally to 13,409, which is around the sum total of India's entire playing XI in this Test.

Root hasn't scored the most runs in this series but probably managed to pull off the most important ones. This was the most vital moment of this closely fought series. England needed a win here to seal the series and there came a window of opportunity. He started the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy with an unbeaten half-century that guided the team during the impossible chase, he scored a ton at Lord's to level the series and he would save his best to possibly take England home.

On the third day of the fourth Test, India were on the ropes but still they showed a spark of life in them. Out came the smiling old champion, gloves hanging from his hands to deliver the knockout punch. Root's hundred killed the contest, ending the suspense of the thrilling series. The India-England Test battle had been close, now it is as good as closed. England are 186 runs ahead of India with two days to go. India has a mountain to climb and their troops look tired, jaded, spent and defeated.

At the start of the day, the Indian team seemed to be driven, possibly the motivational talk in the team huddle still ringing in their ears. After the forgettable showing on Day 2, easily the worst day for the team on this tour, words would have been said to regroup and put all hands on deck. In the early hours today, India was a charged team. Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah were running in hard. They looked tired but fired to give that one final push.

From scoring over 5 per over last evening, there was a sharp fall in the run-rate. Root and Pope had downed the shutters and were waiting for the last flicker of the flame to die. Root would lead the way, Pope would follow. The England No.4 is not a batsman with an ego. Earlier in the series when Bumrah, who has taken his wicket many times, was on fire; Root would avoid playing him. He is skillful, like many other batsmen, but smart too. He waited for the bowlers to make mistakes and he would punish them.

Bumrah's first spell of the day read 5-1-17-0 — it's not that he was breathing fire and just unlucky not to get a wicket but it was because the batsmen were eager to wait. Newcomer Anshul Kamboj, who was having a nightmare game, was next to bowl. It was wise to hold back the fire. There was Ravindra Jadeja too. The left-arm spinner hasn't quite

SCORECARD	
ENGLAND vs INDIA	
OLD TRAFFORD	
Toss: England, chose to bowl	
<b>INDIA</b>	<b>358</b>
<b>ENGLAND (overnight)</b>	<b>225/2</b>
O Pope c Rahul b Washington	71 (128b, 7x4)
J Root st Jurel b Jadeja	150 (248b, 14x4)
H Brook st Jurel b Washington	3 (12b)
B Stokes (c) batting	77 (134b, 6x4)
J Smith † c Jurel b Bumrah	9 (19b, 1x4)
L Dawson batting	21 (52b, 2x4)
C Woakes b Md Siraj	4 (17b)
■ Extras (b4, lb 14 nb 13)	31
■ Total (135 overs)	544/7
■ FoW: 1-166 (Zak Crawley, 31.6 ov), 2-197 (Ben Duckett, 38.1 ov), 3-341 (Ollie Pope, 76.1 ov), 4-349 (Harry Brook, 80.1 ov), 5-499 (Joe Root, 119.2 ov), 6-515 (Jamie Smith, 124.1 ov), 7-528 (Chris Woakes, 129.1 ov)	
■ Bowling: Jasprit Bumrah 28-5-95-1, Anshul Kamboj 18-1-89-1, Mohammed Siraj 26-4-113-1, Shardul Thakur 11-0-55-0, Ravindra Jadeja 33-0-	

enhanced his image as a wicket-taker on foreign pitches on this England tour. In the three Tests before Old Trafford, he has taken 4 wickets for 431 runs.

Root and Pope would keep knocking the ball to mid-on or mid-off for singles and be watchful when the ball would turn a shade. This was looking all too easy for England. Mysteriously, the entry of Washington Sundar on the scoreboard was much delayed. He was introduced in the 68th over of the Test. By lunch, Root and Pope had taken England close to India's score, the next two sessions were about building the lead.

Pope would get out to Sundar, beaten by the drift, and so would Harry Brook but Root was there, he knew the importance of not losing the grip on this Test. The post-lunch enthusiasm of taking quick wickets in the Indian camp too needed to be nipped in the bud. England couldn't have had better men than Root and Ben Stokes.

In between his solid play, Root would step out to Kamboj and hit him straight out of the boundary. Against Jadeja, bowling to a heavy off-side field, he would sweep and get four on the leg side.

