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Rishabh Pant bats with a fractured toe to score a half-century and help India post 358 against England in the first innings on Day 2 of the 4th Test in Manchester. Skipper Ben Stokes takes 5/72 P 17

India likely to play Pakistan in Sept as decks have been cleared for BCCI to host the upcoming Asia Cup T20 tournament in UAE. The defending champions are likely to play all their matches in Dubai

Ahead of a crucial meeting with France, UK and Germany, Iran says it is ready to engage in talks on its nuclear programme with US but only if Washington takes meaningful steps to rebuild trust

Young Unnati Hooda stuns two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu in a gripping three-game contest to enter China Open QF. The teenager from Rohtak will next take on Akane Yamaguchi, the third seed and a two-time world champion P 5



Russian plane crashes in Amur region, 48 killed

Forty-eight people have died in a plane crash in Russia's Far East, the head of the country's Amur region said in a statement Thursday. The An-24 passenger plane disappeared from radar as it travelled from the city of Blagoveshchensk on the Russian-Chinese border to the town of Tynda. Rescuers later found the aircraft's burning wreckage amid dense forests. Regional Gov. Vasily Orlov said all passengers and crew on board were killed in the crash. **Opp Page**

Ex-fin secy Ajay Seth appointed IRDAI chief

The govt on Thursday appointed former finance and economic affairs secretary Ajay Seth as IRDAI chairman. The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved Seth's appointment for three years or till incumbent attains age of 65. **P 15**

12 killed in Thailand & Cambodia clashes

Thai and Cambodian soldiers clashed in several areas along their border Thursday in a major escalation of their conflict that left 11 people dead. The two sides fired small arms, artillery and rockets, and Thailand called in airstrikes. **Opp Page**

Aus temple defaced with racist graffiti

A Hindu temple and two Asian-run restaurants were defaced with racist graffiti in Melbourne. Three Swaminarayan Temple on Wadhurst Drive, Melbourne's eastern suburb of Boronia, was defaced with red-painted racist slurs. **Opp Page**

Trexit: Tariffs eliminated on 99% Indian exports to UK

Duties On Cars, Scotch, Silver To Drop Under FTA

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

London/New Delhi: More than three years after they began negotiations, and amid intense uncertainty in the global trade ecosystem, India and the UK finally signed a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, which slashes duties on both sides. It also makes it more predictable for investors and business workers to get visas, and allows access for audit and accounting firms in the two countries as part of efforts to more than double bilateral trade from the current \$56 billion by 2030.

Consumers can look forward to cheaper British-made cars, cosmetics, medical devices and Scotch, as govt has agreed to slash average tariffs from 15% to 3%. The zero duty import list also includes silver—the largest item in

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- GOODS**
- India's average tariff on UK products to drop from 15% to 3%
 - Key items where duties lowered
 - Whisky & Gin: 150% to 75% over 10 years
 - Cars: From up to 110% to 10% over 15 years, depending on the engine capacity, with annual quotas
 - Silver: To zero in 10 years
 - Lenses & Microscopes: From 11% to zero
 - Medical & Medtech Devices: 13.75% to zero
 - Soaps, Perfumes, Nail Polish: 10% to zero

- Aircraft, Engines & Parts: Staged cuts from 7.5%
- Lamb, salmon, chocolates & biscuits to get lower duty access in India
- UK to allow 100% Indian exports by value at zero duty. Main gains include:
 - Textiles & footwear
 - 95% of Indian food and agri products
 - Pharma, chemicals
 - Engg products

and yoga instructors

- Recognition of standards of nurses, architects, other professionals
- India will maintain checks on legal services, but open up accounting, audit to British firms



PM Modi and UK PM Keir Starmer celebrate the deal

the UK's export basket (\$2.1 billion last fiscal). But all the changes won't happen overnight, with some duty cuts

planned over 10 years, allowing Indian industry time to adjust.

to allow zero duty import on 99% of product lines.

In return, govt got the UK

Assault on Col: Suspended cops join new postings

About a week after Punjab and Haryana HC called Punjab Police's probe into the alleged assault on Col Pushpinder Singh Bath "tainted" and handed over the case to CBI, four cops who were suspended in the case have reported at their new postings. This drew sharp criticism from Col Bath's family members. **P 4**

Stop building in China, hiring in India, Trump warns tech majors

Washington: US President and MAGA supremo Donald Trump issued an ominous warning on Wednesday to American tech companies operating overseas, asking them to prioritise hiring workers in the US rather than creating jobs in India and China. In remarks at an Artificial

Intelligence summit in New York, Trump called for an end to what he called "radical globalism", emphasising the need to shift to "a new spirit of patriotism and national loyalty in Silicon Valley & beyond" to help the US win the AI race.

"Many of our largest tech companies have reaped the blessings of American freedom while building their factories in China, hiring workers in India... under President Trump, those days are over," he said, striking at the heart of the tech industry's global operations.

'Not to be treated as precedent': SC stays 11/7 Mumbai blasts verdict

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the Bombay High Court order acquitting all 12 accused, including five death row convicts, in the 2006 11/7 Mumbai train blasts case but directed that the accused who have come out of jail after the verdict would not have to go back to prison pending its judgment in the case.

As the HC ruling touched upon various provisions of anti-terror law Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) which could have a bearing on trial of other cases under the special law, a bench of Justices M M Sundresh and N K Singh said the HC judgment would not be treated as a precedent as of now to decide other cases.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for Maha-

All respondents have been released and there is no question of bringing them back to prison. However, taking note of SG's submission on question of law, we are inclined to hold that the impugned judgment shall not be treated as a precedent. To that extent, there is a stay of the impugned judgment

— SC bench of Justices M M Sundresh and N K Singh

rashtra govt, pressed for stay of the HC verdict because of its potential to affect other cases but clarified that govt didn't want the accused to be sent back to jail because of the stay. He said all accused had come out of jail after the HC verdict and they could remain outside but requested the court to stay the order.

► Related report, P 12

ED searches 35 premises linked to Anil Ambani

New Delhi: Early on Thursday, the ED swooped in on more than 35 premises identified with industrialist Anil Ambani and at least 50 entities associated with his Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG) across

► Proceeds of crime used: ED on Vadra, P 6

Mumbai in a larger money laundering investigation targeted at him based on multiple FIRs registered by CBI and other agencies over the last few years, reports Pradeep Thakur.

The searches have huge financial implications for

No impact on Rel Infra & Rel Power, say cos

Reliance Infra and Reliance Power said they had no business or financial linkages with Reliance Communications. They said Anil Ambani was not on their boards and actions by ED have "no bearing or impact on governance, management, or operations" of the two listed entities. **P 14**

public money, Rs 20-30,000 crore, which the agency believes has been siphoned off.

► Related report, P 14

Draft telecom policy eyes 10L new jobs by '30

The Centre on Thursday came out with a draft telecom policy that factors in opportunities and challenges presented by next-generation technologies such as 5G/6G, artificial intelligence, internet of things, quantum communications, satellite network, and blockchain.

The draft released by the department of telecom also aims at attracting Rs 1 lakh crore investments annually, while creating 10 lakh new jobs in the sector by 2030. "The policy will enable an agile, future-ready regulatory and policy ecosystem that promotes collaboration between govt, industry, academia, startups, and international standard forums. With this, India aims to emerge not only as a leading consumer of digital technologies, but also as a trusted global provider of telecom products, services, and solutions," the draft said. **P 15**

Bus falls into gorge in HP's Mandi; 8 dead

Eight people died and 21 were injured when a Himachal Roadways Transport Corporation bus plunged into a gorge in Mandi district Thursday morning. Six of the dead were elderly. The accident occurred at a sharp bend near Maseran, 160km from Shimla, around 9.45am. According to eyewitnesses, the driver had edged slightly off the road, and the retaining wall gave way, plunging the bus into a 50ft-deep gorge. Deputy CM Mukesh Agnihotri said a judicial probe has been ordered. **P 9**

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Fewer borrowers, bigger burden: In Pb, farm scheme debt rose ₹2cr/day

Kisan Credit Card Loan Up ₹3,010cr From March 2021 to 2025, Users Fall 76k

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Chandigarh: Despite being the agricultural heartland of India, Punjab continues to grapple with a mounting debt burden under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme—a trend that highlights deepening financial stress in the state's farm economy.

This rise in outstanding loans—which was Rs 2 crore every day—has occurred despite a drop in the number of active KCC accounts, raising questions over repayment capacity and increasing dependency on credit among farmers. According to data presented in the Lok Sabha by the Union ministry of finance in response to a query by BJP MP Rajeshbhai Narainbhai Chudasama, Punjab's outstanding loan amount under KCC scheme rose

NEIGHBOURS DID NOT FARE ANY BETTER

In Haryana, loans grew ₹10,055cr

In comparison, Haryana has seen a more pronounced rise in both card issuance and debt levels. The number of active KCCs in Haryana grew from 2.264 lakh in 2021 to 2.4 lakh in 2025, while outstanding loans surged by ₹10,055 crore—from ₹45,356 crore to ₹55,411 crore, a 22.2% rise.

from Rs 54,526 crore in March 2021 to Rs 57,536 crore in March 2025—an increase of Rs 3,010 crore (5.52%). Given that there were nearly 1,500 days in this time period, the credit burden rose nearly Rs 2 crore every day. In the same period, the number of

44.4% rise in Himachal Pradesh

In Himachal Pradesh, the rise has been even sharper in percentage terms. The hill state's outstanding KCC loan increased from ₹6,626 crore in 2021 to ₹9,572 crore in 2025, marking a 44.5% increase. The number of KCC holders also went up from 39,200 to 51,000, reflecting improved credit access but also a growing credit footprint.

KCC loans now at ₹10.2L cr in India

Nationally, the outstanding loan under the KCC scheme has ballooned to ₹10.2 lakh crore as of March 2025, up from ₹7.53 lakh crore in 2021. The govt has reiterated that to support timely repayments and reduce defaults, farmers are provided incentives for prompt repayment, alongside subsidised interest rates through MISS.

operative KCCs declined from 2.244 lakh to 2.168 lakh, indicating a high per-card loan exposure. The KCC scheme, launched in 1998, was designed to provide timely and hassle-free credit to farmers for activities such as crop production, post-harvest ex-

penses, and working capital for agricultural assets. It is implemented through commercial banks, cooperative banks, and regional rural banks. The Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) offers an interest subvention of 1.5% on short-term wor-



The protests on Shambhu and Khanauri borders between Punjab and Haryana were also staged to seek debt waiver for farmers. While Punjab's loan growth is modest in percentage terms, the increasing liability despite fewer cardholders underlines a worrying trend

king capital loans up to Rs 3 lakh at 7% interest, with an additional 3% incentive for prompt repayment. While Punjab's loan growth is modest in percentage terms, increasing liability despite fewer cardholders underlines a worrying trend.

AAP's night visit for land pooling sparks farmer fury

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Jalandhar: Tension gripped Kot Kalan village, near Jalandhar Cantt, on Thursday night as farmers confronted two Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers trying to discuss the land pooling policy.

Villagers seized and torched publicity material and raised slogans against the state govt and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, demanding the scheme's withdrawal. The incident unfolded around 9.30pm when the AAP functionaries arrived in the village, leading to farmers objecting to the late-night visit. A video recorded by the farmers shows one AAP worker claim-



A video grab of farm activists burning AAP's publicity material in Kot Kalan

On social media, it's a farm stir-level uproar

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Jalandhar: At a time when the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) govt is at pains to push its land pooling policy, especially among farmers, activists and Punjabi netizens, not necessarily aligned to any political party, are playing a crucial role in bringing a counter-narrative, with the battle on the Punjabi social media space increasingly becoming aggressive.

What can be an even bigger headache for the ruling party is that opponents of the policy have started invoking the terminology, expressions, and analogies of the three farm laws brought by the BJP govt, which led to the historical farm movement, and ultimately forced the Narendra Modi govt to withdraw them. While opposition parties and farm groups have staged protests, chief minister Bhagwant Mann has been taking jibes at opposition parties and farm leaders to discredit them. However, the battle on social media is being driven more by activists and netizens. The influential pro-farm social media account, "Tractor 2 Twitter", which played a pivotal role on social media during the farm protest against the three farm laws, shared a poster on Thursday using the analogy: 'BJP's three black farm laws—(were) a conspiracy to snatch govt mandis'; 'AAP's black land pooling policy—a conspiracy to snatch fertile fields'. The activists and netizens are not confining themselves to rhetoric on the issue, but a

few are digging deep to build their arguments.

During the farm protest of 2020, activists of different ideological hues, including Sikh and left-leaning groups despite differences among themselves, powered the narrative against the three farm bills on social media. The same scene appears to be evolving now. Conversely, not many AAP workers and supporters are coming forward to defend the policy online. They seem outnumbered and outmaneuvered, especially on Facebook, the preferred platform among Punjabi netizens.

At least two individuals, who featured in AAP's pro-policy publicity campaign on social media, ended up giving clarifications, and both later said farmers in their respective areas did not want land pooling. Their clarifications were widely shared by anti-land-pooling-policy activists and netizens. Some former AAP workers and supporters are now also adding to the headache for the party. In fact, it is not the first instance of AAP govt facing more opposition from non-aligned Punjabi activists and netizens. Most of them opposed old parties like Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal, and BJP. Within three months of the formation of the AAP govt, a movement started by some environmental activists to oppose an industrial project at Matwara forest land was given impetus by pro-farm and Sikh activists, leading to the first mobilisation of people on the ground.

BSF intercepts 6 drones along Pak border

Amritsar: The Border Security Force (BSF) shot down six drones and seized a cache of arms and heroin in a series of operations along Punjab's Pakistan border in the last 24 hours.

The operations led to the seizure of six DJI Mavic 3 Classic drones, three pistols, six magazines, pistol parts, and 1.1kg heroin, said a statement issued by BSF here on Thursday.

The most notable interception took place near Modhe village in Amritsar, where BSF personnel, using advanced technical countermeasures, neutralised five drones at night. A search led to the seizure of four packets containing three pistols, three magazines, and heroin weighing 1.1kg. In another incident early morning, a drone was intercepted near Attari village on the Amritsar border. BSF troops found a pistol and two magazines. **TNN**

Anti-sacrilege bill: Punjab assembly select committee holds 1st meeting

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh: The 15-member select committee of Punjab vidhan sabha, tasked with holding wider consultations with stakeholders on the anti-sacrilege bill, held its first meeting under the chairmanship of AAP MLA Inderbir Singh Nijjar.

Speaking to media, Nijjar, who was accompanied by speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan, said the committee discussed its work area and the bill. He said a mechanism would be put in place to seek inputs from the public. While methods for submitting suggestions, such as WhatsApp and email, are being considered, these details will be finalised in the next meeting. Religious organisations and thinkers will also be consulted, he said. "The discussions held in the meeting are confidential as it is a sensitive issue," Nijjar stated. "We will

Interfaith group seeks swift enactment

Patiala: A delegation of Sarv Dharam Beadbi Roko Kanoon Morcha (interfaith anti-sacrilege law front) met Punjab speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan and anti-sacrilege bill select committee chairman Inderbir Singh Nijjar to press for the swift enactment of the legislation against sacrilege of religious scriptures. The delegation, led by morcha coordinator Gurpreet Singh, submitted an account of the 286-day-long protest by Gurjeet Singh Khalsa, who had been staging a solitary protest from atop a 400-foot tower in Samana of Patiala district. Nijjar urged the delegation to convince Gurjeet to end his protest, but morcha coordinator Gurpreet Singh clarified that Khalsa remained firm in his resolve. "Congress leader and committee member Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa was also present and assured his full commitment to framing a legislation for the protection of Guru Granth Sahib and other sacred scriptures," said Gurpreet.

meet again on July 29."

Nijjar added the committee would try to submit its report within the stipulated six months. "We will try to meet at least once a week. However, the frequency can be increased, and we may form a sub-committee... Two members, Bram Shankar Jimpa and Amandeep Kaur, could not attend the meeting, but they are

on their way, and we will brief them. The panel may also give an option to invite suggestions through MLAs," Nijjar said. The Punjab advocate general, who is an ex-officio member of the committee, also attended the meeting. The panel includes MLAs from AAP, Congress, BJP, and SAD. The speaker had formed the committee on July 19

to seek public opinion and consult religious organisations on the Punjab Prevention of Offences Against Holy Scripture(s) Bill, 2025. Before this, the sacrilege bill was introduced in the assembly on July 14, proposing stricter penalties, including life imprisonment, for religious sacrilege. MLAs nominated to the committee include Nijjar, Ajay Gupta, Amandeep Kaur Arora, Inderjit Kaur Mann, Jagdeep Kamboj, Jangi Lal Mahajan, Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Neena Mittal, Baljinder Kaur, Budh Ram, Bram Shanker Jimpa, Balwinder Singh Dhaliwal, Madan Lal Bagga, Manpreet Singh Ayali, and Mohammad Jamil Ur Rehman. Under the bill, a person found guilty of sacrilege could face imprisonment of not less than 10 years, extending to a maximum of life imprisonment, along with a fine of Rs 5 lakh, which can go up to Rs 10 lakh.

ming they had secured permission from the sarpanch. Sukhbir Singh, BKU (Doaba) block president, Jalandhar Cantt, who is from the neighbouring village of Kukkar Pind, also reached spot. He said AAP workers claimed they came to the village for a 'survey'. "If any survey has to be done, they should come in the day. They have no business coming at night," Sukhbir declared in the video circulated by farmers. "Anybody coming to the village to lecture us about land pooling would be responsible for the consequences," he said.

A total of 1,000 acres in six villages—Kukkar Pind, Kot Khurd, Kot Kalan, Rehmanpur, Alipur, and Nangal Krar Khan—would be acquired under the scheme. Representatives from these villages have announced opposition to land pooling and are preparing to pass a resolution in the gram sabha against the scheme.



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Scars Of Long Battle For Justice

'Don't run, they'll shoot...': Brother recalls Surmukh's last words

Yudhvir.Rana | TNN



Mucchal resident Kashmir Singh has sought capital punishment for the ex-SP sentenced to 10 years in jail on Wednesday

Amritsar: A CBI court's order to sentence a former SP to 10 years in prison for killing two constables in a staged encounter on April 18, 1993, has stirred up painful memories for Kashmir Singh, whose elder brother, Surmukh Singh, was one of the victims.

Sitting at his home in Mucchal village, 30km from here, Kashmir remembered how his brother saved his life when he saw him the last time. He, however, was of the view that the court's verdict was too lenient and three other personnel, who were acquitted, too should have been held accountable. "On that fateful day, a police team arrived at our home and picked up Surmukh. When I questioned why he was being taken away, they misbehaved with me. When I insisted, they grabbed me by the legs, bundled me into their vehicle, and drove off," he said.

The CBI court in Mohali handed the 10-year sentence to retired SP Paramjit Singh, the SHO of Beas police station in 1993, on Wednesday.

Kashmir said after traveling a short distance, the cops stopped the vehicle and told him to get down and run. "But Surmukh, who was tightly held by the police, called out to me: 'Don't run; if you run, they will shoot you'. I did not move a step. The police then drove off with my brother. That's how he saved my life," Kashmir added.

The court acquitted former inspector Dharam Singh (77), the then SHO of Lopoke police station; and ASIs Kashmir Singh (79) and Darbara Singh (71), citing lack of evidence. Kashmir sought ca-

pital punishment for the guilty policeman.

Surmukh's son, Charanjit Singh, who was not even born when his father was killed and who was present in court when the former SP was sentenced to 10 years in prison, vowed not to stop till everyone was brought to book. "The sentence is too less for the crime they committed. I will not stop here. I will move to a higher court," he added. Though Charanjit had been recruited as a Punjab Police officer in 2012, he was never recruited as he had been tagged "son of a terrorist". He now works as a private driver, earning Rs 9,000 a month. Charanjit, a father of two, demanded the govt issue his appointment letter, along with compensation and job-related benefits for the 13 years he was unable to join the service. An acquaintance of Surmukh and resident of Mucchal village, Balbir Singh Muchhal said 10 years was nothing. "When those entrusted with the law break it, their punishment should reflect the gravity of that betrayal," he added.

Kin seek answers after ASI let off in '92 disappearance case

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Mohali: "Then where is my brother?" demanded Harjinder Singh, moments after a Mohali court on Thursday acquitted former assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Gurnam Singh in the 1992 disappearance case of his brother, Karanbir Singh.

The verdict, delivered by Special CBI Judge Manjot Kaur, cited insufficient evidence and the prosecution's failure to identify the police vehicle allegedly used during the abduction, granting the accused the benefit of doubt.

Karanbir's family, dissatisfied with the decision, announced to challenge the verdict in the Punjab and Haryana high court. "If the police didn't pick him up, then someone must have. And after 33 years, no one knows where my brother is. How is this justice?" Harjinder stated outside the courtroom, his voice filled with emotion.

Sarabjit Singh Verka, the family's counsel, called the judgment a "disappointment". He argued, "We had

2 CLOSURE REPORTS FILED IN PAST

Despite CBI registering a case in 1997, two closure reports were filed (in 1999 and 2008), citing inability of witnesses to identify police personnel or the vehicle. Both were rejected by CBI court, which ordered further probe. A chargesheet was finally filed against Gurnam Singh in 2012, with trial proceedings beginning in earnest after 2018 due to legal delays. During the trial, seven witnesses testified for the prosecution, while the defence presented three.

enough circumstantial and testimonial evidence to make a case. This is not just about acquitting one officer—it's about the failure to provide closure to a family that has waited 33 years for justice."

As the family prepares their high court appeal, Harjinder Singh affirmed their unwavering resolve. "We haven't given up in 33 years. We will continue until we know what happened to Karanbir."

CBI prosecutor Jai Hind Patel highlighted the broader implications of the verdict, noting that many disappearances from the 1990s remain unresolved. "This case is emblematic of the systemic failure to identify and hold accountable those responsible for custodial disap-

pearances," he said. The case originates from Oct 1, 1992, when Karanbir Singh (22) was allegedly abducted from his village, Galalpur in Tarn Taran district, by a police team led by ASI Gurnam Singh. The complaint alleges he was beaten at his home before being taken away and has been missing ever since. The disappearance became part of a larger investigation initiated in 1995 by the Supreme Court, addressing concerns over the cremation of unclaimed bodies by Punjab Police during the militancy era. Karanbir's mother, Gurnam Kaur, who passed away in 2010 before testifying, had told the CBI she feared her son was killed in custody and cremated as "unclaimed".



Assault case: AAP's 2022 poll loser, kin get year's probation

Jalandhar: Aam Aadmi Party functionary Harminder Singh Sandhu, who lost the 2022 assembly election from Chabbewal, has been convicted and sentenced along with his father, uncle, and two cousins in an assault case registered in Jan 2018.

They were charged with voluntarily causing hurt and rioting while armed with a deadly weapon. Sandhu was the AAP constituency incharge until the Chabbewal byelection in 2024, when Hoshiarpur MP Dr Raj Kumar

Chabbewal's son, Dr Ishank, was made the AAP candidate from Chabbewal. He won that bypoll.

The court of judicial magistrate (first class) Mehak Sabharwal on Tuesday convicted Sandhu, father Surinderpal Singh, uncle Rachpal Singh, latter's son Gagandeep Singh, and cousin Manraj Singh. They were sentenced to a year of probation upon furnishing probation bonds of Rs 30,000 with a surety of the same amount, and Rs 1,000 as litigation expenses. TNN

Extortion trail leads to Spain, ends in gunshot wound for Asr accused

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Amritsar: Police on Thursday claimed that an extortion accused was shot in the right leg around 5am near Company Bagh after he allegedly snatched a cop's carbine and pointed it at the arresting team shortly after being taken into custody.

Amritsar commissioner of police Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said the police fired in self-defence at extortion accused Harpreet Singh alias Happy and he was now under treatment in a hospital. The disclosure came when Bhullar announced the arrest of four members of an extortion gang operating on the outskirts of Amritsar.

Bhullar said other accu-

Missing cop found after 3 weeks

Patiala: Police constable Satinder Singh, who had been missing for nearly three weeks and found in Mohali on Tuesday, fled voluntarily due to personal issues and not under any external threat, said Samana deputy superintendent of police (DSP) Fateh Singh Brar. The constable, posted as a PSO in the intelligence department of Mohali, had abandoned his vehicle on the Patiala-Samana road near Bhanra village under mysterious circumstances on July 8. Brar said the blood stains on his car on that day were found as the cop had harmed himself before leaving his car by the roadside. The bloodstained car had sparked a frantic search for the cop and raised suspicions of foul play in his disappearance.

sed had been identified as Amandeep Singh, Simratpal Singh, and Simratpal Singh alias Simran. He said police had initiated an inquiry after a bid was made to extort money from a city-based businessman.

The gang is accused of firing gunshots at the busi-

nessman's commercial property and sending him a video to instil fear and coerce a payment. Bhullar said their probe revealed the gang was being handled by one Sukhdev Singh, who hailed from Rampura village in Amritsar and was now residing in Spain.

Money-laundering probe: Forest officer's ₹54L property attached

Jalandhar: The Enforcement Directorate, Jalandhar zonal office, on Wednesday provisionally attached immovable property worth Rs 53.64 lakh belonging to Sukhwinder Singh, a former range forest officer of Budhladha. The action was taken in connection with a money-laundering investigation related to a forest scam involving the then forest minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot.

The ED initiated the investigation based on two FIRs registered by the vigilance bureau.

The ED claimed that Sukhwinder Singh procured bills from non-existent entities and transferred funds to the bank accounts of private persons. He later received the funds in cash from those persons. Through these criminal activities, he acquired proceeds of crime amounting to Rs 53.64 lakh, alleged ED. Earlier, Dharamsot, who was a minister in

Drug scam: ₹21cr attached

The ED provisionally attached movable properties in the form of bank balance worth Rs 21 crore belonging to Dr Amit Bansal, his family, and related entities under PMLA. This action is part of a money laundering investigation connected with the alleged illegal sale of BNX (Buprenorphine/Nalaxone) drugs by 22 private de-addiction centres in Punjab. ED initiated the probe based on FIRs registered by Punjab Police against Dr Bansal and others. On July 18, searches were conducted at Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Barnala, and Mumbai in connection with this case.

the previous Congress govt, was arrested. A prosecution complaint was filed against him in the special PMLA court at Mohali. Charges have already been framed. TNN

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NEWS DIGEST

Man arrested for firing outside gym

Jalandhar: Jalandhar Commissionerate police arrested an accused who opened fire with the intention of killing local resident Simranjit Singh near Off Grid Gym, Model Town, on the evening of July 1. The police also seized a pistol and a live bullet.

Asr youth's body back from Dubai

Amritsar: The mortal remains of Dharambir (26), a resident of Lehara village near Garhshankar in Hoshiarpur district, arrived at Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport from Dubai on Thursday. Dharambir died of a heart attack on July 17.

Social activist Pooja joins AAP

Chandigarh: Entrepreneur and social activist Pooja Singh officially joined the AAP on Wednesday. A party spokesperson said Pooja Singh is known for her contribution to skill development and women's empowerment.

Drug dealer's illegal structure razed

Jalandhar: The MC, in coordination with Commissionerate Police Jalandhar, on Thursday demolished an illegal construction belonging to a drug smuggler in New Hardyal Nagar.

Pb claims nod, Centre in the dark on power units

Says Got No Plan As Min's Claim Flagged In LS

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Chandigarh: Contradicting Punjab power minister Harbhajan Singh's claim that it approved three 800-MW power units in Punjab, the Union ministry of power has clarified it had not received any such proposal.

The clarification came in response to a query in the Lok Sabha by Congress MP Charanjit Singh Channi, who sought details regarding central govt's approval to three new thermal units of 800 MW each — two in Ropar and one at a new location. Responding to Channi's question, the ministry stated: "No such proposal has been received in the ministry of power."

The rebuttal follows Harbhajan Singh's announcement on June 7, after the Conference of North Indian Power Ministers in Delhi,

CLAIM VS CLARIFICATION

► Punjab power minister Harbhajan Singh on June 7 claimed Centre approved two 800 MW units at Ropar and another 800 MW plant elsewhere to meet Punjab's growing electricity demand

► The Union ministry, in response to a query in the Lok Sabha by Congress MP Charanjit Singh Channi,

clarified it received no such proposals

► It said as per Electricity Act, 2003, setting up power plants doesn't require Centre's approval if standards are met

► The ministry stated that ensuring adequate power generation fell under the jurisdiction of the respective state govt or its power utility

chaired by Union power minister Manohar Lal Khattar. The conference was attended by energy representatives from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Delhi.

Harbhajan Singh claimed that the Centre approved the setting up of two additional plants, each of 800 MW capacity, at Ropar. Additionally, he claimed, approval was granted to setting up a new 800-MW power plant at another location to meet Punjab's growing electricity demand.

Despite repeated attempts, Harbhajan Singh could not be contacted for comment on the Union ministry's dislosure.

However, the Union ministry clarified that under Section 7 of the Electricity Act, 2003, setting up power generation units was a de-licensed activity. This means states and private entities do not require prior central govt approval to establish power plants, provided they comply with grid connectivity and technical standards. The ministry stated said ensuring adequate power generation to meet electricity demand within a state fell under the jurisdiction of the respective state govt or its power utility.

Addressing a query on coal supply, the ministry highlighted several ongoing national initiatives aimed at reducing bottlenecks in coal logistics. It said coal linkage rationalisation had been

Addressing a query on coal supply, the ministry highlighted several ongoing national initiatives aimed at reducing bottlenecks in coal logistics. It said coal linkage rationalisation had been implemented to reduce transportation distances between coal mines and power plants.

Flexibility has also been provided to state and central generating companies (GenCos) in utilisation of domestic coal by state/central GenCos amongst their generating stations to reduce the cost of power generation by allocating more coal to their most efficient plants as well as by saving in transportation cost. The Coal Logistic Plan and Policy, spearheaded by the Ministry of Coal, focuses on enhancing supply chain efficiency through key railway infrastructure projects that reduce logistics costs and improve the timeliness of coal deliveries across the country.

Assault on Col: Suspended cops report at new postings Want To Avoid Being Tagged 'POs': Officer's Kin

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Patiala: About a week after Punjab and Haryana HC called Punjab Police's probe into the alleged assault on Col Pushpinder Singh Bath "tainted" and handed the case to CBI, four suspended cops have reported at their new postings.

