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# The World

## TOP OF THE WORLD



S Korean soldiers work on a loudspeaker at the border with North. *File*

### SOUTH KOREA

#### Officials remove anti-North Korea speakers on DMZ

*Seoul:* South Korea's military said Monday it had begun removing loudspeakers along its border with rival North Korea in a move aimed at reducing tensions. The speakers had previously been used to blast anti-North Korean propaganda across the border, but the South's new liberal government halted the broadcasts in June in a conciliatory gesture as it looks to rebuild trust and revive dialogue with Pyongyang, which has largely cut off cooperation with the South in recent years. South Korea's Defence Ministry said the physical removal of the loudspeakers from the border was another "practical measure" aimed at easing tensions. **AP**

### UNITED STATES

#### Over 3,000 Boeing fighter jet workers on strike

More than 3,200 union members who assemble Boeing's fighter jets in the St. Louis area and Illinois went on strike on Monday after rejecting a second contract offer the previous day. Boeing Defense said it was ready for the work stoppage and it will implement a contingency plan that uses non-labor workers. According to the company, the rejected four-year contract would have raised the average wage by roughly 40% and included a 20% general wage increase and a \$5,000 ratification bonus. It also included increasing periodic raises, more vacation time and sick leave. **REUTERS**

### PAKISTAN

#### Imran party to hold protests on 2nd year of arrest

*Islamabad:* Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party on Monday announced that it will hold nationwide protests on Tuesday on the second anniversary of the arrest of the party founder and former prime minister Imran Khan. Khan was arrested on August 5, 2023, from his residence in Lahore after being convicted by a court in a corruption case. He has been incarcerated since his arrest due to conviction in other cases, and is currently being held at the Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi. **PTI**

### OVER 1,000 PALESTINIANS KILLED IN AID SITE ATTACKS SINCE MAY: U.N.

## Israeli officials suggest annexing parts of Gaza as Doha ceasefire talks collapse

Israeli attacks kill 40, including 10 seeking aid; five starve to death

**REUTERS**  
JERUSALEM, GAZA, AUGUST 4

**BENJAMIN NETANYAHU** will convene his security cabinet this week to decide on Israel's next steps in Gaza following the collapse of indirect ceasefire talks with Hamas, with one senior Israeli source suggesting more force could be an option. Last Saturday, during a visit to the country, US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff had said he was working on a plan that would effectively end the war. But Israeli officials have also floated ideas including expanding the military offensive in Gaza and annexing parts of it. The failed talks in Doha had aimed to clinch agreements on a US-backed proposal for a 60-day truce, during which aid would be flown into Gaza and half the hostages Hamas is holding would be freed in exchange for



Palestinians wait to receive food from a charity kitchen in Khan Younis on Monday. *Reuters*

Palestinian prisoners in Israel. After Netanyahu met Witkoff last Thursday, a senior Israeli official said "an understanding was emerging between Washington and Israel," of a need to shift from a truce to a comprehensive deal that would "release all the hostages, disarm Hamas, and demilitarize the Gaza Strip," -Israel's

key conditions for ending the war. But later Sunday, the Israeli official signalled that pursuit of a deal would be pointless, threatening more force: "An understanding is emerging that Hamas is not interested in a deal and therefore the prime minister is pushing to release the hostages while pressing for military defeat."

Israel's *Channel 12* Monday cited an official from his office as saying that Netanyahu was inclining towards expanding the offensive and seizing the entire Palestinian enclave. What a "military defeat" might mean is up for debate within the leadership. Meanwhile, at least 40 Palestinians were killed by Israeli

**EXPLAINED** **E** Far-right pushes for occupation

SOME ISRAELI officials have suggested that Israel might declare it was annexing parts of Gaza as a means to pressure Hamas. But Far-Right Israeli leaders including Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir — who form a crucial part of Prime Minister Netanyahu's coalition — want to see Israel impose military rule in Gaza before annexing it and re-establishing the Jewish settlements Israel evicted 20 years ago.

gunfire and airstrikes on Gaza on Monday, including 10 seeking aid, health authorities said, adding another five had died of starvation in what humanitarian agencies say may be an unfolding famine. The United Nations says more than 1,000 people have been killed trying to receive aid in the enclave since May 2025.

## Cambodia, Thailand officials meet in Malaysia to iron out ceasefire details

**EILEEN NG**  
KUALA LUMPUR, AUGUST 4

**THAI AND** Cambodian officials met in Malaysia on Monday for the first round of cross-border committee talks since a tense ceasefire was brokered last week after five days of deadly border clashes that killed dozens and displaced over 260,000 people. The four-day General Border Committee meetings were initially due to be hosted by Cambodia, but both sides later agreed to a neutral venue in Malaysia, the annual chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which mediated the halt in hostilities last month. The July 28 ceasefire followed economic pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump, who had warned the warring nations that the U.S. would not conclude trade deals with them if the fighting persisted. Washington lowered tariffs on



Thai and Cambodian officials with Malaysian Chief of Defence Forces Gen Mohammad Nizam Jaffar (centre) in Kuala Lumpur on Monday. *AP*

goods from the two countries from 36% to 19% on Aug. 1 following the truce. Monday's talks focused on ironing out details to avoid further clashes. Discussions of the decades-long competing territo-

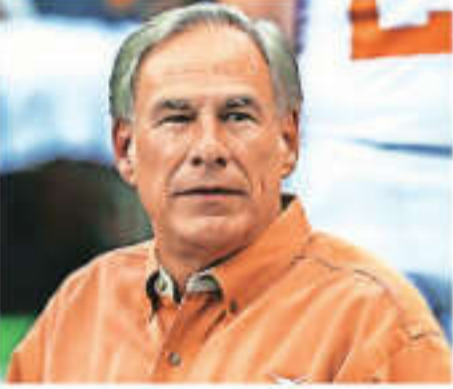
rial claims over the pockets of land near the shared border are not on the agenda. Thailand and Cambodia have been feuding neighbors for centuries, since both were mighty empires. In modern times, a

1962 ruling by the International Court of Justice awarding Cambodia the land on which the ancient Preah Vihear temple stands marked a new low point in relations, and other border territory remained claimed by both countries. Fighting erupted in 2011 at Preah Vihaer, after which the ICJ in 2013 reaffirmed its earlier ruling, ranking Thailand. Relations deteriorated again sharply in May this year, when a Cambodian soldier was shot dead in a brief fracas in one of the disputed border zones, setting off diplomatic and trade sanctions, one against the other. Soon after two incidents last month in which Thai soldiers were wounded by land mines in disputed territory — for which Thailand blamed Cambodia — the two sides downgraded diplomatic relations and fighting broke out, each side blaming the other for starting the armed clashes. **AP**

## Texas Democrats block vote on redistricting by leaving state, Governor threatens removal

**REUTERS**  
AUGUST 4

**TEXAS GOVERNOR** Greg Abbott has vowed to replace Democratic lawmakers who left the state over the weekend unless they return by Monday afternoon to vote on a Republican plan to redraw its congressional districts. The more than 50 Democratic members of the Texas legislature left the state Sunday to deny Republicans the quorum necessary to vote on the redistricting plan, which President Donald Trump has championed, and which he and Republicans hope



Texas Republican Governor Greg Abbott

will protect the party's narrow US House majority in next year's midterm elections. Republicans hold a 219-212

majority in the US House of Representatives, with three Democratic-held seats vacant after deaths, and one Republican hold vacant after a resignation. Abbott in a statement late on Sunday cited a Texas attorney general opinion that district courts may determine whether legislators have forfeited their offices "due to abandonment," saying that empowered him to "swiftly fill vacancies." The governor said in the statement he would use that power against any Democrats who were absent when the legislature reconvenes at 3 pm Central Time (2000 GMT) Monday.

"Governor Abbott has used this tragedy, taken these families who are grieving... and used them as hostages in a political game," he said at a press conference, flanked by Democratic Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker. Other Democratic lawmakers went to New York and Massachusetts. Gene Wu, the chair of the Texas House Democratic Caucus, called the redistricting plan "racist," saying it sought to dilute the voting power of racial minorities in the state. "Abbott is doing this in submission to Donald Trump, so that Donald Trump could steal these communities' power and voice," he added.



A Ukrainian soldier in Kharkiv region on Sunday. *Reuters*

## ‘Mercenaries’ from China, Pak, other countries fighting for Russia: Ukraine

Moscow plays down Trump's subs, cautions against nuclear rhetoric

**REUTERS**  
KYIV, AUGUST 4

**PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR** Zelenskyy said Monday that Ukrainian troops in northeastern Ukraine were fighting foreign "mercenaries" from various countries including China, Pakistan and parts of Africa, and vowed a response. Zelenskyy has previously accused Moscow of recruiting Chinese fighters for its war effort against Ukraine, charges Beijing denied, while North Korea has also provided thousands of its own troops in Russia's Kursk region. "We spoke with commanders about the frontline situation, the defence of Vovchansk, and the dynamics of the battles," Zelenskyy wrote on X after visiting a frontline area in the northeastern Kharkiv region. "Our warriors in this sector are reporting the participation of mercenaries from China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and African countries in the war. We will respond," *Reuters* contacted the embassies of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan in Kyiv to

request comment. Russia did not immediately comment publicly on Zelenskyy's comments. Russia said on Monday that everyone should be "very, very careful" about nuclear rhetoric, responding to a statement by US President Donald Trump that he had ordered a repositioning of US nuclear submarines. Trump said Friday he had ordered two nuclear submarines to be moved to "the appropriate regions" in response to remarks from former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev about the risk of war between the adversaries. "In this case, it is obvious that American submarines are already on combat duty. This is an ongoing process, that's the first thing," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "But in general... we would not want to get involved in such a controversy..." he added. "Of course, we believe that everyone should be very, very careful with nuclear rhetoric." Meanwhile, Russia no longer considers itself bound by a moratorium on the deployment of short- and medium-range missiles, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

## China pushes back at US demand to stop buying Russia, Iran oil

**DIDI TANG**  
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 4

**US AND** Chinese officials may be able to settle many of their differences to reach a trade deal and avert punishing tariffs, but they remain far apart on one issue: the US demand that China stop purchasing oil from Iran and Russia. "China will always ensure its energy supply in ways that serve our national interests," China's Foreign Ministry posted on X on Wednesday following two days of trade negotiations in Stockholm, responding to the US threat of a 100% tariff. "Coercion and pressuring will not achieve anything. China will firmly defend its sovereignty, security and development interests," the ministry said. The response is notable at a time when both Beijing and Washington are signaling optimism and goodwill about reaching a deal to keep commercial ties between the world's two largest economies stable. It underscores China's confidence in playing hardball when dealing with the Trump administration, especially when trade is linked to its energy and foreign policies. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that when it comes to Russian oil purchases, the "Chinese take their sovereignty very seriously... We don't want to impede on their sovereignty, so they would like to pay a 100% tariff." On Thursday, he called the Chinese "tough" negotiators, but said China's pushback hasn't stalled the negotiations. "If the US is bent on imposing tariffs, China will fight to the end, and this is China's consistent official stance," said Tu Xinquan, director of the China Institute for WTO Studies at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing. **AP**

### EXPERTS SAY DIM PROSPECTS FOR BETTER LIBERAL DEMOCRACY, POLITICAL TOLERANCE & RELIGIOUS HARMONY

## Year after a bloody students’ uprising, Bangladesh is far from political stability

**JULHAS ALAM**  
DHAKA, AUGUST 4

**ABDUR RAHMAN** Tarif was talking to his sister Meherunnesa over the phone when the voice on the other end of the call suddenly fell silent. In that moment, Tarif knew something bad had happened. He rushed home, dodging the exchange of fire between security forces and protesters on the streets of Dhaka. When he finally arrived, he discovered his parents tending to his bleeding sister. A stray bullet had hit Meherunnesa's chest while she was standing beside the window

of her room, Tarif said. She was taken to a hospital where doctors declared her dead. Meherunnesa, 23, was killed on Aug. 5 last year, the same day Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to flee the country in a massive student-led uprising, which ended her 15-year rule. For much of Bangladesh, Hasina's ouster was a moment of joy. Three days later, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus took over the country as head of an interim government, promising to restore order and hold a new election after necessary reforms. A year on, Bangladesh is still reeling from that violence, and

Hasina now faces trial for crimes against humanity in absentia, as she is in exile in India. But despite the bloodshed, many say the prospect for a better Bangladesh with a liberal democracy, political tolerance and religious harmony has remained a challenge. "The hope of the thousands who braved lethal violence a year ago when they opposed Sheikh Hasina's abusive rule to build a rights-respecting democracy remains unfulfilled," said Meenakshi Ganguly, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch. Bangladesh's anti-government movement exacted a heavy price. Hundreds of people, mostly students, were killed in



Rights groups accuse the new government of using arbitrary detention to target perceived political opponents. *AP file*

violent protests. "We could not stay home and wanted Sheikh Hasina to go," 20-year-old Tarif said. "Ultimately we wanted a country without any discrimination and injustice." Today, his hopes lie shattered. "We wanted a change, but I am frustrated now," he said. After taking the reins, the Yunus-led administration formed 11 reform commissions, including a national consensus commission that is working with major political parties for future governments and the electoral process. Bickering political parties have failed to reach a consensus on a timetable and process for elections. Mob violence, political at-

tacks on rival parties and groups, and hostility to women's rights and vulnerable minority groups by religious hardliners have all surged. Rights groups accuse the new government of using arbitrary detention to target perceived political opponents, especially Hasina's supporters. Hasina's Awami League party, which remains banned, says more than two dozen of its supporters have died in custody over the last one year. Bangladesh also faces political uncertainty. Yunus has been at loggerheads with the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, or BNP, now the main contender for power. The interim government has also

cleared the way for the Islamists, who were under severe pressure during Hasina's regime, to rise, while the student leaders who spearheaded the uprising have formed a new political party. "Any rise of Islamists demonstrates a future Bangladesh where radicalization could get a shape where so-called disciplined Islamist forces could work as a catalyst against liberal and moderate forces," political analyst Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah said. "People's expectation was (that) Yunus government will be focused and solely geared towards reforming the electoral process. But now it's a missed opportunity for them," Kalimullah said. **AP**

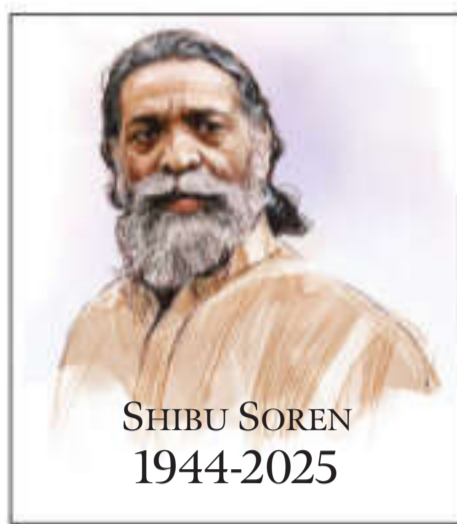
## Champion of tribal rights, he played a pivotal role in Jharkhand struggle

VIKAS PATHAK  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

HE HAD only brief stints in office as Union minister and Chief Minister because of recurrent legal troubles and coalition frictions, but Shibu Soren the politician left an indelible mark on Jharkhand politics as a key figure of the decades-long movement that ultimately led to the state's formation in 2000.

Popularly known as "Dishom Guruji", Soren passed away in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SHIBU SOREN  
1944-2025TRIBUTES POUR IN  
PAGE 8, 14

## DEFAMATION CASE

**'If true Indian, you would not say these things': SC raps Rahul for Army remarks**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

THE SUPREME Court on Monday censured Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi over his alleged remarks against the Army in the wake of the 2020 Galwan clash with the Chinese, saying, "If you are a true Indian, you would not say all these things." The court, however, granted a three-week stay on proceedings in a criminal defamation case against Gandhi over the alleged remarks made

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



**AMID KALYAN-MAHUA ROW, TMC MAKES ABHISHEK ITS HOUSE LEADER**

PAGE 6

INDIA PULL OFF THRILLING WIN TO DRAW SERIES WITH ENGLAND 2-2

## Miracles do happen



Mohammed Siraj, Shubman Gill appeal for the wicket of Jamie Overton, one of Siraj's five wickets which got him 'player of the match'. PTI

FULL COVERAGE  
PAGES 19, 20

With 'Believe' message, Siraj rings in dawn of new, young Team India



EXPRESS IN ENGLAND

SANDEEP DWIVEDI  
LONDON, AUGUST 4

MOHAMMED SIRAJ, the tireless warrior, would run in to bowl the first ball of his 186th over of this series like the wind. His strides had the enthusiasm and energy of a child running to the playground after the school bell. England were a hit away to win the series 3-1, a six was all they

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



An injured Chris Woakes comes out to bat with his arm in a sling, Monday. AP

## How Gill has stepped up as captain of 'gun team'

SANDEEP DWIVEDI  
LONDON, AUGUST 4

WITH TWO Tests to go, India trailing 1-2, Indian coach Gautam Gambhir had an important conversation with his young captain, Shubman Gill. He told him that in case the team held its own for the next two Tests, the transition would be over for him.

India won, their long-time pace spearhead and World No.1, Jasprit Bumrah, was rested.

Facts, figures and feats of incredible resilience would show that India, as was expected,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

JAISHANKAR FLAGS FAIRNESS

## 'It's unjustified': India hits back as Trump warns of new tariff hike

Trump latest: India helping Russia 'war machine'; Delhi calls out US and EU, says both do business with Moscow

DIVYA A, SHUBHAJIT ROY,  
RAVI DUTTA MISHRA  
& SUKALP SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

IN THE sharpest statement since US President Donald Trump last week announced a 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods from August 7, along with an unspecified penalty for its defence and energy imports from Russia, New Delhi hit back on Monday, saying the targeting of India was "unjustified and unreasonable", and the country would take "all necessary measures" to safeguard its "national interests and economic security".

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) issued the strong statement late on Monday evening, soon after Trump warned that he would raise the tariff on India "substantially". "India is not only buying massive amounts of Russian oil, they are then, for much of the oil purchased, selling it on the open market for big profits... They don't care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian War Machine. Because of this, I will be substantially rais-



I will be substantially raising tariff paid by India: Trump

ing the tariff paid by India to the USA," he said in a post on his social media platform, Truth Social.

Meanwhile, addressing an event in New Delhi earlier in the day, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke of the desire for a "fair global order", and not one "dominated by a few".

The MEA, in its statement, also called out the US and European Union for continuing trade with Russia. This is the first time India has targeted the US government for procuring Russian commodities for their nuclear and automobile industry. It said that India, in fact, began importing from Russia since traditional oil supplies were diverted to Europe after the

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FROM PAGE ONE

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‘Unjustified’

Russia-Ukraine conflict started. “India has been targeted by the US and the European Union for importing oil from Russia after the commencement of the Ukraine conflict. In fact, India began importing from Russia because traditional supplies were diverted to Europe after the outbreak of the conflict,” the statement issued by MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. “The US at that time actively encouraged such imports by India for strengthening global energy markets stability.”

In fact, sources said, the American interlocutors had quietly encouraged India to buy Russian oil since the war broke out — to maintain the global energy supply and the price cap.

On the sourcing of energy needs, India has maintained that it is guided by what is available in the markets and by prevailing global circumstances.

The MEA statement said India’s imports were meant to ensure predictable and affordable energy costs to the Indian consumer. “They are a necessity compelled by global market situation. However, it is revealing that the very nations criticising India are themselves indulging in trade with Russia. Unlike our case, such trade is not even a vital national compulsion (for them),” it said.

The Indian statement has been consistent since the war in Ukraine broke out in February 2022. It has been reiterated by Indian officials and ministers in public and in private to the American and European governments in the last three years.

“The European Union in 2024 had a bilateral trade of Euro 67.5 billion in goods with Russia. In addition, it had trade in services estimated at Euro 17.2 billion in 2023. This is significantly more than India’s total trade with Russia that year or subsequently,” it said. Europe-Russia trade includes not just energy, but also fertilisers, mining products, chemicals, iron and steel and machinery and transport equipment, it said.

This was also articulated by Jaishankar in March 2022, when he said that what Europe buys in an afternoon, India buys in a month — referring to the vast disparity between the two.

“Where the United States is concerned, it continues to import from Russia uranium hexafluoride for its nuclear industry, palladium for its EV industry, fertilisers as well as chemicals,” the MEA said. “In this background, the targeting of India is unjustified and unreasonable. Like any

major economy, India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security,” it said.

Meanwhile, speaking at the first BIMSTEC traditional music festival in New Delhi on Monday evening, Jaishankar said, “We live in complicated and uncertain times. A collective desire is to see a fair and representative global order, not one dominated by a few.”

The escalation in rhetoric comes at a time when India has reconciled to the US administration planning penalties on India. New Delhi believes that Washington is considering the quantum of penalty and Trump’s post was a warning to set the stage. So India didn’t have a choice but to push back against Trump’s statements.

On July 31, Trump had posted on Truth Social, “I don’t care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care.”

Addressing a rally in Varanasi over the weekend, Prime Minister Narendra Modi underscored the importance of shielding India’s economic interests during uncertain global conditions. He said India was on its way to becoming the world’s “third-largest economy” and must remain vigilant about its economic interests amid the “instability and uncertainty” that the global economy was facing.

Upping the pressure

Trump’s July 31 announcement of 25 per cent tariff and the unspecified penalty has already rattled Indian exporters, especially of low-margin products such as apparel and footwear, who have expressed fears of job losses. In his post on Monday, however, he did not make any mention of the “penalty”. The tariff rate Trump announced for India is higher than the US tariffs announced for competing countries such as Bangladesh, Vietnam and several ASEAN nations.

New Delhi and Washington are yet to reach a trade deal, with differences over market access for American agricultural products among the key roadblocks. India’s Russian oil imports, which form a bulk of its total crude oil imports, have also emerged as an irritant in the India-US relationship amid Trump’s growing frustration with Russia over the war in Ukraine.

This renewed pressure from the US and other Western powers — forcing Russia’s top trade partners to cut down on imports from the country — are aimed at forcing the Kremlin’s hand into

ending the Ukraine war. For Trump, who wants the Russia-Ukraine war to end within days, this is an opportune time to pressure countries like India and China over their Russian imports, given the sensitive trade negotiations that these countries are holding with the US.