The lead was climbing, Indian tempo was flailing and bowlers were also dropping. Siraj would walk into the dressing room with the physio in tow. On a day of many misfortunes, Bumrah would twist his ankle while climbing the dressing room stairs. Both Siraj and Bumrah would return and bowl but they seemed to be going through the motions.

## A lesson for Gill

There is a lesson for India, and their skipper Shubman Gill, from the Root story. Growing up Root was the chosen one, like Shubman. Born in a cricket-obsessed family, the Yorkshire boy's batting was honed because of the hours of training since he was around 8. Even as a junior, he would hit thousands of balls, like the kid in a Punjab border village. He was soft-spoken but would have a strong voice in the dressing room. A batsman destined to play for England, and the next England captain.

Root would get captaincy when he was 26, Shubman a year earlier. Root in his long career has seen slumps and really bad days and worse ones too that would see him lose his captaincy. The Indian captain, too, had a bad day today but he too can aspire to have a Root kind of podium climbing.



Joe Root was the steady hand in the England innings even after Ollie Pope and Harry Brook fell in quick succession. **PTI**

## Root a modern great, but Australia box unticked

SANDIP G  
JULY 25

FROM HIS dizzy height, Joe Root could watch some of the greatest batsmen of all time beneath him. En route his flawless hundred in Old Trafford, he passed Ricky Ponting, Jacques Kallis and Rahul Dravid, three giants of the game. Other outlines are flickering in the distance, Alastair Cook and Brian Lara, Kumar Sangakkara and Sunil Gavaskar, names and numbers cutting across eras. When he looked upwards, which he had done all through his career, he could see the gleaming silhouette of Sachin Tendulkar. But for a shocking plummet of form, he would surpass the loftiest peak of all and sit atop Test cricket's run-piling chart.

A question beckons. Does the statistical mountain he has etched correspond to the greatness he wields?

This much is certain—Root is already one of England's all-time greats, a great of his era, and one could potentially end up as one of the greatest of all time, nudging shoulders with Lara and Tendulkar, Gavaskar and Kallis.

His career can be neatly divided into three halves. The gifted, loved and consistent batsman in the first six years (2012-2018), the tormented figurehead in the next three (2018-2021), when the gift of scoring a hundred forsook him (four in 60 innings), before, just after the pandemic, he transformed to a prolific, century-guzzling colossus. Twenty-one of his 37 hundreds were wrought in this time frame. The average since has been 58.06.

In the first fruitful face, he adhered to the classical notes, punishing the loose balls and



Root went past Dravid, Kallis and Ponting on the Test run-scorers' list enroute to his 150. **AP**

blocking the good ones. In the third period, his batting has flashed a streak of assertiveness.

A steady player became a dominating one. In these years, he has batted with a strike rate of 64.7, the crescendo being 2023, when he struck at 76. It was not so much about the Bazball ethos and existential motivation as it was about a batsman in his zen, realising the outer reaches of his potential. The 2014 version—the year he averaged 97 and formed the Fab Four with Virat Kohli, Kane Williamson and Steve Smith—stroked gorgeous back-foot punches, cover drives, and late cuts. The 2023 upgrade had these all plus reverse scoops, sweeps and ramps, like a choirboy suddenly turning into a bass guitarist, but retaining the tidy gracefulness of his craft.

## Prolific player of spin

Among the Fab Four, only three remain, he is arguably the most prolific player of spin

MOST RUNS IN TEST MATCHES					
PLAYER	MATCHES	INNS	RUNS	HS	AVE
S Tendulkar	200	329	15921	248*	53.78
J Root	157*	286	13409	262	51.17
R Ponting	168	287	13378	257	51.85
J Kallis	166	280	13289	224	55.37
R Dravid	164	286	13288	270	52.31

bowling. He averages 57.45 in Asia, he nailed three hundreds in India, including a glorious match-winning double hundred in Chennai. He subdued the best spinner of his time, Ravi Ashwin, averaging 62.4 against him. He prospered in South Africa (average of 60 but a lone hundred to show), and New Zealand (53.47). His 110 in Johannesburg, against a searing hot Kagiso Rabada, was one of the two scores past 50 in all four innings. Bangladesh was an aberration (he aggregates 24) but the sample size is merely four innings to call it a genuine quicksand.