This drew sharp criticism from Col Bath's family members, who said the accused inspectors had "surfaced" to avoid being declared 'proclaimed offenders' (POs). They had been transferred out of Patiala after the controversy erupted.

On July 16, high court had questioned why police had not proceeded against the accused officers although all offences in the FIR were non-bailable. "The only answer given to the court is all the accused are not traceable. The court cannot lose sight that all accused are serving police officers," Justice Rajesh Bhardwaj had said.

Now, inspector Harry Boparai has joined his new posting in Malerkotla, Harjinder Singh and Shaminder Singh in Sangrur, and Rony Singh in Barnala, said police. Sangrur SSP Sartaj Singh Chahal and Malerkotla SSP

'COPS TRYING TO SHIELD ACCUSED'

Gurtej Singh Dhillon, the Army officer's brother-in-law, alleged that a section of police was trying to shield the four accused officers rather than arresting them. "Three SIT heads were changed during the investigation before the case was transferred to the UT Chandigarh Police, and later to CBI by court order. We were pressured for a compromise and Col Bath's wife Jaswinder Kaur Bath has reiterated this several times. We will continue our fight for justice," he said.

Gagan Ajit Singh confirmed the officers recently reported to their transfer postings. A senior police officer said a time-bound departmental inquiry against these suspended cops was expected to be completed soon.

Col Bath's family sees a motive in this. Gurtej Singh Dhillon, the Army officer's brother-in-law, expressed serious concern over the move, and said the accused officers had remained at large for months despite facing an investigation.

"After the case was transferred to CBI on our request, these accused policemen suddenly joined their new postings, although they'd remain under suspension. It appears to be a deliberate move to avoid being declared proclaimed offenders, which happens after 120 days of evading arrest," Dhillon said. He alleged a section of po-

lice was trying to shield the four accused officers rather than arresting them. "Three SIT heads were changed during the investigation before the case was transferred to the UT Chandigarh Police, and later to CBI by court order. We were pressured for a compromise and Col Bath's wife Jaswinder Kaur Bath has reiterated this several times. We will continue our fight for justice."

HC was scathing on police in its July 16 order to hand over the case to CBI. Justice Bhardwaj said "there are no prospects of free and fair investigation in the case by SIT of UT, Chandigarh", and that the court could not be a spectator to the investigating agency conducting the probe in a "tainted manner". There is no material to convince the court that the probe is being carried out in a free and fair manner, HC had said.

Increase in monthly stipends for Pb med, dental college interns

Chandigarh: Punjab finance minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Thursday announced an increase in the monthly stipends for interns, junior residents, and senior residents across govt medical and dental colleges in the state.

The finance minister said there are currently 907 sanctioned intern posts, 1,408 for junior residents, and 754 for senior residents within Punjab's govt medical and dental colleges. The stipend for interns has been substantially raised from Rs 15,000 to Rs 22,000 per month. For junior residents, the new stipend structure will see a rise from the current Rs 67,968 per month to Rs 76,000 in the first year, Rs 77,000 in the second year, and Rs 78,000 in the third year. Similarly, senior residents will experience an increase from their current Rs 81,562 per month to Rs 92,000 in the first year, Rs 93,000 in the second year, and Rs 94,000 in the third year.

Cheema reiterated the state govt's dedication to allocating ample resources for the education and health sectors. He said that the annual expenditure on these stipends, currently Rs 204.96 crore, will escalate to Rs 238.18 crore following this enhancement, representing an estimated annual

Min: Won't tolerate violence in hosps

Patiala: Punjab health and family welfare minister Dr Balbir Singh on Thursday conducted a surprise inspection of Govt Rajindra Hospital in Patiala to review healthcare services. During his visit, he engaged with patients in the emergency ward, OPD, and other hospital units, gathering feedback on the quality of care and facilities provided. Dr Singh stated that such incidents would not be tolerated. "Anyone attempting to disturb the peace in a hospital will face strict legal action and be sent straight to jail," he warned. **TNN**

increase of Rs 33.22 crore. The finance minister affirmed the Punjab govt's resolve to enhance healthcare facilities throughout the state. He also mentioned the recent initiative to provide insurance coverage of Rs 10 lakh to every citizen, further emphasising the govt's focus on public welfare. Cheema assured that there will be no scarcity of funds for the continued development and improvement of healthcare infrastructure and services in Punjab. **TNN**

3 years on, Zira vows to continue fight against distillery pollution

Neel.Kamal@timesofindia.com

Bathinda: A fight for the permanent closure of a distillery and ethanol project accused of spreading air and water pollution completed three years in Punjab's Ferozepur district on Thursday, an occasion that was marked with a religious ceremony and a resolve to continue the protest.

Under the banner of 'Sanjha Zira Morcha', residents of villages around Malbros International Private Limited in Mansoorwal Kalan, near Zira, Ferozepur, vowed not to give up till the unit was shut down. Representatives from various social, labour, and farmer organisations, including farm leader Jagjit Singh Dalal and jailed MP Amritpal Singh's father, Tarsem Singh, gathered in solidarity and assured continued support for the cause.

The protest was launched on July 24, 2022. "After detecting the smell of undistilled liquor while digging a borewell at the nearby village of Mahiyawal Kalan on July 17, 2022, residents suspected the distillery was disposing of its waste into groundwater through reverse boring. Samples were collected on at least two occasions, and a team from Central Pollution Control Board and Punjab govt-appointed committees found toxic substances in the water around the

distillery," said Roman Brar, a member of the Sanjha Zira Morcha. "The chief minister assured action but we are still awaiting written orders to permanently shut down the unit," he added.

Toxic substances in water above permissible limits

Parameters concerning toxic substances, including lead, chromium, arsenic, polychlorinated biphenyls, and phenolic compounds (undesirable in excessive amounts), were found in the water samples, with values above permissible limits set by the Indian standards for drinking water.

High concentrations of volatile fatty acids were found in soil samples. Acting on the CPCB report, the Punjab Pollution Control Board filed a case at the court of Ferozepur chief judicial magistrate under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. It led to a search operation by the ED at seven locations related to Malbros International Private Limited on July 16, 2024, in relation to money laundering cases pertaining to environmental crime under the PMLA 2002. With the case now being heard in the NGT, the protest since the last one year has become more symbolic with less physical presence at the site—the industrial unit.



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- Narendra Modi



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July 23 to 25, 2025

(Chief Guest)

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini

Chief Minister, Haryana

(August Presence)

Sh. Gaurav Gautam

Minister of State for Youth Empowerment and Sports (I.C.), Haryana

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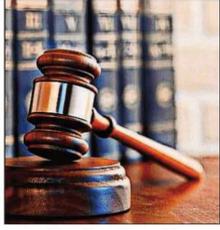
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Battle casualty benefits apply even if death caused by fellow soldier: HC

Says Pension Cannot Be Time-Barred

Ajay Sura
@timesofindia.com

Chandigarh: The Punjab and Haryana high court has made it clear that a soldier killed by a fellow serviceman during a military operation is entitled to the same benefits as those killed in action. Rejecting a central govt plea that sought to deny pension due to a delay in filing the claim, the court held that pension is a continuing cause of action and such entitlements



Rejecting a central govt plea that sought to deny pension due to a delay in filing the claim, the court held that pension is a continuing cause of action and such entitlements cannot be time-barred, especially when the pension is meant for a family member of a soldier who died in the line of duty.

A division bench comprising Justice Anupinder Singh Grewal and Justice Deepak Manchanda dismissed a petition by the ministry of defence (MoD), which had chal-

The MoD had argued that Rukmani Devi's son died on Oct 21, 1991, leading to an inordinate delay of more than 25 years in filing the application with the AFT in 2018. They further contended that her son did not participate in Operation Parakram. However, after reviewing the case, the bench led by Justice Grewal noted that Rukmani Devi's son was an Indian Army personnel on duty in Operation Rakshak in Jammu and Kashmir when he died on Oct 21, 1991, from a firearm injury caused by a fellow soldier's gunshot. In its detailed July 16 order, the high court said, "This is to be considered as a 'Battle Casualty' vide Army Air De-

fence Records Part-II order No.01/BC/05/002 dated August 27, 1992, as the death took place during the said operation and there is no dispute that the son of the respondent (Rukmani Devi) was indeed deployed in Operation Rakshak at the time of his death." The court highlighted that instructions issued by the Centre, ministry of defence in Jan 2001, apply to all armed forces personnel deployed in military operations across India. These instructions specify that "all disabilities, injuries, accidents, and deaths occurring during operations which are notified by the govt, fall under category 'E' of Para 4.1 of the said instructions."

NEWS DIGEST

Man jumps to death from hosp's 5th floor

Amritsar: A 45-year-old man, Bajinder Singh, died by suicide after jumping from the fifth floor of Guru Nanak Dev Hospital building on Thursday. A resident of Verka, Bajinder worked in a factory. He was undergoing treatment for head and hand injuries suffered in a recent accident. He was admitted for treatment and initially discharged after preliminary care. However, he returned to the hospital for a scheduled operation, when he took the extreme step.

Kid honoured for excelling in gatka

Amritsar: The officiating jathedar of Akal Takht, Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj, honoured a four-year-old Sikh child who brought recognition to gatka, the Sikh martial art, across the country and abroad. This Sikh child, Fateh Singh, a resident of Amritsar, performed gatka on prominent stages in Europe, Singapore, and Mumbai, promoting Sikh identity and values.

Hry to start scheme for poor prisoners

Chandigarh: Haryana additional chief secretary (home, jails, criminal investigation and administration of justice) Dr Sumita Misra issued comprehensive directions for the immediate and effective implementation of the 'Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme' across all districts to ensure access to justice and humane support for underprivileged inmates.

HAU student chosen for PhD at US varsity

Hisar: Simran, a student of HAU, has been selected for a PhD programme at Iowa State University of Science and Technology, USA. As part of the fellowship, Simran will receive a scholarship of over Rs 23 lakh per year, along with full tuition coverage and free health insurance.

Khalsa University begins admissions

Amritsar: Khalsa University is set to start admissions for 2025-26 academic session in diverse faculties after UGC included its name in the list of state (private) universities under Section 2(f) of UGC Act, 1956, said Dharminder Singh, under-secretary (administration and PR), on Thursday.

CM: Hry to start police recruitment after CET

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh: Chief minister Nayab Singh Saini announced in Charkhi Dabri on Thursday that police recruitment will be launched soon after the Common Eligibility Test (CET) scheduled for July 26 and 27.

He added that directions have already been issued to police officials to complete the preparatory work and that applications will be invited shortly. Speaking at Badhra of Dabri, where he inducted village Jhohnu Kalan into the Mahagram Yojana and inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of 19 projects worth Rs 68 crore, Saini also unveiled the statue of martyr Arvind Sangwan.

He said women appearing for the CET, along with one accompanying family member, will be given free travel to ensure they reach their exam centres without inconvenience. He appealed to the public to use private vehicles only for essential work during the exam days due to the ex-

7 new IAS officers posted in state

Chandigarh: The Haryana govt has issued transfer and posting orders for newly inducted IAS officers, effective from the date of their joining. Ankita Puwar was posted as sub-divisional officer (civil), Nuh. Aniruddh Yadav was posted as sub-divisional officer (civil), Narnaul, and deputy CEO and deputy managing director, Haryana Multi Modal Logistic Hub Project Limited. Abhinav Siwach was posted as sub-divisional officer (Civil), Pehowa, while Akash Sharma was posted as sub-divisional officer (Civil), Tohana.

Kanika Goyal was posted as sub-divisional officer (civil), Mahendragarh. Yogesh Saini was posted as sub-divisional officer (civil), Charkhi Dabri, while Ravi Meena was posted as sub-divisional officer (Civil), Tosham. These officers will assume charge at their new postings after being relieved from Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

pected surge in traffic.

Earlier, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of 19 key development projects totalling nearly Rs 68 crore. These include the foundation stone-laying of 17 projects worth Rs 54.84 crore and the inauguration of two projects worth Rs 13.05 crore.

Highlighting the developmental strides made over the past decade, the CM said the gathering that Rs 495 crore worth of works were executed in Badhra alone since 2014, whereas merely Rs 175 crore were spent on develop-

mental works during the previous Congress govt's 10-year term. Of 203 announcements made for Badhra, 145 have been completed and work is under way on the remaining.

The CM reaffirmed his vision to accelerate district Charkhi Dabri's growth, declaring that development here would proceed not just at double but triple the current pace. Since its establishment as a separate district in 2016, 474 announcements have been made for Charkhi Dabri, out of which 321 are complete and 90 are in progress.

Friends out on walk find charred hand, torso near tracks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Rohtak: A woman's charred hand and part of her torso, suspected to have been burnt with a chemical, were discovered near the PGIMS quarters on Thursday night by two friends out on a walk.

The government railway police (GRP) and a team from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) launched a probe after being alerted. Initial findings suggest the woman was murdered elsewhere, her body dismembered and parts dumped near the railway line close to the quarters, said a GRP official.

The SHO of Rohtak GRP police station, Joginder Singh, said the burnt body parts had now been kept in a mortuary and a search for the remaining parts would be launched on Friday morning. Rahul, a resident of Ekta Colony, was out on a walk with a friend when a pungent smell caught their attention near the PGIMS quarters, said the SHO.

Upon closer inspection, they saw what appeared to be burnt flesh. When he realised it was a human hand, Rahul phoned the police, added the SHO.

The SHO said a patch of scorched grass at the crime scene suggested the chemical was poured or applied on the body parts there itself. Investigators are yet to identify the woman or ascertain the chemical used. The SHO said forensic experts had confirmed the remains belonged to a woman. Nightfall and dense foliage hampered the investigation. Police later sealed the crime scene as news of the discovery drew a large crowd of onlookers, said the SHO.

Teacher arrested for kidnap & rape of teen

Vijender Kumar | TNN

Jind: A science teacher at a reputed private school, which is owned by a prominent political leader of the state, has been arrested for allegedly abducting and raping a 17-year-old girl in Jind district. The accused was arrested by the city police 12 days after the incident.

Reportedly, the incident took place on July 10, coinciding with Guru Purnima, when the 17-year-old Class 12 student was allegedly lured away from near her home. Her mother later filed a police complaint, following which the city police registered a kidnapping case and started a probe.

Later, the girl was safely recovered, and in her statement before a magistrate, she accused the teacher of rape and unlawful confinement. Based on her statement, police registered a case under relevant sections of the BNS and the Protection of Children from Sexu-

al Offences (POCSO) Act.

Talking to TOI, city police station in-charge Manish Kumar said the accused, who was arrested by the police, was produced in court, which sent him into two days of police custody. Further investigation is under way, and the school administration has been asked to cooperate in the incident, he added.

This case reminded the horror of Haryana's heartland when a school principal of a govt school sexually assaulted 142 minor girls two years back in Jind district. The incident came to light when 15 girls wrote a letter to the President and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Aug 31, 2023, alleging sexual assault by the school principal. The matter was highlighted by the TOI, which even led to heated arguments during the assembly session between the opposition and ruling party over the safety of girls in schools.

Man gets 20-yr jail for sexual assault of minor

Jaskaran Singh | TNN

Yamunanagar: A court here has sentenced a 59-year-old man to 20 years in prison and imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on him for sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl.

Additional district and sessions judge Ranjana Aggarwal on Thursday convicted Sadhaura resident Om Chandra under sections 65 (2) (rape) and 351 (3) (criminal intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 6 (aggravated penetrative sexual assault) of the POCSO Act.

The case dates to Aug 29, 2024, when a woman from a village under Sadhaura police station alleged that her daughter had gone missing and she rescued her from the cattle shed owned by the convict, after hearing her cries from a distance. The woman had alleged that the man had attempted to sexually assault her.

17-yr-old from Rohtak stuns double Oly medallist Sindhu at China Open

Sat Singh | TNN

Rohtak: India's 17-year-old shuttler Unnati Hooda pulled off a major upset at the BWF Super 1000 China Open 2025, knocking out double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu in the pre-quarterfinals.

Hooda prevailed 21-19, 19-21, 21-13, ending Sindhu's campaign and sealing a quarter-final berth where she will face Japan's Akane Yamaguchi.

The all-Indian Round of 16 clash was a gritty, seesaw battle. Hooda edged the opening game 21-19 with bold net play and sharp counter-attacks. Sindhu hit back to level the match 21-19 in the second, but the decider was one-way traffic as Hooda accelerated decisively to claim it 21-13.

Hooda hails from Chamarla village in Rohtak. She began playing badminton at

RISE & RISE OF UNNATI

2021 | First major appearance at the India International Challenge, finished runner-up to Anupama Upadhyay

2022 | Won the Odisha Open, defeating Smit Toshniwal in the final; clinched silver at the Badminton Asia Junior U-17 & U-15 Championships in Nonthaburi, Thailand

2023 | Captured the Abu Dhabi Masters title, beating Samiya Imad Farooqui in the final; won the India International Challenge by defeating Tasnim Mir

the age of seven, inspired and supported by her father Upkar Hooda, a badminton enthusiast, who enrolled her at the Chhotu Ram Stadium Badminton Academy. According to coach Pravesh Kumar, she started with "gali badminton" and quickly graduated to winning district-level titles after a brief period of formal coaching. Seeing a bright future in bad-

minton, Upkar, her father, quit his regular job in a govt college to fulfil the dream of his daughter, who then started playing at the state level.

Her journey with Sindhu also has a symbolic beginning: the first time they met was when Hooda clinched gold at the JBC Cup in Delhi, where Sindhu was the chief guest and presented her with the medal.

Later, Hooda was part of the Uber Cup 2022 Indian squad, which Sindhu led. She cleared her Class 12 CBSE board exams this year, and her father is currently accompanying her in China.

Talking to TOI, Upkar Hooda, who is currently in China with his daughter, said that Unnati's rise came during the Covid period when everyone was locked inside.

His daughter did not miss even a single day, but they finished their training before the break of the day in the dark at the stadium and later played matches indoors without catching the attention of authorities.

"We maintained social distancing and all necessary precautions but did not miss any single day. Unnati kept growing, and today is a big day for the family as she beat her idol PV Sindhu in the China Open series."

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Seechewal raises issue of stranded Indians in Russia

Chandigarh: In reply to a question by Rajya Sabha MP Balbir Singh Seechewal, MoS for external affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said 127 Indians were part of Russian armed forces. Of these, 98 have returned, while 13 remain in service, with 12 of them reported missing. Seechewal questioned MEA about why families of these stranded Indians have not been receiving updates of their whereabouts. TNN

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Raging Rivers In The Hills, Bridges Washed Away In Plains: Kids Bear The Brunt Of Monsoon Fury Across Region

Residents form man-bridge for kids in flooded Moga village

We Are Village People... It's Natural For Us, Say Residents As Clip Goes Viral

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Bathinda: A flashflood having swept away the main road, residents of a village in Punjab's Moga district turned into a human bridge to help stranded school children cross the raging waters on Wednesday.

In surging, waist-deep water, two men leaned over to span the breach and let the kids walk on their backs to safety in Malleana village, around 160km west of Chandigarh.

A video of this was soon racking up views on social media, and the two men were surprised to know they had become internet celebrities. "We are village people. It's natural for us. It's just that someone took a video and it reached outside," said Sukhwinder, when TOI reached out to him.

Due to heavy rain, rivers and canals are overflowing in some parts of Punjab. The road that was there when children from Malleana village boarded their schoolbus on Wednesday morning had disappeared when they returned in the afternoon. The main link between Malleana and Rasoolpur villages (45km apart) in Nihal Singh Wala subdivision was cut by raging floodwaters.

Vehicles and people stood on either side unable to ford the 8-ft breach. So did the schoolbus carrying Malleana kids.



A child crosses a washed away road on the back of two people as other students await their turn to reach the other side in Malleana village, Moga, on Wednesday

Sukhwinder was in a group of people trying to plug the breach, but with the fields flooded on either side and more floodwater surging in, it was proving impossible.

On seeing the homebound kids stranded on one side, Sukhwinder and another man

immediately formed a human bridge while two men on either side helped the kids get on and off it.

The school children walked on their backs to the other side, where waiting hands pulled them to safety. Their schoolbags were then passed on by



human chain. A visitor, carrying a strolley, also walked on the man bridge.

Sukhwinder said, "When we saw that school students and teachers were facing problems, we decided to help them out. Two of us bent down to form a bridge, allowing them to walk on us and across. It's not a big thing, really."

4 cops save 11 of family after car falls into canal, are honoured

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bathinda: Four cops from the Bathinda police were honoured with the Director General's Commendation Discs and a cash reward of Rs 25,000 each for showing outstanding courage by risking their own lives to rescue a family of 11, including five children, after their car plunged into the Sirhind canal near Behman bridge on Wednesday.

Assistant sub-inspector (ASIs) Rajinder Singh and Narinder Singh and senior constables Jaswant Singh and Harpal Kaur, members of a PCR team, rescued all the members of the family and pulled out the car. Punjab Police DGP Gaurav Yadav and Bathinda senior superintendent of police Anneet Kondal stated that their fearless and swift action turned an imminent tragedy into a miraculous escape.

On Thursday, Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann personally met and honoured the courageous Bathinda Police Control Room (PCR) team.

On piggyback & a prayer, kids risk life daily for school

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Kullu: Every time children of the remote Bhamour region of Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district set out for school these days, they put their life and limb at risk. It's like this every monsoon as an overflowing rivulet threatens to sweep them off the mountain.

Often, the kids have to turn back. Most days they have to make it across on an adult's back. The return journey is just as perilous.

Some two dozen children from Banni and Bhadra villages in this tribal region, around 120km east of Dalhousie, take daily risks to reach their school in Mandho.

All it would take to make the children's lives safer is to build a small bridge or a culvert, but the villagers' pleas have gone unheeded so far. Thousands of pilgrims also run this gauntlet to visit the famed Banni Mata temple, yet this visitor fallout too hasn't persuaded the administration to create safer alternatives.

"When the water in the rivulet looks too dangerous to cross, we have two options: wait for someone to help us or return home. It's impacting our studies. The administration should build a bridge here, if not an iron one, then even a wooden bridge would do for now," said Shaurya Kumari, a student of class XII.

"Only a few days ago, a schoolgirl was almost swept away but was rescued by lo-



In the absence of a bridge, children of Chamba's Bhamour are forced to piggyback their way to the senior secondary school

cal people. A large number of devotees also pass through this same rivulet to reach Banni Mata temple, but the demand for a bridge is still pending," said Munshi Ram, a local.

Everyday locals keep a watch on the rivulet. If it starts overflowing, they get ready to carry children across on their backs. A video of this is going around social media.

"We have made several requests to the administration to build a bridge. It flows throughout the year, but the water level becomes dangerously high during monsoon. If a bridge is built, it will solve our problems, especially for schoolgoing children, who put their lives at risk every monsoon," said Ranjeet Kumar, pradhan of Banni panchayat.

Even devotees who visit Banni Mata temple are also inconvenienced. "If it's raining, there is no way one can cross the nullah. There are

times when devotees have to wait one to two days for the water level to subside. It's PWD's responsibility to build the bridge, but each time we put our demand, officials look the other way," said Pinki Devi, pradhan of nearby Tundah panchayat.

"The current is really strong in monsoon. Children can easily be washed away. The govt must take note of the situation and build a bridge here to prevent any mishap," said Kishori Lal, a local who has helped children cross the nullah many times.

Asked about the villagers' plight, Chamba deputy commissioner Mukesh Rapsal assured that a culvert would be built before next monsoon. "It's a seasonal rivulet. Its water level increases during monsoon, and the road gets flooded. We have already proposed to build a culvert here so that the water could be channelled under the road," said the DC.

NEWS DIGEST

Custody death: Kin cremate body

Hisar: A day after a man died while in the lock-up of Hisar's Mangali police post, a medical board conducted the post-mortem of the body, after which his family members agreed to cremate the body. Sanjay Kantilal, a resident of Mangali Jhara, was detained at the police post after his wife had called the police over a drunken dispute on Tuesday night. He was found dead on Wednesday morning. The post-mortem proceedings were videographed in the presence of the duty magistrate. Both the police and family are now awaiting the postmortem and viscera reports. The NHRC was also informed about the incident.

Welfare panel reviews schemes

Patiala: Punjab Vidhan Sabha committee for the welfare of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and backward classes held a review meeting in Patiala on Thursday to assess the implementation of various welfare schemes being run by the central and state govts. Committee chairperson and Jagraon MLA Sarjiti Kaur Manuque chaired the meeting, and it was attended by Amritsar West MLA Jasbir Singh Sandhu, Bathinda Rural MLA Amit Rattan and Bhuchon MLA Master Jagbir Singh.

Haryana min defends Barala

Jind: During a ceremony to mark the 12th Foundation Day of Chaudhary Ranbir Singh University (CRSU) in Jind on Thursday, Haryana education minister Mahipal Dhanda defended the state govt's move to appoint sexual harassment accused Vikas Barala as a top law officer. "Is it a crime to be the son of a politician today? He studied hard and progressed on his own," he said. "Just because someone has a case in court, does that mean they should not be allowed to work?" he added.

Stir by Cong MPs

Chandigarh: Congress MPs from Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh staged a demonstration outside the Parliament House, demanding immediate action related to threats being issued to the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Road safety info

Chandigarh: AAP Rajya Sabha MP Ashok Kumar Mittal on Wednesday sought transparency from the Centre on the issue of road-safety infrastructure through an unstarred question during the monsoon session.

Shah to visit HP, says BJP team after disaster relief meet

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Shimla: A BJP delegation led by the party's national president, J P Nadda, met Union home minister Amit Shah on Thursday in Delhi to discuss the monsoon disaster in Himachal and seek relief from the central govt.

Nadda informed that Shah said the NDA govt had previously provided substantial financial assistance to Himachal and assured that it will continue to fund relief efforts adequately. Shah also promised to personally visit Himachal to assess the situation.

The delegation included the leader of the opposition and former chief minister, Jai Ram Thakur; BJP state president Dr Rajeev Bindal; all four Lok Sabha members from the state, three Rajya Sabha members, and a few MLAs.

Highlighting that Shah provided every possible assistance during the disaster relief and rescue operations to the hill state, Nadda said the NDRE, ITBP, Army, and Air force helicopters were made available immediately where torrential rains wreaked havoc recently.

Nadda said: "We also demanded research on the causes of the disaster, and a high-level team was immediately formed for that purpose. We



Senior BJP leaders with home minister Amit Shah on Thursday

Central team meets chief secy

Shimla: A multi-sectoral central team met chief secretary Prabodh Saxena here on Thursday in its ongoing exercise to examine the root causes of the increasing trend of natural disasters in the Himalayan state in recent years. Saxena emphasised that hilly states face unique and significant challenges in managing disasters and rehabilitation

expressed our gratitude on behalf of the people of Himachal for all types of support."

The national BJP president stated that under Shah's chairmanship, a high-level committee already approved an expenditure of Rs 2,006 crore for rehabilitation.

274 roads still blocked in hill state

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Shimla: As per a state government statement, 274 roads remained blocked, 56 transformers were non-functional, and 173 water supply schemes were to be restored in Himachal Pradesh on Friday.

According to the state Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC), a maximum of 156 roads remained blocked in the flood-affected Mandi district, followed by 58 in Kullu, 22 in Sirmour, 12 in Lahaul Spiti, 11 in Kangra, and 3 in Una district of the state.

A total of 54 transformers also remained non-functional in the Mandi district. Out of the 172 disrupted water supply schemes in the state, the highest number was 65 in Mandi district, followed by 59 in Kangra, 34 in Sirmour, and 10 in Chamba district.

Revised relief norms

Additional chief secretary K K Pant on Thursday told a five-member central team that Himachal's unique geography means disaster recovery and rehabilitation norms need updating. He added that agencies like the Central Water Commission and Geological Survey of India should do detailed studies on natural disasters while working in the state.

Khalra's son attends Guru Nanak Jahaz Remembrance Day event

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Bathinda: Slain human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra's son Janmeet Singh participated in the proclamation by Surrey city council in British Columbia, Canada, declaring July 23 as Guru Nanak Jahaz Remembrance Day.

Janmeet Singh's great-grandfather (Jaswant Singh Khalra's grandfather), Harman Singh, was one of the 376 passengers aboard the Japanese steamship Komagata Maru (Guru Nanak Jahaz) when it reached Vancouver on May 23, 1914. He was arrested when the vessel reached India on Sept 27, 1914.

The declaration at Surrey City Hall was attended by a host of dignitaries, including members of Parliament Sukh Dhaliwal and Gurbax Singh Saini, along with British Columbia legislative assembly members Amina Shah, Garry Begg, Mandep



Janmeet Singh (second from right) participated in the proclamation at Surrey, British Columbia, Canada

Singh Dhaliwal, Harman Bhangu, and Jody Toor: Surrey councillor Harry Bains formally presented a copy of the proclamation to Janmeet Singh. Notable attendees also included researcher and Ragi Bhai Baldeep Singh, and former Pakistani MP Rai Aziz Ullah Khan, whose family are custodians of the 17th-century Ganga Sagar, a copper urn belonging to tenth Sikh master Guru Gobind Singh.

Gurvinder Singh Dhaliwal from the Guru Nanak Jahaz Heritage Society, the dri-

ving force behind the proclamation, spoke about the historical significance of the steamship. Wearing a "Guru Nanak Jahaz" imprinted tee, Dhaliwal recounted how the passengers were denied entry and kept near Vancouver for two months before their forced return. It was further emphasised the importance of rectifying past wrongs and re-naming the vessel Guru Nanak Jahaz, as it was renamed by the passengers, led by Baba Gurdit Singh, after religious ceremonies.

Associates allege drug abuse by Amritpal, says police chargesheet

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Chandigarh: Two associates of Waris Punjab De chief and jailed Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh have claimed in their disclosure statements before police that Amritpal was "hooked on drugs" in Punjab and "consumed them in Assam's Dibrugarh jail too", says a police chargesheet.

The statements of Bhagwant Singh alias Pardhan Mantri Bajeke, and Varinder Singh Fauji, were recorded in police custody in March after they were brought to Punjab from Dibrugarh jail earlier this year to face trial in the Ajnala police station attack case.