While the US has raised pressure on India, exporters said that China has begun aggressively cutting prices to retain access to the US market and out-compete Indian goods, even as it continues to face 30 per cent tariffs. China faces an August 12 deadline to reach a durable tariff agreement with the US.

“China — not India — is the largest buyer of Russian oil. In 2024, China imported \$62.6 billion worth of Russian oil, compared to India’s \$52.7 billion. But Mr Trump appears unwilling to criticise China, perhaps because of geopolitical calculations, and instead targets India unfairly,” think-tank GTRI said.

Russian oil imports already down

Amid increasing pressure from the US and other Western powers over the past couple of months, Indian refiners, led by public sector players, began cutting down on Russian oil imports much before Trump’s announcement of the unspecified tariff “penalty” on New Delhi.

Latest vessel tracking data shows that July deliveries of Russian crude, which would have been contracted May or early June, to Indian refiners fell significantly. Industry and trade sources also indicated that Indian public sector refiners have, for the time being, halted future contracting of Russian oil, the mainstay of India’s oil imports for the better part of the past three years.

India’s Russian oil imports in July were at 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd), down 24 per cent from June levels, and 23.5 per cent from volumes delivered in July of last year, according to latest tanker data from global real-time data and analytics provider Kpler. The share of Russian crude in India’s oil import basket in July contracted notably to around 33.8 per cent from June’s 44.5 per cent.

Industry insiders, experts, and trade sources indicate that renewed pressure and threats from the US and Europe over the past few weeks have cast a shadow on India’s Russian oil imports, and could mark the beginning of Indian refiners pivoting away from Moscow’s oil. So far, India had successfully managed to walk “the fine line between energy security and geopolitical pressure”, but its options now appeared limited, one expert said, adding that Indian refiners “must now plan not just for commercial

shifts, but for systemic geopolitical realignment”.

Deliberations are on between the government and other stakeholders — primarily refiners — on managing the situation and assessing the choices on the table for India, sources said. With a pre-emptive reduction in Russian oil imports, some bit of signaling has already taken place. The next steps would most likely be decided on how the India-US dynamic evolves, and more importantly, whether or not Trump decides to further harden the American stance and rhetoric against Russia. Any breakthrough between the White House and Kremlin over the Russia-Ukraine war would most likely ease the pressure on buyers of Russian crude.

‘Selling for big profits’ — fact and fiction

While Trump has opposed India buying oil from Russia in the past, this is the first time he has voiced his discomfiture with India “selling the purchased oil on the open market for big profits”. To be sure, India does not export crude oil. However, it does export refined petroleum fuels. Critics of India’s hefty oil imports from Russia argue that India imports discounted Russian oil, refines it into fuels like petrol, diesel and jet fuel, and then exports those fuels to international markets, including Europe, which has otherwise banned Russian petroleum imports.

India has maintained that there is nothing illegitimate in its oil imports and fuel exports as Russian oil is not under any sanctions, but only a price cap mechanism instituted by the US and its allies. Also, it is not really possible to identify which products are derived from which crude as India has a widespread crude import slate.

Also notable is the fact that the US and much of the West, while wanting to curtail Russia’s revenue from oil sales, did not want its supply to go off the international market. That is why instead of placing Russian oil under sanctions, the price cap on Russian crude was introduced when Joe Biden was US President.

As Russia is among the top oil producers globally, its oil exports going off the market could push up international oil prices significantly. Countries like India, which have been buying Russian oil, have argued that their purchases have kept oil prices under check.

While the Biden administration seemed satisfied with the price cap, while letting Russian oil flow, Trump has taken a more aggressive stance, threatening financial costs on importers of Russian energy.

● Champion of tribal rights, he played a pivotal role in Jharkhand struggle

Delhi on Monday after more than a month in hospital. “Respected Dishom Guruji has left us all behind. Today, I feel completely empty,” his son and Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren posted on X.

Expressing condolences, President Droupadi Murmu posted on X, “The demise of Shri Shibui Soren Ji is a big loss in the space of social justice. He championed the cause of tribal identity and formation of the state of Jharkhand.”

The President said that besides his work at the grassroots, Soren also contributed as CM, Union Minister and MP. “His emphasis on the welfare of the people, especially the tribal communities, will always be remembered,” wrote Murmu.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Sir Ganga Ram Hospital to pay tributes to Soren in person and met with Hemant Soren and his family. Earlier, the Prime Minister posted on X, “Shri Shibui Soren Ji was a grassroots leader who rose through the ranks of public life with unwavering dedication to the people. He was particularly passionate about empowering tribal communities, the poor and downtrodden... Pained by his passing away. My thoughts are with his family and admirers.”

Calling Soren “a strong voice of the tribal society”, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said he “fought for their rights and interests throughout his life” and that his role “in the creation of Jharkhand will always be remembered”. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said Soren fought all his life for a separate state of Jharkhand and the “rights of its people to water, forest, land and for the protection of tribal culture”.

An early start

Soren was born on January 11, 1944, in a Santal family in Nemra village, Ramgarh district. He took to public life at a young age, forming the Santal Navyuvak Sangh at just 18 years, and fought moneylenders who lent to tribals at exorbitant rates. It was a fight fuelled by the anger at the death of his father Shobaran who was killed by moneylenders when he was a boy.

His politics soon became one of opposition to non-tribal “outsiders”, aligning with a sentiment that had been there even before Independence, when the tribal areas of the mineral-rich Chota Nagpur plateau were part of Bihar, and regarded non-tribals as exploitative outsiders called “Dikus”. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) was founded on February 2, 1972. The following year, Binod Bihari Mahto became president of the party, with Soren taking charge as general secretary.

When the mobilisation for a separate state of Jharkhand started again in the 1980s — the demand was initially articulated decades earlier by Constituent Assembly member Jaipal Singh Munda, an Olympic hockey player — “the protests... were led by Shibui Soren, a young man with long black locks who quickly became a folk hero”, Ramchandra Guha writes in *India After Gandhi*.

“He organised the forest harvest of paddy in lands ‘stolen’ from the Adivasis by Dikus (outsiders), as well as the invasion of forest lands that they claimed as their own,” Guha writes. In September 1980, 15 Adivasis were killed in police firing in Gua, which is now in West Singhbhum district, further strengthening the movement for Jharkhand.

Soren was elected to the Lok

Sabha in 1980 and became the JMM president in 1986. He represented Dumka in the Lok Sabha in 1989, 1991, 1996 and 2004. His two losses in parliamentary polls came in 1998 and 1999.

Top job and coalition politics

In 2000, when A B Vajpayee was Prime Minister, Jharkhand was carved out of South Bihar, fulfilling the long-standing demand in the region. Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand were also created simultaneously. However, as Jharkhand was not a tribal-majority state, the JMM had to rely on alliances and Soren never enjoyed a long stint in power. He also continued to face charges in criminal and corruption cases.

The JMM was part of the UPA in 2004, and Soren joined the Mamohan Singh government as the Minister of Coal and Mines. He had to resign within two months after an arrest warrant was issued in the 1975 Chirudih case in which 10 people were killed in a clash between tribals and Muslims. He spent a month in jail, but following his release on bail, he was reintroduced into the Cabinet in late 2004. On March 2, 2005, Soren became the third Jharkhand CM after Babulal Marandi and Arjun Munda of the BJP, but his government lasted just nine days as he could not prove majority.

In January 2006, Soren returned to the UPA Cabinet, but had to resign again in November as he was held guilty of the 1994 murder of his former private secretary Shashinath Jha, a first for any Cabinet minister. The CBI alleged that Jha was abducted from Dhaula Kuan in Delhi and taken to Ranchi on May 23, 1994, where he was killed and his body buried

nearby in Piska Nagri. The agency alleged this was done because Jha knew of the reported deal between the Congress and JMM to save the P V Narasimha Rao government during the July 1993 no-confidence motion. It was a reference to the JMM bribery case that had rocked the minority government led by Rao, who managed to survive the crisis. Soren was acquitted by the Delhi High Court on August 23, 2007, which ruled the CBI’s claims were unsustainable. In 2018, the Supreme Court upheld the acquittal, saying there was no evidence that the body exhumed was that of Jha as the DNA samples did not match.

In 2008, Soren became the Chief Minister for the second time. But his tenure was cut short yet again after he failed to win an Assembly bypoll in January 2009. That December, Soren took charge as Chief Minister for the third time, heading a JMM-BJP coalition government. This time too, he lasted six months in the chair and stepped down after the BJP withdrew support.

Even as his health became indifferent and he gradually began to withdraw from active politics — he became JMM president for the sixth time in 2010, was elected to the Lok Sabha in 2014, and Rajya Sabha in 2020 — Soren established Hemant as his successor, with the JMM remaining an entrenched party in state politics.

Despite the BJP trying its level best to breach Jharkhand last year — Hemant spent time in jail on corruption charges, and the BJP accused the JMM of allowing Bangladeshi immigrants to acquire documents, marry tribal women, and claim tribal land in the state — the JMM convincingly won the 2024 Assembly elections.

● Dawn of new, young Team India

needed. The last fully-fit batsman standing, Gus Atkinson, swung his bat alright, but Siraj’s match-changing deadly yorker would blow the off-stump — and also England’s hopes.

In India’s cricket folklore, Siraj’s yorker could rank with MS Dhoni’s six that won India the 2011 World Cup. His strike had given a logical end to the series. India’s 6-run win ended the contest 2-2 — nothing could have been more apt for this epic sea-saw battle of fine margins where neither team gave up. There was sweat, blood and broken bones, but no sign of the will backing down.

On the morning of the fifth day, when England needed just 35 runs to win the series with four wickets to go, Siraj woke up at 6 am, googled Cristiano Ronaldo image with ‘Believe’ written on it, downloaded it and pasted it on his phone’s screen. He would take the message to the ground, to take three of those wickets to finish with figures of 5/104 and win the Player of the Match award.

Others in Shubman Gill’s new Team India have been carrying the same belief on the field, but what they have been googling isn’t known yet. The 25-year-old captain entrusted with the job of ensuring a seamless transition after the retirement of larger-than-life stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli shared a bit of that secret.

“What we did this morning kind of summarises what this team is all about. England had to make 70-odd runs with 7 wickets in hand. The way Harry Brook and Joe Root were going yesterday, not many teams in the world would have given themselves a chance. But we knew, one more wicket from here,” he would say, turning towards Siraj sitting next to him. “When you have bowlers like him

bowling, it makes your job as a captain very easy... you just want to appreciate their bowling.” They would then smile — Siraj beaming, Gill with pursed lips that showed his dimples.

The 53 balls at The Oval this morning gave an idea of the template Gill’s team would follow in the day ahead. It was a pleasant sight. And the future looks bright and entertaining as this team doesn’t like to lose and takes Indian cricket very seriously.

This series will have a far-reaching impact on Indian cricket. It is a blow to the old hierarchy and a hammer on the head of its deeply-embedded superstar culture, where a few seniors enjoyed excessive power and unreasonable leeway.

The very un-Indian decision to hand over the reins to a young captain wasn’t a popular call. It was a bold decision taken by those with influence in the BCCI, national selector Ajit Agarwal and captain Gautam Gambhir.

Historically, India has given a long rope to aging and fading stalwarts, despite them pulling the team down. There was Kapil Dev back in the day, there is Dhoni at CSK now. And in the last tour to Australia, it was clear that Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma were past their prime.

The success of this young team is expected to set a healthy precedent. Gill’s unputdownable team has made a point — the young can be trusted and they can’t be dismissed as a T20 generation.

The picture that was worth more than a thousand words, of this successful transition, was of the fresh-faced Indian captain standing toe-to-toe with the battle-hardened grizzly England skipper Ben Stokes, keeping a tight hold on the inaugural Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy. Last evening, it

seemed England wouldn’t allow Gill’s hand on the silverware. How wrong they were.

The morning was murky again, the stands were full by 11 am, Indian fans were cheering wildly to deal with the nervousness, and Siraj was being Siraj. It seemed “play” was pressed on the game that had been put on “pause” last evening.

This was like a penalty shootout to decide a game that has been on for the last one-and-a-half months. This was not a morning at The Oval to buy coffee and cheese toasties and gradually move to the seats.

For anybody who missed this riveting series of changing fortunes, watching the 56 minutes would have given an idea about the ebbs and flows of the travelling cricket drama that had come to The Oval after attracting packed houses at Leeds, Birmingham, Lord’s and Manchester, each one for five days.

There was talk that England would take the heavy roller and that would make the pitch dead, making it easy for the home team. Like so many times before, this series has made pundits sound foolish.

In the day’s first over, Prasidh Krishna went for eight runs with Jamie Overton hitting him for two fours. England now needed 27 runs. Advantage England. In the next over, Siraj got the wicket of England’s last recognised batsman, Jamie Smith. India now needed three more wickets. Advantage India.

In Siraj’s next over, he got Jamie Overton out lbw. England still needed 27 runs and India needed just two more wickets. After a couple of overs, Prasidh would get Josh Tongue. India now needed 1 wicket, England 17 runs. Advantage India.

England too didn’t give up, Chris Woakes would walk on the

field with a sling holding his dislocated shoulder. He was to bat with just one hand. Was this *Lagaan* playing out in real life? Atkinson was doing well in protecting Woakes. It was Advantage England, they needed just a six. But Siraj’s booming yorker would end the pulsating Test — and the series. At 11.56 am (local time), it was game, set, match India.

And thus came to an end an incredible contest that will be talked about for long. This was the series when the all-time greats of the games were often remembered — most times, it was when their records were under threat or were broken. This Indian summer in England, no record was safe, however old or iconic.

Gill was only second to Don Bradman when it came to the runs scored by a captain in an England series. The Don made 810 on the 1936-37 tour, the Indian skipper 754. He broke a Sunil Gavaskar record and barely missed another by 21 runs. Gavaskar would present him a customised cap that had his signature and SG — the initials both share. There was a time when Ravindra Jadeja was sarcastically called Gary Sobers. In this series with six half-centuries, he erased the great West Indian’s mark set 59 years back.

The staggering run-aggregate of 3,809 by the Indian team in this series was thanks to eight innings totals of 350-plus — something no team has ever done. Most days of the series saw packed houses and black-marketeers making killing. They are calling this Anderson-Tendulkar series the Alt Ashes, another record considering how the English have enshrined cricket contests with their arch rivals Aussies.

On an overcast cloudy day at The Oval, a rainbow emerged — it was Gill’s team of many colours and character.

● How Gill has stepped up as captain

didn’t miss their just-retired battling giants Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. Even Bumrah, prone to breakdowns because of the heavy workload, could take planned rests once in a while, since Mohammed Siraj could be the chief wicket-taker and an able leader of the bowling attack.

India has won Test series in England in the past, but this drawn contest is of far more significance. England was the high hurdle that was placed in front of the 25-year-old captain in his debut series. He and his merry men have gone flying over it. India now play a series of Tests at home, an easier assignment usually in known conditions, though they did get whitewashed last time they played, with New Zealand. The next time Gill & Co fly out of the country for a Test series will be next year — Sri Lanka in August and New Zealand in December.

The way Gill’s team fought every Test that went to five days, two global worries were settled — with Indians keen to play Test, the classic format will survive, and those who advocate four-day Tests citing diminishing attention

of the middle-aged demographic should stick to watching T20. All 25-days of this engrossing series saw packed stands.

On this England tour, Gill showed that he could be both Kohli and Sharma. He was an able leader and also the team’s leading run-scorer. “I was under a bit of pressure, not being able to perform, especially in this format, how I wanted to,” said the scorer of four hundreds that had a different impact on each game.

His first Test ton set the tone, in the second he won the game, in the fourth he saved.

His runs made him a confident captain and that was audible from his tone at the end of the series. “I have more clarity where I personally need to work on as a captain...,” he said.

Gill was also taunting those who have questioned his selection calls, criticising him for not including specialist bowlers and backing all-rounders. “There would always be opinions and, in hindsight, could have done that. But I think what matters for me is... in that moment... When your decision

goes well, people obviously praise you. When it doesn’t go well, I’m aware that there are going to be shots taken at me... I’m fine, because at the end of the day, I know that I made a decision which was the best for our team,” he said.

This tour also showed the shaping of a healthy relationship between the captain and coaching staff. Gill said that before the tour, Gambhir had a chat with the team, where he told them that the world may be calling them a “young team” but, for him, they were a “gun team”. The captain would say that at The Oval today, they saw the “gun team”.

During the Australia tour, as reported by *The Indian Express*, Gambhir had a hard talk with the team that had Kohli and Sharma. “Enough is enough, now I will run the team that I wanted,” he had said. Now, with the new captain well and truly settled, this is a new beginning for Indian cricket.

This has been a series where tough selection calls had to be taken. It is learnt that both Gambhir and chairman of selectors Ajit Agarwal would give the young captain options and allow him to take his call. There were hardly any interventions during

the game, extras wouldn’t be rushing in water bottles or gloves.

It is learnt that Gambhir believes that the only way a captain learns is by making mistakes. The calls to stay with all-rounder Washington Sundar or to give Karun Nair another chance were both taken by Gill, and they worked.

Gill has also managed the team well. An overly courteous captain who refers to reporters as “Sir” when answering their question, he has given due respect to the team’s seniors, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul. He “rules by committee”, former England captain Nasser Hussain would observe earlier in the series when watching Bumrah having a word with him, Jadeja advising Washington, and Rahul walking up to him to change the field that he had set.

With the rest, like his contemporaries like Siraj, he is still one of the boys, but there is mutual respect. Siraj would constantly question his plans, but later say that they go back a long way and have great understanding. And Gill would say that even if he hadn’t done what he did today, the dressing room saw Siraj as a star, the team’s game-changer.

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DAY 1 OF DELHI ASSEMBLY MONSOON SESSION

Govt spent beyond means under AAP: CAG report flags fiscal deficit, subsidies

DEVANSH MITTAL  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

DELHI SPENT beyond its means under the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, according to a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report tabled on Monday in the Assembly by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta as the Monsoon session commenced.

The Capital went from a fiscal surplus of Rs 4,566 crore in 2022-23 to a fiscal deficit of Rs 3,934 crore in 2023-24, as per the report titled 'State Finances for the Year 2023-24'. (see box)

A fiscal deficit happens when the government spends more money than it earns. Even as fiscal deficits are common across the world, the city went from a surplus to a deficit, the data shows. "The continuous mismatch between receipts and expenditure indicated a rising fiscal stress," the report underlined.

The report also pointed out "an increasing trend of subsidies, which increased from Rs 3,593 crore in 2019-20 to Rs 4,840 crore in 2023-24".

Power subsidies constituted the lion's share, costing close to Rs. 3,249 crore to the government exchequer, constituting 70.39% of the total subsidies, according to the data shared. Under the previous AAP government, consumers who used less than 200 units in a month did not have to pay for electricity consumption. Those who used up to 400 units got a subsidy of 50%, of up to Rs 800, in their electricity bills.

Even as the BJP leaders had earlier termed these subsidies



Delhi CM Rekha Gupta at the Assembly; (above) Atishi leads a protest against the BJP government. Tashi Tobgyal

freebies or 'revdis', all schemes continued to run after the party came to power.

As per the CAG report, between 2019-20 and 2023-24, the capital expenditure fell short of the capital budget. The capital expenditure — broadly defined as expenditure incurred by the government to create long-term assets like roads or constructing new buildings — also decreased by 15% in 2023-24 as compared to the previous year.

The decrease was sharp under important heads such as Medical and Public Health (49.87%), Education, Sports, Art & Culture (42.19%), Public Works (39.70%) and Urban Development (36.36%).

Revenue expenditure made up a significant portion of the money spent by the government, constituting up to 83%.

‘1 in 4 registered construction workers may only be on paper’

GAYATHRI MANI  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

NEARLY ONE out of four construction workers registered with the Delhi government's welfare board may exist only on paper, a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report, tabled in the Delhi Assembly on the first day of the monsoon session on Monday, indicated.

The report said that despite claims of 6.96 lakh registered construction workers, only 1.98 lakh had complete records, with thousands of duplicate entries or those with faulty images.

The audit report also stated that the government failed to ensure mandatory registration of establishments, utilisation of welfare funds, and inspections.

"Duplicate images, images with no faces, and multiple registrations of the same face indicate several loopholes in the registration process. Since a robust computer algorithm would require exactly one face in each image, this indicates failure of the IT system to detect such images during registration," it said.

The report, Welfare of Building and Other Construction Workers, for the year ending March 31, 2023, was tabled by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

According to the report, the Board of Construction Workers (BOCW) could provide a complete database of only 1.98 lakh out of 6.96 lakh workers stated to be registered with it.

Of the 1.98 lakh beneficiaries, for whom images were made available for the audit, 1.19 lakh beneficiaries were linked with 2.38 lakh images — more than one image for an individual beneficiary.

The report also observed that in the South and Northwest districts, 97 private establishments that deposited cess between April 2019 and March 2023 were not registered.

"Similarly, 25 establishments involved in construction, as per information available on the Delhi Fire Services website, were also not found registered," stated the report.

"It clearly shows a lack of proactive action on the part of the Board to use various sources of information to identify and

register eligible establishments," it said.

The report also said that Delhi lags behind the rest of the country in terms of renewal of registrations — 7.3% against the all-India rate of 74%.

The report further pointed out that the previous government spent only 9.53% to 11.33% of its total funds on welfare schemes, except in 2021-22 when extra payments were made to help workers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Between 2019-20 and 2022-23, benefits were given under only 12 out of 17 approved schemes.

No money was spent on five schemes, including support for miscarriage, advance for purchase or construction of a house, and loans or grants to buy work tools or insurance, the report indicated.

The report also showed that the board released Rs 46.08 crore to the Directorate of Education in March 2022 to help 58,998 children of construction workers with their education for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20.

All MLAs get iPhone 16 Pro, iPads for official use

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

AS PART of the Delhi Legislative Assembly's paperless initiative, all 70 MLAs — including those from the Opposition — received a major official device upgrade in the form of an iPhone 16 Pro on Monday.