The one country where he has unquestionably struggled is Australia. He is yet to compile a hundred in 27 innings spread across three tours. He averages 35.68 and has struggled against the trifecta of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc. Cummins has devoured him 11 times for a lowly average of 26.0, Starc on eight instances (43) and Hazlewood 10 (31.4). Similarly successful has been Jasprit Bumrah. Even though he averages nearly 60 against India and plundered them more than any other team, he has blasted him 11 times. In

comparison, Australia has been one of Kohli's favourite haunts (six hundreds at 54.08).

Root has not quite dominated the best seamers of his era, even though he did tame the wildest spinners of his time (scored 54.9 runs for each of his nine dismissals to Nathan Lyon). At 34, fitness issues not plaguing him, he still has the opportunity to tick the unticked box of his. To an extent, he has neutered Bumrah this series, but on the flat-test decks in England in recent times. The opportunity to conquer Australia looms later this year. This could be the fourth chapter of his career—the ascent from one of the greats of his time to an all-time great. In the larger scheme, scaling Mount Tendulkar or the pantheon of greats would just be part of the journey rather than the destination.

Only 2512 runs separate him and Tendulkar. It could be the yield of two fine seasons for Root. In three of the last four completed seasons, he had amassed 1000-plus runs (twice in excess of 1500). So the peak is not impossible. The altitude would not faze him. For all his career, he had only looked upwards. And his greatness is a study in progress.

## FORGETTABLE DAY

## Bowling coach Morkel has all the answers for India's poor show... well almost

SANDEEP DWIVEDI  
MANCHESTER, JULY 25

THERE WERE many questions spinning around at Old Trafford at stumps on this seemingly decisive day of the series. Why didn't Washington Sundar bowl till the 68th over? Why Kuldeep Yadav hasn't played a ball? Are Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah fit after the grueling day of cricket?

First the fitness update by Indian bowling coach Mome Morkel. "Unfortunately, when we took the second new ball, Bumrah rolled his ankle going down the stairs and Siraj rolled his foot in one of the foot holes. But they seem to be okay," he said.

Morkel also had one generic answer to India's forgettable bowling performance — their lack of pace and bite on the Old Trafford pitch.

"That is something that we're definitely also trying to get our heads around. On a flat surface, you need a little bit of energy behind the ball. I think that's definitely one of the factors for us so far in our bowling innings... You need that little bit of energy on the ball on good surfaces where the ball at times is not doing as much," he said.

Morne also said the team didn't stick to plans and they leaked too many runs. "We were fantastic in the last two Tests, but we had a bad day yesterday, we were on the back foot. We had plans, but at the end of the day, you can have a plan, but it is about executing those plans for a longer period of time," he said.

## Needed: Support for Bumrah

On the question of Bumrah's ineffectiveness with the new ball, he mentioned the run leak. "We are finding it hard to create pressure from both ends. For Bumrah to be successful, we need to build a partnership. So the



It was a long day for the Indian bowlers at Old Trafford. **PTI**

other guys need to help him out. And I think at times, you know, the guys are also trying from the other end. It's a little bit greedy, trying to strive too much and we leak runs to release the pressure."

In the four Tests that India has played under Shubman Gill and Gautam Gambhir, the team management have been obsessed with bowlers who can bat. They have tried every possible combination but still refused to give a chance to specialist Kuldeep Yadav.

At Old Trafford, the captain showed the same stubbornness in not getting Washington Sundar into the attack. The off-spinner came on to bowl at 305/2 in the day's 69th over. The bowling coach had an answer for that too.

"It was Shubman who took the call to stick to the seamer a little bit longer... I think in the first couple of days (when England bowled) we saw the ball moving and seaming around. And then when we got the opportunity to bowl, we missed out... Did we

bowl enough good balls to decide to (turn to) spin straight away? I don't think so," he said.

Captains generally bank on gut feeling and conviction to take important decisions. Either way, Shubman got this one wrong. Washington, as was the case at Lord's, got the ball to drift and that got him the wickets of Ollie Pope and the dangerous Harry Brook.

## Why no Kuldeep yet?

In such conditions Kuldeep could have been a handful. He and Root have a history, one in favour of Kuldeep. Back in 2018, in the space of three balls, within 10 days, across two games, first in a T20 and then in an ODI, the wrist spinner had taken out Root.