At least six cops were injured in the attack, in which Amritpal and his associates barged into the police station using Guru Granth Sahib as a "shield" to get one of their associates freed. On Feb 24, 2023, Amritpal and his associates were booked on attempted murder and se-

BID TO DEFAME, SAYS LAWYER

Ritu Raj Singh Sandhu, counsel for the associates of Amritpal Singh in the case, said the "disclosure statements are an attempt to defame Amritpal Singh." Sandhu said, "The disclosure statement should focus on the relevance of the facts in the case and any related recoveries, for example, recovery of weapons if any fact emerged. What he (Amritpal) does or does not do is not relevant. Were they to recover drugs in the case? Also, the disclosure statements are not in proper format. Instead of questions and answers or conversations, these are like essays written by someone."

veral other charges.

While Amritpal is lodged for the third year running in Dibrugarh jail under the National Security Act (NSA), Bajeke and Fauji spent two years there.

Their disclosure statements are part of a chargesheet filed by the police in a court in Ajnala last month. They have been sent to the sessions court in Amritsar, as the attempted murder case is under trial there.

According to the statements, Amritpal "used Signal and Zigana apps, carried

a special iPhone without any SIM card, talked to various persons living abroad while he was in Punjab and in Dibrugarh jail, and behaved weirdly in Dibrugarh jail, often hurling abuses at his associates under the influence of drugs."

Responding to the claims, Imaan Singh Khara, the legal adviser of Akali Dal (Waris Punjab De), the political party Amritpal Singh's faction launched in Jan this year, said that such "confession statements have no value in the court." He added,

"It is per se not admissible in the court."

Claiming that Bajeke told him over phone from the official landline number of Bathinda jail, where he is lodged, that he did not give any such statement to police, Khara alleged that "police got the signatures on blank papers". He alleged that it was "a deliberate attempt to defame and tarnish the image of Amritpal by labelling him as a drug addict because he leads the campaign against drugs. It is character assassination."

Khara said, "Only statements made in the court are admissible." The statements hold no relevance in context to the Ajnala FIR, he argued.

A senior Punjab Police officer, privy to the developments in the case, said, "These are disclosure statements of the accused and are part of a supplementary charge sheet submitted in the court. These may come into play in the course of the investigation."

'Proceeds of crime' used in land deal: ED in Vadra case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: It's a "clear and classic case of money laundering" as proceeds of crime were used to acquire immovable properties, ED on Thursday

told a Delhi court while making preliminary submissions on its chargesheet in the case linked to a land deal in Shikohpur village in Gurgaon involving Robert Vadra, husband of Wayana MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

The agency was arguing before special judge Sushant Chagotra of Rouse Avenue courts on the point of issuance of notice to Vadra and other accused in the case. The court reserved its order on notice for July 31.

ED, which recently filed a chargesheet against Vadra and others in the case, submitted that the evidence conclusively established that the offence is of money laundering, where proceeds of crime are generated, layered and enjoyed.

The agency said they had shown funds flow, property and statements of witnesses. The land deal in

question was executed in Feb 2008. Special counsel Zohab Hossain submitted that the investigation found false declarations were made in the land deal.

Skylight Hospitality, a firm in which Vadra held 99% shares, purchased land measuring 3.5 acres worth crores. The sale deed falsely declared Rs 7.5 crore had been paid, when in reality no payment was made as the cheque was never cashed. The money was paid at a later stage to avoid stamp duty, and this was corroborated by key witnesses, the counsel said. The land was later sold to DLF.

Pargat backs RaGa remark on poll panel

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh: Senior Punjab Congress leader Pargat Singh on Thursday expressed strong support for the recent statement made by

party leader Rahul Gandhi, in which he alleged that the Election Commission is not functioning with the independence and integrity expected of a constitutional institution.

Pargat Singh said that the serious allegations regarding the functioning of the Election Commission and the integrity of India's electoral process are deeply concerning and strike at the heart of our democratic values.

Referring to the case of alleged vote theft in Karnataka, Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party claimed to possess 100% evidence of electoral manipulation. "It is alarming that such irregularities are being exposed. These allegations must be thoroughly and impartially investigated by an independent agency to restore public faith," said Pargat Singh. He further warned, "Those attempting to manipulate the electoral process and suppress the will of the people must face consequences."

Punjab to introduce unified building bylaws: Housing min

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh: Punjab housing and urban development minister Hardeep Singh Mundian announced Wednesday that the state govt was set to introduce unified building bylaws and suggestions had been sought on the draft within a month's time.

Mundian said the bylaws were being standar-

dised across all development authorities and corporations in Punjab. He said bylaws were made user-friendly, easily comprehensible, and implementable.

He added the move would fulfil a pending demand of city residents and other stakeholders. He informed the draft of the bylaws was uploaded on govt websites www.puda.gov.in and [\[www.puda.gov.in\]\(http://www.puda.gov.in\) to solicit public suggestions. He invited residents to submit their suggestions and recommendations within 30 days. "The state govt decided to seek public consultation for creating unified building bylaws to enable futuristic and uniform building construction. The bylaws are being prepared through comprehensive consultation and public input," he added.](http://www.enaksha.lgpn-</p>
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I Karanber Singh Bachhal S/o Tejinder Singh R/o Village Khaspur Distt. Haryana. Nagar Mohali changed my name Karanber Singh

I Sanjana Devi (39) W/o Late Sanjay Kumar V.P.O. & Sub- Teh. Kotla. Teh. Jawali Distt. Kangra (HP) declare to correct my name from KRISHANA KUMARI to SANJANA DEVI in my Aadhar Card.

I Bhawana Singh W/o Aditya Siroha R/o Vill. Chautala, Sirsa, Haryana changed my name to Bhawana

I Balwinder Kaur W/o Jagseer Singh Brar R/o St. No. 3 Left, Green Avenue, Faridkot Distt. Punjab. Have Changed My Name Balwinder Kaur Brar.

I, No. 20009931Y, Rank L/NK, Hemraj S/O Mohinder Singh, Unit-18 Dogra Reg., Vill. Samoor Kalan, Teh., Distt. Una HP. Declare that I want to add my surname as Kaushal in my children name as Kanishka Kaushal (08.02.2017), Mamta Kaushal (29.11.2018) & Dhruva Kaushal (18.08.2021) instead of written as Kanishka, Mamnat & Dhruv, in my part-II order in my Army documents.

I Renu Gautam W/o Harish Gautam R/o H.N. 2813, Gandhi Chowk, Top Khana, Karnal declare that I have changed my name from Renuka Devi to Renu Gautam

I Baldeep Kaur Uppal W/o Late Manjit Singh Sandhu R/o Village Sancha, Kapurthala have changed my name to Baldeep Kaur Sandhu

I Jagpal Singh S/o Khila Ram Village Shyamtom, Post Office Rattewali, Tehsil and District Panchkula, Haryana. Name changed my name from Jagpal to Jagpal Singh

I Harpreet Singh Dhanesar Ji Jaswant Singh Chahal, Bhago Majra P.O Roorkee Pukhta (S.A.S. Nagar) changed my name to Harpreet Singh.

I Puneet S/O Daljit Singh #548, Ward No.1, Balachaur, Distt. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar changed my name Puneet Chaudhary

I Tarsem Kumar S/O Gurdeep Singh R/o adda chahal, Jhabal Manna, Tarn Taran Punjab, have changed my name from Tarsem Kumar to Tarsem Vig.

I Kamaljeet Kaur W/o Tarlochan Singh Fullfilar R/O Mamtamandi Distt. Bathinda changed my name Kamaljeet Kaur Fullfilar.

I Anita Rani W/o Tarsem Kumar R/o adda chahal, Jhabal Manna, Tarn Taran Punjab, have changed my name from Anita Rani to Anita Vig.

I, Amarjeet Singh S/O Balhar Singh R/O H.No. EH-44 A, Ladhali Road, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name to Amarjit Singh.

I Gourav Kumar S/O Nareesh Kumar R/o Kanjpal(50) PO Sarawan Distt Yamuna Nagar changed my name Gorav Kumar

I Veerpal Kaur Sidhu W/o Pjmer Singh Brar R/O H.No. 8/24 P.A.U. Campus, Ludhiana changed my name to Veerpal Kaur After Marriage

I Paranjit Kaur C/o Sukhwinder Singh R/o Late Shaheed Wala, Mohalla Jaswant Singh Tarn-Taran have changed my name to Paranjit Kaur.

I Army No. 18021831F Rank Naik Amit J/o L. Hukmi Ram Jait Jagt P/o Runohokti Teh Bharnour Distt Chamba HP declare that in my Army service record my mother's name has been wrongly entered as Shreshtha Devi her correct name is Shrestha Devi her correct DOB is 26/05/1980

I, Mamta Rani /o Mamta Kumari, daughter of Balwant Singh, wife of Kamlesh Kumar, resident of Village and Post Office Dhanu Bakk, Tehsil Hansi District Hisar, have changed my name from Mamta Kumari to Mamta Rani.

I, Sumitra Rai Mother of JC-77298HP Rank Sub Name Deepak Kumar R/o Vill Nandwari Po Bagdogra Teh Siliuguri Distt Darjeeling (WB) Pin 734014. But My mother service record entry is Name Sumitra Rai recorded that is wrong. My Correct name is Sumitra Devi Rai.

I Darshana Devi Arora W/o Avinash Chander R/O H.No 25/1, DLF Colony, Patiala HP have changed my name to Darshana Devi.

I, Nirwair Singh S/o Jetha Singh R/O #102HP, St.No. 2 Bathinda Pura Basti, Distt. Muktsar Sahib have changed my name to Nirwair Singh.

I Palsamy Reddier father of Sundara Moorthi P R/O 5331 north street, Sanmugampuram Distt Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu) 627869 have changed my name Palsamy Reddier to Palsamy vide affidavit date 24.07.2025 before notary public Distt court Bathinda (PB)

I, Aanandya Trehan S/O Anirudh Trehan R/O 136, Sial Road, Sardar Patil Nagar, Patiala Distt. Bathinda 154011 changed my name to Anandya Trehan for all future purposes.

I, Mohammad Muzamil Mir S/O Abdul Rashid Mir R/O Rawalpura, Beerwah, Badgam, Jammu & Kashmir - 193411, have changed my name to Muzamil Rashid.

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I Mohammad Ashfaq S/o Jit Ram #B-32/865, St.4 Near Govt. School, Ward No.1, Bhoura Ludhiana changed my name Mohammad Ashfaq Lamba

I Meenakshi W/O Kulvir Sharma # H NO 18, Durga Nagar, P.N.B. Bank, Distt. Ambala City, Chhanged My Name Meenakshi Sharma.

I, Sukhvir Singh S/O Manjit Singh r/o Vill. Ralhan, Po. Khudda, Ralhan, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144305 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sukhvir Sukhviri.

I, Samarjit Kaur W/O JC-28067 Late Sub Maj (Hy Lt) Raji Singh R/o Village Paragurpa, Tehsil Patthi, Distt. Tarn Taran, Punjab have changed my name from Samarjit Singh Kaur and date of birth from 10 Jan 1956 to 01 Jan 1958.

I Harmeet Kaur W/o Kanwar Gurbpreet Singh Gill R/O # 279, Harinder Nagar, Patiala have changed my name Harmeet Kaur Gill.

I Anjali Kansal D/o Arun Sharma R/O G-703, Jaipuria, Sunrise Greens, VIP Road, Zilahi, Distt. Bathinda changed my name Anjali Sharma

I, SERVICE no.15492791A Rank DFR Name Randeher Kamaljit namra R/o Village Siroj Khurd, Post- Saray Kalan, Tehsil- Mundawar, Distt- Alwar (Rajasthan) Pin-301401. My correct name service record mentioned my father name as Ramdhani Yadav instead of Ramdhani vide affidavit no. BY783498 dated 24-07-2025 Before Notary Public Saratgarh (Raj.)

I, Mahinder Singh S/o Kartar Singh R/O Village Lakhovall PO Kala Mangal Distt Gurdaspur changed my name in Army service record of my son No.2496951M, Rank HAV Balraj Singh, my date of birth wrongly recorded as 01/07/1947. My correct DOB is 10/11/1948. All note.

I Saroj W/O Daljit Singh #548, Ward No.1, Balachaur, Distt. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar changed my name Saroj Devi

I, Meena Kumari w/o Kamaljit namra R/o Village Wariana, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my minor son's name from Anurang to Anurang Rahil.

I Haridas K father of Arjundas K R/O Sreehari Village, Post-Khatiapatti, Distt.-Baloda Bazar (Chhattisgarh), Pin-493332 declare that my service record mentioned my son name as Mayank instead of Mayank Yadav vide affidavit no. 12A/261527 dated 18-06-2025 Before Notary Public Baloda Bazar (Chhattisgarh)

I, Muskan Nouser W/o Mohammad Ashfaq Lamba #B-32/865, St.4 Near Govt. School, Ward No.1, Bhoura, Ludhiana changed my name Muskan Lamba

I Sarvjeet Alias Sarbjeet Kaur W/o Kuldeep Singh R/o Vill. Behalpur, Distt. Fatehahad changed my name to Sarbjeet Kaur

I, Sulekha Devi Mother of No. 5351779X Ek R/o Dinesh Kumar R/O V. Jh. Nohal, P.O. Bihar, Teh. Barsar, Distt. Haryana. I instead of Mahi Yadav Army record of my son, my name & DOB wrongly entered as Sulakha Devi & 01/07/1965. My correct name is Sulekha Devi & my correct DOB is 15/03/1961. Please note.

I, Shaikh Noor Salim S/O Shaikh Abdual Rohid R/O H.No.803, Dyalpura Gate Karnal have changed my name Noor Salim to Shaikh Noor Salim.

I Anees Taj (old name), W/o Jaipal Singh, R/O Flat No.102, 1st Floor, S.M.R Sterling Residences, Malini Colony, New B o w e n p a l l y Secunderabad - 500011, Telangana, have changed my name to Anees (new name), as per affidavit dated 20/04/2016 before Notary T. Tirumalesh Goud, Reg. No. 609/2016.

I, Permdierjeet Kaur Sidhu W/o Bhupinder Singh Sidhu R/O #490 Phase-4 SAS Nagar (WB) Distt. Faridkot. My correct name is Permdierjeet Kaur.

I, Sunita Devi w/o Virander Singh Vill Bari Kalhoh P/O Kalhoh Teh Sundernagar Distt Mandi HP declare that in my son's Army No 1363451H PTR Rohit Rana Unit 1 Para (SF) record my name has been wrongly entered as Sunita my correct name is Sunita Devi vide affidavit no. 13AA 261528 dated 18-06-2025 Before Notary Public Baloda Bazar (Chhattisgarh)

I, Hitherto known as Renu Kumari Alias Renu Kumari W/o Sh. Nareesh Kumar R/o Vill.Sai (Bir) P.O. Alampur Distt. Hisar (HP). 176082 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Renu Kumari.

I, Kuldeep Kumar Sood S/O Rattan Chand Sood R/O A.D. Avenue Kazikot Road Tarn Taran Distt. Tarn Taran have changed my name from Kuldeep Kumar Sood to Kuld as surname.

I, Anil Kumar S/O Sh. Kashmir Singh R/O VPO Dhanu Bakk, Teh. Distt. Hamirpur (H.P) declares that I have changed my minor daughter's name from Aakritika Thakur to Arkitika Thakur for all purposes in future. Please note.

I, Anil Kumar S/O Sh. Kashmir Singh R/O VPO Dhanu Bakk, Teh. Distt. Hamirpur (H.P) declares that I have changed my minor daughter's name from Aakritika Thakur to Arkitika Thakur for all purposes in future. Please note.

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I Sushil Gugnani S/o Ramji Dass Gugnani R/O Flat No 402, 4th Floor, GHS-09, The Noida Sahitya EWSS Society, Sirhind Road, Patiala-147001 have changed my name to Sushil Kumar Gugnani

I Harjeet Bala Gosain W/o Rohit Kumar Gosain R/O H.No 37-D (R) Model Town Karnal declare that I have changed my name from Harjeet Bala to Harjeet Bala Gosain

I, Darshan S/O Tota Ram R/o Village Kalsa, Tehsil Pehowa, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Darshan to Darshan Singh.

I, Jaswinder Kumar S/O Narjan Singh R/O #203 Kishangarh Chandigarh have changed my name Daughter's name from Manvi to Manvi Lamba.

I, Davinder Kaur W/o Jagmail Singh R/O H.No.20478, St.No. 28, AjiT Road, Bathinda changed my name Devinder Kaur

I Meenakshi Rani and Kavita W/o Pawan Kumar R/O 30/5, New Model Town, Jawahar Nagar, Ludhiana declare that above both names are one and the same person

I Service No 3997925W Rank Ex Hav Hari Singh S/O Lt. Tej Singh Vill Mathyana P.O Bagaaid Teh Thunag Distt Mandi HP declare that in my Army service record my son's name has been wrongly entered as Yogender Kumar his correct name is Yogender Kumar

I Manav S/O Dharam Singh R/O H.No.167 Pawan Road, 2 Badungar Patiala Have Changed My Name From Manav To Manav Khosia Vill. Manav, Distt. Bathinda

I, Mahinder Singh S/o Kartar Singh R/O Village Lakhovall PO Kala Mangal Distt Gurdaspur changed my name in Army service record of my son No.2496951M, Rank HAV Balraj Singh, my date of birth wrongly recorded as 01/07/1947. My correct DOB is 10/11/1948. All note.

I Saroj W/O Daljit Singh #548, Ward No.1, Balachaur, Distt. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar changed my name Saroj Devi

I, Meena Kumari w/o Kamaljit namra R/o Village Wariana, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my minor son's name from Anurang to Anurang Rahil.

I, Muskan Nouser W/o Mohammad Ashfaq Lamba #B-32/865, St.4 Near Govt. School, Ward No.1, Bhoura, Ludhiana changed my name Muskan Lamba

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I Sheenu Jindal D/O Vipen Kumar R/O Gaurav Singh R/O H. No. 34, Aman Bagh, Sector-18, Sahitya EWSS Society, Sirhind Road, Patiala-147001 have changed my name to Sheenu Singla.

I Kanwar Gurbpreet Singh S/O S. Jagjeet Singh Gill R/O # 279, Harinder Nagar, Patiala have changed my name to Kanwar Gurbpreet Singh Gill.

I, Raj Kumar Sharma S/O Narinder Kumar R/O 150, Jattan Wala Bans, Nabha, Distt. Bathinda changed my name Raj Sharma

I Sandeep Kumar Sharma S/o Ashok Kumar # B-2/165, Sahnewal Kalan, PO. Sahnewal, Ludhiana changed my name Sandeep Kumar Sharma

I Ashish Tripathi S/O, Shiv Shankar Tiwari R/O 56 P Manohar Vihar Yoshoda Nagar Kanwar Nagar Uttar Pradesh Distt. Kanwar changed my name to Ashish Tiwari

I, No. 15132982M, EX Haw (MACP/NB/SUB) Santosh Kumar Singh R/O 2/165, THOK, Behind godt. hospital, muskara Hamirpur, (UP) Pin (210506), want to change my service name & DOB from RAJNEE to RAJNI & 06-06-1981 to 01-06-1981 in my service records. In My Service record, Naskik Road discharge Book, PPO, ECDA Allahabad SPASHK Portal vide Affidavit dated 14/7/2025. Before Attested Notary District Ambala, Please update it.

I, INDIRA DEVI BHATTARAI WIFE OF BHARAT SINGH BHATTARAI, R/O VILL-KANGLATONGBI, PO-SEKAL, DISTT-BATHINDA, HARYANA. I have changed my name from INDIRA DEVI BHATTARAI TO INDIRA DEVI CHHETRYA

I, No. 15826394F NK M Reddy R/O 15FAD C/O 56APO Do Here Declare That I Have Changed My Spouse Name From M U K K a m a l l a Varalakshmi To Vandugula Varalakshmi. In My Service Records Vide Affidavit No. 07AA 251485 DATED 12-06-2025

I Shivali W/o Akul Sharma R/O H.No.14, Amr. Vihar, S/o. Manoj Kumar, Jalandhar have changed my name from Shivali to Shivali Sharma.

I Pankaj Malhotra S/o Kulwant Rai # 344/A, National Road, Ghumar Nagar, Ludhiana have changed my minor daughter's name from Kashish Malhotra to Bhavisha Malhotra

I, Devarajan MV father of Unnikuttan MD R/O Manichuvattithara Distt Kotagamla, Distt. Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu. I have changed my name Devarajan MV to M V Devarajan vide affidavit date 24.07.2025 before notary public Distt. Court Bathinda (PB)

I, Gurpreet Singh s/o Nirwair Singh R/O #439, Jesh Rani, Distt. Bathinda, Punjab. My correct name is Gurpreet Singh and my surname is Vadhani.

I Simple Kumar S/O Rakesh Dawar R/O 1574, Wadhawa National Colony, Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana-121013 have changed my name to Simple Dawar for all future purpose.

I, Gurpreet Singh s/o Nirwair Singh R/O #439, Jesh Rani, Distt. Bathinda, Punjab. My correct name is Gurpreet Singh and my surname is Vadhani.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information to the General Public as well as to the concerned that No. 35-F in H.B.C, Sec-18, Sonapat, is allotted in the name of Sunil Kumar S/O Mukyar Singh R/O Sunderh Kanha vide this office letter No. 4267 dated 05.09.2019 Now Sunil Kumar S/O Mukyar Singh R/O Sunderh has submitted documents for transfer of above said house in favour of Bir Singh Saini S/O Nain Singh Saini R/O H. No. 1060/3, Adarsh Nagar. If any person has any objection regarding transfer of this house he/she should file objection with documentary proof, in writing, in person to this office on or before 14/07/2025. After the date of publication of this notice, if no objection is received from any person within the stipulated period, the permission for transfer of House will be granted in favour of Bir Singh Saini S/O Nain Singh Saini by this office on the basis of documents submitted by allottee. As per policy of the Board No claim/objection shall be entertained after that in this regard. O

Bus falls into gorge in Mandi; 8 dead

4 Women Among Victims, 21 Hurt; Probe Ordered

Rohit.Mullick@timesofindia.com

Kullu: Eight people died and 21 others were injured when a Himachal Roadways Transport Corporation bus plunged into a gorge in Mandi district Thursday morning. Six of the dead were elderly.

The accident occurred at a sharp bend near Maseran, 160km from Shimla, around 9.45am. According to eyewitnesses, the driver had edged slightly off the road, and the retaining wall gave way, plunging the bus into a 50ft-deep gorge.



Locals and police come to the rescue of accident victims

Locals immediately clambered down the steep slopes and began a rescue effort. They helped bring the injured out of the bus after calling medical and emergency services.

The injured were first taken to Sarkaghat govt hospital, 85km away, from where those in serious condition were referred to AIIMS-Bilaspur and

GMCH, Nerchowk, in Mandi district.

According to a police officer, five people died on the spot, three others succumbed in hospital.

The deceased, which included four women, were identified as Geeta Devi, 65, Doma Devi, 70, Klasi Devi, 60, Barfi Devi, 80, Antariksh, 17, Balbir, 60, and Suman Kumar,



Deputy chief minister Mukesh Agnihotri also visited Sarkaghat and met the injured at the hospital.

Expressing grief over the bus accident, chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu directed the Mandi district administration to provide ex gratia to the next of kin of the deceased and the best treatment to the injured.

Agnihotri said a judicial probe had been ordered into the accident. Agnihotri, who met the injured and inspected the accident site, said a technical team from the transport department is working to determine the cause of the accident.

The govt has announced immediate relief assistance of Rs 25,000 each for the families of the deceased and Rs 5,000 each for the injured.

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Act now to avert 'Udta Himachal' tag in 5 yrs: Guv

Shimla: Raising serious concern over the lack of drug de-addiction and rehabilitation centres in Himachal Pradesh, given the steep increase in the number of drug dependent patients, governor Shiv Pratap Shukla warned that if the state govt fails to act swiftly, the Himalayan state could become 'Udta Himachal' like its neighbour 'Udta Punjab' in the next five years. "I am feeling a little hesitant, and despite repeated appeals, nothing is being done as there is only one rehabilitation centre of Red Cross in Kullu in the entire state," said Shukla. The state govt must have definitely moved forward to open various rehabilitation centres, but the only statement that comes is that the state govt is identifying land in Sirmour district to establish a drug de-addiction and rehabilitation centre, he added. The governor stated that if we fail to take collective action today, it will spoil the entire generation. TNN

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
(Notice No.FET/Ph.D/01/2025 Date: 24/07/2025)
Information for Admission to Ph.D. (Engineering/Pharmacy) Programme 2025 will be available from 24th July 2025 at <https://admissionju.jadavpuruniversity.in/fengadmission>. Last Date of On-line Payment : 8th August 2025. Application Form fill-up : 24th July 2025 to 11th August 2025. Secretary (e), FET

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN SHRI MANI MAHESH TRUST, -CUM- ADDITIONAL DISTRICT MAGISTRATE BHARMOUR DISTRICT CHAMBA, H.P.-176315.
Phone No. - 01895-225506, 01895-225027, Fax No. 01895-225027, Email : smmyatra@gmail.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR SELECTION OF HELICOPTER SHUTTLE SERVICE OPERATORS DURING SHRI MANI MAHESH YATRA-2025.

TENDER No. - SMMT/BMR/Heilitaxi/2025-1947-50 DATED-23-07-2025.
The undersigned on behalf of Shri Mani Mahesh Trust Bharmour invites bids from reputed eligible Aviation Companies/Firms to provide helicopter shuttle services during Shri Mani Mahesh Yatra-2025 on the Holi-Gaurikund/Gaurikund-Holi route. Interested Companies/Firms may bid for flight operations, purely on leave and license basis for operation of helicopter service from 15-08-2025 to 01-09-2025. The Bid Document containing the detailed terms and conditions of the tender can be obtained in person during office hours or by post/courier upon a written request accompanied by the cost of the document (Rs. 10000/-) or can also be downloaded from the websites <https://www.manimaheshyatra.hp.gov.in> <https://hpcchamba.nic.in> Sealed bids in two bid format - i.e. Technical and Financial each filled separately and properly sealed must reach in the O/o the undersigned on or before 31st July, 2025 up to 11:00 AM. The technical bids shall be opened on the same day at 12:00 PM. in the O/o Sub Divisional Officer (Civil) Bharmour, District Chamba. The date of opening of financial bids shall be intimated later by email to the technically qualified bidders. All future information/ corrigendum/ addendum w.r.t this tender process will be communicated on the aforementioned websites only.

Chairman Shri Mani Mahesh Trust, -Cum- Additional District Magistrate Bharmour, District Chamba HP.
Adv.No. : 0715/24/07/2025

Kullu body's no to stir, says will 'consult' deity

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kullu: While announcing that it would not take part in Friday's planned protest against the Bijli Mahadev ropeway project, the Kardar Sangh, an organisation of the administrative heads of the deities of Kullu district, said on Thursday that the Mahadev deity should be consulted again.

"We will not participate in the protest rally on July 24, but the members of the Kardar Sangh have decided to consult the Bijli Mahadev deity. If the Bijli Mahadev does not want the ropeway, then we will follow His orders and do every-

BIJLI MAHADEV ROPEWAY

thing we need to," said Dot Ram, the president of the District Kullu Kardar Association, on Thursday.

He added that there should be no political interference in this matter of faith. "The politicians are making statements, but have they tried con-



Trees chopped for the project in Himachal's Kullu district

sulting the Bijli Mahadev to know His wishes? There is no need for any political interference in such a matter of faith that affects everybody in the district," he said. However, according to Fateh Rana, the general secretary of the Bijli Mahadev Ropeway Sangharsh Samiti, the Bijli Mahadev has already said no to this project. "The Bijli Mahadev has already expressed its wish many times through His medium. The deity has clearly said the ropeway should not be allowed here," said Rana.

Med students expelled for false ragging claim

Kullu: Five MBBS students of Govt Medical College and Hospital, Nerchowk, in Himachal Pradesh have been expelled from classes and the hostel for three months for falsely accusing their seniors of ragging.

The students were punished on recommendations of the college's anti-ragging committee. They are from the 2022 MBBS batch. Each student was also fined Rs 25,000.

A college staff member said the anti-ragging committee initiated an inquiry following allegations in 2023. "The committee, during its investigations, found the allegations to be false," he said. TNN

MSME Technology Development Centre
Process & Product Development Centre, Agra
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
Foundry Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)
Extension Centre Attingal Organizes
Data Analytics for Accountants
30, 31 July 01, 04 & 05 August 2025, Timing: 7PM to 9PM
COURSE CONTENT: • Data analytics in Income Tax • GST trends and variance analysis • TDS reconciliation using Excel tools • Tally data extraction for analysis • PivotTables for MIS reporting • Forecasting revenue, expenses, tax • Anomaly detection in journal entries • GST input/output mismatch analysis • Profitability by cost center - Tally • Automate reports using Excel Macros.
Course Fees: ₹3540/- with GST
For More Details
9944971623, 8129988725
CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED

HIMACHAL PRADESH GENERAL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of HP Undertaking)
Himrus Bldg., Cart Road, SHIMLA-171 001
(Phone No. 0177-2624438, 2624824 Fax - 0177-2624925)
GST No. 02AAACH6125L3ZS
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

No. HPGIC/Pur-42/Labour work/2025-545 Dated : 24-07-2025
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR WORK CONTRACT FOR CLBP MEHATPUR, DISTT.-UNA, HP AND CLBP PARWANOO DISTT.-SOLAN, HP FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01-09-2025 TO 31-08-2026:

Online bids are invited through E-tendering system on RFP mode (Request for Proposal) from experienced work contractors having Labour license / ESIC Registration/ own PF Code No. and GST Number for execution of various works on per box rate basis inclusive of GST against the total production of 71.26 Lac PLS country liquor (50.20 Lac PLS for Country Liquor Bottling Plant Mehatpur, Distt.-Una, HP and 21.06 Lac PLS at Country Liquor Bottling Plant Parwanoo, Distt.-Solan, HP) in the ratio of 750ml-82%, 375ml-12% and 180ml-6% for a period of one year from 01-09-2025 to 31-08-2026, so as to reach this office complete in all respects as per scope of work, scheduled and other terms and conditions given below:

S.N.	Detail of works	Size of Boxes
1	Bringing Cartons from store, filling, sealing, Labeling, affixing holograms, packing & shifting (as per track & trace system) of 750ml, 375ml & 180ml filled glass bottles (New/Old), boxes to Excise godowns	750ml (12 Bottles) 375ml (24 Bottles) 180ml (50 Bottles)
2	Carriage from Excise store and loading in the trucks (as per track & trace system).	750ml (12 Bottles) 375ml (24 Bottles) 180ml (50 Bottles)
3	Carriage of Empty/ Un-filled Glass bottles (New/Old) from storage area to washing section for washing and rinsing of each size i.e. of 750ml, 375ml & 180ml boxes for Bottling.	750ml (12 Bottles) 375ml (24 Bottles) 180ml (50 Bottles)
4	Unloading of empty glass bottles (New/Old) and shifting them to godown	750ml (12 Bottles) 375ml (24 Bottles) 180ml (50 Bottles)
5	Unloading of empty corrugated boxes of 50 Pcs (bundle) & shifting them to godown	Per Bundle

The detail of Schedule and other terms and conditions are as under :-		
Date and time for download of bidding documents from e-procurement portal	Date and time for online submission	Date and time of opening online Technical bids
From 28.07.2025 11:00 AM To 04.08.2025 05:00 PM	From 28.07.2025 11:00 AM To 17.08.2025 05:00 PM	18.08.2025 11:00 AM

- Earnest money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 1.00 Lakh (rupees one lac) only in the shape of demand draft / RTGS / NEFT in SBI Account No. 55012850082 IFSC No. SBIN0050118 in favour of the Managing Director, HPGIC, Shimla
- Cost of Tender: Rs. 1,000/- + GST 18% = Rs. 1180/- (non refundable).
- The bids shall be opened in the office of worthy Managing Director HPGIC Ltd. Shimla by the authorized committee members. The other details of the eligibility and qualification criteria as well as scope of work can be seen in the online bidding document. For detailed terms and conditions log to website <https://hptenders.gov.in/www.hpgic.co.in>
- The bids should be submitted online on website : <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Bidders should get registered themselves on website <https://hptenders.gov.in>.
- The bidders should ensure the compliance of Govt. of India instructions / guidelines / notifications issued from time to time with regard to procurement of goods from the country or countries sharing boundaries with India on the ground of defense of India and national security.
- Any addendum / corrigendum, if any will be published on website (<http://www.hpgic.co.in>), <http://www.hptenders.gov.in>
- The Managing Director reserves the right to accept/ reject any/all tenders without assigning any reason.