Apart from the new smartphones, all MLAs, including Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and other ministers, were also provided with iPads.

The move comes after the Assembly launched the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), marking a significant shift towards paperless legislative functioning.

The Monsoon session, which began Monday, is the first session where all legislators attended the proceedings with their new mobile handsets and tablets, an official from the Vidhan Sabha Secretariat said.

The Delhi Assembly also became the first legislature in the country to be powered entirely by solar energy, following the commissioning of a 500-kilowatt rooftop solar power plant on Sunday.

The NeVA platform, developed under the Centre's "One Nation, One Application" initiative, was fully implemented from this Monsoon Session. Legislators underwent training last month to familiarize themselves with the digital interface, which includes smart delegate units with microphones and voting panels, RFID/NFC (Radio Frequency Identification, Near Field Communication) access, multilingual support, real-time document access via iPads, an automated AV system with HD cameras, and a secure, power-backed networking environment.

Last month, the General Administration Department of Delhi revised the ceiling for mobile phone purchases by the Chief Minister and ministers to Rs 1.50 lakh and Rs 1.25 lakh, respectively. This revised reimbursement order, issued on July 9, sparked a war of words between the ruling BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party, over the high-end phone purchases.

The phone reimbursement cap has been revised after 12 years, with the last revision taking place in 2013. Previously, the ceiling was set at around Rs 50,000.

The move comes after the Assembly launched the National e-Vidhan Application, marking a significant shift towards paperless legislative functioning

Elderly auto driver killed as electric bus collides with multiple vehicles



The accident took place in East Delhi, Monday. Abhinav Saha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

AN AUTO-RICKSHAW driver was killed after a DTC DEVI (Delhi Electric Vehicle Inter-connector) bus allegedly rammed into multiple vehicles in East Delhi's Shakarpur area, Monday morning, police said.

They received a call regarding the accident at 9.30 am. Upon reaching the spot at Vikas Marg, Mangal Bazar, police found that the bus had collided with a car and an auto-rickshaw.

Mohammad Heen (63), the auto driver, was taken to Hedgewar hospital by passersby, where he was declared dead on arrival by doctors. The bus driver, 27-year-old Narender, a resident of Noida, was apprehended.

According to the police, the driver insisted he lost control of the vehicle and crashed into oncoming traffic. Police said a mechanical inspection of the vehicle will be carried out to verify his claims.

"The driver's medical test was done to check his blood alcohol level; the results are awaited. The driver also told us he has pre-existing medical conditions, which we will verify," said a senior police officer.

This is the third accident involving a DEVI bus. In June, a DEVI bus, allegedly being driven rashly and negligently, rammed into a

stationary DTC bus in West Delhi. The impact was such that the stationary bus lurched forward, hitting three pedestrians who were crossing the road at the time. The accident resulted in one casualty. That same month, another bus lost control and crashed into a Metro pillar in Ghaziabad's Loni, injuring two men.

Meanwhile, two other people were killed in separate accidents on Monday.

A delivery person died after an SUV rammed into his scooter in Southwest Delhi's Nelson Mandela Marg. The victim, Rajkumar (40), who worked for Zepto, was rushed to AIIMS Trauma Centre by passersby, where he was declared dead, said police. "He was en route to the Zepto store in Masoodpur for work around 6.30 am. As per eye-witnesses, the car struck his scooter from behind in a rash and negligent manner, causing severe injuries to his head, ears, and nose. The deceased was also not wearing a helmet," said a senior police officer.

Police said the accused driver has been identified and is being traced. In the other case, a 20-year-old lift operator, Deepak, was killed after a rashly driven car crashed into his motorcycle on Central Delhi's Ferozeshah Road. Police said the accident took place around 8 am. Police have not confirmed whether the driver was apprehended.

Two bodies found inside parked car in Noida: Cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NOIDA, AUGUST 4

TWO BODIES were found inside a parked car near the National Institute of Biology in Noida's Sector 58 on Monday afternoon, police said. The deceased have been identified as Sachin (27) and Laxmi Shankar (50) — both residents of Khoda Colony in Ghaziabad. According to officers, the two were neighbours and one of them worked as a taxi driver. "Prima facie, there are no visible injury marks on the bodies. It ap-

pears they consumed alcohol inside the vehicle and passed out. Due to a lack of ventilation and prolonged confinement inside the car, they may have died of suffocation," a senior inspector involved in the investigation told *The Indian Express*.

The police said they received the information around 1 pm and immediately reached the spot. The car was locked from the inside when they arrived, and pedestrians had been panicking after spotting the two bodies, officials said. A forensic team also inspected the scene.

‘Opposition loves anti-national forces, sees reflection in them’: CM amid praise for Op Sindoor, PM Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

EVEN AS Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday lashed out at the Opposition parties and hailed Operation Sindoor and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for protecting the dignity "of our sisters", Leader of Opposition Atishi questioned the imposition of ceasefire during the military operation. The political war of words happened on Monday in the Assembly as the Monsoon session began.

"Operation Sindoor was a response to the silent suffering of India's daughters and sisters. By acting as a courageous father, a

compassionate brother, and a resolute national leader, the Prime Minister has upheld the dignity and empowered the spirit of Indian women," the CM remarked. The operation by the tri-services was launched in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed 26 lives.

Her remarks came as she addressed the House during a debate on Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev, in which the perpetrators of the terror attack were killed recently.

Calling Operation Sindoor a "befitting reply" to Pakistan, the CM stepped up the attack on the Opposition. "These people (Opposition) do not love Bharat,

but they love anti-national forces because they see their own reflection in them. They are not inspired by India's progress — they would rather see the nation held back," she claimed.

Hitting out at the Congress-led INDIA bloc, she said, "The Opposition parties came together to form an alliance. Only its name has INDIA in it but if you listen to them, they sound as if they are the spokesperson of Pakistan...they even raised numerous questions on Operation Sindoor in Parliament recently...They don't trust their own military and refuse to believe their own Prime Minister, and instead place their faith in foreign powers."

She stressed that the

Indian forces continue to defend the nation with the same courage and commitment they displayed during the wars of 1965 and 1971. "Why did our governments return captured territories under pressure after the 1965 war? Why did we accept mediation from the United Nations and the United States? And in 1971, after capturing 93,000 Pakistani soldiers, why were they released unconditionally?" she asked, attacking the previous Congress-led governments.

On the other hand, former CM and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Atishi questioned the imposition of the ceasefire. "Our army could have decisively wiped

out Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, but that didn't happen because of BJP's cowardice. PM Narendra Modi got scared of US President Trump's threats. Trump has publicly said over 25 times that he threatened to shut down trade — that is why India backed out," she alleged.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas SS Group Private Limited Regd. Office at Plot No. 77, Sector 44, Gurugram-122003 has applied to Director, Town & Country Planning Haryana for grant of license for setting up of Mix Land Use (6H 96% and 4% Commercial) Colony under 100 policy over an area measuring 18.925 acres (after migration of 4.6345 acres from License no. 105 of 2013, an area 6.8468 acres from license no. 41 of 2023, an area measuring 2.2812 acres from license 120 of 2023 and fresh applied area measuring 0.1625 acre) in the revenue estate of village Badha, Sector-85, Gurugram. And whereas the office of Director General, Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required us to invite objections from the existing allottees of the Colony regarding the proposed migration. Accordingly, vide this notice, objections are hereby invited from existing allottees of License No.105 of 2013, 41 of 2023 and license no 120 of 2023, if any, on proposed migration of land. Copy of earlier approved layout plans showing the land being migrated is available for perusal on our website [www.ssgroup-india.com](http://www.ssgroup-india.com). The said plans can also be perused at the office of Developer at Plot No. 77, Sector 44, Gurugram as well as in the office of Senior Town Planner, HUDA Complex, Sector 14, Gurugram. If any existing allottee has any objection on proposed migration of land, he/she may file objection in the office of "Senior Town Planner, HUDA Complex, Sector 14, Gurugram" within 30 days of the issuance of this notice failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed migration. Given on this 05 of August, 2025. Sd/- Mohit Singh Company Secretary SS Group Private Limited

CHANDNI CHOWK SHOPKEEPERS PROTEST AGAINST MCD, POLICE

‘Got court orders since 1990 on encroachment, nothing changed’

DRISHTI JAIN  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

FLAGGING the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)'s alleged inaction in tackling poor sanitation and illegal hawkers in Chandni Chowk despite the High Court's order last year, more than 30 shopkeepers took part in a silent protest on Monday and marched from the Fountain Chowk to the Red Fort.

Launched by Chandni Chowk Sarv Vyapar Mandal, the protest saw shopkeepers holding placards, and targeting the MCD and Delhi Police over several issues in the area, including encroachment, congestion, rising crimes like pickpocketing, mobile snatching, and eve-teasing. The demonstrators said the stir will continue until a decision to call it off is taken.

Last November, the Delhi High Court, while hearing a PIL filed by the body, had issued an order, directing the police and MCD to remove illegal hawkers and encroachments from the area within two weeks. The court, in its order dated November 22, 2024, had further directed MCD, Public Works Department, Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation, Delhi Police, and the Traffic Police to file a status report within two weeks.

While referring to the HC order, the market body on Monday accused the MCD of civic apathy. Sanjay Bhargava, president of the association, and a dealer

of a textile brand near Sunehri Masjid in Chandni Chowk, said, "We have got court orders since 1990, directing the removal of encroachments... Last November, the Delhi HC ordered the removal of illegal hawkers within two weeks. But nothing has happened.... We have had 40-50 court orders on this issue, our organisation has till now spent crores on lawyers to tackle it." Raising concerns over poor sanitation in the area, Bhargava noted that public urination is common in the market.

Amid the ongoing protest, Praveen Shankar Kapoor, spokesperson of the Delhi BJP and General Secretary of the Chandni Chowk Nagrik Manch, issued a press statement. "The shopkeepers and residents of Chandni Chowk are all patriots and will not hold any protest or Gandhigiri demonstrations during the Independence Week, August 9 to 15," the statement read. Kapoor, in his statement, claimed that the BJP's Chandni Chowk MP Praveen Khandelwal has significantly improved the cleanliness and reduced encroachments in the market. He added that the negligence by the PWD, MCD, and local police led to the deterioration of Chandni Chowk.

Responding to the statement, Bhargava said, "We are aware of this and we'll take a call on the protest when required."

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME STATION HQ (ECHS CELL) MATHURA CANT PHONE : 0565-2470041, 9870760374 e-mail : shqmathura@echs.gov.in

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Name of Trade	Age (Yrs)	Min Qualification	Min Work Experience	Desirable	Vacancy	Res for ESM	Salary per Month (Rs)
Chowkidar	53 yrs	Education-08 Class or GD Trad (Armed Forces)	-	10 years and above	01 ECHS PC Aligarh	70%	21,800/-

2. For Terms and Condition, Application Form & Remuneration. Kindly see our website [www.echs.gov.in](http://www.echs.gov.in) for additional details.

3. Last date of receipt of application is 20 Aug 2025 by 1400 hrs.

Sahitya Akademi

BAL SAHITYA PURASKAR 2026

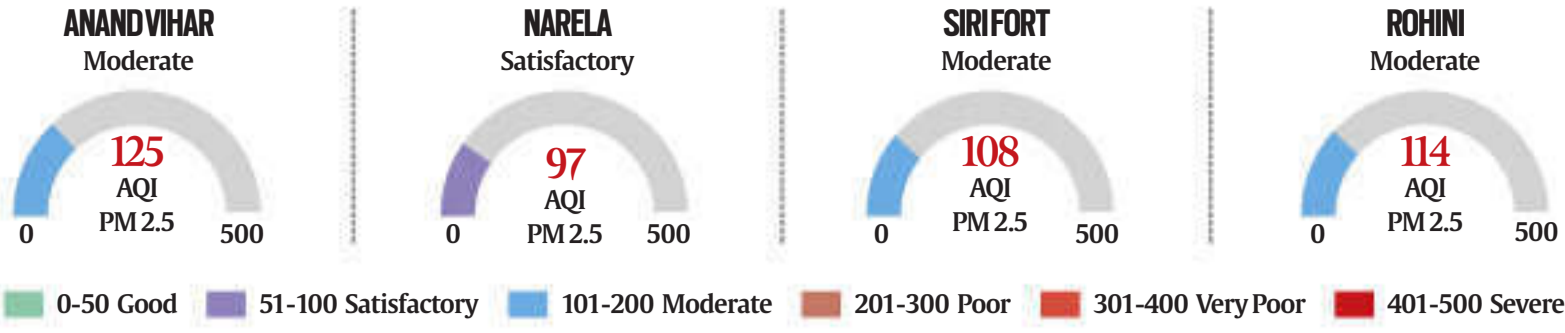
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Sd/- (Secretary) Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi



**SKYWATCH**

**FORECAST: August 5**  
Generally cloudy sky; possibility of light to moderate rain with thunderstorms

**MAX: 31-33**  
1.2°C below normal

**MIN: 24-26**  
0.9°C below normal

Will take protest to every slum cluster in city: Delhi Congress

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

IN ITS first major street protest since the BJP formed government in Delhi earlier this year, the Congress Monday accused the Rekha Gupta-led government of forcibly evicting slum dwellers across the city without rehabilitating them.

“The Congress will not allow the BJP to drive the poor out of Delhi. This government’s agenda is to remove ‘garib, not garibi, (the poor, and not poverty),” said Delhi Congress Chief Devender Yadav, announcing that the party will take its agitation to every JJ cluster in the city.

Party leaders invoked the legacy of former CM Sheila Dikshit, claiming theirs was the only party that has made efforts to regularise and resettle slum clusters. “Congress built in-situ flats in areas like Bhoomiheen Camp and Kathputli Colony. BJP only makes hollow promises,” said former MP Udit Raj.

“What’s happening with slum dwellers is no surprise. This is BJP’s character,” said former MP and Sheila Dikshit’s son Sandeep Dikshit.

Amid the demonstration at the Assembly, allegedly held without permission, Delhi Police repeatedly announced that Section 144 was in place. Police later deployed water cannons and detained at least 36 protesters, including Yadav.

‘NO EVIDENCE OF CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY FOUND’

# Court accepts CBI closure report in graft case against AAP’s Jain

Was accused of ‘irregularities’ in PWD hirings

NIRBHAY THAKUR  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

IN A relief to AAP leader and former Public Works Department (PWD) minister Satyendar Jain, a Delhi court Monday accepted a closure report filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in a case related to alleged irregularities in hiring in the PWD.

In its report, the CBI underlined that it found “no criminal activity or wrongful loss to the government” in the case related to alleged corruption in the hiring of a creative team for the PWD after an investigation that lasted almost four years.

“When the investigating agency has not found any incriminating evidence over such a long period to prove the commission of any offence, particularly under the POC (Prevention of Corruption) Act, 1988, further proceedings would serve no useful purpose,” said Special Judge Dig Vinay Singh of Rouse Avenue Court in his order.

He added, “... When CBI could not find any evidence of criminal conspiracy, abuse of power,



Ex-PWD minister Satyendar Jain. @Satyendarjain/X

pecuniary gain, or wrongful loss to the government exchequer, and the alleged acts are at most administrative irregularities, no offence under Section 13(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act or criminal conspiracy is established.”

Reacting to the development, the AAP slammed the BJP for allegedly framing its leaders in false cases and questioned who would compensate the families for the emotional distress caused by the serious corruption allegations.

In a post on X in Hindi, AAP chief and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asserted that all cases filed against his party leaders are “false”.

On May 29, 2019, according to the court order, an FIR was lodged against Jain, the then Delhi PWD

minister, in the case based on a complaint from the Directorate of Vigilance, which alleged irregular engagement of professionals in the PWD in violation of rules, and payments made from unrelated project funds.

The claims against Jain involved hiring a 17-member creative team of consultants for PWD projects allegedly without proper approvals from the Finance department and by bypassing “standard recruitment procedures”.

After an FIR was registered, the CBI examined the justification and need for hiring such professionals, the transparency behind the recruitment process, and the approvals and use of project funds, among others.

Following its investigation,

the CBI concluded that the need to hire professionals was justified. It also found that the hiring process began with an open advertisement that resulted in 1,700 applications for the jobs. The agency also found that the selection was based on merit.

In the report, the CBI stated that the hiring of professionals was necessary due to urgent departmental needs and that no payments were made beyond prescribed norms and approved limits. “The total investigation found no criminal activity or wrongful loss to the government... No evidence of quid pro quo or conspiracy has emerged, and the acts of public servants do not constitute fraudulent conduct,” it said.

At the time of hiring, it pointed out, there were close to 50% vacancies in the posts of architects and that major infrastructure projects had to be executed in a time-bound manner by the then Delhi government.

Citing the CBI report, the court noted, “Therefore, hiring through an outsourcing agency was an accepted, common practice.”

The CBI also recommended the rejection of a protest petition against its report. The agency told the court that the petition does not provide any sufficient prima facie evidence from investigations or otherwise, warranting further inquiry.

# ‘I’m traumatised’: TN MP’s gold chain snatched in Chanakyapuri

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

CONGRESS LOK Sabha MP R Sudha’s gold chain was allegedly snatched by a man on a scooter near the Polish embassy in the diplomatic enclave of Chanakyapuri when she was out for a walk early Monday.

According to Delhi Police data, 2,503 cases of snatching occurred in the Capital in the first six months of 2025. (see box)

R Sudha, elected from the Mayiladuthurai Lok Sabha seat of Tamil Nadu, wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, saying the incident was shocking considering that the area is considered a “high-security zone”. A senior officer said, “A case has been registered and investigation is underway. Multiple teams have been deployed to trace the accused and examine CCTV footage from the vicinity.”

Police are also speaking to eyewitnesses and checking for any suspicious movements reported in the area during the time of the incident. Security around Tamil Nadu Bhavan, where the MP is staying, and nearby stretches has been stepped up, officers said.

In her letter to the Home Minister, the Congress leader said she was out for a walk with another MP from the Rajya Sabha when the incident took place.

“On August 4 (Monday), another woman Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha,



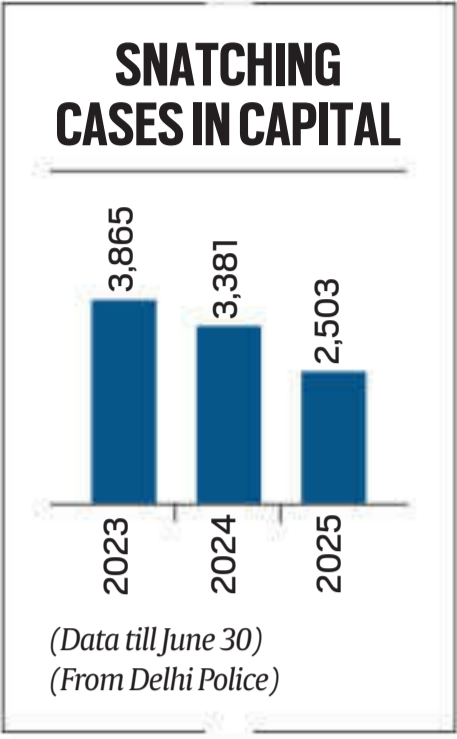
Congress MP R Sudha. PTI

Ms Rajathi, and I stepped out of Tamil Nadu House for a walk. Around 6.15 am to 6.20 am, when we were near the Polish Embassy’s Gate-3 and Gate-4, a man wearing a full helmet, and thereby covering his face entirely, and riding a scooter approached us from the opposite direction and snatched my gold chain and fled,” she said.

The MP alleged she suffered injuries to her neck, and her clothes were torn. She then saw a patrol vehicle and rushed to it for help. “We were advised to give a complaint in writing and approach the jurisdictional police station...,” she wrote.

“If a woman cannot walk safely in this high-priority zone in the national capital of India, where else can we feel safe and do our routine (tasks) without fearing for our limbs, lives, and valuables? Sir, I have suffered injury to my neck, lost my gold chain weighing more than 4 sovereigns, and I am highly traumatised by this criminal attack,” she added.

“I, therefore, request your good self to direct the authorities



concerned to ensure the culprit is tracked down with the help of umpteen CCTVs in this ‘high-security’ zone, and arrested.”

She later lodged a complaint at Chanakyapuri police station.

The incident sparked sharp criticism from opposition MPs.

“This is extremely unfortunate. An MP’s chain is snatched in broad daylight in a highly secured area like Chanakyapuri. What must be happening to the common public?” asked Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi.

Congress MP Jebi Mather said, “This shows even women MPs are not safe under the nose of the Home Minister. What happened to ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’? It’s only a slogan.”

Union Minister S P Singh Baghel defended the Centre, saying, “The situation is much better now than before.”

# Delhi may see stray dog census soon

DRISHTI JAIN  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

DELHI MAY soon see a census of stray dogs in the Capital.

This is one of many measures that the panel formed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi’s Standing Committee earlier this month, amid an outcry over rising cases of stray dog bites, has planned to take.

The committee, which held its second meeting on Monday, gathered suggestions from the MCD, doctors from government hospitals, NGOs running 20 sterilisation shelters, animal welfare experts, and dog lovers.

Sub-committee chairperson, Sunder Singh Tanwar, said a monitoring team will be formed to inspect one shelter a week and look at sterilisation records.

“We’ll see if the shelter has enough rabies injections, look at its sanitation conditions, if an infected dog is kept isolated, and check records of sterilisation,” he said, adding that RWAs will also be roped in to carry out the measures.

Officials said the civic body, in collaboration with various NGOs, plans to implant a microchip in every dog at sterilisation centres. The chip will record details of their sterilisation status and other vital information, enabling effective monitoring and tracking in the future.

Former BJP MP and founder of People for Animals, Maneka Gandhi, who was also present at the meeting, emphasised the need to upgrade and equip the ABC (animal birth control) centres run by the corporation, improve existing medical facilities,

and train staff.

Tanwar said dog lovers demanded that the Delhi government and civic body-run hospitals should function 24x7 and provide special attention and care to dogs who meet with accidents.

Animal welfare expert Gauri Maulekhi, who was also part of the meeting, said, “The ‘nexus’ between several ABC centres and MCD officials concerned was formally brought to the attention of the Standing Committee’s chairperson.”