The T20 dismissal in fact came at this same venue in Manchester and the ODI was at Lord's. Both dismissals were in contrasting manner. The T20 at Old Trafford had Root stumbling clueless to the ball sliding away from him and dragged out of his stumps while groping for the ball in the dark, he was

stumped by MS Dhoni. At the Lord's ODI, he went back but was bewildered by the ball that spun in sharply to pin him lbw.

Morne conceded that Kuldeep was a good option but the limitation of the rest of the squad is keeping him away.

"We are trying to find balance and how can we get that batting line-up to be a little bit longer and stronger. We've seen in the past that we've lost wickets in clumps and Kuldeep is world-class and he's bowling really well at the moment. So we're trying our best to find ways for him to get in," he said. The bowling coach sounded totally helpless when asked about Kamboj. Was he fit? How come he bowled at an average speed 125 kph? "He's definitely fully fit. I wish I could give you that answer (about speed) because I would have told him then how to bowl quicker, but when he arrived here, he bowled well in the nets. He was definitely quicker when bowling for India A and games back home," he said.



FIDE WOMEN'S WORLD CUP FINAL: PREVIEW

# Solidity versus aggression

Humpy-Divya contest, a major moment in the rise of women's chess in India, will be a clash of contrasts

AMIT KAMATH  
MUMBAI, JULY 25

CALL IT a clash of generations: a fight between a teenager experiencing the heady highs of life on the mountaintop for the first time in her career and a grizzled veteran of previous expeditions to the summit, who has found second wind in her career after childbirth.

Or a battle of personalities. A teen who can be endearingly goofy at times, so much so that she smiles at the camera moments before the start of a big battle and apologises to the game clock after knocking it over against a senior pro who turns up for every clash with her game face firmly on.

Or a duel between disruptors. One is a 19-year-old who could become the country's fourth woman to earn a GM title without needing to collect the three norms that every other GM from India has needed to get, versus a 38-year-old trailblazer who became the first woman from India to become a grandmaster.

The India vs India battle between the veteran Koneru Humpy and the up-and-coming Divya Deshmukh at Georgia's Batumi will represent the latest rumble of the Indian earthquake shaking up the hierarchy of world chess over the last five years. It is after all two Indians fighting for the title of an event where 107 players from 46 countries, including 17 ranked in the current top 20, were in the fray.

The battle between Humpy and Divya will also be a contest of contrasts over the board. As grandmaster Srinath Narayanan points out, Humpy is a player who comes armed with fewer weapons to a battle, but she's sharpened them well. Divya, on the other hand, is someone who is likely to have a larger repertoire at her disposal.

"Humpy has a narrow set of openings. But she is well prepared in those and she tends to keep repeating them during a tournament. There will be openings that she prepares for specific tournaments. There won't be massive variation from that: it won't be a different opening for each game," Srinath says.

Look at the eight-game battle against Lei Tingjie in the semi-final. Each of the four games that Humpy played with white



Koneru Humpy (L), 38, was the first woman from India to become a grandmaster. Divya Deshmukh, 19, aims to become the latest, without needing to collect the three norms that every other GM from India has needed. FIDE/Anna Shtourman



against the Chinese player started with the Queen's Gambit (1.d4 followed by 2.c4). This is not to imply that that's the only opening Humpy has used during the tournament, but to point out that she has been selective with what she wants to fight with.

GM Pravin Thipsay, meanwhile, argues that Humpy is a player who doesn't actually rely too much on opening prep.

"Humpy plays more on principles. She's not bothered about the exact move order. She's not interested in getting an advantage from the opening. At that level, she could be the least prepared player because she plays her own game. Her originality is the matter. Whereas, for other players, particularly from the younger generation, they will have the exact opening preparation up to move 15 or 20. But because of this, you cannot really prepare against Humpy, because she is not going to play what Magnus Carlsen played or Garry Kasparov played," says Thipsay.

Srinath calls Humpy a prototypical classical chess player, who's also excelled at the

faster time controls when she needed to.

"In terms of her style, she is quite solid. Her strength is definitely in the classical format as opposed to rapid and blitz, because she grew up at a time when those faster formats were far from mainstream and classical chess was the thing," says the Chennai-based GM, before analysing Divya's style: "Divya is aggressive and tactical in style. Although she has become more versatile in recent times, by default, she's more aggressive and tactical."