Adv.No. :0716/24/07/2025

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

6th, 7th, & 8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre, Naurajji Nagar, New Delhi-110029

Petition No. 428/TL/2025 Dated: 21.7.2025

NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003

An application under Sections 14, 15 and 79(1)(e) of the Electricity Act, 2003 (the Act) has been made by **Mumbai Urja Marg Limited**, DLF Cyber Park, Tower-B, 9th Floor, Udyog Vihar, Phase-III, Sector 20, Gurugram-122008 for the grant of a separate RTM transmission licence to Mumbai Urja Marg Limited for implementation of "2 Nos. of 220 kV bays at Vapi-II S/s (MUML) for LILo of Chikhli-Vapi 220 kV S/C line at Vapi-II S/s" under the Regulated Tariff Mechanism mode. The scope of the project for which a transmission licence has been sought is as under:

220kV line bays at Vapi-II S/s for LILo of 220 kV Chikhli-Vapi 220kV S/c line at Vapi-II:

Sl. No.	Scope of the Transmission Scheme	Item Description	Implementation Time frame
1	2 nos. 220 kV bays at Vapi-II S/s (MUML) for LILo of Chikhli-Vapi 220 kV S/c line at Vapi-II S/s	• 220 kV line bays-2 Nos. (GIS) • 245 kV GIS Bus Duct (1ph) - 240 meters approx. • 220 kV SF6 GIS to AIS Bushing-6 nos. • New 220 kV GIS Building for accommodating 8 Nos. 220 kV Bays & associated development works-600 Sqm. EOT crane for GIS Building-1 no.	21 months from the date of issuance of OM by CTUIL i.e. 20/10/2026.

Total Estimated Cost: Rs. 21.46 Crore

- Note:**
- A new 220kV GIS hall to be constructed separate from existing GIS hall, suitable for 8 nos. 220 kV Bays (including maintenance space). Any kind of dismantling/rework required for above scope of work shall be under scope of the TSP.
 - The Central Transmission Utility of India Limited, vide its letter dated 23.5.2025, has recommended for the grant of a transmission licence to the applicant to establish the proposed transmission system.
 - Based on the material available on the record, the Commission vide order dated 19.7.2025 in Petition No. 428/TL/2025, has proposed to issue a transmission licence to the applicant for establishment of the transmission scheme as noted in para 1 above.
 - A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State transmission licence to **Mumbai Urja Marg Limited** before the Commission can be accessed at the <https://mumbaiurjamarg.com/> or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.
 - Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act that suggestions or objections, if any, to the Commission's proposal to grant a transmission licence to the applicant, as aforesaid, be sent to the undersigned by 5.8.2025 at the above noted address. The suggestions or objections received after the specified date shall not be considered.
 - The application shall be taken up for the further hearing by the Commission on 7.8.2025. Any person who files suggestions or objections may in his/her discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

Sd/- (Harpreet Singh Pruthi) Secretary

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN WELFARE (KENDRIYA SAINIK BOARD SECT)

RESERVED DEFENCE SEATS IN MEDICAL/DENTAL COLLEGES AS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA NOMINEE UNDER MINISTRY OF DEFENCE QUOTA (2025-26)

- Applications are invited for admission to Medical Colleges and Dental College (subject to allotment of seats by Ministry of Health), from sons/daughters/widows/wives of Armed Forces Personnel of the following categories of Defence personnel only, as per priority shown against each:-

Sl. No	Category	Priority
(a)	Widow/ Wards of Defence personnel killed in action.	I
(b)	Wards of disabled in action and boarded out from service.	II
(c)	Widows/ Wards of Defence personnel who died while in service with death attributable to military service.	III
(d)	Wards of disabled in service and boarded out with disability attributable to military service.	IV
(e)	Wards of Ex-Servicemen and serving personnel who are in receipt of Gallantry Awards.	V
(f)	Wards of Ex-Servicemen.	VI
(g)	Wives of	VII
(i)	Defence personnel disabled in action and boarded out from service.	
(ii)	Defence personnel disabled in service and boarded out with disability attributable to military service.	
(iii)	Ex-servicemen and serving personnel who are in receipt of Gallantry Awards.	
(h)	Wards of Serving Personnel.	VIII
(j)	Wives of Serving Personnel.	IX

- Eligibility for Candidature**
- Selection of candidates for reserved seats as Govt of India Nominee will be made on the basis of marks obtained by the candidates in NEET-2025 conducted by NTA. Candidates who do not qualify the NEET should not apply.
- Wards of Civilians are not eligible.
- Candidates are required to apply on Google Forms available on the following Website :-
(a) **DESW Website - www.desw.gov.in**
(b) **DGR Website - www.dgrindia.gov.in**
- Eligibility certificate for Retd pers duly signed by RSB/ZSB, Records Office for Serving Personnel and Priority V, VII, VIII & IX by CO/OC Unit, has to be uploaded alongwith supporting documents and photograph of candidates.

CBC 10405/11/0001/2526

APPENDIX IV-A Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.)** [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 12.08.2025 from 05.00 P.M. to 06.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 27,79,465/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Five only) pending towards Loan Account No. HDHLJAL00485789 (Earlier LAN Code 00004718 of DHFL), by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 08.07.2025 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 09.07.2025 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **CHANDAN KUMAR & CHANDER KUMAR and BEBI DEVI**.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 12,00,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,20,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
HOUSE NO. 113 - B MEASURING 3 MARLA 26.5 SQ. FT. (647.5 SQ. FT.) (DIMENSION 17.6'x37') COMPRISED IN KHASRA NO. 753/560/1, 764/560/2 MIN. 940/569, 765/569, 785/560/2, 964/560/2 MIN. 942/569, 776/560/2, 766/570 MIN. 941/570, 943/570, 786/569, 787/570, 766/570 MIN. KHATA NO. 143/201 - 205, 144/202 TO 209, HADBAST NO. 158, SITUATED AT VILLAGE NAGRA, ABAADI NEW GURU NANAK NAGAR, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT JALANDHAR - 144021, PUNJAB AND WHICH IS BOUNDED AS:-
EAST :- ROAD
WEST :- CHARANJEET SINGH
NORTH :- NAGARA PROPERTY DEALER
SOUTH :- HOUSE NO. 113

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.sammaancapital.com. Contact No. : 0124-6510910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id : auctionhelp@sammaanncapital.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionflo.com.

Sd/-
AUTHORISED OFFICER
SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED
(Formerly known as
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)
Date : 18.07.2025
Place : JALANDHAR

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 Phone No. 080-22267905 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-39/621/2025-26 Date: 24.07.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

EPC Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the works mentioned below:

Name of the work: (1) Survey, Investigation, Design, Supply, Installation, Erection, Laying, Construction and Commissioning of Jackwell with pump houses at Cauvery river and Agara Tank, Impounding Reservoirs at Agara and Maddur tanks, MS pipe Raising main from Cauvery river to Impounding Reservoirs and from Agara tank to Intermediate Pumping Station- 1 (IPS-1), Pumping machineries and allied works inside the pump houses, SCADA, Land Acquisition & 5 years of O&M for Providing & supplying fresh water to the industrial areas in and around Bengaluru on EPC Basis. (Package-1). (2) Survey, Investigation, Design, Supply, Installation, Erection, Laying, Construction and Commissioning of Intermediate Pumping Station-1 (IPS-1), and Intermediate Pumping Station-2 (IPS-2), MS pipe Raising main from IPS-1 to IPS-2 and IPS-2 to Master Balancing reservoir, MBR, Pumping machineries and allied works inside the pump houses, SCADA, Land Acquisition & 5 years of O&M for Providing & supplying fresh water to the industrial areas in and around Bengaluru on EPC Basis. (Package-2)

Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: 29.08.2025 upto 4:00 pm.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/2024/CCL/2025-26

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Ambala Cantt, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites bids through E-Auction on IREPS website for allotment of contracts at Railway Stations of Ambala Division of Northern Railway.

S. N.	Auction Catalogue No.	Description	Lot Start Date Time
1.	UMB-Mix-16-2025	Parking Lot of total area 396.85 sqm for Two Wheelers, Three Wheelers and Four Wheelers at Nabha Railway Station of Division AMBALA.	29.07.2025 12:00:00
2.	UMB-Mix-17-2025	Allotment of Comprehensive Parking Lot of total area 2914.55 Sqm. in Circulating area at Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (SASN) Mohali Railway Station.	01.08.2025 12:00:00
3.	UMB-Mix-17-2025	Comprehensive parking lot of total area 1133 Sqm. near T2 Colony Park at Saharanpur (As per Site Plan).	01.08.2025 12:00:00
4.	UMB-Mix-17-2025	Comprehensive Parking Lot of total area 3383.5 sqm (1129.02 sqm + 2254.48 sqm) at Saharanpur Railway Station (Main Side)	01.08.2025 12:00:00
5.	UMB-Mix-18-2025	Allotment of Four Wheeler Parking lot of total area 528.06 sqm. at Khanna Railway Station.	07.08.2025 12:00:00
6.	UMB-Mix-18-2025	Parking Lot for Two Wheelers and Four Wheelers of area 2963.93 sqm. in Outward Goods Shed & near Baba Bhalku Rail Museum in Shimla Railway Station.	07.08.2025 12:00:00
7.	UMB-Mix-16-2025	Minor catering unit (stall) of size 10' x 6' at PF No. 1 of Malout Railway Station	29.07.2025 12:00:00
8.	UMB-Mix-16-2025	Minor catering unit (stall) of size 10' x 6' in Circulating Area of Kalka Railway Station	29.07.2025 12:00:00
9.	UMB-Mix-16-2025	SMU Stall no. 12 at PF no. 1 of Patiala Railway Station	29.07.2025 12:00:00
10.	UMB-Mix-18-2025	GMU Stall no. 2 at PF -02 (10'x6' ft.) of Jagadhri Workshop Railway Station.	07.08.2025 12:00:00
11.	UMB-Mix-18-2025	Refreshment Room of area 40.61 sqm at Ambala City Railway Station	07.08.2025 12:00:00
12.	UMB-Mix-16-2025	Contract for commercial advertisement of digital media above UTS Hall at Saharanpur Railway station	29.07.2025 12:00:00
13.	UMB-Mix-16-2025	Contract for commercial advertisement in station premises at Bathinda railway station through Non-Digital Media	29.07.2025 12:00:00
14.	UMB-Mix-16-2025	Contract for commercial advertisement in station premises at Saharanpur railway station through Non-Digital Media	29.07.2025 12:00:00
15.	UMB-Mix-16-2025	Contract for commercial advertisement rights at Una Himachal Railway station through RDN Non-digital media	29.07.2025 12:00:00
1			

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers By Richa Gandhi

India Price Makes Tesla A Luxury Dream

If you're thinking of buying a Tesla in India, be prepared to pay nearly twice of what the rest of the world does. With India slapping a staggering 75% to 125% import duty on fully-built cars, Tesla's EVs turn into an electric dream far out of reach for most



'Secular' & 'socialist' will remain in Preamble: Govt

New Delhi: Taking a position different from that of RSS, gov't on Thursday said that it does not intend to drop "socialist" and "secular" from the preamble of the Constitution.

"Govt has not formally initiated any legal or constitutional process to remove the words 'socialist' and 'secular' from the Preamble of the Constitution. While there may be discussions or debates in certain public or political circles, no formal decision or proposal has been announced by the gov't regarding

amendments to these terms," law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal told the Rajya Sabha in a written response.

This runs contrary to the RSS's stand articulated by its secretary general Dattatreya Hosbale that the twin additions to the Preamble made during the Emergency and by a Lok Sabha whose tenure was over should be scrubbed.

This was endorsed by former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar who termed the two insertions as festering sores.



Arjun Ram Meghwal

SC to hear Varma's petition on Monday

Assigns It To Bench Led By Justice Datta

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A Supreme Court bench led by Justice Dipankar Datta will hear on Monday Justice Yashwant Varma's petition challenging the in-house inquiry report accusing him of being complicit in sacks of cash found at his official residence and then CJI Sanjay Khanna's decision to send the report to the President and the PM with the recommendation for his removal.

Justice Varma will be represented by a battery of senior advocates — Kapil Sibal, Mukul Rohatgi, Rakesh Dwivedi, Siddharth Luthra and Siddharth Aggarwal.

Since most senior SC judges were part of the collegium and in some way or the other acquainted with the administrative proceedings relating to Justice Varma, who was repatriated to Allahabad HC from Delhi after the discovery of cash at his residence, CJI Gavai has assigned hearing of the pet-



Since most senior judges were part of the collegium and in some way or the other acquainted with the proceedings relating to Justice Varma, CJI Gavai assigned the case to a bench led by Justice Datta.

When then CJI Khanna was heading the collegium, Justices Gavai, Surya Kant and Vikram Nath were part of it. Justice Datta is 10th in seniority among Supreme Court judges. CJI Gavai had on Wednesday recused from hearing Justice Varma's petition on the ground that he was part of the administrative process relating to transfer of the judge from Delhi HC to his parent Allahabad HC.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal had requested a bench led by CJI Gavai on Wednesday for an urgent hearing on Justice Varma's petition even as the Lok Sabha speak-

er commenced proceedings relating to a notice for removal of the judge signed by more than 150 MPs. Sibal had told the CJI that Justice Varma's petition raised some important constitutional questions relating to the in-house report and the recommendation for his removal.

In his petition, Justice Varma has questioned why Delhi Police and Delhi Fire Service personnel, who discovered the cash, did not seize it or prepare a 'panchnama' (statement of witnesses in writing corroborating the discovery of cash), which alone could have been admissible evidence.

No names from HC collegiums for 52% of vacancies: Govt

New Delhi: Against a vacancy of 371 judges across high courts, HC collegiums have not made any recommendation for 193 posts, which is more than 52% of the total vacancy, law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Thursday said replying to a question in RS on the pendency of SC collegium recommendations for appointment of judges to high courts.

He was responding to a question raised by leader of the opposition in RS Mallikarjun Kharge, who asked the minister to provide details of recommendations made by the SC collegium that are pending and the duration of such pendency. The question came in the context of a recent SC observations regarding the need for govt to clear its long-pending recommendations.

"As on July 18, against the sanctioned strength of 1,122 judges, 751 are working and 371 posts of judges are vacant in various high courts. Against these vacancies, 178 proposals for appointment of HC judges are at various stages of processing between the govt and the Supreme Court collegium. The recommendations against 193 vacancies are yet to be received from HC collegiums," Meghwal said.

Birla to announce in Lok Sabha Varma panel in 8-10 days

Akhilesh Singh
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha deputy chairman Harivansh, who is officiating chairman of the House since the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar, have started the process for committee formation for the removal motion of Allahabad high court's Justice Yashwant Varma.

Sources confirmed that Birla is set to announce the three-member committee in Lok Sabha in the next 8-10 days, after verification of signatures in the two notices, one submitted to him and the other in Rajya Sabha by opposition MPs.

"The signature verification as well as the due process will be reviewed before formation of the committee, which will be announced in the next 8-10 days," a senior functionary said. He also confirmed that the motion for removal of Justice Varma, accused in "cash-in-kothi scam", will be taken up in LS in the winter session after the committee submits its findings.

The functionary confirmed that committee formation will be done in consulta-

tion with Harivansh. "Both notices will be examined to see that they are in order, as per the stipulated rules after which the notice will be admitted and the committee formed," he further said.

Govt sources said the notice signed by 152 MPs submitted to Birla on July 21 is now the "property of the House", and that consultations have begun for the formation of the three-member committee, which will include either the Chief Justice of India or a SC judge, a high court chief justice and a distinguished jurist.

Since a similar notice signed by 63 opposition MPs was submitted to then Dhankhar on the same day, the upper House is also part of the consultation process. As part of the process, the speaker is expected to write to CJI, seeking his recommendation on the two judges, while the choice of the distinguished jurist is his prerogative. Since the notices were submitted, home minister Amit Shah, leader of the house in Rajya Sabha J P Nadra, Birla and Harivansh have been part of deliberations over the future course of action.



Om Birla

TIMES inter act

tender & notices

COURT NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PWD ZONE KOTA
No. 1387 NIT No. 21/2025-26 Date 16.07.2025
Notice Inviting Bid
NIB No. PWD2526A2036

Bids for works Central Road and Infrastructure Fund year 2025-26 in PWD Zone Kota (4 Nos works) are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 pm, 26.08.2025 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eprocrajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the Rajasthan and <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in> website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 28947.87 lacs.

1. UBN No. PWD2526WLOB07318
2. UBN No. PWD2526WLOB07320
3. UBN No. PWD2526WLOB07321
4. UBN No. PWD2526WLOB07322

Sd/-
Addl. Chief Engineer
PWD Zone Kota

DIPRC/10210/2025

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement System

Deputy Chief Materials Manager, N.R. Jagadhari Workshop-135002, for and on behalf of the President of India invites through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Closing Date
01	61256141	Inter-Vehicle Power Couplers with E-Beam Cables	20 Sets	18 August 2025
02	61255728A	Vertical Friction Damper	212 Nos.	14 August 2025

Note:- 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.
2. No manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No.: 61256141, 61255728A 2246/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Office of the Superintending Engineer (M&P), Chambal Power House Premises, Hava Sank, Jaipur-302019 Regd. Office: Vidut Bhawan, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur 302005
Website: energy.rajabhand.gov.org/jvnl, email: sempjpr@jvnl.org, Phone-0141-2296651

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for Appointment of Agency for Meter Reading Related Services for High Value Consumers (TN-M&P-25) (UBN-VN256WLOB00312). All details regarding tender is available at web sites www.energy.rajabhand.gov.org/jvnl, www.sppp.rajabhand.gov.in and www.eproc.rajabhand.gov.in. In future, corrigendum/extension, if any, shall be published only at above web sites.
JPR-3039 (2025)
Raj.Samwad/C/25/6806 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, (M&P)
For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

Project Management Unit
Jal Marg Vikas Project-II (Arth Ganga)
INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)

Head Office: A-13, Sector-1, Noida - 201 301;
Phone: 0120-2544004, Fax: 0120-2543976, ivai@nic.in

National Competitive Bidding (Request For Bids)

e-Bids are invited from interested bidders for "Supply of Life-Saving Appliances, Fire Fighting Appliances, Labs/ Workshops Equipment at National Inland Navigation Institute (NINI), Gaighat, Patna, Bihar". The Tender Documents and other relevant details are available at IWA website www.ivai.nic.in and e-procurement site <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
Date: 25.07.2025 Vice Chairman & Project Director (JMVP)

TNPCL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252623 001543	Supply and Installation of Low Side Air Conditioning Works for TM#5 in TNPCL Unit-II.	08.08.2025
252623 000132	Imported Limestone for LSFM - Cement Plant.	07.08.2025
252623 001600	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Fire Hydrant System for TM#5 of TNPCL Unit-II	08.08.2025
252613 002970	Heavy Duty LDPE Shrink Film 80/90 Microns of various sizes for Unit-I.	06.08.2025
252613 002739	A4 70 GSM, A4 75 GSM & A4 80 GSM Copier Laminated Wrapper Reels (Base Paper 100 GSM with 15 Micron BOPP) for Unit-I.	06.08.2025
252613 002964	180 GSM Kraft Reels of various sizes for Unit-I & II.	06.08.2025

Email: 252623001543 - pmd1@tnpl.co.in
252633000132 - purchase.fuel@tnpl.co.in
252623001600 - pmd2@tnpl.co.in
252613002970 ; 2739; 2964 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPCL Website and NIC Portal. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites: www.tnpl.com / <https://ntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>
DIPR/3770/Tender/2025 TNPCL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

NO.ITBP/5TH BN/PMBJAP/2025-26
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT
C/O 56 APO

NOTICE INVITATION FOR OPENING OF JANAUSHADHI KENDRA

DIG (MEDICAL), Frontier Hospital, ITB Police Leh is hereby inviting interested vendor to open Janushadhi Kendra at 5TH BN ITBP premises. Priority may be given to retired CAPF's personnel or their dependents residing in this location as welfare measure. Vendor should fulfill all the terms & condition of Pharmaceuticals And Medical Devices Bureau Of India (PMBI).

For more details please visit at the address DIG (MEDICAL) Frontier Hospital Leh ITB Police Chuglamsar PIN - 194104 on any working day. We look forward to receiving required documents on or before 10.08.2025 at 17:00 Hrs at above mentioned office address.

For more details please contact-

Mr. K Rameshan (Pharmacist)- 6922347395
Mr. Sajith (Pharmacist)- 8075699968

You may download term & condition at PMBI website www.janushadhi.gov.in

DIG (MEDICAL)
FRONTIER HOSPITAL, ITB POLICE LEH

TELANGANA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
3-5-891, Tourism House, Himayath Nagar, Hyderabad- 500 029.
Ph.040-23262151, 52,53,54 & 57; Fax: 040-23261801
(A State Government Undertaking)

NOTIFICATION

TGTDCL invites applications with full bio-data from the Eligible and Qualified candidates for engagement as General Manager, Hotels (01) one post on contract basis to work at The Plaza Hotel, TGTDCL, Begumpet, Hyderabad for a period of one year initially and extendable for one (01) year based on requirement and satisfactory performance. All details are available in the official website www.tourism.telangana.gov.in. Application should be supported by Attested Photostat copies of original Certificates.

Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

DIPR R.O.No.405-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/17/2025-26 Dt:24.07.2025

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
International Airport, Mumbai

1st floor, Terminal 1, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Santacruz (E), Mumbai - 400 099.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BIDDING PROCESS FOR NON-AERO CONCESSIONS AT CSMI AIRPORT

Mumbai International Airport Limited ("MIAL") invites parties to participate in the competitive bidding process for Passenger Services Concessions at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport ("CSMIA"), Mumbai.

Parties are requested to visit the website: (<https://csmia.adaniairports.com>) -> Business -> Tenders) to download the application form for purchase of RFP documents

Please check the website for the deadline for submission of Application.

TNPCL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252623 001543	Supply and Installation of Low Side Air Conditioning Works for TM#5 in TNPCL Unit-II.	08.08.2025
252623 000132	Imported Limestone for LSFM - Cement Plant.	07.08.2025
252623 001600	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Fire Hydrant System for TM#5 of TNPCL Unit-II	08.08.2025
252613 002970	Heavy Duty LDPE Shrink Film 80/90 Microns of various sizes for Unit-I.	06.08.2025
252613 002739	A4 70 GSM, A4 75 GSM & A4 80 GSM Copier Laminated Wrapper Reels (Base Paper 100 GSM with 15 Micron BOPP) for Unit-I.	06.08.2025
252613 002964	180 GSM Kraft Reels of various sizes for Unit-I & II.	06.08.2025

Email: 252623001543 - pmd1@tnpl.co.in
252633000132 - purchase.fuel@tnpl.co.in
252623001600 - pmd2@tnpl.co.in
252613002970 ; 2739; 2964 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPCL Website and NIC Portal. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites: www.tnpl.com / <https://ntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>
DIPR/3770/Tender/2025 TNPCL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

BRANCH OFFICE:- SCO 18, Kalgidhar Enclave, Baltana, Zirakpur - 140604
M. 8558846419, Ph. 01762-270024, 509877, 509878
E-mail: zirakp@bankofbaroda.com

ANNEXURE - I. REDEMPTION NOTICE

Notice under Rule 6(2) and/or Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Ref. No. BOB/ZIRAKP/NPA/1 Date: 15.07.2025

To,
Mr. Yatin Ahuja S/o Mr. Naveen Kumar (Proprietor - M/s Zane Biotech), Flat No. F-706, Golden Sand Apartments, Old Ambala Road, Dhakoli, Zirakpur, Mohali - 160104.

Re: Notice under Rule 6(2) and/or Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002).
Ref:- (1) Demand Notice Dated 12.08.2024 issued U/s 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act 2002.
(2) Possession Notice Dated 14.10.2024 issued U/s 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act 2002.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Whereas the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda, Zirakpur Main Branch, SCO 18, Kalgidhar Enclave, Zirakpur Highway, Zirakpur, Distt. Mohali - 140603 being Secured Creditor Bank in exercise of the powers conferred u/s 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act 2002 (hereinafter referred as "Act") read with Rules 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 (hereinafter referred as "Rules") issued Demand Notice Dated 12.08.2024 calling upon you by Borrowers (S/ Mortgagor (S) / Guarantor (S) to repay the amount stated in the said demand notice within 60 days from receipt of said notice.

And whereas you have failed to repay the amount, the undersigned in exercise of the powers conferred u/s 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 4 and/or Rule 8 of the Rules have taken over the Possession of Secured Assets (hereinafter referred as the said properties) more particularly described herein below Schedule. [Copy of Possession Notice Dated 14.10.2024 is attached herewith for ready reference]

Even after taking possession of the secured asset, you have not paid the amount due to Bank as mentioned in above Possession Notice. Your attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Therefore you all are requested to pay the dues as mentioned in possession notice along with applicable interest, cost, charges & expenses within 30 days from receipt of this notice and redeem the secured asset as mentioned above. In case you fail to pay the above mentioned dues & redeem the secured asset within 30 days from receipt of this notice, Bank will be constrained to sell the secured asset through public e-Auction by publication of e-Auction Sale notice. The date, time of e-auction and Reserve Price of the property shall be informed to you separately.

SCHEDULE OF SECURED ASSETS / PROPERTIES

Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of Possession	Type of Possession (Symbolic / Physical)	Date of Publication of Possession Notice (For Immovable property only)
All that part and parcel of the	14.10.2024	Physical	19.10.2024

property situated at Industrial Factory Building on Plot No. 104-105 comprised in Land Measuring 18 Marla 2 Sars

WELCOMES



HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA SHRI NARENDRA MODI TO MALDIVES

KPIL's State-Of-The-Art Infrastructure Development Across Maldives



Kalpataru Projects International Limited (KPIL) proudly embraces its role as the world's local EPC partner—combining global expertise with deep-rooted local understanding across every market it operates in. In the island nation of Maldives, KPIL is contributing to nation-building through three critical infrastructure projects: The Hanimaadhoo International Airport, Social Housing, and Water & Sewerage Systems.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Exim Bank of India and the Government of Maldives for their unwavering support and collaborative partnership.



KPIL, a part of the illustrious Kalpataru Group, is one of India's largest and most diversified engineering and construction companies. With deep expertise across Power Transmission & Distribution, Buildings & Factories, Water Supply, Railways, Oil & Gas Pipelines, Urban Mobility, Highways, and Airports, KPIL delivers complex infrastructure solutions across the globe.