Standing Committee Chairperson, Satya Sharma, said the MCD aims to adopt a holistic approach to strike a balance between animal welfare and public health. “We are taking strong and effective steps in this direction with the support of all agencies concerned and experts to resolve the issue of stray dogs.”

# 7 cops ‘fail to intercept’ dummy bomb during I-Day mock drill, suspended

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

SEVEN POLICEMEN were suspended after allegedly failing to intercept a Delhi Police Special Cell team that snuck in with a dummy bomb during a mock drill at the Red Fort, officers said.

Drills are being conducted across the national capital to test security arrangements ahead of Independence Day, they said.

The authorities concerned will now review all security arrangements from scratch and implement an improved and revised plan, senior officers said. The seven policemen would also be subjected to a departmental inquiry, officers added.

The mock drill, which ex-



Drills are being conducted across Delhi to test security arrangements. Archive

posed the security lapse, was just one among many that would be conducted in the run-up to the 79th Independence Day.

TEEN STABBED TO DEATH IN SEELAMPUR

# ‘Lady Don’ Zikra plotted murder in March, bought a gun: Police chargesheet

PRAGYNESH & NIRBHAY THAKUR  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

‘LADY DON’, aka Zikra of Northeast Delhi’s Seelampur, and her brother Sahil allegedly plotted the murder of a 17-year-old boy in March. She allegedly procured an automatic gun for the crime, which she flaunted on her Instagram profile.

However, the Delhi Police arrested her for brandishing the illegal firearm under the Arms Act and seized the weapon.

The 22-year-old got out on bail — and allegedly followed through with her plan just 10 days later. On April 17, the teen was stabbed to death by members of the Mastan gang, reportedly hired by her. She was part of the Mastan gang, said police.

These claims are part of the police’s 300-plus page chargesheet filed on July 16 against Zikra and 7 others in the murder case.

The chargesheet was filed under sections 103(1), 61(2), 351(3), 3(5), 249(a), and 238(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The court of Judge Anmol Nohria took cognisance and issued summons to six people named in the document on August 8.

The other names are: Anas, Sahil Ansari, Zahida, Nafees, Vikas, Shahid, and Anees. Zikra also has links to Hashim Baba’s incarcerated wife, Zoya, and previously worked for her, the chargesheet claimed.



Zikra is part of the Mastan gang, said police

On April 17, police said the 17-year-old victim was out buying milk when Zikra’s associates cornered him in the market and allegedly stabbed him multiple times. Police claimed she was the key conspirator of the crime, which sparked communal tension in the area.

DCP (Northeast) Ashish Kumar Mishra had earlier said, “Evidence was collected against the accused — Zikra, another accused and two juveniles — who conspired to attack the victim. Five suspects aided the main accused in escaping and hiding.”

The Mastan gang, a police officer said, is led by Shoaib Mastan who is currently lodged in jail in a robbery case. His rival is a group led by Lala alias Prashant (25).

The chargesheet claimed the victim was friends with two people from the Lala gang, who had attacked Sahil last November.

Police had claimed the victim got caught in the rivalry between the two warring gangs. His family, however, had denied any gang links.

# At Delhi zoo, Royal Bengal tigress gives birth to first litter of 6

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

SIX TIGER cubs were born at Delhi’s National Zoological Park to Royal Bengal tigress Aditi on Monday, officials said. The births come after two failed breeding attempts and weeks of monitoring.

The tigress, which is around seven to eight years old, was brought from the Gorewada Rescue Centre in Nagpur in 2021. Aditi was earlier paired with Royal Bengal tigers Karan and then Hari, but both attempts were unsuccessful.

“After repeated attempts, the successful mating on April 21 is

the result of persistent efforts under the zoo’s breeding programme,” said Dr Abhijit Bhawal, the zoo’s veterinarian.

He added that the confirmation of Aditi’s pregnancy came from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Pune, on May 26.

Following the confirmation, Aditi was kept under close observation, and other tigers sharing her enclosure were shifted to a different cell. The tigress gave birth to the cubs between 9 am and 11 am at the zoo.

The 48 hours after the cubs’ birth are crucial, zoo authorities told *The Indian Express*.

“This is her first litter. She has



Tigress Aditi with her cubs. (Credit: Special Arrangement)

given six live cubs and is taking care of them. Constant 24-hour monitoring through CCTV cameras and the deployment of dedicated staff in shifts are in place,” said Dr Sanjeet Kumar, Director, National Zoological Park.

In 2023, five Royal Bengal tiger cubs were born to Aditi’s sister Siddhi at the zoo, and two of them survived. It was for the first time in 18 years that a golden Royal Bengal tigress had given birth at the Delhi zoo.

With the number of big cats growing, officials said they were planning to expand the animals’ enclosures. After Aditi’s pregnancy was confirmed, construction work that had already begun

was paused to avoid stress to the mother.

The Delhi zoo is a participating institution in the coordinated conservation breeding programme for Royal Bengal tigers, with a focus on ensuring genetic diversity through animal exchange between institutions.

With Aditi’s cubs, the tiger population has now risen significantly in the Delhi zoo, which already had 13 tigers, six of them white-coated.

In 2023, the zoo welcomed white tiger cubs Avni and Vyom. Their births had also marked a major milestone in the zoo’s breeding programme, coming after a seven-year gap.

BHIM NAGRI APARTMENTS NEAR HAUZ KHAS

# DDA’s oldest housing colony, where flats once cost Rs 20k, may be up for revamp

DEVANSH MITTAL  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

“WE USED to play badminton, sing songs, and eat together,” says Mohini Judge, 84, one of the oldest residents of Bhim Nagri Apartments, reminiscing about a time that was “much simpler, when this was a community”.

“We were so close that if someone didn’t come down during a festival, we would go into their houses and wake them up.” Located near Hauz Khas, Bhim Nagri Apartments is the oldest housing complex built by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), with its earliest residents moving into their homes in 1969.

The first of the quintessential DDA flats — winning the lottery for which has long been a mark

of prestige, though it is steadily eroding of late — remains tucked inside the tony Safdarjung Development Area (SDA). Hemmed in on both sides by villas quickly transforming into monolithic glass-and-steel builder flats, Bhim Nagri has stood like an island relatively untouched by the winds of change rushing through Delhi.

Recently, a joint government-industry task force, constituted by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, submitted a report titled ‘How to Revitalise Delhi’ to the government, recommending ways to unlock the region’s “latent real estate potential”.

Among its key recommendations is the redevelopment of housing societies older than 50 years — which will also cover Bhim Nagri. “These buildings are likely to have significant struc-

tural issues and may not meet modern safety and infrastructure standards,” the report recommends.

**Rs 5k down payment for an MIG flat**

Judge was 32 when she moved into one of the 72 flats housed in the eight buildings of Bhim Nagri, and her daughter was just a year old. “When I used to go to the market, I would leave her at a church nearby without any worry,” Judge says, harking back to a time when residents had a small but strong community.

Referring to Sandeep Behl, another original inhabitant of the society, Judge says, “I remember Sonu running around the houses, with his mother chasing and calling him back.”

“At that time, most of us



Bhim Nagri Apartments in Safdarjung Development Area

knew each other and people used to live in large joint families,” says Behl, who is also the

general secretary of the Residents’ Welfare Association (RWA).

But over time, most of the earliest inhabitants moved out, selling or leasing out their flats. “The newer people are not that interested in socialising with everyone else,” he adds.

Behl says his family had to make a down payment of Rs 5,000 for the Middle-Income Group (MIG) flat and pay monthly instalments of Rs 200 for seven years, making the cost of the flat approximately Rs 20,000. MIG flats today can cost between Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1.5 crore.

The DDA’s attempt to create a well-planned and green Capital, while seldom successful across Delhi, is visible here with three parks interspersed with buildings in the society.

But Judge says it came later. “Earlier, the spaces between buildings were just vacant. It was

all an open area with hard soil. The parks came in around 1975.”

“We could also see the Qutub Minar from here in those days, as the sky was clear and there were no tall buildings. Now, because of the pollution, you can’t see it,” Judge’s daughter says.

“There were also sparrows back then... You can’t spot them now because there are so many WiFi poles around,” she adds.

While the colony is currently surrounded by high-end markets with shops that sell expensive items, residents remember a time when they started coming up.

Behl says that kikar trees stood where Aurobindo Market is now, and the SDA Market started coming up in the 1990s. Judge also recalls a time when Evergreen was not the massive sweets shop it is at present, but a

small store. “I remember when they used to fry samosas and jalebis in the open. They knew all of us and would call us over: ‘Aao aao bhabhi!’”

Compared to contemporary DDA residences, where homeowners often complain about sub-standard material and poor planning, residents here sing praises about the construction. “These walls are rock solid. We can’t even put nails in them using just a hammer. You need a drilling machine,” says Behl.

“Bricks were not used for the construction of the outer walls. All of them were pre-fabricated,” says V S Sarma, another old-timer who remembers the exact date he moved into his flat: January 29, 1969.

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

# Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

Chhattisgarh's Rail Development  
Gaining **Double-Engine Speed**



**Shri Vishnu Deo Sai**  
Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh

**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister



## Raipur-Jabalpur (Train No. 11701/11702) Express inaugurated

providing a new dimension to tourism,  
trade, and education



## Doubling of Railway Lines in 16 years (2014 to 2030)

Only 1100 km of railway lines expanded  
in the previous 161 years (1853 to 2014))



## Historic Budget for Railway Development in the State

- Rail budget increased by 22 times in 10 years
- Historic allocation of **₹6,925 crore** in the year 2025-26



## Approved New Railway Projects

- Railway projects worth **₹47,447 crore** in progress
- Kharsia-Nava Raipur-Parmaalkasa: 278 km - **₹7,854 crore**
- Gevra-Pendra: 155.379 km - **₹7448.52 crore**
- Rowghat-Jagdalpur: 140 km - **₹3,513 crore**
- Kharsia-Dharamjaigarh new railway line: 162.5 km - **₹3,438.39 crore**
- Bilaspur-Jharsuguda 4th line: 206 km - **₹2,135.34 crore** (Chhattisgarh: 153 km, Odisha: 53 km)

- Uрга-Dharamjaigarh: 62.5 kms - **₹1686.22 crore**
- Sardega-Bhalumuda: 37 km - **₹21,282 crore**
- Boridand-Ambikapur doubling: 80 km - **₹776 crore**
- Gauge conversion of Kendri-Dhamtari & Abhanpur-Rajim: 67.20 km - **₹544 crore**
- 37 km Durg-Raipur Automatic Signaling - **₹88 crore**
- 148 rail flyovers and underpasses constructed since 2014.
- 100% electrification of railway network in Chhattisgarh State
- New MEMU train service started on Abhanpur-Mandir Hasaud section
- New railway projects extending over **1,103 km**
- Bilaspur-Rajnandgaon 4th line: **178 km**
- Dalli Rajhara-Rowghat: **95 km**



## Redevelopment of 32 railway stations under Amrit Bharat Scheme at a cost of ₹1680 crore

- Raipur - **₹456 crore** | Bilaspur - **₹435 crore** | Durg - **₹463 crore**

## Final Location Survey (FLS)

- Dharamjaigarh-Pathalgaon-Lohardaga: 301 km - **₹16,834 crore**
- Ambikapur-Barwadih: 200 km - **₹9,718 crore**

Heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister  
Shri Narendra Modi ji and Railway Minister  
Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw ji on behalf of the  
**3 crore people of the state.**



हमसे जुड़ने  
के लिए  
QR स्कैन करें



# 6 IN PARLIAMENT MONSOON SESSION

## Amid Mahua and Kalyan row, TMC makes Abhishek leader of House

Kalyan announces his resignation as Chief Whip, later says Abhishek told him to wait



TMC MPs Mahua Moitra; (right) Kalyan Banerjee with Shiv Sena UBT's Priyanka Chaturvedi at Parliament, Monday. PTI

ATRI MITRA  
KOLKATA, AUGUST 4

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appointed her nephew and second-in-command Abhishek Banerjee the leader of the TMC parliamentary party Monday, even as she said, without naming anyone, that two to three MPs were “bringing the party into disrepute” and “no individual is bigger than the organisation”. The TMC chief’s comments came as a feud between MPs Kalyan Banerjee and Mahua Moitra erupted again, months after they were involved in an altercation on the Election Commission office premises in Delhi.

Abhishek replaces veteran MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay, who has been unwell, as the TMC’s parliamentary party leader. Sources said while the CM praised the performance of the Rajya Sabha MPs, she said there were some “loose ends” in the Lok Sabha and insinuated that Kalyan had failed to properly coordinate in the absence of Bandyopadhyay and Saugata Roy, another veteran MP. “Sudip da said he was doing better and if Didi wanted, he would go to Delhi on Tuesday. But, Didi told him, ‘No need, Abhishek will take charge as the Lok Sabha leader and choose the party’s speakers on different issues.’ She told Sudip da he should rest,” said an MP.

Shortly after the meeting, Kalyan announced his resignation as the Chief Whip, but Abhishek asked him to reconsider the decision, according to an insider. The Serampore MP later told a Bangla news channel, “Abhishek Banerjee spoke to me for 10 minutes. He advised me not to step down and that he would discuss the matter on August 7 ... What can I do if most of the MPs remain absent regularly? Does Mamata Banerjee know how the work in Parliament is going on? I did the work I was assigned, but I am not a scholar from Oxford or Cambridge and do not wear ex-

pensive sarees. Those who criticise Mamata Banerjee are being rewarded.”

Kalyan also took to X to hit out at Mahua, the Krishnanagar MP, following her recent comments about him in an *India Today* podcast. “You don’t wrestle with a pig. Because the pig likes it and you get dirty. There are deeply misogynistic, sexually frustrated, depraved men in India and they have their representation in Parliament across all parties,” Mahua said when asked about him.

Kalyan said the comments were “unfortunate” and “reflect a deep disregard for basic norms of civil discourse”. “Labelling a male colleague as ‘sexually frustrated’ isn’t boldness, it’s outright abuse,” he wrote on X. He said “flinging gutter insults” would mask “her (Mahua’s) failures or distract from serious questions about her record”, adding, “Those who rely on abuse instead of answers are not champions of democracy — they are its embarrassment, and the people of this country can see through that act.”

He told the news channel that instead of taking action against Mahua, the party was “targeting” him.

In April, the two had clashed after a TMC delegation went to the EC office to submit a memorandum on the duplication of electoral ID numbers. At the time, TMC insiders said the spat took place after Mahua found her name missing from the list of parliamentarians to have signed the memorandum. She alleged Kalyan had abused her and urged the security officials to arrest him.

Mamata Banerjee took to X to announce Abhishek’s appointment. “Given that our Lok Sabha leader, Sudip Banerjee, is ... undergoing medical treatment, the MPs have unanimously decided to entrust Abhishek Banerjee with the responsibility of leading the party in the Lok Sabha... until Sudip da returns to good health. We pray for Sudip da’s swift recovery and look forward to his continued guidance...”

## Bihar SIR cloud hangs over House session as standoff between Opp, Govt intensifies

As INDIA bloc presses for a debate, Govt has rejected it, saying it would now push Bills amid din

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

THE PROSPECT of normal functioning of Parliament in the Monsoon Session appears to be fading due to the continuing face-off between the government and the Opposition over the latter’s vehement demand for a discussion on the Election Commission (EC)’s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar.

The logjam over the SIR exercise has already led to the proceedings of both the Houses being disrupted since the Monsoon Session got underway on July 21, barring a special debate on the Operation Sindoor and Pahalgam attack.

On Monday, while Rajya Sabha was adjourned for the day to mourn the demise of former Jharkhand CM and JMM patriarch Shibu Soren, Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned without transacting any business due to the Opposition MPs’ vociferous protests over the SIR issue.

A meeting of the floor leaders from several Opposition and NDA parties, such as the JD(U) and TDP, held by Speaker Om Birla to break the deadlock did not yield any result. Sources said the Opposition leaders told the Speaker that they were not insisting that the debate should specifically focus on the EC’s functioning and that it could be on overall electoral reforms and voters’ lists. “But we were informed that the government has no plans for a debate on the issue,” said an Opposition leader.

The ruling BJP was said to be not keen on holding a discussion on the SIR row over which some of its NDA allies have concerns too.

The Opposition leaders however insisted that the government



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Congress MPs Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Imran Masood, Hibi Eden and others at Parliament. ANI

must agree for a discussion on electoral rolls before coming up with any legislative agenda. “Since the beginning of this Monsoon Session, we have been demanding a discussion on SIR of electoral rolls. In the meeting, we have even suggested that the naming of the discussion can be different. Any wording can be used — it can be electoral reforms, voter deletion — and the government can also decide under which rule it can be held. But we are very clear that we want a discussion because it’s a serious thing for our democratic process. But the government is not yet ready,” the Congress’s whip in the Lok Sabha Manickam Tagore said.

Tagore said the Opposition INDIA bloc parties were on the same page over this demand.

However, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the government would be forced to press for the passage of its various Bills in Parliament in the midst of the Opposition MPs’ protests. He said the government wants a thorough discussion over its Bills but would be compelled to push for their passage in “national interest” as these legislation are important for governance.

Hitting out at the Opposition, he said they had agreed for a two-day discussion on the National Sports Governance Bill and National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, both of which were scheduled to be taken up together for consideration and passage in Lok Sabha Monday, but they disrupted the proceedings. Sources said the government

is likely to push these Bills amidst din on Tuesday, if the Opposition does not agree for cooperating with the Treasury benches. In the Rajya Sabha, Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to push the statutory resolution to extend the presidential rule in Manipur by another six months, which has already been passed by the Lok Sabha last week.

Rijiju made it clear that a debate on the SIR cannot take place in Parliament as the exercise is part of the poll body’s administrative action and functioning.

He as well as some other ministers cited a ruling by ex-Speaker Balram Jakhar, a late Congress veteran, that Parliament cannot discuss the functioning of a constitutional body like the EC.

According to Rijiju, Speaker Birla has already told the Opposition that Parliament can discuss electoral reforms but not the EC’s functioning, pointing out that the poll body had carried out the SIR of electoral rolls earlier as well.

Except for a discussion on the Operation Sindoor in both the Houses early last week, the parliamentary proceedings have been a washout so far, even as the SIR row has ignited sustained protests by the Opposition parties within and outside Parliament.

The INDIA bloc leaders, including Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, had last Friday written to Birla, seeking a debate on the SIR exercise.

The Monsoon Session is scheduled to end on August 21.

### 5 QUESTIONS

ACTOR AND BJP MP FROM GORAKHPUR, RAVI KISHAN, WHO CITED SAMOSAS TO MAKE A POINT IN LOK SABHA ABOUT NON-UNIFORM FOOD PRICING, SPEAKS TO DEEPTIMAN TIWARY

## ‘Samosa matters to people... Elite don’t understand rustic humour’

**You raised the issue of standardisation of food items and prices.**

I come from Gorakhpur, where 98% of voters are poor. Parliament has been not functioning properly due to ruckus over Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar. I am an artiste, and hence I am sensitive to people’s issues.

I have seen poverty, found bad oil in my food while eating out and spoilt my throat. In Europe and America, information like the kind of oil used in the food is mentioned (on the packaging).

**You spoke at length about samosas...**

Since I am an artiste, I use humour. The elite do not understand rustic humour. It is an issue that matters to people. I understand that samosa matters to them. Even Rs 10 spent on food matters. I understand this, as in my student days I made Rs 1,300 a month by delivering newspapers.

Though a few people and the Opposition’s IT cell are mocking me, I use the language that connects with the people and that is why I win with big margins.

The people who mock me



did not see that I also raised issues like drugs or was rooting for inclusion of Bhojpuri in the Eighth Schedule of Constitution.

**What do you think the size of samosas must be?**

People want to know what

the food they are eating contains. They want to know what the size or quantity of the food item that they buy is. Be it a dhaba or a five-star hotel, everyone should be accountable. Currently, five dhabas on the same road are selling the same food item at different prices. Ever since my video has gone viral, people from across the country are messaging me with more such problems.

**How did you come up with the idea of raising this issue?**

It has been on my mind for a while. I wanted to raise it but

was not getting an opportunity during Zero Hour. The other day, when Speaker (Om Birla) allowed Zero Hour and allowed around 200 MPs to speak, I got my chance. The matter has become an issue of debate now.

**How do you plan to take this forward?**

I am from the ruling party so I will not talk openly about what government must do. I am doing my homework. I will meet the minister concerned and discuss the remedy. It is a matter related to public health.

## Uncertainty looms over resumption of MNREGS in Bengal as Centre yet to approve labour budget

State govt ‘failed miserably’ in implementing scheme, says Rural Development Minister

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

THE RESUMPTION of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in West Bengal remains uncertain as the August 1 deadline set by the Calcutta High Court for restarting the scheme is over and the Centre is yet to clear the state’s labour budget for the financial year 2025–2026, The Indian Express has learnt.

According to sources, the West Bengal government had written to the Union Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) seeking approval to its labour budget, but the same has not been done so far.

The labour budget is approved by the Empowered Committee headed by the Union Rural Development Secretary. States can generate their demands for funds using NREGASoft, the management information system of the MGNREGS, only after this committee clears their labour budget pro-

posals.

Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Monday that the Central government is committed to the development of West Bengal and the welfare of its people. He alleged that the Mamata Banerjee government has “failed miserably” in effectively implementing MGNREGS, but did not say anything about the resumption of the scheme in the state.

“From the year 2019 to 2022, Central teams visited 19 districts of West Bengal. During these visits, the Central teams found many anomalies and irregularities in the works of MNREGA in the state such as absence of work at the site, dividing the work into portions against the rules, misappropriation of funds... flouting rules and norms of MNREGA,” Chouhan said in a post on X.

“Due to these unethical actions of the state government, misuse of public money and lack of improvement in the system, the Ministry of Rural Development has stopped the release of funds of the state gov-



Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Bhopal, Monday. X/@ChouhanShivraj

ernment under Section 27 of the MNREGA Act,” he said.

Under the MNREGS, the MoRD releases funds to states “based on agreed labour budget”. Generally, the states’ labour budget proposals are approved by the MoRD by the end of January or before the beginning of the financial year (April-March). In West Bengal’s case, no labour budget has been approved after FY 2021–22 after the Centre suspended the implementation of the scheme in the state.