For the uninitiated, positional players focus on long-term strategy. They improve their position by building it block by block over the course of several moves. Tactical players instead look for immediate ways to confront the opponent.

Thipsay offers a checklist of the aspects that could decide the matter at Batumi.

"The match's fortunes will depend on how sharp Divya is able to make the positions, and how positional Humpy is going to make the game... Humpy's style is very sound and solid, and she goes more or less for positional games. So the quieter the game,

## HEAD-TO-HEAD RECORD

**OVERALL GAMES:** 9 (5 with white)

**HUMPY WINS:** 5 (3 with white)

**DIVYA WINS:** 2 (1 with white)

**DRAW:** 2 (one with each colour)

■ In classical chess, Divya and Humpy have faced off just twice, as per FIDE records. Humpy won once, while playing with white pieces while the second game, with Divya having white, ended as a draw.

■ In rapid contests, the duo have played two games where one game ended in a draw while Divya won the second one. Both games have been with Humpy playing white pieces.

■ Divya and Humpy have played five blitz games against each other, where Humpy has four wins (twice each with white and black pieces).

I think, the better chances for Humpy," he says before adding: "In endgames, Humpy's accuracy is going to play a very important role, because Divya plays energetically, but her accuracy level is less."

Grandmaster Abhijit Kunte had pointed out earlier how the tournament had seen the teenage Divya playing with the maturity one would expect from Humpy and the 38-year-old playing with the energetic vigour of her 19-year-old compatriot.

To this, Srinath adds: "I think the final is very inspirational (for Indian chess). On one hand, you have an icon, a 38-year-old woman who is showing that you can do it. And then you also have a young and upcoming player from this generation. Two different sets of role models. And that inspires two different sets of the population and audience. This can have an inspiring effect on more girls taking up chess. But hopefully this won't just stop with the World Cup and should eventually go towards the Women's World Championship title itself."

# Divya can become GM with title: Why it's significant

MAYANK  
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE FIDE Women's World Cup final will see a much-anticipated inter-generational clash between two Indians — Koneru Humpy and Divya Deshmukh - battling for supremacy in Batumi, Georgia. This marks a historic moment for Indian chess as no player from the country had previously progressed beyond the quarterfinals in this prestigious event, with Harika Dronavalli's 2023 quarterfinal finish being the previous best performance.

For the 19-year-old Divya Deshmukh, this tournament has served as a platform to realise her true potential by knocking out some of the biggest names in the circuit. The young prodigy now stands on the verge of returning to Nagpur not just with the World Cup gold medal, a Candidates 2026 qualification spot, and \$50,000 in prize money, but potentially with the prestigious Grandmaster title as well — an extraordinary achievement that would come as a bonus to her already remarkable performance. Only three other Indian women, Humpy, Harika and R. Vaishali, have GM titles.

## How can Divya become a Grandmaster?

Grandmaster is the highest title or ranking that a chess player can achieve. It is awarded by the International Chess Federation (FIDE, from its French acronym Fédération Internationale des Échecs), the global governing body headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland. Among the hierarchy of chess titles that include International Master (IM), FIDE Master (FM), Candidate Master (CM), and their female-specific counterparts (WGM, WIM, WFM, WCM), the Grandmaster title stands as the most prestigious and challenging to obtain.

## What is the traditional path to becoming a GM?

The conventional route requires fulfilling two criteria simultaneously: winning three GM norms and achieving a Standard (Classical) FIDE rating of 2500 or above. Failure to meet either condition prevents a player from earning the GM title. Similarly,

the IM title demands three IM norms coupled with a 2400+ rating.

## The shortcut — direct titles

However, FIDE's regulations provide alternative pathways to the coveted GM titles. Certain exceptional tournament results can grant automatic titles or norms independent of the standard requirements.

According to FIDE's "Table for Direct Titles" in their "International Title Regulations" (effective from May 1, 2025), winning specific elite competitions, including the Arab Individual Championship, Continental Individual Championship, Junior World Championship (Under 20), Women's World Cup, or the World Cup, allows players to bypass the conventional norm and rating prerequisites.