Order book (FY25)
USD 7.5 Billion

Footprints
75 countries

Projects under execution
300 +

Revenue (FY25)
USD 2.6 Billion

www.kalpataruprojects.com



Scan Here

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/INT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVNL	NIT 1353 dms (DDP-1473) dated 13.02.2025	THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UPTO 07.08.2025 up to 17:00 hrs	www.hvnl.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnl.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO 36841

क्र०	अधिसूचना नं०	क्रमांक/थाना का नं०	वाहन का प्रकार	वाहन का निबन्धन संख्या/वेबिस संख्या/ईजिन संख्या	निर्माण वर्ष	अनुमानित बाजार मूल्य	अग्रचक्र राशि	अभियुक्ति
01	15/24-25	Madhepur 256/23	Motorcycle	HR26BX-0727 ME4JCS583MC8151159 JCS581150268	-	12000	3000	रामनन्दन यादव पेटो-तिरिपिन यादव सा-दकपुर, हाथी-80, थाना-गुरागाँव, राज्य-हरियाणा
द्वितीय नीलामी								
02	50/24	Jhanjharpur 63/24	Motorcycle	HR26CP-9223 MD634KE67F2D10228 OE6DF2110456	2015	17297	4324	गोविन्द चतुर्वेदी पिता-नानक कुमार चतुर्वेदी सा-हाथी नं०-375/23, हीरा नगर, थाना-गुरागाँव, राज्य-हरियाणा
03	117/24	Deodha 66/24	Motorcycle	HR13F-6173 MBLHA10ADB9K18635 HA10EHB9K20452	2011	10260	2565	दीपक पेटो-बदरी प्रसाद सा-हाथी नं०-146/22, जोहर कॉलोनी, नेहरू पार्क, राज्य-हरियाणा
तृतीय नीलामी								
04	130/23	Excise Sadar 821/24	Centro Car	HR51AC-6176 MALAA51HR8M329671 G4HG8M538188	2008	66200	16550	नारायण कुमार खड्डित पेटो-फरीदपुर, पेटो-बिलौच थाना-बनलगाँव, जिला-हरियाणा
चौथी नीलामी								
05	322/23	Excise Benipatti 3950/23	XYLO CAR	HR26AW-7024 MA1YA2BVN92B14996 BV94B35653	2009	54900		ओम प्रकाश गुप्ता, सा-हाथी नं०-222/5 जकपुरा, गुरागाँव, राज्य-हरियाणा
06	293/23	Excise Jhanjharpur 131/23	Hundai centro car	HR01T-7702 MALAA51HR5M725147 G4HG5M658583	2005	24300		श्रीती पिता-विजय कुमार सा-373 बालिका कॉलोनी, अम्बाला, हरियाणा
07	27/24	Excise Sadar 4061/24	SUZUKI CAR	HR51Y-7924 MA3EMD81500134193 F10DN3257610	2007	26200		श्रीकाल घोष पेटो-पराश घोष सा-हाथी नं०-520/1 पुराही, पेटो-बनलगाँव, थाना-हाथी, राज्य-बिहार नं० 712136
08	75/23	Babubarhi 210/23	scorpio	HR51AS-6379 MA1TA2MJC2E48262 MUC4E73099	2012	55500		संदीप झा पेटो-पुष्पलाल नाथ सा-8561 हनुमान कॉलोनी, अमरनगर, हरियाणा
09	93/23	Sakri 90/23	Truck	HR61B-5711 MAT45740307D09565 497TC92DWY815890	201	186000		सवाल पेटो-मुसी सा-भीमोजी कदमा हरियाणा

1.अधिक जानकारी के लिये मधुबनी जिला के वेबसाईट www.madhubani.nic.in पर जानकारी प्राप्त की जा सकती है।
सावधानी के सूचनाई।
जिला पदाधिकारी, मधुबनी।
PR- 009317 (EXCISE) 2025-26 नरी की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/INT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVNL	NIT No. 10/CWO-2/VA-XD/HVNL/2025-26, dated 20.05.2025 (Online tender ID No. 2025_HVC_447854_1)	Date of opening Bid 25.07.2025 (11:00 hrs) Last date of online bid submission is extended upto 06.08.2025 (13:00 hrs) (Societies & Contractors)	www.hvnl.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnl.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO 36860

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'Impugned judgment shall not be precedent'

Earlier, Bom HC Had Quashed Conviction By An MCOCA Court

► Continued from P 1

Agreeing with the SG's plea, the bench stayed the order passed on July 21 and issued notice to all accused seeking their response on Maharashtra govt's appeal seeking quashing of the HC verdict which would revive the trial court order which had convicted all of them. The bench said, "We have been informed that all respondents have been released and there is no question of bringing them back to prison."

However, taking note of the submission made by the solicitor general on the question of law, we are inclined to hold that the impugned judgment shall not be treated as a precedent. To that extent, there is a stay of the impugned judgment."

Bombay high court had quashed the judgment of a special MCOCA court, which had convicted all accused and handed death sentence to five and life term to seven for conspiring and executing bomb blasts in Mum-



On July 11, 2006, as many as 189 people died and nearly 820 sustained severe injuries in the bomb blasts in Mumbai's western railway local line

bai's western railway local line on July 11, 2006, in which 189 people died and nearly 820 sustained severe injuries.

A bench of Justices Anil Kilar and Shyam Chandak had held that the prosecution failed to establish the guilt of the accused and severely indicted the prosecution for its shoddy probe. In a strongly worded judgment, the high court said, "Punishing the actual perpetrator of a crime is a concrete and essential step toward curbing criminal activities, upholding the rule of law, and ensuring the safety and security of citizens. But creating a false appearance of having solved a case by presenting that the accused have been brought to justice gives a misleading sense of resolution."

This deceptive closure undermines public trust and falsely reassures society, while in reality, the true threat remains at large."

While convicts Kamal Ansari, Mohammad Faisal Ataur Rahman Shaikh, Ehtesham Qutubuddin Siddiqui, Naveed Husain Khan and Asif Khan were handed death penalty for planting the bombs, the other set of convicts—Tanveer Ahmed Mohammed Ibrahim Ansari, Mohammed Majid Mohammed Shafi, Shaikh Mohammed Ali Alam Shaikh, Mohammed Sajid Margub Ansari, Muzammil Ataur Rahman Shaikh, Suhail Mehmood Shaikh and Zameer Ahmed Latifur Rehman Shaikh—were sentenced to life imprisonment.

'ATS ruined my life,' says doc out of prison after 19 years

Mumbai: "I was part of the Red Crescent Society of India team that worked during the 2001 Bhuj earthquake. My job is to save lives, not to kill people..." said Dr Tanvir Ansari (50), who spent 19 years in prison, and was released from Amravati jail Monday after Bombay HC acquitted him and 11 others in the 11/7 Mumbai train bombing cases, reports Mateen Hafeez. A resident of Agipada, he was termed a conspirator in the case.

"...We are also victims of terrorism. The ATS probe is an injustice to us and to those who died and were injured. The real perpetrators are still free," Ansari told TOI at Jamiat-ul-Ulema-Hind's office at Dongri Thursday. "We are with those who lost their loved ones or were injured in the blast."

Ansari was in charge of the ICU at Saboo Siddique Hospital in south Mumbai. Talking about the saddest days in prison, he said, "I couldn't treat my own mother who was admitted to the ICU. She died in 2007. The ATS tortured us and threatened our families. I was hit with sticks and chappals. The ATS offered me Rs 25 lakh and a flat to become an approver. I refused. I had no involvement in the case," Ansari said, with tears rolling down his face.

'Chor ko darr lagta hai... We're innocent. We aren't scared'

Mateen Hafeez
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Most of the accused in the 11/7 Mumbai train bombings acquitted by Bombay high court said that they were hopeful that they would be acquitted by Supreme Court as well.

A relative of Naved Husain, who was given the death sentence by a trial court and was acquitted by the high court, said it was a process of law. "We would have been disappointed

if the apex court had asked the men to return to jail. That is not the case. We will fight this case legally in Supreme Court and are sure to win it there too," said the relative.

Dr Tanvir Ansari, who was termed a conspirator in the case and was acquitted, said, "Chor ko darr lagta hai (A thief feels scared). We are innocent. We are not scared. The high court judgment has covered all the angles. We will see it legally." Ansari had lost his mother

while in jail.

Shareef Rehman, elder brother of acquitted accused Zameer Shaikh, said that there was uncertainty till SC issued an order Thursday. "Now we are relaxed. We are hopeful that we will win our case in Supreme Court," said Rehman. Shaikh had lost both his parents during his time in prison.

During the last 19 years that the 12 accused were in jail, either the mother or father or both of a majority of the them

passed away. The wife of Majid Shafi Shaikh died due to medical complications while he was incarcerated.

Sohail Shaikh said, "This stay is not the victory of lies of the ATS. This is a procedure. The ATS should not think it has won. The lies have been going on for the last 19 years."

Another acquitted accused said the trial court ignored the torture they had suffered and the fake confessions prepared by the police.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-Tender Notice	
Workshop Electrical Engineer (I/C) Northern Railway, Jagadhri Workshop, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana-135002 for and on behalf of President of India, Invites e-tenders through online mode only for under mentioned work:-	
Name of Work	"Up-gradation of Power Supply & distribution system of Kalka Workshop"
Tender Type	Open
Bidding System	Single Packet
Tender sale Closing Date	18.08.2025 at 11:30 hrs
Date & Time of Uploading Tender	23.07.2025 16:17
Pre-Bid Required	No
Pre-bid Query till date	N.A.
Advertisement Value	Rs. 59,93,748.52/- Including all taxes GST etc.
Tendering Section	Tender & Works/ Electrical branch Jagadhri Workshop
Earnest Money	Rs. 1,19,900/-
Validity of Offer	60 days
Tender Document Cost	NIL (as per Part-I clause No.3 of Indian Railways GCC April 2022)
Period of Completion	90 Days
Bidding Start Date	04.08.2025
Bidding end date	18.08.2025 up to 11.30 hrs.
Tender opening date & time	At any time thereafter closing of tender. The tenderers are not required to be present during the opening. Railway reserve the right to open the tender at any time after closing of tender.
Website	For complete information & Bidding Please go to www.ireps.gov.in
No. 56-W/Elect/24-25/T/18/Power Supply KLK	2243/2025
Serving Customers With A Smile	

ZONAL OFFICE: STAR HOUSE, SCO 76-82, SECTOR 31-A, CHANDIGARH, PHONE NO. 0172-2671517					
GOLD AUCTION FOR MORTGAGES AT BANK					
Whereas, the authorised officer of Bank issued Sale Notice(s) calling upon the borrower to clear the dues in gold loan availed by him. The Borrower had failed to repay the amount, notice hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned will conduct online auction of the gold ornaments strictly on "As is What is Basis" & "Whatever there is Basis" & "Without recourse Basis". The auction will be conducted online through https://legold.auctiontiger.net on 11.08.2025 at 12.00 PM to 4.00 PM					
Name of Branch & Borrower	Outstanding Amount	Carat	Gross Weight Net Weight in Gram	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amt.	Date/Time of auction
CHANDIGARH SECTOR 31 BRANCH, Mobile: 9459795119					
EMD Deposit Account No. 621190200000033, IFSC Code: BKID0006211, Account Name: Disbursement					
Mr. Amit Kumar S/o Mr. Suresh Kumar	Rs. 38,000/- plus Accrued Interest	22	13.07 Gram 8.89 Gram	Rs. 81,000/- Rs. 8,100/- Rs. 100/-	11.08.2025 at 12.00 Noon to 4.00 PM
Mr. Amit Kumar S/o Mr. Suresh Kumar	Rs. 1,95,267.32 plus Accrued Interest	22	47.31 Gram 42.00 Gram	Rs. 3,75,000/- Rs. 37,500/- Rs. 100/-	11.08.2025 at 12.00 Noon to 4.00 PM
SIMLA BRANCH: 45, THE MALL ROAD SHIMLA-171001					
Mobile: 7567990912, E-Mail: Simla.Chandigarh@bankofindia.co.in EMD Deposit Account No. 790280200000033, IFSC Code: BKID0007902, Account Name: Disbursement					
Mr. Pardeep Kumar S/o Mr. Bhim Sain	Rs. 41,645/- plus Accrued Interest	22	13.07 Gram 8.10 Gram	Rs. 73,000/- Rs. 7,300/- Rs. 100/-	11.08.2025 at 12.00 Noon to 4.00 PM
MANDI BRANCH, DISTT. MANDI, HP					
Mobile: 7018317814, E-Mail: Mandi.Chandigarh@bankofindia.co.in EMD Deposit Account No. 792090200000033, IFSC Code: BKID0007920, Account Name: Disbursement					
Mr. Pardeep Sharma S/o Mr. Atma Ram	Rs. 6,49,021.61 plus Accrued Interest	18 / 22	277.20 Gram 250.84 Gram	Rs. 22,10,000/- Rs. 2,21,000/- Rs. 100/-	11.08.2025 at 12.00 Noon to 4.00 PM
The borrower has the right to get the pledged gold redeemed till 07.08.2025 by making the payment of entire amount outstanding plus uncharged interest & other expenses					
Conditions for Auction: (1) No responsibility attaches to the bank for the quality and the specifications of the Gold. The Gold is being auctioned in "As is where is" condition at risk of the borrower and the purchaser. (2) The bank reserves its right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason whatsoever. (3) Those parties interested to take part in bidding should deposit EMD in the above mentioned Account No. of the concerned branch before scheduled time and date of auction. EMD SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY 4.00 PM on 08.08.2025 by Online along with KYC Forms. (4) In case of sole bidder, he/she has to increase minimum 1 bid from reserve price. (5) The highest bidder does not get any right to demand acceptance of his bid/offer. Seller reserves the right to accept/ reject/ cancel/ Postpone at any stage from auction even after acceptance of bid/offer, issue of winning letter without assigning any reason thereof. (6) The successful bidder has to pay 3% GST over and above the sale price. Intending bidders shall contact E-Procurement Technologies Limited (Auction Tiger) Contact: 6352632523/ 6351896640 or E-Mail: egold@auctiontiger.net for more information. Visit: https://legold.auctiontiger.net for detailed terms & conditions or for any further queries and clarification contact the above mentioned branches.					
Chief Manager					

Directorate of Geology and Mining Government of Maharashtra Email: mineralblockauction@mahadgm.gov.in			
Notice Inviting Tender Date: 25.07.2025			
"Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for Limestone mineral and for grant of Composite Licence for Copper mineral, Gold associated with Silver, Lead & Copper, Copper & associated mineral, and Iron Ore minerals"			
In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10B and Section 11 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 notified thereunder, the Government of Maharashtra has identified:			
a) 02 (two) blocks of Limestone mineral for electronic auction, and hereby invites bids for the purpose of grant of <i>Mining Lease</i> .			
b) 07 (seven) mineral blocks [1 (one) block of Copper, 1 (one) block of Copper & associated mineral, 1 (one) block of Gold associated with Silver, Lead & Copper] and 4 (four) blocks of Iron ore] for electronic auction, and hereby invites bids for the purpose of grant of <i>Composite Licence</i> .			
The list of mineral blocks is as under:			
S. No.	Name of Block	Mineral	Concession Type
1.	Matna Iron ore Block	Iron ore	Composite Licence
2.	Ambadgaon Iron ore Block	Iron ore	Composite Licence
3.	Vazare Iron ore Block	Iron ore	Composite Licence
4.	Tale Iron ore Block	Iron ore	Composite Licence
5.	Lal Heti Copper Block	Copper	Composite Licence
6.	Bhimsain Killa Gold Block*	Gold associated with Silver, Lead & Copper	Composite Licence
7.	Miregaon Copper Block	Copper and Associated Mineral	Composite Licence
8.	Bori Limestone Block	Limestone	Mining Lease
9.	Javra Limestone Block	Limestone	Mining Lease
<i>Note: The abovementioned block marked with "*" is under "second" attempt.</i>			
The price of Tender Document for each mineral block is Rs. 5,00,000 (Rupees Five Lakh) exclusive of GST. The GST shall be payable by reverse charge mechanism.			
Accordingly, financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format from eligible bidders.			
Eligibility conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Detailed Tender Documents along with timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process for the mineral blocks are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Limited: (https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/mlc/in/index.jsp).			
Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above website. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost on the above website.			
Key events and their timelines are as under:			
Event Description	Date		
Date of Publication of Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)	Friday, 25 July, 2025		
Commencement of sale of Tender Document	Friday, 25 July, 2025		
Pre-Bid Conference	Tuesday, 19 August, 2025		
Last date for purchase of Block Specific Tender Document	Tuesday, 9 September, 2025		
The last date for submission of the Technical Bid and initial price offer	Tuesday, 16 September, 2025		
Note:			
Bidders may note that for composite licences the Mineral (Auction) Amendment Rules, 2022 have dispensed with the requirement of indicating the division of the land into forest land, land owned by the State Government, and land not owned by the State Government and the requirement of demarcating the area using total station and differential global positioning system and has provided the flexibility of demarcating the concession area using global positioning system.			
However, the requisite demarcation in respect of certain blocks, as and where available, may be provided as part of the information memorandum.			
DGIPR/2025/2016/806			

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
Principal Chief Electrical Engineer/Project, Northern Railway, Ambala Cantt.			
Corrigendum-1			
Open Tender Notice No. NR/Proj/UMB/Adv/12	Date 23.07.2025		
Tender no. NR-Proj-FZR-25005, "Modification Work of OHE/PSI and Electrification of Amritsar siding Baddowal, FCI Siding MOGA, Adani Siding Dagra and TOP Wring of PGRS Siding Nakodar of Firozpur division. Modification Work of OHE/PSI of Ambala Division and Construction of Panikosi SSP in Bathinda - Srianganagar Section of Ambala Division." Due to administrative reasons amendments have been made in the tender, which are as follows:			
Sr.No.	Items	Existing	Revised
1.	Cost (Rs.)	8,59,19,215.83/-	4,45,95,484.05/-
2.	Date of Closing	11.08.2025	18.08.2025
3.	Bid Security (Rs.)	5,79,600/-	3,73,000/-
All other conditions will remain same.			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2256/25			
EOI Notice (ISR/ EEW/2025/EOI)			
INSTITUTE OF SEISMOLOGICAL RESEARCH			
Knowledge Corridor, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India 382426			
www.isr.gujarat.gov.in Phone: 079-66739009			
The Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited for Supplying, installation and commissioning of the Earthquake Early Warning System (EEWS). The Expression of Interest (EOI) may be downloaded from the institute website www.isr.gujarat.gov.in . The last date for submitting the bid is 14-08-2025 up to 12:00 p.m. The bid will be opened on 14-08-2025 up to 04:00 p.m. at ISR, Gandhinagar, Gujarat			
Sd/- Director General			
INF/959/2025-26			

'Can't outlaw consensual sexual acts of 16-18 age grp'

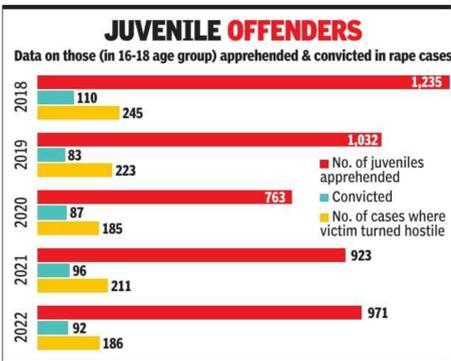
It's Meant To Protect Minors From Abuse, SC Informed

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Union govt told Supreme Court that the age of consent for sex cannot be lowered from 18 years, as it is meant to protect minors from sexual abuse, often by relatives, but conceded that judicial discretion can be exercised on a case-to-case basis in instances of adolescent romantic and physical relationships.

"The statutory age of consent fixed at 18 years must be strictly and uniformly enforced. Any departure from this standard, even in the name of reform or adolescent autonomy, would amount to rolling back decades of progress in child protection law, and undermine the deterrent character of laws like PocsO Act, 2012, and BNS," it said.

Centre said the constitutional framework unequivocally supported the legal pre-



sumption that a person below 18 years of age was incapable of giving valid and informed consent to sexual activity. "Loosening age-based protection could open avenues for abuse (rape) under the guise of consensual (sexual) activity," it said.

In a comprehensive written submission settled by additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati, Centre detailed how the age of consent increased from 10 years in Indian Penal Code, 1860; to 12 years under Age of Consent Act, 1891; 14 years in an amend-

ment to IPC in 1925 and Sharda Act (Child Marriage Restraint law) of 1929; to 16 years in a 1940 amendment to IPC; and 18 years in 1978 through amendment to Child Marriage Restraint Act which has remained in force till date.

"The age of consent under Indian law, fixed at 18 years, represents a carefully considered legislative choice aimed at creating a non-negotiable protective framework for children. This flows from the inherent protection provided to children envisaged under the Constitution," govt said.

Amicus counters govt stand, says it violates right to autonomy

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Opposing govt's firm stand not to lower the age of consent below 18 years, amicus curiae and senior advocate Indra Jaising told SC that it criminalised "consensual sexual activity between children in the age group of 16-18 years, and violated their right to autonomy".

Presenting a counter to Centre's stand in the case, Jaising said the age of consent was static at 16 years for 80 years and "neither any ra-



There was no data to suggest that the age of consent required any increase.

"Until enactment of PocsO Act, there was no law dealing with sexual offences against children. The newly enacted Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, in Section 63, has kept a legislative scheme similar to the one in

Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013, that amended IPC to increase the age of consent to 18 years," she said. Jaising said increase in age of consent violated right of autonomy of children in 16-18 age group, who could give mature consent to sexual activity given the fact that they had attained puberty and, consequently, sexual awareness. However, she put in an important caveat. "This brief does not suggest that anyone above the age of 18 who has sex with another below the age of 18 be decriminalised," she said.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender Search Code on ISN-ETS: GUVNL-2025- TN000005

GUVNL invites tenders for setting up of 2000 MW/4000 MWh Standalone Battery Energy Storage Systems in Gujarat under Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding with Viability Gap Funding supported through PSDF (Phase-VII) followed by e-reverse auction. For tender documents, please visit the website www.bharat-electronictender.com and www.guvnl.com. The last date of online bid submission is **11.09.2025**.

General Manager (Finance & Accounts)

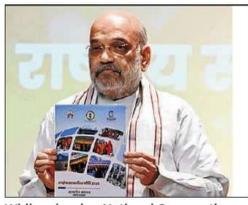
New co-op policy aims to triple sector's GDP contribution in 9 years

Vishwa.Mohan@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah Thursday released India's new National Cooperative Policy that will promote development of a "cooperative business ecosystem", involving every village, and contribute to the country's collective ambition of becoming developed by 2047.

The idea behind the new policy, replacing the one issued in 2002, is to transform cooperatives into professional and sustainable economic entities which can contribute significantly to the country's GDP in the next 25 years. "The policy is far-sighted, practical and result-oriented," said Shah. Its mission is to "create an enabling legal, economic, and institutional framework that will strengthen and deepen the cooperative movement at grass-roots level".

"The target is to have at least one cooperative organisation in every village of the country," he



While releasing National Cooperative Policy, Shah said it is far-sighted, practical and result-oriented

said, adding the goal is also to bring at least 50 crore people under the ambit of cooperatives and make them stakeholders in equitable growth. India, with more than eight lakh cooperative societies, accounts for more than one-fourth of the world's cooperatives, with about one-third of its rural population directly connected to them for their socio-economic needs.

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, देवघर
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES DEOGHAR
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान)
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)
भारत सरकार/Government of India
Website-www.aiimsdeoghar.edu.in

Letter No.- AIIMS/Deo/Rect. Cell/2025/2355 Date : 18.07.2025

Corrigendum

08th Rolling Phase 2 Medical Faculty Recruitment Advertisement

With reference to the Advertisement No. AIIMS/DEO/RECT. CELL/2025-26/1971/Phase 2, dated: 18.06.2025, inviting applications for various posts in AIIMS Deoghar, it is hereby notified that the no. of posts have been revised which is attached in updated advertisement copy. Last date has also been extended.

Date of Extension to apply is as followed :

- Soft copy - 18.08.2025 & Hard copy - 25.08.2025

For further information candidates are requested to visit the website of institute- www.aiimsdeoghar.edu.in on regular basis.

Recruitment Cell
AIIMS Deoghar

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TUBERCULOSIS AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES NEW DELHI
Nursing Officer Recruitment Common Eligibility Test (NORCET) 9
Notice No. 4/2025 Date: 24.07.2025

It has been decided to fill up the vacant posts of Nursing Officers in National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD), New Delhi, through Nursing Officer Recruitment Common Eligibility Test (NORCET) 9, to be conducted by AIIMS, New Delhi. The details are as under:-

1. Name of Post	Nursing Officer
2. Pay Level	Level-7 (44900-142400)

Essential Qualification

- Diploma in General Nursing Midwifery / B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing / B.Sc. Nursing / B.Sc. (Post-Certificate) / Post-Basic B.Sc. from an Indian Nursing Council/State Nursing Council recognized Institute or University
- Registered as Nurses & Midwife with State / Indian Nursing Council

Age Limit:

- Between 18-35 Years. (As per detail on Age relaxation given in General Conditions subject to age Relaxation as per Recruitment rules of NITRD)
- All age shall be counted on the last date of closing of application form.

Number of Vacancies: See ANNEXURE-I

APPLICATION FEES:

- General/OBC Candidates - Rs. 3000/- (Rupees Three Thousand only)
- SC/ST Candidates/EWS - Rs. 2400/- (Rupees Twenty-Four Hundred only)
- Persons with Disabilities - Exempted

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

Online (CBT) for Stage I: NORCET Preliminary, Date: 14th September, 2025 (Sunday),
Online (CBT) for Stage II: NORCET Mains, Date: 27th September, 2025 (Saturday)

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Delhi- Distributor : LA Enterprises: 959620040

Authorised Dealers: Raj Musicals, Patel Nagar, Ph: 9899272572. New Bharat Music House, Lajpat Nagar, Ph: 9318346270. Bhargavas Music, Daryaganj, Ph: 9811160729. Delhi Sound Store, Okhla, Ph: 9560808942. Bharat Music House, Bali Nagar, Ph: 9811260093. Sai Gadgets Shop, Khan Market, Ph: 9811021185. Mercury Beyond Gadgets, Khan Market, Ph: 8744000020

C. V. NAGESH ASSOCIATES ADVOCATES

C.V.Nagesh Senior Advocate Associates:

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S.R. Ravishankar
M.R. Aneel A.S. Mallikarjuna
Raghavendra K

#33, GANGE, Patalamma Temple Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.
Tel : 26577424
Tele. Fax: 26578856
e-mail : admin@cvnlawchambers.com
Date: 23-07-2025

CAUTION NOTICE

Our clients M/s. PI Investment Advisory LLP (the Firm) manages investments of "Premji Invest" which is the business name for investments made by the Family Office of Mr. Azim Hasham Premji.

Certain persons taking advantage of the reputation of 'Premji Invest' have created fake websites, Whatsapp groups, social media and mobile applications and utilising certain publicity materials, have impersonated themselves as representatives of our client firm and are luring gullible members of the public to invest and make payments into their fake Firms/Bank Accounts. On getting knowledge of the fraudulent acts committed by the fraudsters, our clients have immediately informed the regulators (including SEBI) and have also filed complaints with the National Cyber Crime reporting Portal. Thereafter, on 18th July, 2025, our clients have lodged a criminal complaint against the fraudsters and a First Information Report (FIR) has been registered by the Eastern CEN Police Station, Bengaluru, under the provisions of Information Technology Act and other allied offences and the same is under investigation.

The General Public is hereby cautioned not to make any payments/investments into such fake and fictitious Firms and if in the event they have already fallen prey to such fraudster, the same may be reported to the Eastern CEN Police Station, Bengaluru.


(RAGHAVENDRA K)
C.V. NAGESH ASSOCIATES, ADVOCATES, BENGALURU.

Teen hit by car during stunt dies

Kolhapur: An 18-year-old college student died, and three others were seriously injured when four minors performing a car stunt crashed into a group of students in Maharashtra's Kolhapur on Thursday. Two of the accused were detained, while the other two managed to flee, police said. The deceased was identified as Pradnya Kamble, a first-year BA student from Kaulav village in Radhanagari taluka. The accident occurred around 1.30pm near Bhogavati Mahavidyalaya in Kurkali, Karvir taluka, where more than 50 students were waiting for buses. TNN

UTI Infrastructure Technology And Services Limited
(A Government of India Company)

UTIITSL invites online Bids through e-tender and GeM portal for selection of Bidders / Vendors / Agencies / Entities for Supply of Goods and Services to UTIITSL.

A. For details and bidding through GeM portal, please log on to: <https://gem.gov.in>:

- Bid for AMC renewal of AIO Desktop PCs and Laptops (GeM Bid Number: GEM/2025/B/6488179)

B. For details and bidding through CPP e-tender portal, please log on to: <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>

- Bid for AMC renewal of Servers, Storage, Other Equipments and Software Licenses
- Request for Empanelment of Technical Support Agency

All in general are requested to visit website <https://www.utiitsl.com>, <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> and <https://www.gem.gov.in> regularly for details and free download of all the tender documents / RFP with terms and conditions.

TIMES ascent
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National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC) is a wholly owned company of Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 on March 28, 2014 to act as a common trustee company for multiple credit guarantee funds. NCGTC is looking to recruit suitable professionals for the following posts (on long term contract basis):

1. Manager/Deputy Manager/Assistant Manager
2. Assistant General Manager
3. Deputy General Manager

Please visit the website www.ncgctc.in for further details. Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, will be published on NCGTC website only. Candidates should refer the same before submission of final application. Last Date of Submission of Applications is **August 15, 2025**

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANTS INDIA LIMITED (TCIL)
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TCIL Bhawan, Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi-110048

TCIL invites applications for the post of **Chief General Manager (E-8 Scale)** on Contract Basis having experience in IT/Telecom domain.

For details please visit TCIL Website:
<https://www.tcil.net.in/index.php>

The last date for receipt of applications is 14.08.2025

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda

Bank of Baroda - Recruitment of Local Bank Officers (LBOs)

Advt. No. BOB/HRM/REC/ADVT/2025/05 dated 04.07.2025

Extension of Last Date:

The last date for submission of online applications and payment of fees for the post of Local Bank Officers has been extended till 03.08.2025 (23:59 hrs).

For details, visit: www.bankofbaroda.in → Career → Current Opportunities.

Place: Mumbai Date: 25.07.2025 Chief General Manager (HRM & Marketing)

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The Duddh Sangh Requires result oriented dynamic professionals for the following positions. Application must reach to us within 15 days from the date of advertisement.

S.N.	Name of Post	No. of Post	Enrollment Type	
1	GENERAL MANAGER	01	REGULAR	
2	DY. GENERAL MANAGER (TECHNICAL)	01		
3	MANAGER (PROCUREMENT)	01		
4	DY. MANAGER (SALES)	01		
5	ASST. MANAGER (SALES)	01		
6	ASST. MANAGER (ENGINEERING)	01		
7	OFFICER VETERINARY	02		
8	OFFICER INCHARGE CC	01		
9	ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER	01		CONTRACTUAL ASSIGNMENT
10	AGRICULTURE OFFICER	01		CONTRACTUAL ASSIGNMENT

Details regarding eligibility, qualification, experience, and other guidelines for the above post are available on our website www.vikas.coop (Career Section). Candidates are advised to carefully review the application prescribed format and ensure compliance with the requirements before submitting their applications.

- Managing Director

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(CIN: L32309KA1954GO1000787)

Bharat Electronics Ltd, Ghaziabad a Navaratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking and India's Premier Professional Electronics Company is conducting Walk-In Selection for temporary personnel as follows:

Sl. No.	Discipline & No. of Posts	Tentative Posting Location	Qualification	Minimum Post Qualification Experience as on 01.07.2025	Upper Age limit as on 01.07.2025	Date of Walk-In Selections	Venue for selection
Field Operation Engineer	Electronics-08 (UR-5, OBC-NCL-2, SC-1)	Jammu, Udhampur, Awantigar and Srinagar	B.E/ B.Tech/B.Sc Engineering degree (4 yr course) in relevant discipline with PASS Class	5 Years	40 Years	05.08.2025	JAMMU
Project Engineer-I	Electronics-24 (UR-12, OBC-NCL-6, EWS-2, SC-3, ST-1)			2 Years	32 Years	04.08.2025	

For further details and authentic information on recruitment in BEL, please visit CAREERS link on the official BEL website <http://www.bel-india.in> only.