By invoking Section 27 of MGNREGA, 2005, the Centre had stopped release of funds to West Bengal with effect from March 9, 2022.

In an order on June 18, 2025, the Calcutta High Court directed that the “scheme be implemented prospectively with effect from August 1, 2025”.

However, West Bengal officials say they have not received any intimation from the Centre about resumption of the scheme in the state. They have also been urging the ministry to approve of the labour budget but the same has not happened yet, said an official.

The ministry officials have maintained silence so far on the issue of Bengal. Asked whether the MoRD challenged the June 18 order of the Calcutta HC, the officials did not respond. They also did not respond to queries on non-approval of Bengal’s labour budget.

According to sources, the Centre has not yet challenged the court order yet. On July 22, Union Minister Chouhan told the

Lok Sabha that the High Court order is “being studied in the ministry to decide further course of action”.

In January this year, West Bengal’s Rural Development Minister Pradip K Mazumdar wrote a letter to Chouhan, seeking an appointment for a meeting, which has not happened so far. Earlier, multiple meetings between the Centre and West Bengal government officials have taken place but the issue has not been resolved till date.

Before the Centre suspended the MGNREGS in March 2022, West Bengal figured among the top performers with 51 lakh to 80 lakh families in the state availing of the scheme annually between 2014–15 and 2021–22. The data available on the NREGS portal shows that the number of households working through the rural job guarantee scheme stood at 51 lakh in 2014–15, 61 lakh in 2015–16, 58 lakh in 2016–17, 52 lakh in 2017–18, 43.89 lakh in 2018–19, 54.57 lakh in 2019–20, 79.64 lakh in 2020–21 and 75.97 lakh in 2021–22.

## Banke Bihari temple: Apex court questions UP’s ‘tearing hurry’ in bringing ordinance to form Trust

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

THE SUPREME COURT Monday questioned the Uttar Pradesh government over its ordinance setting up a trust to manage the Banke Bihari temple in UP’s Vrindavan, and indicated it would hand over the administration of the religious place to a committee headed by a retired judge.

In November 2023, the Allahabad HC allowed the state to develop a corridor around the temple to enhance facilities for pilgrims, but restrained it from using money from the bank account of the deity for this.

On May 15, 2025, in the course of hearing a matter related to the administration and safety of temples in the Braj region, the SC allowed an interlocutory application filed by the state. It also allowed the state government to use the temple funds for buying 5 acres of land around it for the corridor project, but directed that the land proposed to be purchased for this “shall be in the name of the

deity/(temple) trust.”

On May 26, the state brought the Uttar Pradesh Sri Banke Bihari Ji Mandir Nyas Ordinance, 2025, setting up a trust for managing the affairs of the shrine.

Heading a two-judge bench Monday, Justice Surya Kant asked Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, who appeared for the state: “What was the tearing hurry for the ordinance?” Hearing pleas challenging the May 15 order and the ordinance, the bench, also comprising Justice Joymalya Bagchi, wondered how that order could have come on an interlocutory application when those managing it currently were not party to the hearing.

Nataraj said Banke Bihari was a public temple, and those who had challenged the ordinance and the May 15 order have no locus standi as they are not part of its management. “These parties are not the management committee. So many people claim, but no recognised management committee is there. These are all unauthorised people,” said Nataraj. Senior Advocate Shyam

Divan, appearing for the petitioners, countered and said, “There is a management.”

The court pointed out that the matter which led to the May 15 order was not about the Banke Bihari temple, and “a public notice could have been issued...” “Was there any court-appointed receiver? It was not a case of no-man’s land. Someone had to be heard on behalf of the temple. Some public notice should have been issued by this Court... that on account of the pending dispute between the warring groups... this is what we are proposing...” said Justice Kant.

Justice Kant said the court will ask the former HC-judge-led committee to see how there can be a better management plan for all temples in the area. “Religious tourism is nowadays one potential source of revenue... We should encourage good management. Places like Shirdi, Tirupati, all possible facilities are coming there because there are so many religious tourists,” he pointed out.

The court said it can involve the ASI, too, in the plan for the holistic development of the area.

### INHOUSE

Sarnath India’s nomination to UNESCO

INDIA HAS submitted a dossier titled ‘Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath’ to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for the 2025–26 nomination cycle, the government informed Parliament. Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said this in a written response to a query in Lok Sabha. “As per the Operational Guidelines, 2024, only one property can be submitted for the inscription process in any given cycle,” the minister said in his response. The nomination process takes “approximately 1.5 years” from the date of submission of the dossier, after following the process of inscription as laid down in Operational Guidelines, 2024. PTI

## 17 crore jobs created under Modi rule in 10 years: Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

INDIA GENERATED 17 crore jobs in the 10 years of the Modi government, a big leap from 3 crore in the previous decade of UPA rule, Parliament was informed on Monday.

Answering a starred question in Lok Sabha, Labour & Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, “About 10 crore employment generation is recorded in the last 10 years during the Modi government... If we work of ten years of UPA rule, then only 3 crore jobs were created. We don’t say at our own as it is the data of RBI.” The minister said that the RBI has been releasing annual employment generation data since Independence.

He also told the House that in the last 16 months, the Centre has made jobs available to 11 lakh youth in the country.

“Modi ji has not only created employment but also has a work plant for next five year to create jobs... at the beginning of Modi 3.0, PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana is announced under the plan to create over 4 crore jobs with an outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore. We are getting good results from this scheme,” Mandaviya said.

Employment-linked incentive scheme, PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY), is rolled out from August 1, 2025. The scheme, aimed at incentivising job creation in the country, was approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier. With an outlay of Rs 99,446 crore, the PMVBRY aims to incentivise the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs over two years.

# 19 peacocks found dead in Karnataka village

epaper.indianexpress.com

# 8 GOVT & POLITICS



## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



### CAUGHT IN CROSSFIRE

SENIOR BJP leader and Lok Sabha MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy got a taste of the bitterness between TMC leaders Kalyan Banerjee and Mahua Moitra on Monday. Rudy, who is contesting against his party colleague Sanjeev Balyan for the post of secretary (administration), Constitution Club of India, was at the Makar Dwar of the Parliament House when he saw Banerjee leaving the premises. Rudy approached Banerjee, a four-time MP from Serampore, seeking his vote but the latter shouted at him that he would not support anyone who is backed by Moitra. "You are supported by Mahua Moitra. I will not vote for you," Banerjee told Rudy. As the stunned BJP leader looked at him, Banerjee announced that he "would warn everyone who is friendly" with Moitra to stay away from him.

### OLD PRACTICE REVIVED

RAJYA SABHA getting adjourned for the day after being informed about the death of former Jharkhand CM and sitting MP Shibhu Soren marked a return to a practice which was discontinued a few years ago. The proceedings of the Upper House were adjourned only for a few hours after the death of former Union Ministers Arun Jaitley (2019), Ram Vilas Paswan (2020) and Congress leader Rajeev Satav (2021). On Monday, Opposition leaders led by Congress's Jairam Ramesh suggested that the House should go back to the old practice of adjournment as a mark of respect to the deceased member.

### MISSION SINDOOR

THE INVITATION cards for Independence Day programme this year carry a logo of Operation Sindoor, an effort by the government to publicise India's military operation against terror targets in Pakistan in May this year. It is learnt that Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi in an address to senior Army officers post-Operation Sindoor had mentioned the decision to imprint the logo on all cards and official correspondence of the defence services. Senior Army officers are also likely to deliver lectures in schools on Operation Sindoor to create awareness among students on the operation.

## If Uddhav and I can unite after 20 years, cadres can too: Raj

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 4

SIGNALLING A renewed push for unity and revival, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) president Raj Thackeray on Monday delivered a strong message to his party workers, urging them to bury internal differences and focus on the upcoming Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections. Addressing party office-bearers at a closed-door meeting at Rangsharda Auditorium in Mumbai, Raj underscored the need for organisational discipline and electoral readiness.

"If us two brothers can come together on the same platform after 20 years, why should you hold grudges against one another?" Raj is said to have asked, referring to his recent reunion with Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray. His comment was aimed at resolving long-standing factionalism within the party and inspiring cadres to

### BHUJBAL: ALLIANCE WILL RAISE OPP TALLY

Mumbai: Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal Monday said the coming together of Uddhav and Raj Thackeray will lead to an increase in the seat tally for the Opposition in the upcoming civic polls, especially in Mumbai. But he also claimed that the Mahayuti alliance would emerge victorious regardless. **ENS**

move forward collectively.

Briefing the media after the meeting, senior MNS leader Bala Nandgaonkar said, "Raj saheb was very clear. He told us not to entertain any kind of internal conflicts and to start preparing for the elections unitedly. He stressed that those who had previously worked with the party — former office-bearers, ex-candidates, even inactive workers — must be brought back into the fold."

## NDA MLAs in UP on edge, Yogi moves to reduce friction with officials

MAULSHREE SETH  
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 4

WITH SEVERAL ministers in his government as well as ruling BJP MPs and MLAs going vocal about lack of cooperation from officials in their regions, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken matters in his own hands.

On Friday, *The Indian Express* reported Energy Minister A K Sharma's outbursts against his department's employees, who have been holding protests over plans to privatise power distribution in the state and seeking his removal.

On Sunday July 27, Adityanath held a development review of Kanpur, Chitrakoot and Jhansi divisions at his official residence, where MPs and MLAs of the area as well as officials were present. The message was that the officials

should keep public representatives in the loop on development projects and schemes in their regions.

A similar meeting was held for the Lucknow division on July 30, with such 'Mandalwar Samwad' planned for regions across the state in the coming days.

Sources say that while friction between legislators and officials in the state has been building for about two years — since the BJP returned to power, and Adityanath became CM again — voices are growing now because of the forthcoming panchayat elections, followed by the Assembly polls in 2027.

Pointing to "all-powerful" officials under the Adityanath government, a BJP MLA said: "They act on whim, without regard to public representatives or protocol. We are answerable to the public, but we often find our-

### SHAH TO RAJNATH, MAMATA TO STALIN — TRIBUTES POUR IN FOR SOREN

## 'Turned Adivasi assertion into a political force that birthed state'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief Ministers and other leaders across the political spectrum paid tribute to Jharkhand Mukti Morcha co-founder and former Chief Minister Shibhu Soren who died Monday.

Shah said in a post on X that Soren "struggled for decades for the rights and empowerment of the tribal community in Jharkhand". "With his simple personality and humble nature, he connected with the masses," Shah wrote.

Singh said Soren was counted among the towering leaders of Jharkhand who struggled throughout their lives for the rights and empowerment of the weaker sections of society, especially the tribal community. "He always remained connected to the land and the people," he said.

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee said Soren's death has brought a chapter of Jharkhand's history to an end.

BJP leader and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Soren's life was dedicated to the well-being of the deprived, tribals, and labourers.

### Development Commissioner Pratyaya Amrit appointed new Bihar Chief Secy

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, AUGUST 4

BIHAR DEVELOPMENT Commissioner Pratyaya Amrit, credited with improving road condition and power supply in the state, has been appointed as the next chief secretary, an official notification said on Monday. He will succeed Amrit Lal Meena who retires on August 31.

The notification issued by Additional Chief Secretary, General Administration Department, B Rajinder states: "Pratyaya Amrit, development commissioner with additional charge of additional chief secretary, health and disaster management is transferred and appointed chief secretary with effect from 1 September, 2025, in view of retirement of present chief secretary Amrit Lal Meena on 31 August, 2025."

In his career, Pratyaya Amrit has handled many crucial assignments. He has been among key IAS officers, including R K Singh (former Union minister) and Amir Subhani (former chief secretary), entrusted with the task of giving a boost to governance and more importantly carrying out infrastructure overhaul.

First as secretary of the road construction department and later as energy department secretary, Pratyaya Amrit has been instrumental in constructing major roads in Bihar, including the state government's flagship Ganga Path and AIIMS-Digha fly-over. His appointment assumes significance as the state is going to polls this year end.



Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and his wife and JMM leader Kalpana Soren with the body of Shibhu Soren at Gangaram Hospital in New Delhi on Monday; and (right) Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Hemant Soren. *Abhinav Saha, ANI*

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin wrote on a social media post, "Thiru Shibhu Soren's life was defined by relentless resistance against exploitation and an unshakeable commitment to social justice. As one of the key architects of Jharkhand's statehood movement, he transformed decades of Adivasi assertion into a political force that gave birth to a new state."

Telangana Chief Minister and Congress leader Revanth Reddy hailed Soren's struggles for the formation of Jharkhand and his

efforts to address the problems of tribals.

JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said Soren's "significant contribution to Jharkhand's politics is noteworthy". "His passing has caused an irreparable loss not only to Jharkhand but also to the political and social spheres of the entire country," Kumar wrote.

RJD president Lalu Prasad spoke of "memories of our joint struggles" for achieving "social justice and empowerment of deprived classes".

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the former Jharkhand chief minister dedicated his life to the upliftment of tribal society.

BJD chief and former Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, said Soren would be remembered for his dedicated fight for the rights of tribal and marginalised people.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said Soren was a towering figure in Indian politics and a dedicated statesman who served the people with unwavering commitment.



Kartavya Bhavan, located on New Delhi's Kartavya Path, on Monday. *Praveen Khanna*

### FIRST OF SEVERAL UPCOMING CCS BUILDINGS

## PM opens Kartavya Bhavan, new MHA & MEA address, tomorrow

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will on Wednesday inaugurate the first of the Common Central Secretariat (CCS) buildings, to be named Kartavya Bhavan.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has already moved into the building. The Ministries of Rural Development, External Affairs, Personnel, Petroleum and Natural Gas and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises are also shifting in, it is learnt.

In a statement Monday, the Prime Minister's Office said the building was "designed to foster efficiency, innovation, and collaboration by bringing together various Ministries and Departments currently scattered across Delhi."

These ministries were earlier located in Krishi Bhavan, North

Block, South Block, Udyog Bhavan and Shastri Bhavan. The office of the Principal Scientific Advisor will also move into the building, the government said.

The complex will be spread over 1.5 lakh square metres, across two basements, ground floor and six floors.

"Solar panels on the roof of Kartavya Bhavan 3 will generate over 5.34 lakh units of electricity every year. Solar water heaters meet more than a quarter of the daily hot water need. Charging stations for electric vehicles are also provided," the statement said.

The building, known as CCS 3 for now, has been built as a part of a complex of three buildings at the site of the erstwhile Indra Gandhi National Centre for the Arts on Janpath. The PM is expected to visit and inaugurate the building at around noon, followed by a public event at Kartavya Path to be attended by

the Council of Ministers and thousands of government officials starting at 6 pm, it is learnt.

On Monday, preparations for the event on Kartavya Path, earlier known as Rajpath, were in full-swing. Workers and security personnel could be seen putting up tents and patrolling the area. While ministries have started moving into CCS 3, CCS 1 and 2 are yet to be completed.

As a part of the Central Vista redevelopment plan proposed by the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry in 2019, North Block and South Block are set to be converted into the national museum, while the other office buildings are expected to be demolished to make way for new CCS buildings.

In a reply in Lok Sabha on July 24, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister of State Tokhan Sahu said the CCS 1, 2 and 3 complex was 88% complete and expected to be ready by September.

### SC RAP TO LoP OVER CHINA COMMENTS

## Rahul demoralising armed forces, says BJP; Cong accuses govt of obfuscation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

AFTER THE Supreme Court censured Rahul Gandhi over his allegation of Chinese occupation of Indian territory, the BJP on Monday accused him of demoralising the armed forces and the Congress defended him by saying that the Centre is responsible "for the biggest territorial setback India has faced since 1962".

The Supreme Court Monday stayed proceedings in the criminal defamation case against Gandhi over his remarks over the 2020 Galwan clash with China. The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha had alleged in a social media post that several thousand square kilometres of India's territory had been annexed by China, and Indian soldiers were being "thrashed" by their Chinese counterparts in Arunachal Pradesh.

The BJP questioned if Gandhi was fit for the post, accusing him of assaulting "the same Constitution he symbolically held". "The Honourable Supreme Court made a statement — 'If you are a true Indian, you wouldn't say this. The apex court has made a grave comment on Rahul Gandhi's Bharatiyata... Today, when this comment has come, a question arises — does Bharat deserve a better Leader of Opposition?" BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said.

"As a Leader of the Opposition who has taken oath under the Constitution, to protect the sovereignty of our country, is he destroying the sovereignty of our country? Is he helping nations

that are inimical to our country? Is he demoralising the brave Indian armed forces?" he said.

BJP national general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh said the Gandhi family has "zero right" to comment on the China issue "after all compromises & meek responses to cross border aggression".

Congress communications in-charge Jairam Ramesh, meanwhile, accused the Union government of obfuscation and said every "patriotic Indian" has sought answers to a number of questions since 20 "brave soldiers were martyred in Galwan on 15 June, 2020".

He asked: "Why did the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) give a clean chit to China saying 'Na koi hamari seema mein ghus aya hai, na hi koi ghusa hua hai'?"

Ramesh quoted Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi saying "we want to go back to the status quo of April 2020", and asked if the "withdrawal agreement of 21 October, 2024, takes us back to the status quo".

"Was it not widely reported in 2020 that 1,000 sq km of eastern Ladakh had come under Chinese control, including 900 sq km in Depsang?" asked Ramesh, asking why imports from China were "booming".

"The fact of the matter is that the Modi government is responsible for the biggest territorial setback India has faced since 1962, and it is pursuing "normalisation" with a hostile China because of its cowardice and misplaced economic priorities," said Ramesh.

Congress MP Abhishek Singhvi said the SC had formed "prima facie opinion in favour of Gandhi and issued notice in defamation case".

## Chopper scam accused Michel can't be released, CBI, ED tell Delhi court

NIRBHAY THAKUR  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

THE CBI on Monday told a Delhi court that Christian Michel James, the alleged middleman in the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper scam, should not be released from jail just because his maximum sentence of seven years has been completed.

"This is a case where he's seeking a release... this can't be granted. He has been granted bail in both CBI and ED cases but he's not coming out for whatever reasons," said Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) and Senior Advocate D P Singh who represented the probe agency before the court.

Michel is seeking a release on the grounds that he has already undergone the period of maximum sentence of seven years for the offences he has been charged with. It was argued by Aljo K Joseph, his lawyer, that Michel was entitled to be released under the provisions of Section 436A of the CrPC (maximum period for which an undertrial prisoner can be detained).

Michel had been extradited to India on December 4, 2018 and



Christian Michel James

was arrested by the CBI on arrival. Later, he was also arrested by the Enforcement Directorate. On February 18, 2025, Michel was granted bail in the CBI's case by the Supreme Court. A fortnight later, he was granted bail by the Delhi HC in the ED case. But he has refused to furnish the bail bonds and is still staying in Tihar jail, awaiting the renewal of his passport.

"After charges are framed... he has to plead guilty. Only then can my lords say that his sentence is over. Otherwise he has to approach a constitutional court by way of writ," SPP Singh said.

Special Public Prosecutor N K Matta, who appeared for ED, said: "Remission can be considered only after punishment. Another submission I would like to make... seven years of punishment have not been completed in the ED's case," he said. Special Judge Sanjay Jindal of Rouse Avenue Courts kept the matter for Tuesday.

## PM's Pariksha Pe Charcha makes Guinness record: most registrations in one month

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Pariksha Pe Charcha initiative has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for "most people registered on a citizen engagement platform in one month", the Ministry of Education said Monday.

According to officials, 3.53 crore valid registrations were received during the eighth edition of the programme. PM Modi directly interacts with students, teachers, and parents as part of the Pariksha Pe Charcha initiative, which aims to transform the examination season "into a festival of positivity, preparation, and purposeful learning". **PTI**



जन्म- 11 जनवरी 1944

मृत्यु- 04 अगस्त 2025



# विनम्र श्रद्धांजलि

## दिशोम गुरु शिबू सोरेन

समस्त राज्यवासियों की तरफ से

# हल जोहार

प्रातः 9.00 बजे विधानसभा में राजकीय  
सम्मान के साथ अंतिम विदाई दी जाएगी

अंतिम संस्कार - पैतृक गाँव नेमरा,  
रामगढ़ में

सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

EYE ON THE GOAL

In wake of Trump’s latest moves, Delhi must push ahead with the trade deal while focusing on the domestic reform agenda

DAYS AFTER US President Donald Trump announced a 25 per cent tariff on Indian imports, and an unspecified penalty for defence and energy imports from Russia, the Indian government has initiated an exercise to thrash out concessions across sectors that can be put forth in trade talks between the two countries. As reported in this paper, key ministries have been directed to examine what can be offered to make the deal more attractive to Trump, with the US said to be pushing for greater market access than what has been on the table so far, bringing down tariff walls and doing away with non-tariff barriers. Another round of talks is slated to be held in the last week of August.

There will be red lines, of course. The government, for instance, is reluctant to give concessions on some agri items, even as it must negotiate to increase market access to the world’s largest economy — in 2024-25, India exported goods worth roughly \$87 billion to the US, led by electronics (17.6 per cent of exports), pharma (11.8 per cent) and gems and jewellery (11.5 per cent). The imposition of higher tariffs on the country as compared to those levied on its competitors such as Vietnam and Indonesia will impact export competitiveness and have implications for the broader economic momentum. Assessments by various agencies have provided some sense of the possible impact on the Indian economy — ICRA, for instance, has lowered its GDP growth forecast for the year to 6 per cent from 6.2 per cent earlier, while CareEdge Ratings has estimated the direct export loss to be around 0.3 to 0.4 per cent of GDP. Some of the options before the government reportedly involve increasing purchases of defence equipment and oil, and greater nuclear engagement, among others. Indian refiners have already cut down on oil imports from Russia to 1.6 million barrels per day in July, down 24 per cent from the month before. This decline has been offset by higher imports from countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the US and Nigeria. Concessions to the US could also be granted in areas of public procurement — in line with the India-UK trade agreement.