## What is the FIDE Women's World Cup, and why is winning this event significant?

The FIDE Women's World Cup is a 107-player single-elimination knockout tournament, which is the most crucial event in the World Championship cycle, offering three qualifying spots for Candidates. The other pathways to qualify for the Candidates tournament are the Women's Grand Prix Series 2024-25, and the Women's Grand Swiss, both of which will provide two spots each, while the last spot is reserved for the highest-placed player in the 'FIDE Women's Events 2025-26' series. The winner of the Candidates will earn the right to challenge the reigning World Champion, in this case, China's Ju Wenjun.

## What happens if Divya loses the final against Humpy?

Divya, currently rated 2476.2 (ahead of the final) on the live rating list, has already secured one GM norm by virtue of reaching the final of the FIDE Women's World Cup. If she loses the final against her compatriot Humpy, she will still need to cross the 2500 rating mark — a very achievable goal, given that she had already surpassed 2500 earlier in 2024 during the Budapest Chess Olympiad. After reaching the required rating, she will need two more GM norms to officially earn the Grandmaster title.

## BRIEFLY

### Tanvi, Vennala enter Asian Juniors semis

*Solo:* India's young shuttlers Tanvi Sharma and Vennala Kalagotla continued their impressive run at the Badminton Asia Juniors Individual Championships, advancing to the semifinals here on Friday. Second seed Tanvi maintained her dominant form in the women's singles, defeating fifth seed Thalita Ramadhani Wirayawan of Indonesia 21-19, 21-14 in a swift 35-minute match. Tanvi has been in sublime touch throughout the tournament, securing all her wins in straight games so far. Joining her in the last-four is Vennala, who braved a strong challenge from Thailand's Janyaporn Meephanthong in a gripping 58-minute contest. **PTI**

### India batter Veda Krishnamurthy retires

*New Delhi:* Indian women's team batter Veda Krishnamurthy on Friday announced her retirement from professional cricket but hinted that she will continue to be associated with the sport in some other role. Veda played 48 ODIs and 76 T20Is, collecting 829 and 875 runs respectively. "From a small-town girl with big dreams to wearing the India jersey with pride. Grateful for everything cricket gave me the lessons, the people, the memories. It's time to say goodbye to playing, but not to the game. Always for India. Always for the team," she said in a social media post. The 32-year-old, who is married to former Karnataka cricketer Arjun Hoysala, last played for the country during the women's T20 World Cup final against Australia at Melbourne in 2020. Her last one-day international was in 2018. **PTI**

### Nagal returns to Davis Cup squad after 2 yrs

*New Delhi:* India's top singles player Sumit Nagal on Friday returned to the Davis Cup squad after a two-year absence while number one doubles player Yuki Bhambri also made a comeback to the national fold after missing two ties as the AITA selection panel picked an eight-member squad for the away match against Switzerland. India will travel to the city of Biel for the World Group I first-round tie, which will be played on indoor courts from September 12. Nagal's last appearance was the home tie against Morocco in Lucknow in September 2023 where he won both his singles matches in India's 4-1 win. **PTI**

# Sat-Chi rain down attack to reach China Open semis

SHIVANI NAIK  
MUMBAI, JULY 25

IT WAS the last match of the day in Changzhou at the Super 1000 China Open, the only one in the arena, in fact. And there was no doubt the crowd stayed on, exhaled along the rollercoaster, and finally rose to applaud Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty. The Indians, back on the verge of entering the Top 10 after a torrid few months, were putting on a show, converting the neutrals, playing Malaysians Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi, winning 21-18, 21-14.

The doubles court can anyways appear too crowded for a player in the thick of things, but the Indians rained down an attack that was so compact that to the Malaysians it would have seemed like pelting hailstones. Operating from the faster side in the second set, the Indians chose doubled aggression to go with the wind. There was no nuancing the attack, no tiptoeing, just thrashing at the shuttle from the front court.

The 'serve situation' as tumble and spinny serves are referred to, were dealt with mostly by Satwik, by taking the pace off the shuttle and dealing with it very late. He neatly drained the venom out of them with deft racket work, allowed the rally to start slow, and picked up the pace later with a sparkplug steep smash. All attack was short, and from midcourt at the furthest.