SR. DGM (HR & A)

'Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam'

Rahul's 'vote theft' claim an afterthought, says EC

K'taka Voters List Wasn't Challenged By Cong, It Says

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Election Commission on Thursday said leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's allegations of "vote theft" during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka appear to be an afterthought, given that Congress neither filed a single appeal with election officials after publication of the state's final electoral roll in Jan 2024 nor did it challenge the results in state HC through an election petition.

Talking to reporters in Parliament complex, Rahul claimed that Congress has "concrete 100% proof" of "cheating in an LS seat" in Karnataka and warned that "if you (EC) think you are going to get away with this... you are mistaken... we are going to come for you". The Congress MP said opposition would ensure that EC is held accountable.

Dismissing his charges as "baseless" in a statement, EC said: "It is highly unfortunate that rather than filing an election petition as per section 80 of Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1951, or if filed, awaiting verdict of HC, he has not only made baseless allegations but also chosen to threaten EC, which is a constitutional body."

With his allegations coming more than a year after the LS polls



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Gaurav Gogoi and Sonia Gandhi with other MPs protest outside Parliament building on Thursday against the ongoing rolls revision in Bihar

result, EC said it was wondering why "such baseless and threatening claims were being made against it and the CEC, and that too now."

It added that the losing Congress candidates did not file a single election petition to challenge the result, despite Representation of the People Act, 1951 allowing this within 45 days of declaration of result. Others, however, did file 10 election petitions in HC.

Countering Rahul's "unwarranted threatening statements", the Karnataka chief electoral officer (CEO) on X said copies of the draft and final electoral roll for the state's 224 assembly seats were provided to recognised parties, including Congress, on Oct 27, 2023, and Jan 22, 2024, respectively. Between publication of the draft and final

roll, around 9.2 lakh claims and objections were received and settled across 34 districts. Neither Congress nor any other entity avail the two-stage appeal option available under Representation of the People Act, 1951, the post said.

Meanwhile, backing RJD functionary Tejashwi Yadav suggested possibility of boycotting Bihar elections over the special revision of electoral rolls issue, Congress's K C Venugopal said a political party's biggest weapon in a democracy is the voters' list and if that is compromised, with names being deleted and lists not being clean, then you are challenging democracy. "Let there not be an election and there be one party. Let Election Commission rule that. That is what Yadav meant by his comment about boycotting," Venugopal said.

Opposition protest against Bihar rolls revision stalls House

New Delhi: The continuing opposition stir against SIR of Bihar's electoral rolls forced a whitewash of business in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha again on Thursday, with the Upper House managing only the customary farewell for retiring members.

On the fourth day of Parliament's monsoon session, Congress parliamentary party chairperson and Rajya Sabha member Sonia Gandhi joined the mass of opposition MPs who demonstrated outside Parliament building, raising slogans and holding placards denouncing the EC exercise.

While the Rajya Sabha was adjourned for the day shortly after reassembling for the post-lunch session amid din, Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned by Speaker Om Birla after opposition MPs raised slogans and entered the well of the House with placards.

Union law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, in the Lower House, questioned the opposition for not allowing discussion on the bill which seeks to provide seats for Scheduled Tribes in the Goa legislative assembly.

Earlier, Birla had asked the protesting members to go back to their seats and assured that as per rules, they will be given opportunities to raise issues. He mentioned the name of Congress's K C Venugopal and said it was not the culture of his party to indulge in sloganeering in the House. **TNN**

Should we allow bogus votes to be cast, CEC asks oppn

Bharti.Jain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Responding to opposition parties' constant criticism of the ongoing SIR of Bihar's electoral rolls, chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Thursday asked if EC should, swayed by such attacks, allow bogus votes to be cast in the name of electors who are deceased, permanently shifted, enrolled at two or more places or "illegal foreign immigrants", first in the state and then across country.

The query came on a day EC put the total number of electors in Bihar "not found at their addresses so far" at 61.1 lakh. This is inclusive of 21.6 lakh voters reported by booth level officers (BLOs) and political parties' booth level agents (BLAs) as deceased, 31.5 lakh as permanently migrated, seven lakh as registered at more than one place, and 1 lakh as "untraceable".

"Should such bogus votes be allowed in violation of the Constitution," the CEC asked

JDU issues show-cause to MP for remark on rolls revision, but he sticks to position

A day after its Lok Sabha MP Giridhari Yadav criticised the ongoing SIR in Bihar, JDU, a key BJP ally, on Thursday issued a show-cause notice to him, saying he has not only "caused embarrassment" to the party but also lent credibility to opposition's "baseless and politically motivated" allegations.

Yadav, however, stuck to his position, saying as an MP, he has articulated the feedback he received from his constituents. "I will reply to the notice. As a people's representative, I cannot go back on what I have said. I have only spoken about EC and its drive," he said.

JDU has strongly defended the SIR. Yadav broke ranks with the alliance on Wednesday to oppose SIR, and said it will raise questions on the verdict of LS polls held last year. He had asked if the electoral rolls were correct for the LS polls, how can they be incorrect for Bihar assembly polls. **TNN**

while describing SIR as "a transparent exercise to make the electoral roll error-free, as the foundation stone of a robust democracy".

With just one day to go before the deadline for submission of filled and signed enumeration forms in Bihar, EC said 99% of the state's 7.9 crore are now covered under SIR, and over 91.3 forms received and digitised. "Names of all these electors will be included

in the draft electoral roll." EC said and added that the remaining forms are being digitised along with BLO/BLA reports to facilitate verification during the claims and objections period. With just six to seven lakh electors remaining to turn in their forms, "BLOs and BLAs will reach out to each of them in the hours leading up to the deadline, and help them to do the needful", said an EC official.

It's 'business-as-usual' for parties, Dhankhar now marooned in a political no man's land

Akhil Singh @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Just three days after Jagdeep Dhankhar created a flutter by quitting as vice president on health grounds, political circles appear to have settled into its "business-as-usual" rhythm. As govt and opposition trade volleys over a whole range of issues, with the usual routine of "disruptions" in Parliament proceedings thrown in, few seem to be lamenting the absence of the loquacious former Rajya Sabha chairman.

The anger in the ruling quarters with him for accepting opposition-sponsored motions for removal of Justice Yashwant Varma has given way to preoccupation with who gets to succeed him as vice president.

Opposition, even as it leverages the dramatic episode to seek to embarrass govt, is not mourning his abrupt exit, leaving the former VP marooned in a political no man's land.

At an informal meeting of INDIA bloc parties, Rahul Gandhi and other participants are known to have argued with Dhankhar, who allegedly "tormented" them during his three year-tenure by his "partisanship".

As they agitate over revision of electoral rolls in Bihar, the former vice president hardly seems to be a hot priority for Parliament's monsoon session, relegating the resignation saga to the bottom of the

list of priorities with a handful of opposition members being sympathetic to him. NDA parties have maintained, barring PM Narendra Modi's curt post on X, a "radio silence" over Dhankhar's impending departure from the Vice President's Enclave. They did not even share PM Modi's "Dhankhar ji has got many opportunities to serve the country in various capacities, including as vice president of India. Wishing him good health", X post.

While govt officials are ex-

ploring a Type-VIII bungalow to shift Dhankhar, the developments preceding his resignation suggest that he was left with no choice but to quit as BJP and its allies were preparing to bring a no-confidence motion against him a day after he accepted the notice against Justice Varma signed by 63 opposition MPs.

Sources said that the way Dhankhar accepted opposition's notice against Justice Varma even after govt had decided to bring the motion in LS with the signature of members from all parties, top members of the ruling alliance were perturbed and angry and responded to the "betrayal" by rushing to collect signatures of MPs in the Parliament office of defence minister Rajnath Singh to bring a no-confidence motion against Dhankhar in Rajya Sabha the next day.

A no confidence motion against the VP can be passed with a simple majority and NDA has more than the required numbers.

Sources suggested a message was conveyed to Dhankhar by an RS secretariat functionary Monday that "either quit immediately, else face no confidence motion next day." Instead of confronting, Dhankhar reached the Rashtrapati Bhawan, handed over his resignation letter to President Droupadi Murmu and made it public through a post on X.

After accepting opposition MPs' signed letter against Justice Varma and passing a ruling from the chair, Dhankhar had become "inaccessible" to the senior govt functionaries who tried to reach him, leading them to skip the evening BAC meeting.

Sources said the notice of LS MPs seeking removal of Justice Varma was given to speaker Om Birla by a delegation of MPs led by senior BJP functionary Ravi Shankar Prasad, who scrambled after getting to know that Dhankhar had opened channels with the opposition MPs seeking a notice in the case from them.

J'khand's Atal clinics to be renamed after Mother

ASRP.Mukesh @timesofindia.com

Ranchi: Jharkhand's Hemant Soren-led cabinet decided Thursday to rechristen all "PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee Mohalla Clinics" as Mother Teresa Advanced Health Clinics, drawing sharp reactions from opposition BJP.

According to the health department, 140 Atal clinics are operational across the state. These were rolled out in 2019 during BJP CM Raghubar Das's tenure. Although health officials

refused to comment on the renaming, they said the clinics would be upgraded with advanced facilities as part of a larger overhaul plan.

BJP accused the Hemant-led govt of playing "dirty politics" and pointed out that Jharkhand was formed as a separate state during Vajpayee's tenure as PM. "If the govt wants to honour Mother Teresa, it should start new schemes in her name. The Hemant govt is distorting existing schemes for its political agenda," BJP spokesperson Ajay Sah said.

66 Reds with ₹2cr bounty surrender in Chhattisgarh

Raipur: As many as 66 Maoists — including 49 top-rank cadres carrying a cumulative cash bounty of Rs 2.3 crore — surrendered Thursday before police and paramilitary officials across five districts of Chhattisgarh's Bastar division. About 1,570 Maoists surrendered in the past 18 months, reports Rashmi Drolia.

Most of the top-ranking Maoists were from Bijapur district, including State Zonal Committee Member Ramanna Irpa (37), who carried a cash bounty of Rs 25 lakh. He surrendered along with 24 others. Ramanna alias Jagdish alias Vikesh, from Bijapur, was considered the "nerve centre" of Maoist operations in the Red Corridor. He had been active since 2002 and commanded company number 8. Ramanna oversaw jungle warfare training, arms procurement, and coordinated major attacks on security forces across Odisha and Chhattisgarh and was involved in at least 40 cases of violence.

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DGCA again issues notices to AI on duty rule violations

New Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation slapped four show-cause notices on Air India on Wednesday over what it said were violations related to crew flight-duty periods and weekly rest, reports Saurabh Sinha. AI crew have for long been complaining of being made to fly for longer than the rules allow. Such rules are meant to ensure, for safety, that only fully rested pilots operate flights. The airline issued a statement saying that they "acknowledge receipt of these notices from the regulator related to certain voluntary disclosures that were made over the last one year by Air India. We will respond to the said notices within the stipulated period. We remain committed to the safety of our crew and passengers." AI has to reply to the notices within 15 days.

The language of recent DGCA notices shows an increasing uneasiness at the state of affairs. One notice issued Wednesday did not mince words: "These violations reflect serious deficiencies in crew scheduling, operational planning, and regulatory oversight within the flight operations function."

Despite repeated warnings and enforcement action of non-compliance in the past, systemic issues related to compliance monitoring, crew planning, and training governance remain unresolved.

UK pact comes amid tariff turmoil created by Trump

Continued from P 1

"This is more than just an economic partnership; it is also a blueprint for shared prosperity. It paves the way for enhanced market access in the UK for Indian textiles, footwear, gems and jewellery, seafood, and engineering goods. It will also unlock new opportunities for India's agricultural produce and processed food industry. Above all, this agreement will be especially beneficial for India's youth, farmers, fishermen, and the MSME sector," PM Modi said.

Govt has, however, managed to keep several agricultural products such as oats, apples, edible oil and sensitive seeds, as well as dairy outside the ambit of tariff reduction.

"We're living through a new and more dangerous global era... we believe building stronger partnerships is the best response... today we are confirming this approach in our new deal with India — the biggest and most economically significant trade deal for the UK since leaving the EU," said British PM Keir Starmer.

The India-UK trade agreement, announced on May 6, but formalised at Chequers, the official country residence of British PM, came

amid tariff turmoil caused by US President Donald Trump's moves, prompting countries to not just rush to Washington to strike deals but also speed up negotiations on other treaties.

India is ready to roll out treaty with European Free Trade Association, comprising Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, from Oct, while seeking to finalise the agreement with EU after 18 long years of talks. FTAs with New Zealand, Oman and several other countries are in the pipeline. But the CETA with the UK is unlikely to be implemented for at least a year as it requires British legislative approval.

India also claimed victory in getting a more predictable visa regime for business and professional visitors, but the bigger gain is in the form of a Double Contribution Convention, which will ensure that Indian workers in the UK for up to three years do not have to contribute to the National Insurance system there, while seeing deductions towards Employees' Provident Fund Organisation. But it did offer some major concessions. Trade research body GTRI argued that govt's promise for "adequate remuneration" to patent holders when compulsory licensing provisions are invoked risks delays.

Ambani investigation throws up mysterious entity: 'C Company'

Continued from P 1

The searches at premises identified with industrialist Anil Ambani have huge financial implications for public money, Rs 20-30,000 crore, which the agency believes has been siphoned off, including outside the country, through "undisclosed foreign bank accounts and foreign assets" created over the years. A large chunk of the money came to Reliance ADAG from SBI and other public sector banks, besides Yes Bank, then private entity, and mutual funds.

Preliminary investigation has thrown up a mysterious entity: 'C Company'. The entity, whose existence was not known so far, is allegedly found to have been involved in related party transactions in this wholescam, sources said. Sources said ED was probing an alleged loan fraud of Rs 14,000 crore involving Reliance Communications Ltd and other associated entities. In response to a question in Lok Sabha on Monday, minister of state for finance Pankaj Chaudhary said SBI has "classified Reliance Communications Ltd along with promoter

No impact on ops, say R-Infra, R-Power

New Delhi: Reliance Infra and Reliance Power distanced themselves from ED action against Reliance Communications saying the entities had no business or financial linkages with the company facing money laundering probe. In identical statements, they also said Anil Ambani was not on their boards and actions by ED have "no bearing or impact on the governance, management, or operations" of the listed entities. "The media reports appear to pertain to allegations concerning transactions of Reliance Communications Limited (RCOM) or Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL) which are over 10 years old... RCOM is undergoing Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process as per the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016 since over six years," R-Infra and R-Power said in stock exchange filings. **TNN**

director Anil Ambani as 'fraud' on June 13". This has also been communicated to Bombay Stock Exchange. "Based on information received from Sebi, ED has found Reliance Infra has diverted large sums of money disguised as ICDs to group companies of ADAG (Anil Ambani group) through 'C Company', an undisclosed related company," a source told **TOL**. Reliance Infra did not disclose 'C Company' as its related party in order to avoid having to take proper approval from shareholder and audit committees, the source added. It was also hidden presumably to circumvent

checks and balances imposed on related party transactions as per laws. Besides, there is an investigation in the alleged diversion of loans of over Rs 10,000 crore by Reliance Infra. ED's probe is looking at why Reliance Infra took a haircut of Rs 5,490 crore, receiving only Rs 4 crore in cash, while agreeing to settle the remaining Rs 6,499 crore through transfer to certain discoms, which have neither been operational nor done business for many years.

The agency is already probing Ambani and his entities in a case of Rs 3,000 crore received from Yes Bank

where he is alleged to have bribed the former CEO of the bank, Rana Kapoor, through his wife's company for Rs 225 crore. In another case of alleged misappropriation of bank funds, the agency is probing Reliance Communications for a loan default of Rs 1,050 crore to Canara Bank.

Sources said more than 25 individuals, including Ambani and his close associates, are targets of the search operations which started on Thursday morning in a probe initiated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

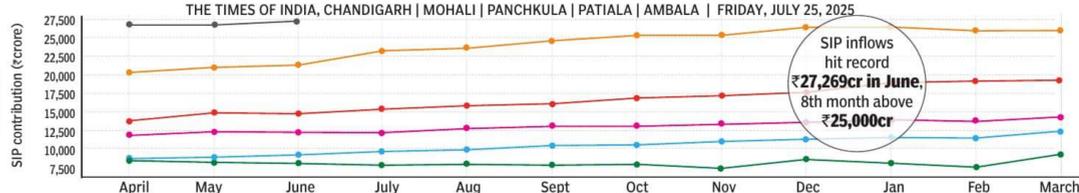
ED is being assisted by multiple agencies, including National Housing Bank, Sebi, National Financial Reporting Authority and Bank of Baroda among others.

The alleged loan diversion of around Rs 3,000 crore from Yes Bank pertains to the period between 2017 and 2019. ED is investigating alleged quid pro quo in sanction of loan as a Reliance Anil Ambani entity had transferred Rs 225 crore into the accounts of RAB Enterprises, in which Rana Kapoor's wife Bindu Kapoor had 100% stake.



MF Assets Under Mgmt Jumps ₹13L Cr in A Year
Retail flows, equity rally and SIP momentum fuel sharp YoY growth in the mutual fund industry

Mutual fund assets grew 22% YoY to **₹74L cr** in June



Gold ETFs Sparkle
Gold ETFs posted a 600% YoY surge in inflows as investors looked for hedging assets in a volatile macro environment

Source: AMFI

Bajaj Fin net profit up 20% at ₹4.8k cr, bad loans rise too

Mumbai: Bajaj Finance reported a 20% YoY rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 4,765 crore for the June quarter, driven by strong growth in net interest income and higher loan volumes, even as provisions and bad loans edged up. The lender's net interest income rose 22% to Rs 10,227 crore, while the number of new loans booked increased 23% to 1.4 crore. Assets under management grew 25% to Rs 4.4 lakh crore as of June 30, 2025. Loan losses and provisions rose 26% to Rs 2,120 crore. **TNN**



Canara Bank profit rises 22% to ₹4.8k cr

Bengaluru: Canara Bank delivered a strong performance in the first quarter of FY26, with net profit rising 21.6% year-on-year to Rs 4,752 crore. This growth was driven by robust advances, higher fee-based income, and improved asset quality. The bank's global business grew 11% YoY to Rs 25.6 lakh crore. **TNN**

PhysicsWallah's IPO gets nod from Sebi

Mumbai: PhysicsWallah has received Sebi's nod for its IPO, a notification by the markets regulator showed. The edtech unicorn had filed draft IPO papers through the confidential route in March. The company's targeted about Rs 4,600 crore IPO will comprise a mix of fresh issue of shares and an offer for sale (OFS) component. **TNN**

Two M'Belle directors fined ₹1cr each by Sebi

Mumbai: A special court convicted Gopu Parimal Belani and Anupama Motwani, directors of M'Belle International Pvt Ltd, a fashion accessories company, and fined them Rs 1 crore each for failing to deposit a Sebi penalty of Rs 1 crore imposed in 2004. **TNN**



figure it out
16% was the hike in Lindt chocolate prices in the first half of 2025, due to high cocoa prices amid a global shortage

Choices widen: More British brands in mix

Mumbai: From angrizi make up and beauty creams to chocolates, Indians looking to shop for more foreign brands may soon be spoiled for choice. Following the FTA with UK, more British brands are expected to launch in India while companies already present in the market are likely to expand their business. This is essentially because with reduced tariffs, brands will be able to price their products more affordably, stepping up competition against a slew of global and local brands already selling in India and widen their set of consumers. They will also be willing to bring more of their UK portfolio to India which means more choice for local

Telecom policy draft seeks to power new tech like 6G

Eyes ₹1L Cr Annual Investments, 10L Job Creation By 2030

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt on Thursday came out with a draft telecom policy that factors in opportunities and challenges presented by next-generation technologies such as 5G/6G, artificial intelligence (AI), quantum communications, satellite network, and blockchain. The draft of the new policy — released by the department of telecom — also aims at attracting Rs 1 lakh crore investments annually, while creating 10 lakh new jobs in the sector by 2030. "The policy would enable an agile, future-ready regulatory and policy ecosystem that promotes collaboration between govt, industry, academia, startups, and international standard forums. With this policy, India aims to emerge not only as a leading consumer of digital technologies, but also

What Policy Aims To Achieve

- Universal and meaningful connectivity for all by 2030
- To position India among the top 10 global hubs for innovation and research in emerging technologies, such as 5G and 6G, AI, IoT, and Quantum Communications
- Double the export of telecom products and services, the number of telecommunications startups
- and the sectoral R&D spending on emerging telecom tech
- To create an innovation-centric non-profit company and attain 10% global share in 6G-related intellectual property rights by 2030
- Govt will explore the establishment of a sovereign patent fund with an objective of creating a Standard Essential Patent pool for widely used telecom tech

as a trusted global provider of telecom products, services, and solutions," the draft said. The policy also outlined a detailed road map for boosting investment in research, upskilling of workforce, infrastructure modernisation, and effective spectrum management for emerging use cases across smart cities, industry, rural broadband, emergency response, and digital governance. "NTP-25 sets a bold and inclusive trajectory for the next decade — empowering every Indian with meaningful connectivity, driving innovation-led growth, reinforcing digital sovereignty, and securing India's place in the global digital economy," the draft said, adding it aims

to accomplish the following strategic objectives — universal and meaningful connectivity for all, and double the contribution of the sector to India's GDP.

DoT has invited public comments on the proposed policy within 21 days from the date the circular was issued. The policy will aim to make India not only a leading consumer of digital technologies, but also a trusted global provider of telecom products, services, and solutions. The policy aims to double the export of telecom products and services, the number of telecommunications startups and the sectoral R&D spending on emerging telecom technologies. It has set a target to create an innovation-centric non-profit company and attain 10% global share in 6G-related intellectual property rights by 2030.

ED jolts Anil Ambani grp's fragile recovery

Latest Scrutiny May Test How Far Market Is Willing To Separate New From The Old

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Few comebacks have been as phoenix-like or as fragile as that of Anil Ambani's beleaguered business empire. Once weighed down by crushing debt and a string of defaults, two of the group's core firms, Reliance Power and Reliance Infrastructure, were clawing their way back into investor favour. But that momentum was jolted on Thursday, when the ED raided group-linked entities, reviving memories of past financial misdemeanours. The timing could not have been worse for Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (RAAG). In July 2025, both Reliance Power and Reliance Infra secured board approval to raise Rs 6,000 crore each via qualified institutional placements and non-convertible debentures, aiming for a total capital infusion of Rs 18,000 crore. This came after aggressive debt trimming. Reliance Infra had achieved zero standalone net debt, while Reliance Power had repaid large chunks of bank loans.

The turnaround had already begun to reflect in financials. Reliance Power swung to a Rs 2,948 crore profit in FY25 from a Rs 2,068 crore loss the year before. Reliance Infra posted a Rs 4938 crore in FY25 reversing earlier losses. Both firms have since issued statements distancing themselves from Anil Ambani, stressing that the ED's investigations re-

late to Reliance Communications (RCOM) and Reliance Home Finance (RHFL) — entities no longer associated with the group. Ambani holds no board position in either of the current entities, they said. At the heart of the crisis, with bank's exposures nearing Rs 12,000 crore. The ED is probing quid pro quo allegations between RHFL and Yes Bank, suggesting that entities tied to the bank's promoters received RHFL funds ahead of

HAUNTED BY LEGACY DEFAULTS

Company	Debt (2025)	Resolution / Status
RCom	₹40,413cr	Insolvency; SBI called it 'fraud a/c'; about 1% recovery
RInfra	Net debt-free	₹3,300cr repaid in FY25; some liabilities remain
RPower	₹18,766cr (2024)	Gradual repayment; parent co still stressed
RHFL	₹11,540cr	Resolved via Aauthm; dissolved; 29% recovery
RCap	₹26,086cr	IHL plan okayed; 37% recovery (₹9,662cr)
RNEL	₹12,800cr	Sold to Swan Energy; 17% recovery

Timing Could Not Have Been Worse

- Once weighed by crushing debt, two core firms, **Reliance Power** and **Reliance Infra**, were clawing their way back into investor favour
- R-Infra achieved **zero standalone net debt**, while RPower repaid large chunks of bank loans
- Both firms have since issued statements **distancing themselves** from Anil Ambani, stressing that the ED's investigations relate to **RCom and Reliance Home Finance**



parent scrutiny are legacy defaults. RCOM, once a telecom major, defaulted in 2017 after its debt surged to Rs 43,000 crore. It entered insolvency proceedings in 2019. Asset erosion and procedural delays led to expected recoveries of 35%. Reliance Naval soon followed, with lenders forced to take an 83% haircut. RHFL and Reliance Capital were downgraded to default in 2019. That year, group had become largest corporate defaulter linked to the Yes Bank loan sanctions. The promoters claim they followed due process and were repaid. A Supreme Court ruling in 2023 cleared its acquisition by Aauthm Finance, completing its resolution. RCOM and RHFL no longer belong to RAAG. Yes Bank's largest recovery came from seizing the group's former headquarters, Reliance Center in Santacruz, which is now Yes Bank's own office, valued at Rs 1,200 crore and adjusted against Reliance Infra's Rs 2,892 crore dues.

Consolidate reforms, focus on key ops, FM tells CBDT

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The income tax department and the revenue department must consolidate reforms and focus on key operational priorities in the areas identified in June this year, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday. "I would want the CBDT and the department of revenue to continue focussed work on the areas identified in June 2025," Sitharaman said at 166th Income Tax Day celebrations. FM recalled the five areas that included accelerating the disposal of disputed tax demands pending



before the faceless appellate authorities and ensure timely resolution of litigation backlog. It also includes identifying and withdrawing departmental appeals falling below the revised monetary threshold announced during the 2024-25 Budget within the next three months. "The delay in giving OGE (orders giving effect) issuance is not explainable," Sitharaman said and urged the department to accelerate the process of issuing OGEs. FM also said the CBDT must focus on developing its technological capabilities to ensure more effective management of systems and IT related issues.

NSE, PSU bks to offload 5cr NSDL shares in D-St debut

Mumbai: National Securities Depository's (NSDL's) Rs 4,000-crore IPO will run from July 30 to Aug 1 with the issue scheduled to open for anchor investors on July 29. The shares are proposed to be listed on the BSE. The IPO of NSDL, India's oldest and largest depository, comprises a pure offer for sale of up to 5 crore shares by shareholders. The company's price band ranges from Rs 760-800 per share, which will place the issue size at between Rs 3,800 crore and Rs 4,000 crore. **TNN**

Ex-fin secy Seth is next insurance regulator chief

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The government has appointed Ajay Seth, a retired 1987-batch IAS officer and former finance secretary, as the new chairperson of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), for a three-year term or until he turns 65, whichever is earlier. The decision, approved by the appointments committee of the Cabinet, ends a nearly four-month leadership vacuum at the regulatory body. Seth, who is the sixth IAS officer to head the regulatory body, has a long experience in economic policymaking. He most recently served as fi-



Irdai moots internal ombudsman

Mumbai: Insurance customers will soon find it easier to get complaints resolved without having to knock on external doors. In a move designed to improve the industry's internal complaint-handling mechanisms Irdai has released a draft proposal for the appointment of internal insurance ombudsmen within insurance companies that will institutionalise an in-house redressal process that is independent, standardised, and legally binding. The move follows multiple rounds of stakeholder consultation over the past year. **TNN**

nance secretary, and before that, as secretary of the department of economic affairs. He also briefly held charge of the revenue department, overseeing both direct and indirect tax administration. His earlier assignments include a stint at the Asian Development Bank and leadership of Bangalore's metro project. As a key architect of India's post-pandemic macro-

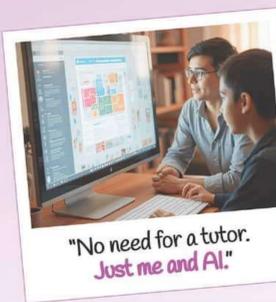
economic policy, Seth was responsible for shaping union budgets, issuing sovereign green bonds, and spearheading infrastructure finance initiatives. His elevation to Irdai suggests that the govt expects him to push through long-pending reforms — some of which have been on hold since his predecessor, Debasish Panda, demitted office in March.

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— NATALIE PORTMAN

Not 18

For Indian courts to have a clearer way to judge consent in some Pcoso cases, age of consent should be lowered

Sexual contact with a child is a crime in India, punishable – depending on gravity – with at least 3 to 20 years in jail. Pcoso, the law meant to protect children from sexual abuse, defines a child as anyone under the age of 18. That's a problem because adolescents often have romantic feelings, and sometimes have sex. There's no power asymmetry, no abuse or exploitation involved. That's why SC in May recommended decriminalising consensual relationships among adolescents of similar age. But GOI disagrees. It told SC on Wednesday that any exception would dilute "the statutory presumption of vulnerability" underlying Pcoso.

Clearly, consent has no place in Pcoso so far. Yet, a Pcoso court on Tuesday granted bail to a 40-year-old Mumbai teacher who was recently found to be in a sexual relationship with her 16-year-old pupil. The court based its order on evidence of a consensual relationship between them. In May, a Pcoso court in Surat granted bail to a 23-year-old woman tutor who had sex with her 13-year-old student, abducted or eloped with him, and was found to be 20 weeks pregnant at the time of her arrest. These cases show why the concept of consensuality is so hard to pin down when the young are involved.



Take another case. When 30-year-old UK teacher Rebecca Joyne was jailed last year on charges of sexually abusing two 15-year-old schoolboys, one of the boys, by whom she had a child, said he had been "coerced, controlled, manipulated, sexually abused, and mentally abused", and struggled to come to terms with it: "I was completely in denial." This is clear cut – it was abuse.

Or the US case of Mary Kay Letourneau, who started having sex with a student when she was 34 and he 13, and had two children by him before he turned 15. That became a major scandal in America in 1990s. Despite her protestations of consent – she eventually married the student in 2005 – US authorities treated her crime as rape. She spent over seven years in jail.

What makes things complicated in India is the unusually high age cutoff for consent. In UK, the panel looking into the grooming gangs scandal, last month recommended that adults who have sex with a child under 16 – age of consent in UK – should always be charged with rape, with no exceptions for "love" and "consent". Indian courts will have a clearer way to judge such cases if the age of consent is lowered.