Delhi’s sober response, in the face of Trump’s broadside — the US President has called India a “dead economy” — reflects pragmatism when faced with pressure tactics designed to extract concessions. But, in a changed global order, where Trump is undoing the rules that underpinned the global trading system, a business-as-usual approach is unlikely to work. India should continue to sidestep the loose rhetoric, while moving ahead with negotiations to conclude a deal that delivers benefits to both sides. Alongside, it should press forward the domestic reform agenda to boost competitiveness, improve ease of doing business, and increase the attractiveness of the country as an investment destination.

GURUJI SHIBU SOREN

He revived the Jharkhand statehood movement and gave a new life to Adivasi politics

ON A WINTER day in 1957, a 15-year-old boy in Gola block in undivided Hazaribagh district in Jharkhand was waiting for his father, who never returned. School teacher Sobaran Manjhi was killed by moneylenders, and young Shivcharan’s life changed forever. The teenager pledged to end the exploitation by moneylenders and to fight for his people, the Adivasis. In the coming decades, the young man who came to be known as ShibU Soren and later affectionately called GurUji became the fulcrum of Adivasi politics. ShibU Soren, 81, who died on Monday, leaves behind a legacy of inspiring political vision and indefatigable grit mixed with some persistent controversies.

After his father’s death, Soren led a band of youth in Santhal Pargana and initiated a movement called *Dhan Kati*. The group encouraged Adivasis to harvest crops from lands that were illegally grabbed by moneylenders when they failed to pay off the debt. Soon, this movement became an organised struggle for the recognition of Adivasi rights over *jal, jungle, zam-een*. In 1972, Soren, along with A K Roy, a Marxist leader, and Binod Bihari Mahato, founded the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and revived the movement for statehood. To bring the industrial workers, *sadans*, the non-tribal natives of Jharkhand, and Adivasis together was not an easy task. Soren realised that the dream of a separate Jharkhand would not be fulfilled without the participation of non-tribal communities. He sought to change the definition of *Diku* — for him, the term no longer only meant “outsiders”, but referred to those who exploited Jharkhand’s resources. His dream of a separate state materialised only in 2000.

Political instability, allegations of corruption and violence didn’t let any of the CMs complete their tenure in the new state until 2014, when the BJP made Raghubar Das the first non-Adivasi chief minister. Soren’s own political life was also shadowed by controversies. In 2004, within two months of becoming Union minister of coal and mines, he had to resign due to an arrest warrant for his alleged role in the Chirudih massacre of 1975, in which 10 people were killed. In 2008, a fast-track court acquitted him, citing lack of evidence. He faced allegations of taking bribes to save the minority government of PV Narasimha Rao in 1993. The SC in 1998 ruled that legislators enjoy impunity from criminal prosecution in bribery cases related to their votes and speeches in Parliament — the judgment was overruled in 2024. However, controversies could not take away from Soren’s achievements. After *Marang Gomke* Jaipal Singh Munda, *Dishom Guru* ShibU Soren was the leader who successfully reimaged Adivasi politics beyond the limits of identity, sub-nationalism and language.

POTAYTO, TOMAHTO

A Miocene-epoch romance gave the world its beloved tuber

FRENCH FRIES AND tomato ketchup may be a match made in fast food heaven, but the meet-cute that changed the world occurred nine million years ago in the freezing cold of the Andean slopes. A recent study published in *Cell* has traced the origin of the beloved potato to another pantry essential, the tomato, and its fling with a wild potato species known as the *Etuberosum*. The research conducted by a team at the Agricultural Genomics Institute at Shenzhen, China, solves a mystery that has long gripped the world of botany: How is it that the potato plant, which bears a strong outward resemblance to its wilder relative, is genetically closer to the tomato?

The discovery is exciting for at least two reasons. One, it shows that genomes can help solve the mystery of how much of today’s flora evolved — a significant breakthrough considering the rarity of plant fossils (soft vegetative matter doesn’t preserve as well as, for example, the hard shells of marine invertebrates like snails). Two, it shows how looking to a plant’s past may help preserve its future; the potato, it turns out, could only evolve because a key gene in the tomato unlocked the tuber-producing gene in the *Etuberosum*, with the resulting hybrid growing a new starchy organ that resembles the modern spud. Given its importance to food security — potatoes only rank behind rice, wheat and maize in global production volume — there are already attempts to use tomato genes to create even harder varieties of the tuber.

Despite its wholesomeness and endless flexibility, adding heft, texture and flavour to cuisines everywhere since the Spanish shipped it to Europe in the 16th century, the potato has all too often been reduced to playing a supporting role in meals. In a world obsessed with limiting carbs, it has been vilified and villainised, held responsible for ballooning weights and expanding girths. Could the discovery of the Miocene-epoch romance, a random encounter that led to the birth of a food that can feed billions of the Earth’s hungry, help rehabilitate its image? The world says potayto, genetics says tomahto.



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

IT WILL BE a huge mistake for India to treat the trade negotiations with US President Donald Trump just as a trade negotiation. The “concede to America lobby” in India, which is surprisingly ideologically strong in elite circles, is spectacularly misreading the moment. They start with obvious truisms. India and America can be extraordinarily productive partners. India needs vigorous domestic economic reform. And we have to realise that there is a capitalist reset underway and we will need to adapt. Just look at the fact that many countries are rushing for a deal. We do not want to be left out.

But these truisms disguise the most spectacular fact about the moment: It is a profoundly imperial moment. Trump is not simply resetting capitalism into a new form. If the objective of the reset of capitalism was protectionism for the sake of industrial policy, re-embedding capitalism in new social relations favourable to labour, regulating immigration, countries like India could deal with it, and even ought to make intelligent concessions to enable it. But the reset that Trump is demanding is very different. It would be foolish to rush headlong into enabling it without resistance.

Consider this thought experiment. Suppose a powerful country wants to both impose tariffs and achieve bilateral balance of trade. Suppose, further, that there was no reciprocity in the tariffs. The powerful country rather implausibly complained that it has been exploited by the rest of the world. It now wants to reverse that trend. How? By imposing asymmetric tariffs. This power is asking everyone to lower their tariffs to zero, while itself continuing to impose tariffs, almost as if this were a 19th-century imperial tariff regime. Further, this power gets you to buy particular goods it wants to sell, not as part of a give and take, but basically under threat. This government reserves the rights to its own industrial policy, unhealthy subsidised agriculture, but wants you to upend your entire agriculture policy. Suppose, further, that this power now does not believe in the rules of the game, but keeps coming up with discretionary favours and exemptions at will. Suppose, further, that this power has no interest in, and is the single biggest obstacle to, dealing with one of the profoundest transitions humanity has to

Giving in to emerging US state, in name of reform, realism, capitalist reset, is affront to India’s dignity

face: Climate change. It wants a fossil fuel economy on steroids.

Imagine, further, that this power constantly seeks to interfere in plausibly defensible regulations in all countries. It does not want to leave them alone, but insists that the regulation of technology, content moderation, should be according to its values. Imagine, further, that this power was interested in extractive mercantilism for which it will not hesitate to use its military might. Imagine, further, that this power no longer thinks that advantages accrue to it because of the credibility of its monetary system. It seeks to retain the privileged status of its currency, not by making its institutions attractive, but by trying to coerce others through tariffs. It now maintains its exorbitant privilege by more threats.

To add to this volatile mix, it encourages what is, from a developmental point of view, the most useless and insidious form of speculation: Cryptocurrency. It also creates a system where the rulers directly benefit from the system. It further undermines the credibility of the global system by basically saying that anyone who gives bad news about the economy will be penalised.

But its ambition goes further. It is constantly meddling in other countries’ affairs in the most damaging way possible. It claims to eschew democracy promotion, but does something worse: Meddle in the rule-of-law processes of other countries. It imposes stiff penalties on one country simply because that country was following the rule of law and defending its democracy against those who plotted a coup. It wrecks every international institution that could provide global public goods. But worse, it sanctions international officials who were simply doing their job and penalises them. Every country has the right to regulate immigration, and even close its borders. But this power decides that it has to send a message through the sheer cruelty and arbitrariness of the process. Its own model of capitalism is not a reset to a new model. It is, rather, the culmination of the most oligarchic and deals-based tendencies of the old model.

Imagine, further, that this system, and not just the leader who represents it, gets used to a new symbolic and material tributary system: World leaders showing up,

grovelling for deals, willing to be humiliated. Imagine, further, that this power is unwilling to stop one of the most horrendous moral catastrophes of the 21st century, which is being carried out with its support. Not only is it unwilling to stop it, it is penalising, across the world, people who might be moved and outraged by this catastrophe. All countries want to get ahead. But imagine, further, that this country wants to retain supremacy, by force of arms if necessary. Imagine, further, that this country treats its longstanding allies like pieces of dirt. It drips with contempt for them. This is not a power with whom even an alliance is possible. It will accept only vassals. Now what would such a country be called? There is no other word for it: Imperialism.

It’s mind-boggling that we have to hesitate to use this word. It is also a mistake to think this is just about managing the ego of one leader. There is no pushback in the system to this imperial project. Great powers are always imperialist. Weaker powers always have to adjust. That is a debate for another occasion. But Trump is imperialism on steroids. The reset of capitalism is not in favour of mitigating environmental risk, more social protection or even coherent industrial policy.

If this is a reset, it is towards a more coercive domestic political system, accelerating oligarchy, increasing discretion, throwing capitalism into a more speculative tailspin, and outright coercion of others. Our pro-America lobby is loudly proclaiming that this model is working. Let us put it as modestly as we can, the jury is out on that one, though pro-Trumpists in India are declaring premature victory on his behalf. But in any case, it is not clear what the rest of the world gains.

India and America should, at their best, stand for shared political values — zones of liberty, constitutionalism and open society. But capitulating to this emerging American imperial state, under the euphemisms of reform, realism, or capitalist reset, is an affront to both India’s dignity and its interests. And it will be terrible for the future of the world.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express



SHAMBO SAMRAT SAMAJDAR AND SHASHANK R JOSHI

IMAGINE STANDING QUIETLY by a river at sunset. The sky glows softly, painted in shades of amber and violet. As twilight deepens, two gentle voices seem to speak from within the heart: One belongs to the poet Rabindranath Tagore and the other to the sage Adi Shankaracharya. Although separated by centuries, their voices blend seamlessly, guiding us to one profound truth: The universe is a unified ocean of endless joy and consciousness.

Tagore’s poetic spirit saw life as a dance of eternal bliss, shimmering within every leaf, every drop of rain, every rising sun. He invited us not just to observe this divine harmony but to feel it intimately, within ourselves. Tagore believed our everyday existence is bathed in sacredness, connecting us with something infinite and joyous.

Shankaracharya echoed this with clarity, gently reminding us that beneath the layers of daily life — our desires, sorrows, virtues, and vices — exists a realm untouched by change. It’s a place of pure awareness, blissful and boundless. For Shankaracharya, we are not limited individuals struggling through life; rather, we are infinite consciousness itself.

HEART’S TRUE HOME

Tagore’s poetry, Adi Shankaracharya’s teachings connect us all

IN GOOD FAITH

At first glance, these two great minds seem distinct: Tagore spoke poetically, from the heart, while Shankaracharya illuminated truth through reason and insight. Yet, together they show us two paths to the same destination — the realisation of our unity with the universe.

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Imagine yourself as a wave upon a vast ocean. The wave rises, travels, and eventually returns to the water. While each wave appears separate, its essence is forever merged with the ocean. Tagore and Shankaracharya teach us to recognise ourselves as waves in the ocean of life — never truly separate, always part of the greater whole.

Both masters also transcend religious rituals and boundaries, inviting us into a spirituality rooted deeply in silence. Tagore described profound devotion as a silent bowing of the heart — a communion beyond words, rituals, and temples. Shankaracharya similarly taught that spiritual awakening is simple: It means recognising our inherent freedom and bliss, not searching for them outside ourselves.

Their teachings become especially powerful in our busy modern lives. Doctors, healers, teachers, caregivers — indeed, all of us —

find profound meaning here. When we begin to see the divine in everyone we meet, each act of kindness becomes sacred, each moment becomes significant, and life itself transforms into spiritual practice.

Tagore’s gentle invitation is to embrace life as a divine celebration — to feel sacredness in ordinary moments, such as sunlight filtering through leaves, shared laughter, or quiet acts of compassion. Shankaracharya adds the depth of insight, teaching us to dissolve barriers that create loneliness and separateness. Together, they gently guide us towards a deeper understanding of our true selves, leading to lasting peace.

In their combined wisdom, we rediscover our heart’s true home — an endless stream of joy and serenity. Their voices blend into a harmonious melody, affirming that within us and all around us flows infinite bliss, connecting each soul eternally with the cosmos.

Samajdar is a clinical pharmacologist and diabetes and allergy-asthma therapeutics specialist in Kolkata. Joshi is a Mumbai-based endocrinologist and former chair, International Diabetes Federation Southeast Asia

AUGUST 5, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

PUNJAB POLLS

WHILE THE CENTRE is assessing whether to hold elections in Punjab before October 5 when the fourth six-month term of President’s Rule expires, new factors are emerging which may prompt it to postpone elections by a few months by extending Governor’s Rule through a constitutional amendment. According to informed sources, Harchand Singh Longowal favours the elections to be only after four or five months. It is not yet known if he has conveyed his views to the Centre.

BHOPAL GAS VICTIMS

A NATIONAL DELEGATION of the PUCL and the PUDR, which visited the gas-affected areas of Bhopal, said that the state government had “grossly underestimated” the number

of gas victims. The members of the delegation, including Justice V M Tarkunde, George Fernandes and Rajni Kothari, said the underestimation of deaths as well as the extent of the suffering of gas victims will only serve the interests of Union Carbide, which was responsible for the disaster.

KASHMIR TALKS

TO END THE present instability in Kashmir, the Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, is to have a final round of talks with Kashmir leaders. Gandhi, who has summoned the PCC(I) chief, Mufti Sayed, to Delhi to meet him, is also expected to call the former chief minister, Farooq Abdullah, and discuss with him the pros and cons of a Kashmir “solution”. NC (F) leaders expect a “good” gesture from Gandhi, particularly after Abdullah has publicly declared that

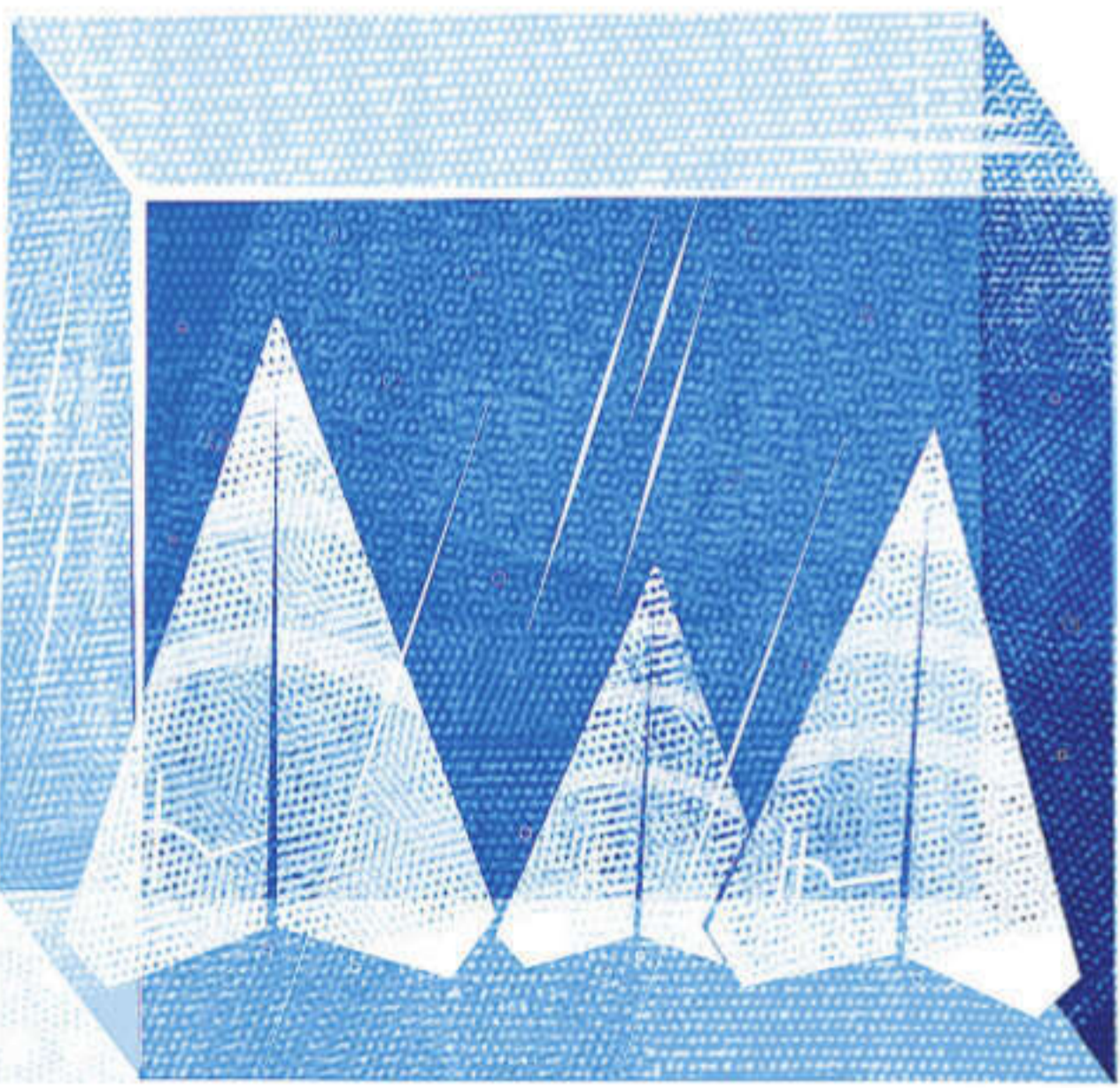
he would cooperate with the Centre.

BENAZIR BHUTTO’S PLAN

THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE, from which Benazir Bhutto was expected to gain on her return to Pakistan with the body of her brother, Shahnawaz Bhutto, may now gradually fade out if she further postpones her departure from Paris. Left to herself, the acting chairperson of the Pakistan People’s Party is ready to fly as early as possible to Karachi with the body of her brother to be buried along the grave of his father, the executed prime minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Shahnawaz Bhutto was found dead in his flat in Cannes, France. Foul play was suspected. So, the police carried out three autopsies and may order the fourth, if they are not able to find out the exact cause of his death.

# Six years on, standing still

Abrogation of Article 370 has belied promises of increased investment, economic development of J&K



C R Sasikumar

J&K: KEY MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS			
Economic Indicator	J&K Pre 2019*	Post 2019**	National Average+
<b>I. GROSS STATE DOMESTIC PRODUCT:</b>			
i) Nominal growth (%)	10.2	8	9.65
ii) Real growth (%)	6.91	3.97	8.24
<b>II. PER CAPITA INCOME:</b>			
i) Nominal growth (%)	9.64	6.89	9.81
ii) Real growth (%)	6.02	2.93	6.54
III. Average Inflation:	5.41	5.87	5.49
IV. Unemployment (%)	10	17	8
V. Fixed Capital (Rs crore)	10039	5553	NA
VI. Internal Debt (Rs crore)	42221	82299	NA
VII. Outstanding Liabilities (% GSDP)	49	51	27.65
VIII. Credit-Deposit Ratio (%)	51	61	80
IX. Bank Deposits (%)	14.84	8.44	11.26
X. Own Tax: (% of GSDP)	6.32	8.44	6.61

\*Data relates to the period 2014-15 to 2018-19

\*\*Data relates to the period 2019-20 to 2023-24

+ Data relates to 2023-24.

NA: Not Applicable

Source: Central Government, State Government and RBI data



HASEEB A DRABU

Article 370 was seen as a development dampener. Its abrogation was expected to bring about economic transformation in Jammu and Kashmir. The promised bargain underlying the constitutional, governance and administrative downgrade was an era of unprecedented economic growth and prosperity. The development dividend that Kashmiris had been deprived of for the last seven decades and more would be shared with them, as in the rest of the country.

Today, J&K completes six years as a Union Territory. This anniversary, like a forced pause, allows us to take stock of how J&K's economy has fared as a centrally administered unit. Have the promise of opening the floodgates of corporate investments and the promises of prosperity been delivered? Far from it. The macroeconomic performance of J&K post-2019 is disappointing.

J&K's \$30 billion economy has grown at a much slower pace post the abrogation. The growth in Gross State Domestic Product has declined both in nominal and in real terms. The fall is much sharper in real terms, placing J&K far below the national rate of growth. As a result, the contribution of J&K to the national GDP has declined to 0.77 per cent. The tertiary sector, which accounts for 60 per cent of the local economy, has borne the brunt of the slowdown with its rate of growth getting halved to 5.8 per cent in 2023-24 from 11 per cent in 2022-23. Income growth from hotels and restaurants declined from 38 per cent to 13 per cent. The growth in real per capita income has also been halved — from 6 per cent to less than 3 per cent. In 2011-12, J&K's per capita income was 84 per cent of the national average, but now it has declined to 76 per cent. The gap between the two is the highest ever in 2024.

Besides the slowdown in income growth, unemployment has been volatile post-2019 with temporary spikes much higher than earlier peaks. The unemployment rate spiked to 23 per cent in March 2023 and remained at 17 per cent in 2024. In the 15-29 age bracket, the unemployment rate of more than 30 per cent is almost double the national average. J&K is now among the states with the highest unemployment rate. It is high despite an increase in the labour force participation rate as well as the worker population ratio — this reflects economic instability. The number of workers in industry reached a decadal low in 2022-23. Even the number of factories has been stagnant at the 2016-17 level.

Underlying the slower growth and higher volatility, be it output or employment, is a drop in fixed capital. J&K's fixed capital, which peaked in 2016-17, had halved by 2022-23. This drop is quite unprecedented and has not been distorted by the separation of Ladakh.