In the opener, it was straightforward, breaking away at 10-8 and playing very acute cross smashes - almost whip lashes. The Indians are unrecognizable almost for their comfort on the flat game if that's dictated. They can now control fast exchanges better than opponents. There were errors, even high service faults, but absolutely nothing sowed any doubt in their minds that this cluster steep attack was the way to go.

The two even took turns to switch places at the net, with Satwik sliding across a la Chirag, for net kills at 17-14 in the second. All those losses and heartbreaks have compelled them to plug every gap in their game, and made it more well-rounded than before, and what is now seen on court can overwhelm opponents because it isn't just booming attacks.

Ong-Teo were left with no options than to lift, and those lifts were smothered - at 18-14 by a Satwik attack where his seven straight smashes got retrieved but he put enough bite into the eighth one, and could have gone on for a few more. Chirag was burnished with confidence, but Satwik did it all - half a dozen errors, and then slap-hooks and the KO punches spotting gaps like only he can.

"We have played with them quite a few times. Similar court situations. In first set we thought from this side is very fast so we need to play a little fast no matter what and get attack as much as possible. In second game we knew they can't play, it's so fast, it's going out. So we just need to focus on the front



Chirag Shetty (L) and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy defeated Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi on Friday. BWF/Badminton Photo

area and get ready with our racquets. We didn't want to give them any chance or confidence in the net. So we played aggressive mentally on serves too," Satwik explained the relentlessness to *BWF*.

Chirag would inform how this was their furthest foray at China Open - their best was a first round prior to this. The Makaysuans are the form pair of the circuit, and the biggest test ("always a battle") will be against Aaron Chia-Soh Wooi Yik on Saturday. "Not yet best result," Chirag corrected the BWF interviewer. "We still have it in the tank. Can go further," he reminded.

The last few months - with grief, injury, tanking rankings and self doubt - have been tough. And smiling giants aren't quite caught crying. But through the flux and downturn of the sport at home, Satwik-Chirag have carried Indian badminton. Semis of a Super 1000 is where they belong. Their celebrations are no longer jigs and movie poses - just clenched jaws and fists and eye contact. They will dance should a title come, but the game has matured under coach Tan Kim Her, himself a Malaysian, the man who brought them together.

This pair, you suspect, is too far gone beyond the pall of disappointment of losses. One more wouldn't hurt. They would simply resurrect again, and bring the crowd to its feet with their irresistible game. And that makes them quietly dangerous. Aaron Chia, the ridiculously talented Malaysian, poses an intriguing examination.

## Yamaguchi bests Unnati

*PTI adds:* India's rising badminton star Unnati Hooda's dream run ended at the China Open Super 1000 as she lost to world number 4 Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in straight games in the quarterfinals here on Friday. The 17-year-old, who scripted her biggest career win against 'idol' and two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, lost 16-21, 12-21 in a match that lasted 33 minutes.

EXPRESS

explained.Live



After Israel-Iran war:  
What now in the Middle East ?

Has Israel established dominance over Iran?

Will President Trump bring peace to the Middle East?

Is there a possibility of a regime change in Iran?

Has the Israeli PM Netanyahu over-reached?

What does the Israel-Iran conflict and tension mean for India?



Navtej Sarna  
Former Ambassador of India to US, UK and Israel



Shubhajit Roy  
Diplomatic Editor  
The Indian Express

30 JULY 2025

06:00 PM

Join us on ZOOM



Scan to Register



The Indian EXPRESS  
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

Vol XCIII- 221Regd.No. DEL ENG-02603 R.N.I. No. 506/57. Printed and Published by Ramesh Chander Malhotra on behalf of The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed at The Indian Express (P) Limited Press, A-8, Sector-7, Noida - 201301 and Published at The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9 & 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002. Editorial office: The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9 & 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: 0120-6651500. Advertising office: The Indian Express (P) Ltd.,Express Building, B1/B, Ramnath Goenka Marg, Sector 10, Noida-201301. Phone: 0120-6651291. Chairman of the Board: Viveck Goenka, Chief Editor: Raj Kamal Jha, Editor: Unni Rajen Shanker, Editor (Delhi): Rakesh Sinha \*\* Responsible for selection of News under the PRP Act. Copyright: The Indian Express (P) Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited. The Indian Express®

epaper.indianexpress.com