Admission Impossible

Between CUET and procedures like those employed by DU, getting into college is stress test on steroids

India is in the middle of the annual harassment of students and parents – aka college admissions. Stressful in the best of education systems, in India the supply-demand mismatch between good colleges and good students makes it worse. And since 2022, CUET has added a cruel twist. It is the unified admission test for over 250 universities. But it remains a cure worse than the disease – this year, too, not only was there a shocking delay in publication of CUET results, the exam itself was marked by faulty answer keys and technical glitches, as well as venue choices that seemed to be aimed at punishing examinees. National Testing Agency, which conducts CUET-UG, should sit for an exam, and answer why even after four attempts, the end result is still a nightmare.

But this is only one part of the ordeal for students and parents. The labyrinthian admission process – particularly at prestigious institutes like Delhi University – makes getting reasonable quality education a matter of luck and acute digital acumen. For example, DU's Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) requires applicants to upload their details, navigate a complicated subject mapping exercise, input their preferences based on course and college combinations, and then let an algorithm do the allocation of seats.

Naturally, professional coaching institutes have stepped in to "guide applicants", for a fee. There's now a CSAS form-filing ecosystem. Clearly, the admission system is skewed against those who are not digitally savvy or who come from modest economic backgrounds. Considering that 2.39L applicants completed DU's second-phase admission process, getting the course you want is a game of gargantuan odds. No major country puts its young through such stress just when they are making one of the most consequential decisions of their life. And no one, of course, will be held accountable.

Strange homecoming

Absence can turn the familiar into the unfamiliar, the unchanged into the changed

Jug Suraiya



Returning home after being away for two months, I wonder if it is indeed a homecoming.

I put on a switch to turn on a fan. Instead, a light comes on. I try another switch, another light, no fan. Third switch, a fan starts revolving.

In the kitchen I can't find the coffee. I finally discover it, tucked away behind a jar of pickles.

I turn on the electric kettle to make the coffee, and I can't find my coffee mug. Everything seems strange and unfamiliar. The sizes and shapes of the rooms. The arrangement of the furniture. Was that table lamp always there, or somewhere else? And weren't there different cushions on the divan than these?

It's as though some mischievous sprite has come into the house, and changed around the furniture and furnishings, rewired the electrical switches so that I don't know which is which, hidden the coffee and coffee mug just in order to confuse and disorient me and make me wonder if the home I think I've returned to is really my home, or that of some perfect stranger.

I'm not the only one feeling a sense of displacement, of not knowing where I am, or where the things I'm looking for might be.

Bunny says she can't locate her favourite T-shirt, or the shoes she wears when we go for our daily evening walk. Who has hidden them? The same imp of mischief who hid my coffee and my mug?

And of course the imp playing pranks on us is our own misplaced memory, caused by lengthy absence, which makes us see accustomed things with unaccustomed eyes, puts everyday things in unremembered places, turns routine into the random.

As the initial strangeness of homecoming begins to wear off, it reaffirms afresh our sense of place, and by doing so, our sense of ourselves.

We are the ones who made this place a home. And, returning the favour, our home made us who we are. That's the true homecoming.

'Benchmark deal...trade will double by 2030'

Union commerce minister argues trade pact with UK will not just make India a major exporter to Britain and benefit Indian companies, it will also increase incomes in farming & fishing communities

Piyush Goyal



The landmark India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) will make Indian farmers, fishermen, artisans and small businesses shine globally, create numerous jobs and help the common man get high-quality goods at competitive rates in line with PM's vision.

This follows similar agreements with other developed countries including Australia, European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries and UAE. It is a part of Modi gov't strategy to maximise economic growth and job creation to achieve the dream of Viksit Bharat 2047.

GOI strategy | In 2014, Modi gov't adopted a determined strategy to rebuild global confidence in the Indian economy and make it attractive for Indian and foreign investors. Signing FTAs with developed countries is a part of this wider strategy. FTAs also increase investor confidence by removing uncertainty about trade policies.

FTAs with developed countries, which do not have competing trade interests with India, are a win-win situation, unlike the previous gov't's approach of endangering Indian businesses by recklessly opening India's doors to competitors.

In UPA's term, developed countries had abandoned trade talks with India, then regarded as one of the world's 'Fragile Five' economies. Under PM's leadership, India's GDP has almost tripled since 2014 to about ₹331L cr. Game-changing reforms, ease of doing business and PM's global stature helped India emerge as a compelling opportunity. Today, the world wants to participate in the India story – and sign FTAs.

Market access, competitive edge | CETA will ensure comprehensive market access for Indian goods in the UK market across sectors. It eliminates tariffs on about 99% of tariff lines covering almost 100% of trade value. This creates huge opportunities for the \$56bn bilateral trade that's estimated to double by 2030 with CETA's help.

Small businesses will prosper as Indian products will have a clear competitive edge over rivals. Companies that make soccer balls, cricket gear, rugby balls and toys, among other products, are poised to significantly expand business in UK.

Numerous jobs | India's competitiveness will boost exports substantially and trigger a wave of investment

and job creation. India is well-positioned to become one of the top three suppliers to UK in textiles, leather, and footwear, which will help small businesses, artisans including women, and craftsmen emerge as key players in global value chains. Gems & jewellery, engineering goods, chemicals and electronic products such as phones are also expected to see exports jump.

Farmers first | Over 95% of agricultural and processed food tariff lines will attract zero duty, paving the way for rapid rise in agri-exports and rural prosperity. Duty-free market access is estimated to increase agri-



exports by over 20% in three years, contributing to India's goal of \$100bn agri-exports by 2030 as CETA unlocks the premium UK market for Indian farmers, matching or exceeding benefits enjoyed by Germany, Netherlands, and other EU nations.

Turmeric, pepper, cardamom, and processed goods like mango pulp, pickles, and pulses will also get duty-free access. Higher exports will boost farm income and give greater incentives for quality, packaging and certification. It will create numerous jobs across the agricultural value chain.

Protecting the vulnerable | CETA excludes India's most sensitive agri sectors to protect domestic farmers. India has given no tariff concessions on dairy products,

apples, oats and cooking oils. These exclusions reflect Modi gov't strategy of prioritising food security, domestic price stability, and vulnerable farming communities.

Fishermen to flourish | Indian fishermen, particularly those in Andhra, Odisha, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, will see dramatic expansion through access to UK's marine import market. UK's import duty on shrimp and other marine products will fall to zero from the current level of up to 20%. The potential is phenomenal as India has only 2.25% of UK's \$5.4bn marine imports.

Services & professionals | The agreement will catalyse services including IT/ITeS, financial services and education, creating new avenues for Indians. India has secured favourable mobility provisions for skilled professionals, including contractual service providers, business travellers, investors, yoga instructors, musicians and chefs.

Innovative FTAs | Under PM's leadership, India's FTAs go far beyond goods and services. They set new benchmarks. With EFTA countries, India has secured a guarantee of \$100bn investment that will create 1mn direct jobs in India. With the Australian FTA, India resolved the double-taxation issue troubling IT companies.

One of the most significant aspects of the agreement with UK is the Double Contribution Convention. This exempts employers and temporary Indian workers in UK from social security contributions for three years. This will significantly enhance the competitiveness of Indian service providers.

Quality goods | Trade agreements increase competition, which helps Indian consumers get high-quality goods at competitive prices. Modi gov't has provided policy support, issued Quality Control Orders and negotiated FTAs to encourage and incentivise quality.

GOI has held extensive stakeholder consultation with industry and other stakeholders before signing any FTA. It is heartening to note that industry bodies have overwhelmingly supported and welcomed every FTA signed by Modi gov't.

CETA is a benchmark for equitable and ambitious trade deals between large economies. It opens up attractive global opportunities for the underprivileged, without compromising our core interests. It is a shining example of how New India does business.

JIM'S BIG CATS & THE COST OF 'PROGRESS'

Corbett's 150th birth anniversary is a good occasion to remind ourselves that while tiger conservation is a roaring success, allowing national parks to become wedding & leisure destinations is a policy failure

Rajiv Bhartari



Corbett Tiger Reserve, initially founded as Hailey National Park in 1936, stands as the first national park on the Asian mainland and a significant milestone in wildlife conservation. It's a popular destination for wildlife tourism today, drawing many visitors from India and around the world.

This vibrant wildlife tourism economy is supported by a network of accommodations, both within and outside the reserve, along with vehicle-based safaris across eight designated zones. Each year, approximately 300,000 visitors generate nearly ₹20cr in revenue, contributing to regional development.

But this popularity has also brought ecological stress, worsened by the unregulated proliferation of luxury resorts around the reserve. Development of additional tourism zones outside the reserve has transformed Corbett into a wedding and leisure destination, resulting in light and noise pollution, construction of walls and fences, and constant vehicular disturbance – all of which hinder tiger movement across the landscape. Nor are the benefits of this tourism boom equitably shared, which increases socio-economic disparities among local communities.

Home to one of the world's largest tiger populations within a protected area, this tiger reserve is named after Jim Corbett. He was born in Nainital on July 25, 1875, and spent most of his life in the

Kumaon region. He recognised the threats to tigers well before India's independence. In the 1930s, his strong advocacy for tiger conservation played a significant role in establishing India's first national park in what was then the United Provinces. He also directed his limited resources toward promoting agriculture and community welfare in Choti Haldwani, a village that he owned and established, which was gifted to its tenants after his death.

In the 1970s, when India began organised efforts for tiger conservation, Paul Leyhausen, adviser to International

was selected as one of the first nine tiger reserves. For long-term viability National Tiger Conservation Authority now recommends a minimum of 75-100 adult and sub-adult tigers within a connected habitat of 1,200 sq km, including both core and buffer zones. Today, Corbett spans 1,288 sq km and is home to over 200 tigers, fulfilling the early vision of Project Tiger.

More importantly, Corbett has served as a cradle of conservation innovation. Dedicated staff and effective management practices have significantly reduced poaching and improved overall protection standards.

All-India Tiger Estimation, conducted every four years, shows a steady increase in tiger numbers, but also reveals a concerning shift: high tiger densities

are now found not only in core zones but also in buffer areas and adjoining forest divisions. It's the broader Corbett landscape (encompassing the Ramnagar, Terai West and Lansdowne forest divisions) that's home to dense tiger populations. This trend requires urgent investigation to understand the underlying ecological and social drivers.

Rising presence of tigers and leopards in buffer areas has increased human-wildlife conflicts. As Kamla Devi from Jameriya lamented, *Hum jungle jana chhod denge, hum jungal se ghas lana chhod denge, par ye jo hamari datheej par guldar aur baagh aa rahe hain, unka hum kya karenin?* (We are ready to stop going into the forest to collect grass, but what can we do about leopards and tigers appearing

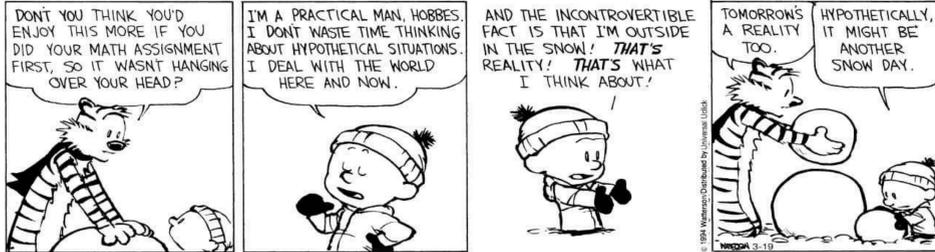
at our doorstep?) Meanwhile, the habitat continues to suffer from land degradation, frequent forest fires, and rapid spread of *lantana camara*, an invasive alien species. The effectiveness of the removal technique called "cut root stock", applied for over two decades, remains limited due to low-quality execution and insufficient monitoring.

Large herds of deer and other ungulates in Corbett Tiger Reserve depend on healthy grasslands, even though these cover only a tenth of the area. Native grasses improve rainwater infiltration and groundwater recharge, whereas *lantana* increases runoff and soil erosion. Its dry leaves are highly flammable, and once they catch fire, the blaze spreads rapidly, causing severe forest fires.

Every year, substantial funds are allocated to remove *lantana*. Yet, the problem persists because removal is not followed by planting enough native, palatable grasses. Grass nurseries in Corbett are left neglected. The insufficient seeding and planting of grasses enable *lantana* to re-establish, nullifying the entire effort.

Jim Corbett's legacy has indeed laid a strong foundation for wildlife conservation in India. But while increasing tiger population in the Corbett landscape is a remarkable achievement, it should not be the sole measure of success. His writings reveal a more profound philosophy – one that sought a balance between wildlife protection and human well-being. This is why his six highly popular books continue to inspire successive generations of youngsters. And this is also how conservation still has a long way to go.

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace



All govts suffer a recurring problem: Power attracts pathological personalities. It is not that power corrupts but that it is magnetic to the corruptible.

Frank Herbert

Shiv Tandav Stotram Celebrates The Cosmic Dance

Aseem K Jha

The frantic cosmic dance of Shiv is called Tandav, and the hymn of praise dedicated to Him in honour of this dance is famous as *Shiv Tandav Stotram*. The amazing description of Shiv, as brought out in this stotram, is said to have been composed by Ravan, an ardent devotee of Shiv, and a complex figure in Hindu mythology. He is remembered for his arrogance, ego, haughtiness, and above all for his villainous acts in the *Ramayana*. But Ravan was also a great priest/scholar, administrator, and warrior.

This Stotram is believed to have emanated from a moment of humility and realisation. The story goes that once Ravan attempted to uproot Mount Kailash, the abode of Shiv, and take it with him to Lanka. As this act was unseemly for a true devotee, Shiv decided to teach Ravan a lesson. He pressed the mountain

hard with his big toe. Ravan's hands got crushed under the weight of the mountain. He could not bear the excruciating pain and cried out Shiv's name, couched in hymns. The hymn, filled with poetic brilliance and deep devotion, seeking His forgiveness, came to be known as Shiv Tandav Stotram. Shiv was impressed by Ravan's devotion and bestowed him with many boons. This legend underscores the transformative power of faith and the importance of humility before the divine.

The Stotram, with 15 quatrains, features alternating long and short syllables, highlighting the power, valour, and beauty of Shiv. It represents cosmic dance that eliminates all negative energies. Its

verses describe Shiv's majestic form, including his third eye, the crescent moon on his head, the serpent around his neck, and the Ganga flowing from his matted locks. The third verse of the Stotra hails Shiv, "whose all-pervading, compassionate glance removes all hardships." The twelfth verse praises Shiv's egalitarian vision towards different forms of the world, including a snake and a garland, a most precious gem and a lump of dirt, friends and enemies, a blade of grass and a lotus, as well as ordinary people and emperors. These descriptions serve as a source of inspiration for art, dance, and literature, keeping traditions of Shiv worship alive.

The Stotram's lyrical beauty and

profound meaning have inspired countless artists, musicians, and scholars over centuries. It offers a timeless message of balance, humility, and devotion. It reminds us that even in moments of despair or arrogance, sincere devotion can lead to redemption and divine grace. The Stotram has the power to uplift the soul and bring peace of mind. It is a pathway to experiencing the divine presence of Shiv.

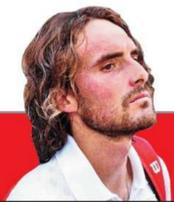
The cosmic dance symbolises the eternal cycle of creation, preservation, and destruction, reflecting the dynamic nature of the universe. It represents the rhythmic flow of the universe, where destruction paves the way for new creation. Chanting the Stotram helps devotees align with this cosmic rhythm, thereby fostering balance and harmony in their lives. The powerful vibrations of the Stotram dispel negative energies, purifying the mind and the surrounding environment.



THE SPEAKING TREE



THE SPEAKING TREE



STEFANOS TSITSIPAS PARTS WAYS WITH COACH GORAN IVANISEVIC AFTER BRIEF STINT

'IT FEELS LIKE HOME': MARCUS RASHFORD JOINS BARCELONA ON LOAN FROM MAN UNITED



ENGLAND STEAL A MARCH

Hosts Ride On Strong Opening To Chip Away At India's First-Innings Score After Pant Fifty, Stokes Fifer

THE TIMES OF INDIA IN ENGLAND
Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

Manchester: In gloomy conditions at Old Trafford, India looked like they were going to do an encore of Gabba 2021. Shardul Thakur and Washington Sundar's gritty 48-run partnership, against the new ball, started the fight on the second morning of the fourth Test. Rishabh Pant, coming back after retiring hurt on Wednesday evening, added 17 runs with a fractured right foot in an exhibition of indomitable spirit.

The circumstances leading to Thursday morning resembled India's tour of Australia in 2020-21. The characters in play were the same. It all seemed to be going according to plan when India reached 358 battling against the likes of Ben Stokes, who had spectacular figures of 5/72, and Jofra Archer's spell of 3/73.

All that fight evaporated when the sun broke out as England openers Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley plundered the Indian bowling for 166 runs in 32 overs. That opening partnership laid the foundation for England to finish the day at 225/2 in 46 overs, closing in on India's first-innings score in double quick time.

India did rediscover some of the fight, claiming two wickets in six overs through Ravindra Jadeja and debutant Anshul Kamboj's dismissals of Crawley and Duckett, for 84 and 94 respectively. Jasprit Bumrah's late burst gave Joe Root a few nervy moments but it didn't yield any results.

Captain Shubman Gill looked completely out of depth and appeared in no control of the proceedings. Gill and his bowlers will be desperate to turn a corner early on Friday morning or else they could see the match and the series running away from them very quickly with Ollie Pope and Joe Root batting on 20 and 11 respectively.

India's seam bowling looked the flattest in the most favourable conditions in the series. It's safe to say they played their most ordinary cricket in the series after the last two sessions of the first Test in Leeds. Bumrah was the only one who turned up looking at his usual best, but his good work was undone as Kamboj struggled to find any rhythm with the new ball.



MAKING IT LOOK EASY: England's Zak Crawley (right) and Ben Duckett (left) take a run as Mohammed Siraj looks on at Old Trafford in Manchester

The nerves of playing a Test match kicked in and the 24-year-old Kamboj lost his line. He was significantly down on pace as well in his first spell. Once he leaked a few boundaries, mostly on the leg-side, it became a template. Mohammed Siraj, on the back of two good Test matches, too leaked runs on both sides of the wicket. Shardul Thakur, too, never settled down on a line and length. The outfield quickening up in the sun left the Indian bowlers with lesser room for error.

It was like watching two different Indian teams on the field. When Archer removed and his bowlers will be desperate to turn a corner early on Friday morning or else they could see the match and the series running away from them very quickly with Ollie Pope and Joe Root batting on 20 and 11 respectively.

IND VS ENG 4th TEST, DAY 2

Jadeja for 20 with the new ball at the score of 266/5 in the second over of the day, India's capitulation seemed a matter of time. The ball flew past the edges of the bats of Thakur and Washington. Like they did in Gabba all those years ago, the duo batted sensibly to frustrate Stokes and Archer. Stokes eventually worked out both of them, dismissing Thakur for 41 off 88 and Washington 27 off 90. And when Pant went about middling the balls he played, it seemed India had got the momentum going in their favour. India's resistance with the bat had managed to hurt England's ego in trying conditions.

Pant breaches pain barrier, slams gritty 50 with a fractured foot

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Manchester: Half an hour before lunch on Day Two, Old Trafford rose on its feet when Rishabh Pant hobbled to the pitch to take strike against Ben Stokes, who was bowling at full steam.

Reports of Pant sustaining a fractured metatarsal had emerged by early morning here. Chris Woakes' low full toss had hit Pant's right foot on Wednesday evening, forcing him to retire hurt on 37.

A visibly limping Pant creamed Stokes to cover boundary to bring up one of the most remarkable half-centuries in recent times. When Jofra Archer's thunderbolt eventually sent his off-stump cartwheeling — in a repeat dismissal from the second innings of the Lord's Test — Joe Root ran up to Pant from first slip to shake his hand.

The stadium was on its feet as he hobbled off, having added 17 crucial runs and eventually falling for 54 off 75 balls. Pant's heroic effort took India to 358, a decent score on a tricky pitch.

The slog sweep at this venue in the 2019 World Cup semifinal had haunted Pant for a long time. On Thursday, he would have walked back to the same dressing room in obvious pain, but with his head held high.

Anil Kumble bowling with a broken



Retired hurt at 37 on Day 1 and ruled out of the next Test, Pant hobbled out to bat on Thursday

jaw in Antigua in 2002. Graeme Smith batting with a fractured hand in Sydney in 2009 and Malcolm Marshall playing with broken thumb at Headingley in 1984 have been cricket's reference points for on-field bravery. With every minute he spent at the crease, Pant — with all his body weight on the injured foot — eased his way into this elite list and added to his legend.

This is, after all, a cricketer who mi-

raculously survived a horrific car crash two-and-a-half years ago.

Before the start of play, the Indian cricket board (BCCI) announced that Dhruv Jurel would assume wicketkeeping duties for the remainder of the fourth Test. It was also mentioned that Pant would be available to bat. Interestingly, the BCCI didn't confirm a fracture. Pant going to bat was a call left to him and the team management. Soon, images of Pant sitting in whites inside the dressing room were flashed on the big screen.

Pant has treated cricket fans to some freakish performances in the past. On Thursday, he may have outdone himself, but one will have to wait for the second innings to see if he has another act left to perform in this series.

Since his car accident in Dec 2022, Pant has repeatedly said that he wakes up every morning thanking God for a fresh start in life. "Whatever I've gone through, there are very few things that can unsettle me now," Pant had said.

He switches off after every delivery. He hums a tune, thinks about worldly things and talks to his batting partner before taking stance for the next delivery. He skips lunch if he is scheduled to bat after the break. Every bit of his routine was at play on Thursday morning, helping him overcome the pain.

SCOREBOARD

India (1st innings / overnight 264/4 in 83 overs): Y Jaiswal c Brook b Dawson 58, KL Rahul c Crawley b Woakes 46, S Sudharsan c Carse b Stokes 61, S Gill lbw b Stokes 12, R Pant b Archer 54, R Jadeja c Brook b Archer 20, S Thakur c Duckett b Stokes 41, W Sundar c Woakes b Stokes 27, A Kamboj c Smith b Stokes 0, J Bumrah c Smith b Archer 4, M Siraj not out 5; **Extras (b-4, lb-8, nb-4, w-14): 30; Total (in 114.1 overs): 358; FoW:** 1-94, 2-120, 3-140, 4-235, 5-266, 6-314, 7-337, 8-337, 9-349; **Bowling:** Woakes 23-5-66-1, Archer 26.1-3-73-3, Carse 21-1-71-0, Stokes 24-3-72-5, Dawson 15-1-45-1, Root 5-1-19-0

England (1st innings): Z Crawley c Rahul b Jadeja 84, B Duckett c sub (Jurel) b Kamboj 94, O Pope batting 20, J Root batting 11; **Extras (b4, lb6, nb6): 16; Total (46 ov; RR: 4.89): 225/2; FoW:** 1-166, 2-197; **Bowling:** Bumrah 13-4-37-0, Kamboj 10-1-48-1, Siraj 10-0-58-0, Thakur 5-0-35-0, Jadeja 8-0-37-1.

5/72 Ben Stokes has produced his first five-wicket haul as captain in Tests. This is also his first five-wicket haul in 57 Tests in the World Test Championship.

5 Stokes now has five five-wicket hauls in Tests, two each vs Australia — 6/36 in Nottingham in 2015 & 6/99 in Sydney in 2014 and India - 5/73 in Mohali in 2016 and 5/72 in Manchester in 2025 — and a career-best 6/22 vs West Indies in Lord's in 2017.

94 Ben Duckett's 15th fifty in Tests is his second vs India. For the third time in his career, Duckett has been dismissed in the nervous 90s, the first two being 98 vs Aus at Lord's in 2023 and 92 vs NZ in Wellington in 2024.

84 Zak Crawley has recorded his highest score vs India in Tests, bettering the 79 in Dharamshala in March 2024.

MOST RUNS BY WICKETKEEPERS IN A TEST SERIES VS ENGLAND

Wicketkeeper	Team	Series	Venue	T	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50
Budhi Kunderan	Ind	1963-64	India	5	10	0	525	192	52.50	2	1
Brad Haddin	Aus	2013-14	Aus	5	8	0	493	118	61.62	1	5
Rishabh Pant	Ind	2025	Eng	4	7	0	479	134	68.42	2	3
Farokh Engineer	Ind	1972-73	Ind	5	10	0	415	121	41.50	1	3
Billy Wade	SA	1948-49	SA	5	9	1	407	125	50.87	1	3

ICC may approve replacements for 'external injuries' soon

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Manchester: Rishabh Pant's foot injury on the first day of the fourth Test here has triggered a debate around the need for allowing like-for-like substitutions for external injuries. Pant going out to bat with a broken metatarsal made for a great story but it was a decision forced upon the team, since the playing conditions don't allow a substitute to bat or bowl.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is close to bring in a provision for like-for-like substitutions later this year, TOI has learnt. "There is a chance that teams will get to bring in a replacement for serious external injuries. The matter is already under deliberation. A ratification is expected in the next ICC cricket committee meeting," an ICC source said.

In June, the ICC announced that a 'replacement-player' condition

would be trialled by the Full Members of the world body. "A player who suffers a serious injury on the field of play any time after the match has started (including any pre-match warm-up period) may be replaced for the remainder of the match by a fully participating like-for-like player," the ICC had said in a statement on June 25.

Former England captain Michael Vaughan has been vocal in his support of allowing proper replacements. "Injury replacements should be permitted in Tests in the first innings of the game," Vaughan had told BBC Sport two months ago. "If there's a genuine injury in the first innings, it affects the game and the entertainment, which fans pay money to watch. The first innings is a good cut-off to make it fair."

India, after all, let go off a lot of runs when Pant was at the crease since he couldn't run fast enough to complete obvious singles.

INDIA'S WORLD

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India No. 1 Koneru Humpy rallied splendidly, playing fearlessly to send China's top seed Lei Tingjie packing from the FIDE Women's World Cup in Batumi, Georgia on Thursday. In an exciting semifinal tiebreak played in both the rapid and blitz formats, Humpy prevailed over Tingjie 5-3 to set up an all-India title clash with her admirer, 19-year-old Divya Deshmukh.

Humpy, India's first woman to earn the Grandmaster title, also qualified for her second successive Candidates tournament. This is the second time that two Indian players have made it to the Candidates from where the challenger to the world champion will be identified.

While India won the battle of World Cup semifinals against China in contrasting fashion, the final between Humpy and Divya will be a contest between

experience and youth. In the second semifinal tiebreak, Humpy took time to settle into her groove. Despite being the reigning World women's rapid champion, Humpy fared poorly in the initial rapid games, and Tingjie took the lead. Regaining her momentum, the 38-year-old Indian won the final rapid contest on demand and forced blitz tiebreaks.

During both the blitz tiebreak games, Humpy looked determined as she arrived at the board minutes before the start. With two successive wins, Humpy outclassed Tingjie 5-3.

A relieved Humpy later said, "It was a very tough match. Initially, in the rapid, I played a bit shakily. In blitz, I was very comfortable and had all the answers." On the upcoming all-India title clash with Divya, Humpy said, "This is the happiest moment for chess in India. It will be a tough final as Divya is playing tremendously well in

this World Cup."

Earlier, the day started with the first set of rapid tiebreaks, played with a 15+10 time control. The scores remained at par, with both players defending their positions well with their respective black pieces. The first game ended in 70 moves, and the second was a quick 30-move draw by repetition.

The real action began in the second set of rapid tiebreaks, played with a lesser 10+10 time control. Tingjie went 2-1 up. Under pressure, Humpy came back stronger in the second game. She won in just 39 moves and forced the blitz tiebreaks.

In the shorter time control of the blitz format, Humpy prevailed over the higher-ranked Chinese opponent. In the opening blitz clash, Humpy won Tingjie's queen on the 48th turn, and sealed a 70-move victory. She won the second after a 19th move blunder by Tingjie

Humpy Rallies To Topple Top Seed Tingjie, Will Take On Divya For Women's World Cup Title

PHOTO: FIDE



K HUMPY

VS

WOMEN'S CHESS WORLD CUP: THE FACTS

● FIDE conducted the women's World Championship in knockout format from 2000 to 2010. And then in 2012, 2015, 2017 and 2018. FIDE rechristened this event as women's World Cup making the World Championship exclusively a Matchplay event. In 12 previous combined editions of either knockout World Cup or World Championship, no Indian woman had entered the final.

● Divya had played the 2023 World Cup but had lost to Russian Alexandra Goryachkina in the third round. Divya was a wild card entry in the GP series 2024-25 but could score only about 50%. But she more than made up for that by entering the World Cup final.

● Humpy was Elo 2572 in Jan 2023 and was Elo 2536 earlier this month after playing 115 classical games in this phase. The corresponding figures for Divya are 2349 and 2463 after playing 249 classical games.

● The Women's chess world cup is the third biggest women's event in the FIDE structure. The biggest is the matchplay women's World Championship. The second-biggest event is the Candidates tournament, the winner of which gets a chance to dethrone the women's world champion.

● The players for the Candidates are picked through varied tournament formats - top-two from FIDE women's GP, top-two from FIDE women's Grand Swiss (Swiss League) and top-three from World Cup (KO format). One spot is kept for the most consistent player in the entire circuit.

● K Humpy had qualified for the World Championship match in 2011. But lost to China's Hou Yifan who is still women's world No. 1. Women's world No. 2 is reigning champion Ju Wenjun and No. 3 is Tingjie, the top seed in Batumi, who has been knocked out by Humpy in the semis.

PGTI to players: Reaffirm allegiance or face expulsion

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Pune: Is Indian golf in for a 'LIV' moment?

The Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) has asked its players to sign a form, reaffirming their allegiance to the body and declaring they would not compete in any rival tournament.

The move comes when the tour is on a mid-season break, and in the wake of the launch of the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL), which has been sanctioned by the Indian Golf Union and approved by the sports ministry.

"I shall not engage in, or associate with any activity, event or organization that is detrimental to the interests... of the Society. I shall not participate in any professional golf event that conflicts with official PGTI-sanctioned tournaments without prior written approval... as per Clause 1.10 of the PGTI Handbook," reads a part of the form sent out to the players.