The UT's government recently stated that J&K has attracted investment proposals worth Rs 84,544 crore across 42 industrial sectors. In 2023, actual investments on the ground reached Rs 2,518 crore, with 266 industrial units registered in Jammu and 148 in Kashmir. Yet, the official statistics collated by the central statistical bodies, such as the Annual Survey of Industries, show a decline in the invested capital in J&K. Capital investments started gaining momentum in 2015-16 and peaked the next year. By 2022-23, this had declined in absolute terms. In 2022-23, less capital was invested in J&K compared to what it was five years earlier. It should be obvious that the capital intensity of the economy has declined.

The decline in fixed and invested capital has been accompanied by a sharp rise in borrowings — a sure recipe for a fiscal crisis. Despite better revenue mobilisation, J&K's fiscal health has deteriorated significantly with higher debt and deficits compared to pre-2019. Internal debt has almost doubled in just five years. The total liabilities of the government have also surged, making them more than half of the GSDP. The total outstanding liabilities of the government are now almost 60 per cent of the GSDP. The all-India average of states is less than half of

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SHUBHRA GUPTA

A BEST ACTOR National Award for Shah Rukh Khan has set tongues wagging. Since the announcement, WhatsApp groups have been abuzz, and Insta DMs and Reddit sub-threads have been on fire. Whichever group — Boomers, Millennials, Gen Z (I won't be surprised if his famed charm spreads to Alphas at some point as well) you belong to, everyone has an opinion on SRK and the fact that he has received this award 33 years after he came into the movies, and 30 years after he delivered one of the biggest blockbusters in Hindi cinema, which redefined how mainstream romances were made.

This October will be the 30th anniversary of *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*, in which SRK bore Kojal away with the blessings of her uber-strict dad Amrish Puri. Since then, the superstar, who has indubitably been one all through these decades regardless of his hits and pits, has amassed a clutch of honours, including the once-much-coveted Filmfare black ladies, and honorary doctorates around the world.

But a National Award, the highest film award handed out by the Indian government, has been elusive. Until now. Atlee's *Jawan*, which came to theatres two years back (2023), and its lead — SRK in a double role as both the

grizzled war veteran and the Robin Hood-esque younger vigilante — are at one with their agenda. Setting wrongs right in a system creaking under corruption, raising the flag for those who need it most — farmers struggling under debt, soldiers on the border dying by the use of faulty guns, empty oxygen cylinders in hospitals — with the help of an army of determined young women.

More than the fact that it's taken him this long to get to the National Award podium, I'm surprised at the choice of the film. SRK, coming off the back of five fallow years in which both his professional and person lives took a beating — his previous films had crashed, and his son was implicated in a false case and imprisoned — had roared back with *Pathaan*, a zingy spy saga, in which he went loud and proud, reclaiming his identity, which had been (and still is, from trolls) under attack.

*Pathaan* would have been an easy choice. It's comic-book enough for us not to take any of the fun and games seriously. On the other hand, *Jawan* is messy and messy, yes, but it is also unapologetically political, with SRK holding up his hand, fanning his fingers, and saying press that button and make the right choice of *neta*, while slipping in a line about

the *beta*. There's also a batty sequence which involves the stealing of electronic voting machines. They may have been wrapped up in Atlee's loud, full-tilt filmmaking, but they all demand notice, exactly the things the present dispensation is very sensitive about.

Clearly, someone or more than one member of the jury either had a sense of humour or was not as aware about the visceral impact of that film which came in the year SRK bounced back to doing what he does best: Entertain his viewers and please his fanbase across the world. Or, it could well be that whoever was batting for him felt it was high time: If you want a comparison, Aamir Khan has four National Awards, two for films he did as a newcomer in 1988, for *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*, as well as *Raakh*. It is another matter altogether that Rani Mukerji, who has also got her first National award for Best Actress after almost 30 years for *Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway*, has been nearly forgotten in all the *der aayee-durust aaye* chatter.

What the SRK award feels most like is a reflection of both the state and the actor having found a pragmatic middle ground, the former perhaps using this as a gesture of conciliation, and the latter accepting with grace and

humour. In an Instagram post, you can see him with an arm in a cast (he is reportedly recovering after a procedure) thanking the "jury and the I&B ministry, Atlee sir, my team and my wife and kids, and Bharat *sarkar* and my fans" for the "honour", and stretching out his uninjured arm in his trademark move, promising he will be back soon, serving cinema with truth. Although irony must have died, because the same jury handed the blatantly Islamophobic *The Kerala Story* two big awards.

Nitpickers, and there are plenty, are claiming that the "honour" has been diluted because the award has been split between him and Vikrant Massey, for Massey's terrific turn as an underprivileged student who cracks the civil services in Vidhu Vinod Chopra's *12th Fail*. There may be some truth in it, and it may be a case of damning with faint praise, but the jury could just as easily and comprehensively have ignored SRK all over again, just as they did with *Swades* (2004) and *Chak De! India* (2007), which are the two films he should have got the Best Actor award for, no ifs, no buts.

So here we are, and there he is: *SRK, naam toh suna hoga?*

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## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"After Putin strung him along for months...Trump took steps this past week against India...The President now has an opportunity to press his advantage by doing the same with China."  
— THE WASHINGTON POST

# A journey from the margins

For Adivasis, Shibu Soren was a guiding light in their struggle for political self-determination



SANTOSH K KIRO

IT WAS 2019. The Jharkhand assembly elections had already been announced. On an early winter morning, I was sitting beside the ageing Shibu Soren at his house in Dumka. A huge crowd, cutting across caste, creed and community, had gathered there and was waiting for their leader to flag off the campaign for the day. When we finished our conversation, Soren stood up and wished them good luck.

Two kilometres away, another crowd had gathered for the same reason — Prime Minister Narendra Modi was about to come and address the election campaign.

Days later, Soren's magic worked again. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) formed the government, and broke all previous records.

Soren's death marks the end of an era in the national life of Adivasis. He instilled in them a sense of political struggle. Soren was destiny's child. The gruesome murder of his father, Sobaran Manjhi, who was a teacher at a school in Gola near Nemra, his ancestral village, changed his life. Sobaran stood against exploitation by moneylenders and was eventually killed when Shivcharan, as Shibu was known in his early life, was still very young.

This incident turned Shivcharan into an adult overnight. From Shivcharan, he became Shibu, later Guruji and then *Dishom Guru* — all through a life dedicated to eradicating moneylending, exploitation and oppression of Adivasis in the region. Legend has it that Shivcharan had promised that he would not shave his beard until he took revenge for his father's murder. However, his revenge did not stop at curbing moneylending. The struggle led him to mainstream politics and resulted in the formation of Jharkhand as a separate state in 2000.

After the murder of his father, Soren raised a band of youth and led a movement against moneylenders in his region, who used to collect exorbitant interest against loans. Failure to pay them off would result in crops being snatched from the tribal farmers' lands. Often, the moneylenders

would grab their lands and till them. Against this practice, Soren led a *dhan katni* (harvesting) movement. His supporters harvested the standing crops that the moneylenders had grown on the "grabbed" lands.

Due to the violent nature of the movement, many FIRs were filed against Soren. But the police could never catch him. In 1972, Soren, along with veteran communist leaders Binod Bihari Mahato and A K Roy, formed the JMM. However, he continued to lead the life of a fugitive due to police lookouts and his conflict with the moneylenders. To his own people, Soren was a messiah, but to others, including the then-ruling Congress, he was anathema. Stories of Soren soon reached the corridors of power — both in Patna and in Delhi. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi reportedly wanted him "under control".

A young Indian Administrative Service officer, K B Saxena, was sent to Dhanbad as its deputy commissioner to deal with him. Saxena, however, soon learnt that the government's notes on Soren were not all true. Eventually, Saxena met Soren in the deep forest of Tundi, where Soren ran a *ratri pathshala* for the people in the region. He found Soren's struggle legitimate and convinced him to surrender before the law. He even sent a letter to Mrs Gandhi briefing her on Soren's life and struggle. This letter changed Soren's political destiny. When he surrendered in 1975, Congress was willing to join hands with the JMM, under the leadership of united Bihar's chief minister, Jagannath Mishra. Mishra arranged a meeting between Soren and Mrs Gandhi.

In 1980, Soren became an MP and emerged as the undisputed leader of the tribal people, who had long been fighting for a separate state. Although he was accused in many cases of violence, including the Chirudih massacre, he was acquitted in all these cases, one after another.

From 1980 to 2000, Soren led the Jharkhand statehood movement from the front. He worked with leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L K Advani, Lalu Prasad, and many others to achieve his goal — statehood for Jharkhand.

The tribal people of India will remember Soren for his grit, determination and leading the struggle for political self-determination, while for the people of Jharkhand, he will always be alive — in their thoughts and in their resilience.

The writer is head of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, St. Xavier's College, Ranchi

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### MALEGAON INJUSTICE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Malegaon questions' (*IE*, August 4). The acquittal of the seven accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case is a wake-up call for all the sections of the criminal justice system. There has been no justice in the case of this bomb blast, which killed six people and injured nearly 100 others. The lack of serious and fair investigation is not only a blatant denial of justice to the affected people but also raises pressing questions about the investigation process of the various agencies. The NIA must appeal the verdict and justice must be served to the victims.

Indrajeet Shukla, Lucknow

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'Malegaon questions' (*IE*, August 4). There is a requirement of "proof beyond reasonable doubt" in the criminal jurisprudence for conviction. The editorial rightly points at the delay, loopholes, glaring lapses, inconsistencies, omissions in the investigation and missing of witness statements. The judgment refers with concern to the serving military officer's connection to Abhinav Bharat. The trial court's observation of grave suspicion and lacunae in the delayed investigation is sufficient ground for the NIA to appeal.

Vasant Nalawade, Satara

### FORESIGHT, NOT FEAR

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Needed: More bargaining chips' (*IE*, August 4). Ashok Gulati's piece rightly underscores the need for India to diversify exports and reduce overreliance on the US market. But the crux lies not just in diversification but in long-overdue structural reforms in Indian agriculture and manufacturing. Without addressing inefficiencies, export diversification becomes wishful rhetoric. Tariff retaliation cannot be India's sole bargaining chip; policy consistency, quality infrastructure, and streamlined compliance must shape our global

competitiveness. The trade war offers an opportunity if we reform with foresight, not fear.

Zainab Irshad, Patna

### A REASONABLE DEAL

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Stand up to Trump' (*IE*, August 4). A reasonable agreement with the US would require both some genuine but non-destabilising real concessions and also pandering to President Donald Trump's ego. Several economic concessions are under consideration. Tapering off further the already declining oil imports from Russia, a major irritant, and increasing the same from the US, should be and is likely to be already under consideration. Damaging the agriculture or dairy sectors or cutting off ties with BRICS, among other things, would be off limits for the Indian establishment.

Vijay Khosla, New Delhi

### DISTURBING TREND

THIS REFERS TO the report 'Army officer assaults 4 SpiceJet staff in Srinagar, one has spinal fracture' (*IE*, August 4). The rising number of incidents of air travellers losing their temper and abusing or assaulting airport staff or fellow passengers is disturbing. The alleged assault by a senior army officer at Srinagar airport, which inflicted severe injuries to the airline's ground staff, is especially alarming because the officer is part of an organisation that demands the highest level of discipline from its personnel. Just days ago, a flier on a Kolkata-Mumbai IndiGo flight struck a fellow passenger, who had suffered a panic attack, without provocation, causing tense moments for everyone on board. Such violators should be dealt with severely under the relevant DGCA regulations. Now that air travellers are rising in numbers exponentially, we must show zero tolerance for even minor transgressions to make air travel safe.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

# Five Punjab ex-cops get life sentence for killing 7 in 1993 fake encounters

Citing age, CBI court stops short of awarding capital punishment, imposes ₹3.5 lakh fine on each

JASBIR MALHI  
MOHALI, AUGUST 4

A CBI special court in Mohali Monday stopped short of awarding capital punishment as it sentenced Punjab's five retired police officers to rigorous life imprisonment for killing seven persons, including three special police officers, in fake encounters in 1993, and described their conduct as “not only unlawful, but also morally bankrupt and profoundly inhumane”.

The court of CBI Special Judge Baljinder Singh Sra also imposed a fine of Rs 3.50 lakh on each of the convicts, ordering that the amount be paid to the legal heirs of the victims.

“Upon consideration of the rival contentions, this court is of the view that there is no doubt regarding the sheer venality and callousness with which the convicts acted, reflecting an utter disregard for human dignity and life. Their conduct was not only

unlawful, it was morally bankrupt and profoundly inhumane. However, in view of their advanced age and the prolonged agony endured during the course of the trial over many years, this court refrains from awarding the capital punishment,” the court said.

The court on August 1 had held the five retired police officers —the then deputy superintendent of police Bhupinderjit Singh (61), who later retired as SSP; the then assistant sub-inspector Devinder Singh (58), who retired as DSP; the then assistant sub-inspector Gulgarg Singh (72), the then Inspector Suba Singh (83) and the then ASI Raghbir Singh (63) — guilty of criminal conspiracy, fabrication of records, murder and destruction of evidence under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code.

Five other accused in the case — the then Inspector Gurdev Singh, the then sub-inspector Gian Chand, then ASI Jagir Singh and then head constables Mohinder

Singh and Aroor Singh — passed away during the trial, while one turned prosecution witness.

The court, in its order said that Dr B R Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, once said, “Rights are protected not by laws but by the social and moral conscience of society”. Regrettably, this moral consciousness has yet to be fully absorbed and reflected in the institutions of governance entrusted with the protection of people's rights, read the order.

The case stems from two separate alleged fake encounters in June and July 1993. As per the CBI, which was handed over the probe following a Supreme Court order, a police team led by the then station house officer of Sarhali police station Gurdev Singh picked up SPOs Shinder Singh, Desa Singh, Sukhdev Singh and two others — Balkar Singh and Daljit Singh — from the residence of a government contractor on June 27, 1993. All of them were residents of Rani Vallah vil-

lage in Tarn Taran. They were taken to Sarhali police station and were falsely implicated in a robbery case, as per the CBI probe.

On July 2, 1993, the Sarhali police registered a case against Shinder Singh, Desa Singh and Sukhdev Singh, claiming that they had absconded along with government-issued weapons. On July 12, 1993, a police team led by the then DSP Bhupinderjit Singh and then Inspector Gurdev Singh claimed that while escorting one Mangal Singh to Gharka village for a recovery in the da-coty case, they were attacked by militants. In the crossfire, Mangal Singh, Desa Singh, Shinder Singh and Balkar Singh were killed, police had claimed.

The forensic analysis, however, revealed inconsistencies. It was found that the bullet casings collected from the scene did not match the weapons allegedly recovered from the deceased. Post-mortem examination reports also indicated that the victims had been tortured prior to death.

Despite being identified by two ASIs, the bodies were cremated as “unclaimed” and “unidentified”, as per CBI investigation.

On July 28, 1993, three more persons Sukhdev Singh, Sarabjit Singh and Harvinder Singh were killed in a staged encounter involving a police team, also led by the then DSP Bhupinderjit Singh, according to the CBI investigation.

The case came to light as part of the broader investigation into mass cremations of unclaimed bodies in Punjab during the militancy era, spearheaded by rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa.

Following Supreme Court orders on December 12, 1996, the CBI began its inquiry and registered the case in 1999 based on the complaint of Narinder Kaur, the wife of Shinder Singh.

The CBI filed a chargesheet in 2002 against 11 accused officers. The trial was delayed due to legal stays between 2010 and 2021. Out of 67 witnesses cited by the CBI, 36 died during the trial, while 28 testified. **WITHPTI**

## 31 years after attack on RSS worker, eight CPM workers surrender



Sadanandan Master, now BJP's Kerala vice-chief, lost his legs in the attack

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 4

THIRTY-ONE YEARS after a brutal attack on an RSS worker in Kerala, eight convicted CPI(M) workers surrendered before a court in Kannur on Monday.

The RSS worker, who lost both his legs in the attack on January 25, 1994, is now BJP state vice-president Sadanandan Master, who was also made a Rajya Sabha member last month. Sadanandan, a retired school teacher, was serving as the RSS saha karyavah in Kannur district when he was attacked at his hometown of Mattannur.

The CPI(M) workers surrendered before the sessions court in Thalassery after their appeal against the conviction was rejected by the High Court early this year. They had been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and will be moved to the Kannur Central Prison.

After a trial court in Kannur sentenced them in 1997, the accused moved HC, which in January this year upheld the conviction. The HC had said the accused do not deserve “any sort of leniency in the light of the overt acts committed by them”. “The attack seems to have been premeditated,” the HC had said.

Later, the accused moved the Supreme Court, which declined to admit the plea. Subsequently, the HC cancelled their bail and told them to surrender before the trial court not later than August 4.

There were 12 accused in the case, but the trial court had convicted only eight, as the charge of conspiracy against the four others could not be proved.

Meanwhile, CPI(M) leaders arranged a farewell for the accused persons before they left for the court to surrender.

# Pollution boards can seek damages, bank guarantees for future, says SC

HC had quashed Delhi Board's notices to residential, commercial complexes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

IN A significant decision aimed at empowering pollution control boards, the Supreme Court Monday held that they can seek compensation for restitution of damages already caused by polluting entities or demand bank guarantees to prevent any potential future environmental damage.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra set aside the Delhi HC Division Bench order which said the Boards are “not empowered to levy compensatory damages in exercise of powers under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 31A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 on the ground.” The HC held that such levy can be made only by courts, after taking cognisance of offences specified under the Acts.

The SC said, “having considered the principles that govern our environmental laws and on interpretation of Sections 33A and 31A of the Water and Air Acts, we are of the opinion that the Division Bench of the High Court was not correct in restrictively reading powers of the Boards. We are of the opinion that these regulators in exercise of these powers can impose and collect, as restitutionary or compensatory damages, fixed sum of monies or require furnishing bank guarantees as an ex-ante measure towards potential or actual environmental damage.”

The Delhi Pollution Control Board had approached the SC against the HC judgement which quashed the show cause notices issued by the Board to some residential complexes, commercial complexes and shopping malls which were allegedly constructed and were operating without obtaining the mandatory “consent to establish” and “consent to operate” under the Water Act and Air Act.

The SC judgment said, “The Board's powers under Section 33A of the Water Act and Section 31A of the Air Act have to be read in light of the legal position on the application of the Polluter Pays principle... This means that

the State Board cannot impose environmental damages in case of every contravention or of fence under the Water Act and Air Act. It is only when the State Board has made a determination that some form of environmental damage or harm has been caused by the erring entity, or the same is so imminent, that the State Board must initiate action under” the provisions.

It directed that “the powers must be exercised as per procedure laid down by subordinate legislation incorporating necessary principles of natural justice, transparency and certainty.”

The court said that “given their broad statutory mandate and the significant duty towards public health and environmental protection the Boards must have the power and distinction to decide the appropriate action against a polluting entity. It is essential that the Boards function effectively and efficiently by adopting such measures as is necessary in a given situation. The Boards can decide whether a polluting entity needs to be punished by imposition of penalty or if the situation demands immediate restoration of the environmental damage by the polluter or both.”

The bench said, “Our firm view is that remedial powers or restitutionary directives are a necessary concomitant of both the fundamental rights of citizens who suffer environmental wrongs and an equal concomitant of the duties of a statutory regulator... The State's 'endeavour to protect and improve the environment' will be partial, if it does not encompass a duty to restitute.”

It said that “of all the duties imposed under Article 51A (fundamental duties), the obligation to conserve and protect water and air, is perhaps the most significant, amidst our climate change crisis. The Water Act and the Air Act institutionalised all efforts and actions that need to be taken to protect air that we breathe and water that we consume by creating the Pollution Control Boards. These Boards functioning as our environment regulators are expected to act with institutional foresight by evolving necessary policy perspectives and action plans.”

# Victim families' 32-year-battle for truth bears fruit

JASBIR MALHI  
MOHALI, AUGUST 4

JAGJIT SINGH was just 18-months old when his father, Sarabjit Singh, was picked by the Punjab Police in the summer of 1993. Punjab was still battling militancy at the time. Sarabjit, who would soon turn 35 years old, was too young to understand what was happening then.

He, however, knows that his family sold a part of their land to bribe a police officer who had picked his father. “To save my father, our family sold land and struck a deal with the police officer for Rs 1 lakh. But before the transaction could take place, they (Punjab Police officers) had already killed him,” said Jagjit. The said police officer, Suba

Singh, then posted as inspector and now 83-years-old, was among five retired Punjab Police officer who were sentenced to life imprisonment for killing seven men, including Sarabjit Singh, in two fake encounters in 1993.

The legal fight for the victim's families has been a long one. The case came to light as part of the broader investigation into mass cremations of unclaimed bodies in Punjab during the militancy era, spearheaded by human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa. Supreme Court handed over the probe to the CBI in 1996 and the central agency registered the case in 1999 based on the complaint of Narinder Kaur, wife of SPO Shinder Singh.