Amandeep Johl, CEO of the PGTI, sought to play down the development. "There is nothing new in the form. It is part of the PGTI Handbook. This is Appendix 2, which is a standard registration form, which has been there forever," Johl told TOI.

He, however, admitted that the move was prompted by the imminent launch of a rival 'entity'. "I have no problem with my player playing anywhere, in India or abroad, private or public, but you can't have your

foot in both the boards. That's not fair to the rest of the membership," he said. "Choose where you want to go, my best wishes. I am happy that there are 30 players who are going to earn a new livelihood, a better livelihood, if they feel it is a better livelihood."

Earlier, PGTI president and former India cricket captain Kapil Dev had written a strongly worded letter to the players warning them against being "part of a REBEL TOUR" ... "designed to create division and disruption", urging them to "stand united" or else face disciplinary action including suspension.

The IGPL envisions a city-based league with three-day events that have no cuts. It has so far signed up 30 players — a mix of active veterans like Ganjanjeet Bhullar; seniors like Jeev Milkha Singh and Jyoti Randhawa; as well as some competing on the PGTI Tour; and about 10 players from WPGTI. Its management includes some of the founding members of PGTI.

Asked why PGTI couldn't co-sanction the league like the women's tour has done, Johl said the discussions failed at a nascent stage. "They did reach out to us, but the demands were a little unacceptable to PGTI," he said, without disclosing the details. Johl reminded that PGTI was the Indian body recognized by the US PGA and DP World Tour, and awarded ranking points which enables a player to represent the country at Olympics and Asiatic.

Divya, the newest star

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Nagpur: In her 14-year journey on the 64 squares, Divya Deshmukh has etched her name in history books. From being the youngest Woman Fide Master (WFM) in 2013 to achieving a new milestone in Batumi, Georgia, by becoming the first Indian to reach the FIDE Women's World Cup final, Divya has become the toast of the nation.

In her second attempt in the Women's World Cup, Divya set an Indian record. The 19-year-old World junior champion became the first teenager in 34 years to secure a berth in the Women's Candidates tournament. She also completed her Grandmaster norm and is now one win away from becoming India's fourth woman Grandmaster. Only three Indian women — Koneru Humpy, Harika D and Vaishali Rameshbabu — hold the

GM title. The winner of the World Cup will automatically become a GM. Divya's chess journey began in 2010 when she was five years old. Like many Indian parents, Divya's parents, Dr Jitendra and Namrata, enrolled her in a nearby chess academy. In their residential colony at Shankar Nagar in Nagpur, three sporting activities — badminton, basketball and chess — were taught. While Divya's elder sister Aarya played basketball and badminton, the Deshmukh couple chose chess for Divya.

Gradually, she developed interest in the sport and within two years Divya won her first major title — the U-7 national gold in Puducherry in July 2012. She did not look back thereafter. Divya made her first international mark by becoming the U-8 Asian Champion in Iran in 2013 and qualified to represent India in the World Youth Championship the

Consistency The Key To 19-Yr-Old's Journey So Far

following year. In 2014, at eight years and five months old, Divya won her first World Championship title by becoming the youngest U-10 World Champion in Durban, South Africa. She secured the crown by remaining unbeaten and finishing the 11-round event with nine wins and two draws. Since then, Divya has represented India on 40 occasions, achieving 35 podium finishes, bringing home 23 gold, seven silver and five bronze medals.

In 2020, Divya was an active member of the Indian Olympiad team that won the event organised online by FIDE. She joined India's top players and began receiving tips from Viswanathan Anand. Within a year, Divya became a Woman Grandmaster (WGM) and in 2023 secured the title of International Master (IM).

In addition to winning eight age category national titles, Divya, at 17



DIVYA DESHMUKH

Deal Done, Consumers & Cos To Share Spoils

Duty cuts on UK goods may aid firms more than buyers

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New Delhi: Govt has agreed to cut tariffs on thousands of products imported from UK — from chocolates and cosmetics to cars, silver and Scotch — but reduction and elimination of customs duties will not translate into the entire benefit being passed on to consumers.

To begin with, customs duty is only the basic cost of the landed price for an Indian seller. On top of that are local levies — GST or excise — which even an Indian manufacturer has to pay. And, this can be a significant portion of the final price.

Take the case of alcohol, for instance, where the landed price of a bottle of the popular Johnnie Walker Black Label is estimated at around Rs 350, which at 150% customs duty sees a levy of Rs 525. On top of that, there is a 200% margin for the importer, the company, in most cases — which means an addition of around Rs 750 — taking the landed price to Rs 1,275. Then comes excise of 85% or Rs 1,084 and VAT of 25% (Rs 590), taking the wholesale price to Rs 2,950. Then comes the retail margin, pushing the cost in a market like Delhi to over Rs 3,000 a bottle.

The actual price reduction for a customer will only be Rs 200-300 a bottle, a top in-



Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and UK trade minister Jonathan Reynolds exchange the documents in England on Thursday

For some premium brands, the price reduction for a customer will only be ₹200-300 a bottle, an industry executive said, while predicting significantly higher profits for companies selling Made-in-India whisky

dustry executive told **TOI** while predicting a higher margin for companies. That's especially true for Made-in-India whisky, which blend anywhere between 1% and 25-30% Scotch imported in bulk form. "Going forward, for several MNCs operating in India, bottling in India may not be a great idea and they will simply import bottles of blended whisky," the source said.

A similar situation is likely to play out in other sectors such as cosmetics too, where companies will see improved margins, said marketing executives. There is no mechanism for govt to ensure the full bene-

fit is passed on. Although it tried to ensure the window is no longer available under GST and in any case, companies dragged authorities to court, questioning the calculations.

In segments such as automobiles, competition from players will drive pricing behaviour, as will other trade agreements. For instance, with the EU deal in the pipeline, a German carmaker or Tesla may just lower domestic prices significantly to grab a bigger pie of the market.

With duty reduction in several segments staggered over 10 years, price cuts are not on the immediate horizon.

Pharma, med device sectors receive right prescription

The India-UK FTA is expected to strengthen supply chains for pharma and medical devices sectors, improve access to affordable medicines, and pave the way for collaboration in bulk drugs and joint research, reports Rupal Mukherjee. The domestic pharma industry is hopeful exports of generic drugs to UK — currently valued at around \$1 billion — will see a boost.

Sudarshan Jain, secretary general, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, said the pact offers opportunities to supply affordable and quality-assured medicines, contributing to better patient care in the UK. Namit Joshi, chairman of Pharmexcil, added the agreement paves the way for partnerships in bulk drug imports, CDMO, and joint research, strengthening India's competitive edge.

The medical devices industry also expects bilateral trade to accelerate. "Earlier, devices imported into UK were duty-free, so tariffs weren't a concern. But regulatory approval costs & timelines were. We had sought UK recognition of Indian CDSCO or QCI certifications to fast-track approvals," said Rajiv Nath, forum coordinator, AiMed. He highlighted need for stricter Rules of Origin checks to prevent misuse of FTA.

Luxury cars to rev up, EVs in slow lane

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New Delhi: Govt finally relaxed customs duty rates on imported cars with the UK trade deal, paving the way for tariffs to come down from highs of over 100% to as low as 10%, benefiting ultra-luxury car brands such as Jaguar and Land Rover, Rolls-Royce, Bentley and Aston Martin.

However, govt has delayed the import duty concessions when it comes to electric and other green cars, the measure being initiated to protect domestic players looking to produce high-value clean cars. "There are no concessions given to elec-

trics, hybrids, and hydrogen-powered vehicles in the first five years," an official said.

In petrol and diesel categories, lower tariffs can be enjoyed for a limited number of vehicles as govt has imposed quotas and limits to protect the domestic makers and also curb mass-scale shipments.

For large-engine petrol cars above 3000cc and diesel cars over 2500cc — traditionally luxury imports — India has committed to lowering current 100%+ customs duty to 10% over 15 years, within a quota starting at 10,000 units and rising to 19,000 in year five, according to an analysis by Global Trade Research Ini-

tiative (GTRI), a think tank.

For mid-sized cars (1500-2500cc diesel/up to 3000cc petrol), a 50% in-quota duty applies initially, falling to 10% by year five. Small cars under 1500cc follow a similar tariff reduction path with a governing quota. "These in-quota vehicles enjoy sharply reduced duties, while out-of-quota imports still face tariffs ranging from 95% to 50%, depending on vehicle size and year," GTRI said.

In electric, market access has been given mostly in the high-price segment of vehicles priced above ₹80,000 (around Rs 94 lakh). "For vehicles priced below

₹40,000, no market access provided, ensuring complete protection for the mass-market EV segment in which India seeks global leadership," the official said.

While the duty cuts will happen only once the UK Parliament approves the agreement (possibly by the middle of next year), analysts believe that the duty reduction with the UK may pave the way for similar measures with other countries and trading blocs as well. "This is India's first-ever auto tariff concession in any FTA, and it's likely to trigger similar demands from Japan, the EU, South Korea, and the US," GTRI added.

Deal sealed, but Scotch to stay pricey till '35

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New Delhi: The much-anticipated duty cuts for Scotch and gin is not happening overnight. While import duty will come down from 150% to 75%, it is unlikely to happen until at least the second half of 2035.

That's because the agreement will take at least a year to be ratified by the British Parliament and there is a gradual tariff reduction roadmap starting with duties in India dropping to 10% in the first year of implementation. The UK govt said

customs duty will reduce to 40% over the next decade.

What's more, govt has got the UK to agree to a minimum import price which means, whisky, gin or any other drink that costs under \$5 in a one litre bottle or \$6 in a 750 ml bottle will get the tariff benefit and the MIP will be indexed to inflation.

However, industry officials say that despite halving import duty, the actual reduction of consumer prices will not be more than 10%. "The share of customs duty to the overall structure of MRP is hardly 15-20%, de-

pending on the category. The rest comprises state govt taxes, and distribution margins. So actual consumer prices will come down by only 8-10%," an official said.

The reduction in import duty will be a benefit for man-

CHEERS DELAYED

ufacturers of Indian Made Foreign Liquor. Around 80% of imported scotch is in bulk form, which is used for bottling in India and for blending by local whisky brands.

But the industry cheered the move. Sanjit Padhi, CEO

of International Spirits and Wines Association of India (ISWAI), said the agreement paves the way for a more balanced and equitable trade environment, particularly as Indian alcohol exports to the UK have zero import duties.

"We laud the Indian and British govt for formalising this historic treaty which will boost bilateral trade and positively impact the accessibility of premium Scotch whisky in India, reigniting growth and increased choice for Indian consumers," Praveen Someshwar, MD and CEO of Diageo India, said.

With zero duty access, India eyes boom in key exports

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Indian negotiators are targeting labour-intensive goods and services to boost India's tiny 1.9% share of UK imports. The new trade pact promises zero- or near-zero tariffs on textiles, leather and footwear, engineering goods, chemicals and pharmaceuticals — relief govt says will make Indian exports far more competitive.

Govt said 99% items of trade (called tariff lines), comprising 100% of India's exports, are covered in the deal.

In textiles, for instance, there are 1,143 items on which zero-duty market access will be provided to Indian goods, blunting the duty advantage that Bangladesh, Cambodia and Pakistan have so far enjoyed. So, readymade garments or home textiles, carpets, handicrafts and traditional items such as pashmina shawls or Kanchipuram or bandhini sarees are expected to gain. India is fourth-largest textile supplier to UK, accounting for over 6% of imports.

Govt officials said India hopes to outperform competitors such as Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Turkey and



Bangladesh in the footwear market, especially athleisure and sports shoes, in addition to Vellore and Kolhapuri chapals and traditional leather shoes. In recent years, several large sports shoe manufacturers have tied up with Indian producers to make footwear for brands like Puma, Adidas and New Balance for domestic and global markets.

There are sectors where India has a large presence in other markets but a limited share of the British market. Indian exporters hope to replace competitors across a variety of engineering goods, including machinery and components, where zero-duty access will be provided to 1,659 items. With exports of \$4.3 billion, India

holds a small share of the \$194 billion machinery imports by British businesses. Govt is projecting to double the value of exports by March 2030.

India also has a small share in UK's pharma imports — only \$1 billion out of \$30 billion in 2024. The govt is eyeing gains in not just generics but also medical devices such as ECG machines and X-ray systems.

For chemicals, where India's exports to UK were \$570 million last year, govt is betting on a 30-40% jump in the first year itself as over 1,200 chemicals will be given duty-free access. Businesses are eyeing an opportunity in gems and jewellery sector, where exports are now pegged at \$940 million.

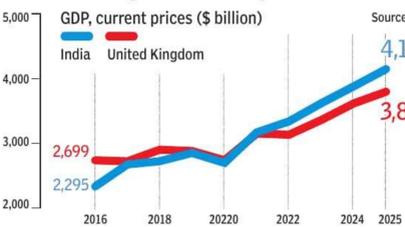
Although govt has maintained that it has not opened several critical agricultural sectors such as dairy, apples, edible oil and oats under the Comprehensive Economic & Trade Agreement, it hopes to push Indian grapes, processed food, bakery items and marine products into UK supermarkets.

A lot of the market access in these segments will also depend on the quality standards that the UK puts in place and also other trade deals that it enters into in the coming months.

TWO ECONOMIC GIANTS THAT DON'T TRADE ENOUGH

India became a larger economy than the UK in 2021, and the gap has widened each passing year. It also has a surplus on trade account with the country that once ruled the globe through its trading power. The small size of overall bilateral trade holds out hope that the much-awaited agreement will transform the economic ties in a short span of time

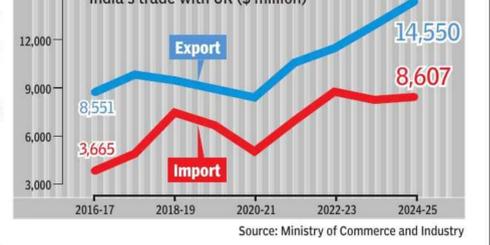
India overtook UK to become 4th largest economy in 2021



It has less than 2% share in UK's trade



Phones and petroleum are top exports



And Silver is the top import



BIG BENEFIT FOR WORKERS

Visa boost for desi professionals, chefs in trade agreement

New Delhi: Independent professionals as well as business visitors, company executives and investors can expect a more predictable visa regime to the United Kingdom once the trade deal signed Thursday is implemented.

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement seeks to "lock in" business mobility rules for Indian business visitors attending meetings and conferences, experienced employees, graduate trainees, investors, as well as musicians, chefs and yoga teachers. The British govt will, however, closely monitor eligibility norms to avoid a large influx.

For instance, senior executives of service sector companies with branches in India and UK will get visas for three years. Contractual service providers across more sectors will be eligible for business visas of up to 12 months.

Govt sources said the UK has agreed not to impose numerical limits on Indian business mobility and won't require Indian companies to advertise locally before applying for these visas. Last year, the UK granted 25,117 visas under the Global Business Mobility route. The deal provides for 1,800 annual visas to Indian musicians, chefs and yoga teachers.

Indian nurses, accountants and other professionals can look forward to academic qualifications being recognised in the UK, as the deal pushes for mutual recognition agreements.

India has kept legal services out of bounds but agreed to let British accounting and audit firms set up shop here, provided the UK offers reciprocal access. Like in the Australian ECTA, architectural services are now open to British firms. The UK has made offers across 12 major services sectors and 137 sub-sectors. India will open 11 sectors and 108 sub-sectors.

While India has locked in 100% FDI in telecom, insurance and aviation, it refused to ease cap on British banks opening more branches.

The deal also facilitates Indian educational institutions & hospitals expanding into UK. **TNN**

Britain deal eases costs, lifts mobility for Indian techies

Bengaluru: The UK-India Double Contributions Convention (DCC) marks a major breakthrough for Indian IT firms sending tech talent to UK. With short-term assignments critical to project execution and meeting client demands, the removal of dual social security contributions for up to 36 months offers much-needed relief, report **Shilpa Phadnis & Veena Mani**.

DCC exempts Indian workers temporarily employed in the UK — and their employers — from paying social security contributions for three years. By eliminating this double contribution burden, the agreement resolves a long-standing challenge for Indian tech companies and service providers. This exemption will enhance access to Indian talent and open new opportunities for skilled professionals in the UK.

Currently, Indian employees deployed to the UK must contribute to the UK's National Insurance while continuing to pay into India's Employees' Provident Fund. This double contribution increases the cost of overseas deployment. DCC allows Indian professionals to contribute solely to EPF during short-term stints.

"With short-term assignments being central to project delivery, removal of dual contributions brings welcome relief. It significantly reduces assignment costs while ensuring continuity of coverage in India," said Puneet Gupta, partner, people advisory services tax, EY India.

Vikram Shroff, partner, employment law at AZB & Partners, said that upon obtaining a certificate of coverage from Indian PF authorities, employers can avoid UK pension payments — a significant expense Indian employees couldn't benefit from. India has signed similar social security pacts with nearly 20 countries including Australia, Canada, France, Germany & Japan.

The agreement addresses a longstanding demand, cutting costs and hurdles. "Amid increasing protectionism, this offers strong support to both individuals and businesses," said Venkatesh Narayanan, MD at Happiest Minds.

How past FTAs shaped UK deal & how UK agreement will change past pacts

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New Delhi: The India-UK free trade agreement will take at least a year to be implemented, but it sets the template for some of the high-stakes negotiations that New Delhi is currently engaged in.

With India agreeing to cut the duty on imported automobiles — at least the high-end ones — to 10% over the next few years, a similar offer is likely to be made for cars imported from EU member nations such as France, Germany and Italy. It also sets the tone for the bilateral trade deal with the US, as 10% will act as a floor of sorts.

The Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement with Australia set the tone for allowing lower duty import of wines and spirits, something that was a taboo until three years ago.

Or take the treaty with the UAE, which opened govt

GLOBAL DEALS, GROWING REACH



procurement for the first time. It paved the way for a similar deal with the UK.

In agriculture, govt officials are citing the UK, European Free Trade Association (comprising Switzerland and Norway) and Aus-

tralia deals to block American President Donald Trump from opening the Indian market to US dairy, maize and soybean. India has so far managed to convince its trade partners that it cannot risk the livelihood

of millions of low-income farmers, given the large farms in the developed world. The same argument is being made to New Zealand, a competitive dairy exporter, as well as to EU. While pushing for the final deal with India, Australia, too, had made fresh overtures for dairy.

In trade negotiations, every deal is unique, but what has been opened becomes a floor for future talks. What the other trading partner offers is also critical.

The new FTAs India is signing may impact older ones. India, which wants ASEAN members, Japan and South Korea to review existing trade deals, may face fresh demands. Japan, South Korea and Thailand may seek parity on automobile tariffs under the revised pacts.

India has over a dozen trade agreements, and each partner is closely watching the new ones in the pipeline.

3 yrs, 14 rounds: Deal clinched hours before start of Sindoer

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The trade deal with UK may have been under negotiation for three years but the seeds were sown 18 years ago — on June 28, 2007, when India began talks for a Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement.

It was a day after Tony Blair quit as the UK PM, having done some groundwork for the talks. But it was not until Brexit and India's decision to exit RCEP that talks for a trade deal with the UK actually began.

Having opted out of China-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, govt stepped up engagement with developed countries — from the UK and EU to Australia — hoping to open new markets for Indian goods and services. It meant reviving talks that had been on the backburner, as the Modi govt was reluctant to sign FTAs during its first term.

The UK deal appeared smooth as long as Boris Johnson occupied 10 Downing Street. In April 2022, three months after negotiations began, Johnson set a Diwali deadline. Less than three months later, he stepped down, and the deal went on the backburner as UK grappled with uncertainty.

Several members of Rishi Sunak's cabinet publicly expressed concerns over visa concessions, though discussions were on business visas.

Finally, it was Keir Starmer who decided to go ahead with the deal at a time when pressure from US was mounting. It took three years and 14 rounds of negotiations for the deal to be finalised, hours before the start of Operation Sindoer.

'Will stimulate innovation, ease market access'

New Delhi: Industry hailed the India-UK trade pact, saying it will reduce barriers, enhance confidence and boost JVs and technology transfers.

"This agreement establishes a forward-looking partnership that will stimulate innovation, ease market access, and foster investment. Businesses in India and the UK stand to gain, as it lays the groundwork for scaling up cooperation across key growth sectors," said Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Mittal.

Shahi Exports MD Harish Ahuja, who leads FICCI's foreign trade & trade facilitation committee, added the agreement will boost India's export competitiveness, particularly in labour-intensive sectors including textiles and apparels.

"Assocham believes the deal will not only boost export potential and manufacturing competitiveness, but also open new growth avenues in innovation & services," said industry body's chief Sanjay Nayyar. **TNN**



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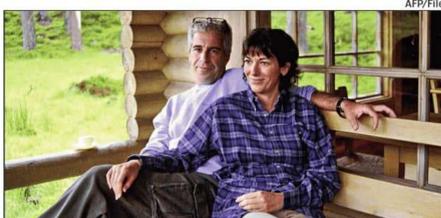
AG told Trump his name appeared in Epstein files

Prez Had Earlier Denied Claims; Bondi Faces Dem Calls To Testify

Attorney General Pam Bondi informed President Trump in the spring that his name appeared in the Jeffrey Epstein files, according to three people with knowledge of the exchange.

The disclosure came as part of a broader briefing on the reexamination of the case against Epstein, who died in 2019 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges. It was made by Bondi during a meeting that also included the deputy attorney general, Todd Blanche, and covered a variety of topics. Bondi frequently meets with Trump to brief him on various matters, officials said.

Bondi and Blanche, both of whom previously served as lawyers for Trump, informed the president that his name, as well as those of other high-profile figures, had come up in their reexamination of documents connected to the case that had not previously been made public. It is not clear how significant the references to Trump are. But the briefing sheds light on private West Wing discussions at a moment when the president's team is desperately trying to move on and quell the rebellion among those Trump supporters who feel that he—and some of his senior appointees—led them astray with claims that they would make the files



The US justice department officials are meeting on Thursday with Ghislaine Maxwell, the imprisoned girlfriend of Jeffrey Epstein. The meeting in Florida is part of an ongoing DOJ effort to cast itself as transparent following fierce backlash from Trump's MAGA base

Epstein's estate includes book said to have note from Trump, a lawyer says

A lawyer for hundreds of Jeffrey Epstein's victims said the disgraced financier's estate has a copy of a birthday book in which President Trump is reported to have signed a bawdy poem and drawing in honour of Epstein's 50th birthday. The lawyer, Brad Edwards, made the comment in an interview Wednesday night with MSNBC host Lawrence O'Donnell. Edwards also said he believed the estate would turn the book over to federal authorities if requested. "I know the executors are in possession of this book," Edwards said. The birthday book, a compilation of messages from some of Epstein's associates and friends at the time, was compiled in 2003 by Ghislaine Maxwell, a former girlfriend and associate, for Epstein's 50th birthday, according to a report last week in The Wall Street Journal. In a statement, the Epstein estate said it would comply with all lawful processes. Edwards did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Trump has denied writing the message and has sued the Journal for defamation. **NYT**

available. Steven Cheung, the White House communications director, would not address questions about the briefing, but called any suggestion that Trump was engaged in wrongdoing related to Epstein "fake news". Trump previously denied that Bondi had told him that he is in the files. The week of June 7, the White House received an inquiry from ABC News about the May briefing, according to

administration officials. A week later, an ABC journalist asked Trump if Bondi had told him his name appeared in the files. He replied, "No, no," and said she had told him about the "credibility" of various things in the files. He went on to claim that they contained material manufactured by Democrats. The conversation between Trump and Bondi and Blanche was reported earlier by The Wall Street Journal. **NYT**

'America started AI race & it will win it'

Continued from P1

Trump's remarks came weeks after he explicitly asked Apple and Tesla to reel back on manufacturing in India while at the same time tightening the screws on trade with New Delhi, arguing that the US was being ripped off by high tariffs.

Although the focus of Trump's engagement on Wednesday was AI, he made it clear he expected all US companies to abandon hiring overseas in spirit of nationalism. "America is the country that started the AI race—and as President of the US, I'm here today to declare that America is going to WIN it," Trump said, following up his remarks by signing three executive orders to ramp up spending on AI.

Trump's AI gambit came after months of frenetic activity bordering on panic in the US after China's remarkable advances that many experts said would result in it leapfrogging America. As comparisons were made to the "Sputnik moment" when the US was galvanised by former Soviet Union briefly overtaking US in space race, Trump pledged he would never allow that to happen.

Trump's screed against globalisation was largely received with a shrug in tech circles, where globalisation is considered irreversible given the complex supply chain logistics that span the world. Tech companies such as Google, Microsoft and IBM, all of which currently have Indian-born CEOs, not only have big operations in India, but also see India as a huge market.

Thailand-Cambodia border tensions escalate; Bangkok scrambles F-16

Bangkok/Phnom Penh: Thailand scrambled an F-16 fighter jet to bomb targets in Cambodia Thursday after artillery volleys from both sides killed at least 11 civilians, as border tension boiled over into rare armed conflict between the Southeast Asian countries.

Both blamed each other for starting a morning clash in a disputed area of the border, which quickly escalated from small arms fire to heavy shelling in at least six locations 209km apart along a frontier where sovereignty has been disputed for more than a century.

Thailand positioned six F-16 fighter jets in an uncommon combat deployment, one of which was mobilised to strike a Cambodian military target, among measures Cambodia's foreign ministry called "reckless and brutal military aggression". Thailand's military said the use of air power was to strike with precision.

The worst fighting between the countries in 13 years came after Thailand on Wednesday recalled its ambassador to



Royal Thai Army soldiers on a road to Chachoengsao province on Thursday

Phnom Penh and expelled Cambodia's envoy, in response to a second Thai soldier losing a limb to a landmine that Bangkok alleged had been laid recently by rival troops.

The two countries have been braced for conflict since the killing of a Cambodian soldier late in May during a brief skirmish, with troops reinforced on both sides of the border amid a full-blown diplomatic crisis that brought Thailand's fragile coalition govt to the brink of collapse. **REUTERS**

All 48 on board dead as passenger plane crashes in Russia's far east

Moscow: A Russian Antonov An-24 passenger plane carrying 48 people crashed in the country's far east Thursday as it was preparing to land, killing everyone on board, regional governor and investigators said. The burning fuselage of the plane, made in Soviet era and nearly 50 years old, was spotted on ground by a helicopter.

There were 42 passengers, including five children, and six crew members on board.

Investigators said they had opened a criminal case into the suspected violation of air traffic and air transport rules, resulting in the death of more than two people through negligence. Video shot from a helicopter showed the plane came down in a densely forested area and pale smoke could be seen rising from the crash site. There were no roads to the site and a rescue team numbering over 100 people had to use heavy machinery to cut a path there.

Vasily Orlov, the regional governor, offered his condolences to the families of those who died and declared three days of mourning, ordering flags to be lowered to half



The crash site of the Antonov AN-24 passenger plane near the town of Tynda

mast. "I regret to inform you that, according to preliminary data, there are no survivors of the An-24 plane crash in the Tynda District. Rescuers have reached the crash site," Orlov said in a statement.

The plane was on a flight by a privately owned Siberian-based regional airline called Angara. It was en route from Blagoveshchensk city to Tynda, a remote town in the Amur region bordering China, and dropped off radar screens while preparing to land. **REUTERS**

Hindu temple defaced with racist graffiti in Aus: Report

Melbourne: A Hindu temple and two Asian-run restaurants were defaced with racist graffiti in Melbourne, raising concerns among the community members in Australia, a media report said on Thursday.

Shree Swaminarayan Temple on Wadhurst Drive, Melbourne's eastern suburb of Boronia, was defaced with red-painted racist slurs on Monday morning, the Australia Today web portal reported. Two restaurants located further on Boronia Road were painted with the same slurs the same day, it added. Victoria Police confirmed the incident, saying that "There is absolutely no place at all in our society for hate-based and racist behaviour."

President of the Hindu Council of Australia, Victoria chapter, Makrand Bhagwat, said it "feels like an attack on our identity, our right to worship and freedom of religion," the web portal reported. Victoria's premier Jacinta Allan, in a private message to temple management, called the attack "hateful" and "racist", the report said. Meanwhile, the Hindu Community urged support from interfaith groups following the incident. The attack hints at the worrying rise in targeted hate incidents across Melbourne, the report said. **PTI**

Hulk Hogan, who turned pro wrestling into billion-dollar spectacle, dies

Hulk Hogan, the American sports and entertainment star who made professional wrestling a global phenomenon and loudly supported Donald Trump for president, has died at the age of 71, World Wrestling Entertainment said on Thursday.

"WWE is saddened to learn WWE Hall of Famer Hulk Hogan has passed away. One of pop culture's most recognizable figures, Hogan helped WWE achieve global recognition in the 1980s," WWE said on X. Police in Florida said authorities had responded to a medical call for a cardiac arrest at Hogan's residence Thursday morning. He was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The bleach-blond, mahogany-tanned behemoth became the face of professional wrestling in the 1980s, helping transform the mock combat from a seedy spectacle into family-friendly entertainment worth billions of dollars. A key moment in that evolution came at WrestleMania III extravaganza in 1987, when Hogan hoisted fellow wrestler Andre the Giant before a sold-out Pontiac Silverdome in Michigan for a thunderous body slam of the Frenchman.

Hogan parlayed his wrestling fame into a less successful career in Hollywood, starring in films like "Rocky III" and



area rock bands, but felt a pull to the red-hot wrestling scene in Florida in the 1970s. Many details of his career were showbusiness exaggerations, representative of the blurred lines between fact and fiction in wrestling. His first trainer reportedly broke Hogan's leg to dissuade him from entering the business, but he kept at wrestling, weight training, and—he later admitted—anaabolic steroids. He gained in notoriety as his biceps turned in to what he dubbed the "24-inch pythons".

The "Hulk" moniker came from comparisons to the comic-book hero portrayed on TV at the time. He would end up paying royalties to Marvel Comics for years. "Hogan" was the invention of Vincent J McMahon, WWF owner, who wanted Irish representation among his stable of stars. His appearance in "Rocky III", where he dwarfed Sylvester Stallone, rocketed Hogan to the mainstream.

Hogan became a household name, appearing on Sports Illustrated cover and performing alongside pop culture stars like Mr T. Later, he joined World Championship Wrestling, taking on a persona as the "Hollywood" Hogan. He eventually returned to WWE, now WWF, and faced Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson at WrestleMania in 2002. **REUTERS**