Narinder Kaur, who was present in the CBI court when Special Judge Baljinder Singh Sra



Family members of the victims at a court in Mohali. Express

pronounce the quantum of punishment, recalls that she was pregnant when her husband was killed. She gave birth to a boy two months after the fake encounter took place. “I raised my son by washing dishes and transplanting paddy,” she said. “DSP Bhupinderjit Singh, who retired as SSP, offered me Rs

10 lakh for an out-of-court settlement. We were told, ‘even if we (accused police officers) get punished, we’ll come back after serving the sentence and nothing will come of your efforts’. They asked us to take the money and withdraw the case. I refused. I only wanted justice,” said Narinder. Chhinder Kaur, wife of Balkar

बिहार सरकार					
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग					
अल्प-कालीन प्रेस विज्ञप्ति/सूचना					
बिहार तकनीकी सेवा आयोग के विज्ञापन संख्या-01 / 2019 के अंतर्गत कनीय अभियंता (असैनिक) के पद पर चयनित एवं बिहार तकनीकी सेवा आयोग के पत्र संख्या-12 दिनांक-01.01.2025 द्वारा ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग हेतु अनुश्रुति अभ्यर्थियों का कनीय अभियंता (असैनिक) के रिक्त पदों पर नियुक्ति हेतु रैशुनिक एवं अन्य संगत प्रमाण पत्रों/अभिलेखों का सत्यापन (Certificate Verification/ Counselling) कार्यक्रम क्रमशः दिनांक-16.01.2025 से 18.01.2025 तक, 28.01.2025 से 29.01.2025 तक एवं 09.07.2025 से 10.07.2025 तक निर्धारित किया गया था। तीन चरणों में आयोजित सत्यापन कार्यक्रम के बाद भी निम्नांकित अभ्यर्थी अनुपस्थित रहें हैं:-					
क्र० सं०	अभ्यर्थियों का नाम	जन्म तिथि	पंजीयन सं०	समेकित सं०	चयनित कोटि
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
1	मो० साकिर अशर्की	31.12.1988	BR00150010000559	88	UR
2	श्री सुजीत कुमार	05.07.1987	BR00150010081133	172	UR
3	श्री प्रफुल्ल कुमार राज	12.12.1974	BR00150010071340	269	UR
4	श्री रामा शंकर राम	03.07.1972	BR00150010061404	365	UR
5	श्री सोनु कुमार	03.12.1984	BR00150010047214	734	BC
6	श्री मुकेश कुमार मधु	01.01.1980	BR00150010050657	843	SC
7	श्री देव प्रसाद यादव	01.04.1969	BR00150010074852	870	UR
8	श्री दिलीप कुमार मंडल	10.02.1978	BR00150010049183	886	SC
9	श्री रणधीर कुमार	17.06.1983	BR00150010073127	913	BC
10	श्री सुनील कुमार घोषी	02.07.1983	BR00150010056959	1013	SC
11	श्री अशोक कुमार मंडल	02.06.1986	BR00150010074166	1074	EBC
12	श्री कैलाश कुमार भारती	31.07.1977	BR00150010049697	1082	SC
13	श्री रोहित कुमार	30.01.1984	BR00150010066528	1094	EBC
14	श्री हसनैन आलम	24.01.1990	BR00150010038264	1178	EBC
15	श्री प्रभात कुमार	20.02.1986	BR00150010024827	1211	SC
16	श्री कामेश्वर चौधरी	12.01.1966	BR00150010099299	1368	SC
17	श्री सुभाष कुमार	25.12.1987	BR00150010082560	1566	SC
18	श्रीमती/सुश्री रेखा कुमारी	10.07.1994	BR00150010044545	2429	UR-Female
19	श्रीमती/सुश्री सोनम साहु	20.10.1998	BR00150010020096	2522	UR-Female
20	सुश्री/श्रीमती चंदना सिंह	20.05.1995	BR00150010066597	2761	UR-Female
21	सुश्री/श्रीमती रितिका शर्मा	12.11.1997	BR00150010040509	2799	UR-Female
22	सुश्री/श्रीमती दीक्षा सिंह	15.09.1999	BR00150010020828	2849	UR-Female
23	श्री राहुल कुमार	28.11.1999	BR00150010012456	2863	EWS
24	सुश्री/श्रीमती के०एम० सरिका तोमर	30.10.1997	BR00150010002576	2872	UR-Female
25	श्री नयन कुमार	25.10.1990	BR00150010052623	2925	EWS
26	सुश्री/श्रीमती अंजु यादव	13.10.1999	BR00150010054857	3192	UR-Female
27	सुश्री/श्रीमती अंकिता यादव	05.11.1998	BR00150010096147	3261	UR-Female
28	सुश्री/श्रीमती के०एम० सोनी यादव	20.01.1997	BR00150010065658	3333	UR-Female
29	सुश्री/श्रीमती आंचल शाक्या	28.07.1997	BR00150010054403	3362	UR-Female
30	सुश्री/श्रीमती अनुमा मौर्या	27.12.1998	BR00150010072066	3410	UR-Female
31	श्री मुकुन्द भारकर	11.01.1993	BR00150010055861	3486	EWS
32	श्री चन्द्र प्रकाश कुमार	15.02.1995	BR00150010000377	3832	EWS
33	श्री अनुराग कुमार	26.09.1996	BR00150010048817	4125	EWS
34	सुश्री/श्रीमती रूपम भारती	25.06.1995	BR00150010050037	5960	BC-Female
35	श्री अमरेंद्र कुमार सक्की	01.02.1987	BR00150010040906	6845	SC-VH
36	श्री राहुल राज चौधरी	02.02.1996	BR00150010028514	11614	SC-VH
2. उक्त कठिका-1 में उल्लेखित अभ्यर्थियों के लिए अंतिम रूप से अभिलेखों के सत्यापन हेतु दिनांक- 13.08.2025, 14.08.2025 एवं 18.08.2025 की तिथि निर्धारित की जाती है। उपरोक्त सभी अभ्यर्थी उक्त तिथि को कार्यालय के कार्य अवधि में (11.00 से 05.00 बजे तक) विभागीय प्रशाखा-04 (विशेषचरयेंगा भवन, तृतीय तल) में संबंधित सभी वांछित अभिलेखों के साथ उपस्थित होकर अपने कागजात/अभिलेखों की जाँच करवाया जाना सुनिश्चित करेंगे। इन तिथियों में अनुपस्थित रहने वाले अभ्यर्थियों की उम्मीदवारी पर आगे विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।					
3. उक्त निर्धारित तिथि को आयोजित सत्यापन कार्य में वांछित अभिलेख हेतु पूर्व में विभागीय वेबसाईट <a href="https://rwdbihar.gov.in">https://rwdbihar.gov.in</a> पर सूचना उपलब्ध है।					
विस्तृत जानकारी <a href="http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar">www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar</a> से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।					
PR. No. 010553 (RWD) 25-26					
नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।					

**RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD**


Date :- 01/08/2025

**Notice Inviting Bid 01/2025-26**

Bid for 1. Remetalling & Carpeting Work for Major Sectorial Roads at Paneriyon Ki Madri Scheme, Div-Udaipur 2. Renewal of Remaining Roads by Remetalling & Carpeting Work at P.D.N. Suwana Scheme, Div.-Bhilwara 3. Construction of WBM Road work at Shivaji Nagar, Dungarpur, Div.-Udaipur 4. Construction of drains, CD works & ramps for Board Employees houses at P.D.N. Suwana scheme, Bhilwara, Div.-Bhilwara of subject matter (s) of (Procurement) are invited from interested bidders Item no. 01 to 02 from 05.08.2025 to 24.08.2025 (up to 6:00 PM) & Item No. 03 to 04 from 05.08.2025 to 14.08.2025 (up to 6:00 PM). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the state and Rajasthan Housing Board Department <https://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> and <https://rhb.rajjasthan.gov.in> websites.

UBN No. :- RH82526WSOB00161 To RH2526WSOB00164

Raj.Samwad/C/25/7520 Dy.HC Circle, Udaipur

**ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**

Registered Office- Indian Rayon Compound, Varanasi, Gujarat - 362266 Branch Office- Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd MJ Tower 3RD Floor Rajpur Road Dehradun Uttarakhand - 248001

**APPENDIX IV[See Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002] Possession Notice (for Immovable Property)**

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued a demand notice dated 20.05.2025 calling upon the borrowers PARVEEN DOONGA , SAPNA DOONGA & M/S MAHA FINANCIAL SERVICES mentioned in the notice being of Rs. 83,08,057.53/- (Rupees Eighty Three Lakh Eight Thousand Fifty Seven and Fifty Three Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and to the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act. read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 31st day of July of the year, 2025.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited for an amount of Rs. 83,08,057.53/- (Rupees Eighty Three Lakh Eight Thousand Fifty Seven and Fifty Three Only) interest thereon. Borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section 8 of Section 13 of the Act., in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

All That Piece And Parcel Of 4 Bhk Flat Situated On Second Floor Forming Part Of Land Bearing Khata No. 75 (Fasli 1416 To 1421) Kharsa No. 99 And 100 (Society Plot No. 15) Area Measuring 1625 Sq. Fts., With Total Built Up Along With One Still Parking Situated At Mauza Chidowali, Pargana Pachhiwa Doo, Distt. Dehradun, Which Bounded And Butted As Under:- East: Property Of Shri Sanjay Mittal. West: Land Of Others. North: 9 Meter Wide Passage. South: Land Of Others.

Date: 31.07.2025 Authorised Officer  
Place: Dehradun Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited

**Govt. of Bihar**

**BIHAR STATE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED, PATNA**  
A GOVT. OF BIHAR UNDERTAKING

**Expression of interest- cum- Request for proposal (RFP)**  
**RFP INVITING NOTICE NO-03 (Cons)/2025-26**

Expression of the interest offers for comprehensive architectural and engineering consultancy services are invited for Reputed Conservation Consultants / Conservation Architects for preparation of all types of conservation work as well Theme Park / Theme base landscaping work etc. from reputed architects and firms for empanelment for projects be taken by the Bihar State Building Construction Corporation Ltd, Patna. The empanelment of consultants is proposed in different categories based on, among other things, their experience, capabilities etc.

The details of eligibility conditions can be had from office of Chief General Manager BSBCCL, Patna during office hours or can be downloaded from notice board of [www.bsbccl.bihar.gov.in](http://www.bsbccl.bihar.gov.in). A pre-bid meeting will be held on 18.08.2025 at 4.00 p.m in the office of Chief General Manager BSBCCL, Patna. Duly completed proposal in sealed envelope marked “**Empanelment of Conservation Architect/Firm/Consultant for BSBCCL**” should be submitted to Hospital Road ,Shastri Nagar Patna-800023, Bihar latest by 16:00 Hrs on 08.09.2025 And technical bid will be opened on the same date in presence of the representatives of firms at 16:30 Hrs.

This information is available on [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) also

PR. No. 010505 (B&C) 25-26

Chief General Manager  
Bihar State Building Construction Corporation Ltd. Patna

**नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।**

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PR. No. 010505 (B&C) 25-26

Chief General Manager  
Bihar State Building Construction Corporation Ltd. Patna

**नशे**

# Sebastian’s web: Four missing women in Kerala have one thing in common — link to a wealthy 68-year-old

Missing person cases over 20 years were revived after charred remains were found at Alappuzha man’s compound

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
AUGUST 4

INVESTIGATIONS INTO the disappearance of four women in Kerala in a span of two decades have now taken a turn after police recovered charred parts of a human body from the premises of a 68-year-old man in Alappuzha district.

Police arrested Sebastian, from Pallippuram in Alappuzha, last week in connection with the disappearance of Jain Mathew, 55, a native of Athirambuzha in neighbouring Kottayam district.

Jain, known as Jainamma, had gone missing from her house on December 23 last year. The police investigation into her

disappearance had remained inconclusive.

Just two weeks ago, there was a breakthrough in the case when a member of Jainamma’s family got a call from the missing woman’s mobile number. Police tracked the location from where the call was made to a hilly region in Kottayam and found that Sebastian, who had never figured in the probe until then, was using the phone connection. Police also found that the phones of Jainamma and Sebastian were under the same mobile tower several times before she went missing.

On July 30, Sebastian, who comes from a traditionally wealthy family, was arrested after police recovered charred parts of a human body from a pit

located within his two acres of land.

An officer with the Crime Branch in Kottayam said, “We have recorded his arrest related to the disappearance of Jainamma. He confessed to the murder. He had known the woman for several years. Sebastian’s in-laws lived at Ettumanoor in Kottayam. The recovered body parts are those of a woman. At the same time, a final confirmation about the identity of the victim will be made only after the DNA results are available.” The officer also alleged that Sebastian had pawned her gold jewellery.

3 other missing women

Sebastian’s arrest suddenly revived investigations into the disappearance of Bindu

Padmanabhan in 2006, Aysha in 2012 and Sindhu in 2020 — all from Alappuzha district. On Monday, police brought Sebastian to his house in Alappuzha for further investigation.

While Bindu, the daughter of a late retired Excise officer, had been reportedly missing since 2006, her family in Kadakkarappally filed a missing complaint only in 2017. This, according to officials, was because she lived separately and was estranged from her family.

After the complaint was filed, police said they found that Sebastian had forged fake land documents to sell a property owned by Bindu in Kochi. Police recovered forged documents pertaining to the woman, such

as a school certificate, from Sebastian’s house. Sebastian was then arrested for forgery, along with others including document writers. However, the probe at the time did not find a link between him and Bindu’s disappearance. In a further grim twist in that case, an auto driver died allegedly by suicide just days after being questioned in connection with the forgery.

Another missing woman, Aysha from Varanad in Alappuzha, had been found to be in touch with Sebastian before she went missing in 2012, police said. According to them, the woman, who was in her early 50s when she went missing, knew Sebastian as a middleman in land dealings. Her missing case also did not make much headway.

Sindhu (43), who lived under Arthunkal police limits in Alappuzha, had gone missing five years ago after she went to a local temple. She had previously separated from her husband, and disappeared in September 2020, days before her daughter’s engagement. Police sources said the probe into that disappearance had revealed that Sebastian allegedly used to target women living alone to take possession of their money and gold through fraudulent means.

Aneesh, a neighbour of Sebastian, said, “His arrest is a shock for us. In recent years, he was not regularly at the house. He had very pleasing manners and used to impress people through his behaviour and conversation.”

# SIT discovers more skeletal remains in Dharmasthala

**KIRAN PARASHAR**  
BENGALURU, AUGUST 4

THE SPECIAL investigation team (SIT) probing the alleged mass burial case in the temple town of Dharmasthala in Karnataka has found skeletal remains at a fresh location, police sources confirmed Monday.

According to a source in the SIT, fragments of skulls and human bones were discovered at the 11th location pointed out to them by the whistleblower, who has alleged that he was threatened and forced to bury scores of bodies in and around the town in Dakshina Kannada district.

Dharmasthala, in the foothills of the Western Ghats, is home to the Sree Manjunatheshwara Temple, one of Karnataka’s foremost religious destinations.

The SIT was established following allegations of murder, rape and illegal burials spanning two decades in the town. The case emerged after the whistleblower, a former sanitation worker whose identity remains protected, came forward to reveal the places where he had allegedly buried the bodies, all in forested areas.

The team, on July 31, had also found a portion of a skull and bone fragments at the sixth spot identified by the complainant — along the banks of the Netravati river, close to Dharmasthala town. The SIT has been carrying out exhumations at various spots since July 29.

All the recovered skeletal re-



Workers leave the alleged burial site at Dharmasthala, Karnataka, on Monday. PTI

mains have been dispatched to the Forensic Science Laboratory for examination to determine age, gender and potential cause of death.

Meanwhile, a social worker and a resident of Dakshina Kannada district on Monday filed a complaint before the SIT claiming that he had witnessed police burying the body of a teenage girl in 2002-2003 without following procedure.

According to Jayanth T, the minor girl’s body was discovered near the forests of state highway 37 and police were informed about it. He claimed police buried the body in the forest after a week with “no case, no spot mahazar (report) and no post-mortem.”

Jayanth told reporters: “There are 3-4 witnesses to the case who also took part in burying the body. Also, I know the autrickshaw driver who informed the police after finding the body,” he said.

## Colonel assault: SC refuses to interfere with HC’s order for CBI probe

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

THE SUPREME Court Monday refused to interfere with the Punjab and Haryana High Court order directing a CBI probe into the alleged assault on an Army Colonel and his son by police personnel. Castigating the Punjab Police for the delay in booking the accused, the top court pointed out that they had not been arrested even after being denied anticipatory bail.

The two-judge bench, presided over by Justice Sanjay Kumar, was hearing an appeal filed by the accused personnel challenging the high court order.

“When the war is going on, you glorify these Army officers... Your SSP says, I am not able to arrest them in spite of rejection of anticipatory bail because they are police officers... Eight days delay in lodging FIR?! Have respect for Army people. You are sleeping peacefully in your house because that man is serving the border at -40 degrees...,” stated Justice S C Sharma, who was also part of the bench.

## Student from Bihar arrested in Jammu for supplying arms

**Jammu:** The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday arrested a BTech student from Bihar who they said was the main supplier of arms and ammunition to gangs in Jammu and Samba districts.

Kaif Ahmed, a resident of Siwan district pursuing B Tech from the Central University of Jammu, was held following a probe into a shootout at a wedding in Miran Sahib area on February 23, police said.

Police said Ahmed, who sold illegal weapons, was booked under Sections 109(3/5) of the BNS and 3/25 of the Arms Act.

They said Ahmed was arrested after Balwinder Singh alias Goru Jatt, one of the three accused in the February 23 shootout who was arrested two days ago, named him during interrogation. **ENS**

## Geneva meet: Talks on Global Plastics Treaty resume today

**NIKHIL GHANEKAR**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

STARTING TUESDAY, over 190 countries will get into a huddle in Geneva, Switzerland, to break an impasse and reach an agreement over the next fortnight on the first-ever Global Plastics Treaty that will create a legally binding framework to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. This will be the second installment of the fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) of the UN.

Countries will push to address plastic pollution right from the production stage, which uses polluting oil and gas, to the challenges of plastic waste disposal and recycling.

Negotiators will pick up from the previous meeting in Busan, South Korea, last December, where talks had collapsed over critical and unresolved issues. These issues and disagreements were over the draft treaty’s provisions on putting a cap on production of polymers, elimination of harmful chemicals from plastic production and phasing out of harmful plastic products.

As per the Centre for International Environmental Law, a US-based non-profit, the current draft text issued during Busan contains 370 brackets, which indicate areas of no agreement between countries.

It was in 2022 in Nairobi that a resolution was adopted at the United Nations Environment Assembly to develop global rules

**EXPLAINED** **A growing problem**

THE EXPONENTIAL growth in plastic production is one of the key drivers of plastic pollution. Globally, annual production has doubled, soaring from 234 million tonnes in 2000 to 460 million tonnes in 2019, while plastic waste has more than doubled from 156 Mt in 2000 to 353 Mt in 2019, as per a report of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Production is likely to triple in a business-as-usual scenario by 2060, as per the UN EP.

to end plastic pollution. If successfully adopted, the treaty would be the most consequential one on environmental issues since the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

The talks on the global treaty will resume in the backdrop of a new Lancet report which said that “plastics cause disease and death from infancy to old age and are responsible for health-related economic losses exceeding \$1.5 trillion annually”.

Civil society and environmental campaigners have termed the negotiations a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to end plastic pollution and have called on countries to ensure significant cuts in plastic production.

## SC stays Kerala HC ban on single-use plastics in state

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Monday stayed the Kerala High Court order banning use and sale of Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) in the state.

A bench of Chief Justice of India B R Gavaia and K Vinod Chandran also issued notice to the state on the appeal challenging the June 17, 2025 order which came on a writ petition initiated suo motu by the HC in 2023.

The plea contended that though the petition initiated fol-

lowing a fire at the Solid Waste Plant in Brahmapuram in Kochi was initially limited to enforcing the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, the June 17 order, went beyond this scope and issued directions under the Plastic Waste Management rules.

It said the HC’s directions go beyond, and in some parts contradict, the existing Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

The HC in its order noted SUP use had become rampant in all areas of the State. **ENS**



## MYSURU GAJAPAYANA PROCESSION

People take part in Gajapayana procession, marking the beginning of the Dasara festival, in Mysuru on Monday. PTI

## ACCUSED HELD ALONG WITH TWO ACCOMPLICES IN BELAGAVI

## To oust minority community principal, Sri Rama Sene leader got school water poisoned: Cops

## 11 students fell ill after drinking pesticide-laced water; hard to believe extent of communal hatred: Karnataka CM

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, AUGUST 4

POLICE IN Karnataka have arrested a Sri Rama Sene leader and his two accomplices who allegedly got the drinking water at a school in Karnataka’s Belagavi district poisoned. Police said they were trying to get its headmaster, who belongs to a minority community, ousted.

Eleven children at the government primary school in Hulikatti village fell ill after drinking the water contaminated with pesticides last month.

The three accused are Sagar Patil, president of the Savadatti taluk unit of Sri Ram Sene, Krishna Madar, and Magangouda Patil.

Bheemashankar S Guled, Superintendent of Police, Belagavi, said Saturday: “Some students detected a foul smell (in the water) and informed the headmaster and another teacher, which prevented a larger tragedy. Some of the students who had consumed the water experienced nausea. They received immediate medical



**L to R : Krishna Madar, Magangouda Patil and Sagar Patil**

treatment and recovered.”

According to a police officer, Sagar Patil was the mastermind behind the conspiracy. “He (Sagar Patil) wanted headmaster Suleman Gorenayak to be transferred or suspended. Gorenayak has served the school for 13 years and was on good terms with the villagers. After the incident was reported, the police began a probe. A soft drink bottle was found near the water tank, and upon checking, it was found to contain pesticide,” the officer added.

The police said they later found out that Madar had given a minor boy chocolates, condiments, and ₹500 in lieu of emp-

tying the bottle containing pesticides in the school water tank.

During interrogation, Madar confessed that Sagar Patil had discovered his relationship with a woman from another caste, and he had threatened to “expose” him if he did not participate in his conspiracy. Madar and Magangouda Patil had allegedly purchased the pesticide.

A police officer said the minor will be a prosecution witness and receive protection from the law.

“We utilised scientific evidence and student interactions to solve this case. This was a planned, deeply disturbing attempt motivated by communal hatred,” SP Guled said.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah condemned the incident, saying it was hard to believe the extent of communal hatred. “This incident, which could have led to the massacre of small children, is proof that religious fundamentalism and communal hatred can lead to any heinous act. Let the BJP leaders, who sow hatred in society in the name of religion and cook their political rice, do some self-criticism,” he said.

## Odisha student’s self-immolation case: Two collegemates held for ‘abetment’

**SUJIT BISOIYI**  
BHUBANESWAR, AUGUST 4

THE CRIME Branch of Odisha Police arrested two students late on Sunday night on abetment of suicide charges in connection with last month’s death of a Balasore college student, who set herself on fire after her complaints of sexual harassment by a professor were allegedly ignored by authorities.

The arrested students, Subhra Sambit Nayak and Jyotiprakash Biswal, were produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody for 14 days. Nayak is a state office-bearer of the ABVP. Biswal had sustained injuries while attempting to rescue the student who set herself on fire.

“We have clear evidence that these two students instigated the victim to take the extreme step. The investigation is on and we are looking for more scientific evidence during the course of the probe,” said a senior Crime Branch official.

On July 12, the 20-year-old student, who was also an active

member of the ABVP, set herself on fire in the college campus because her complaints about sexual harassment by a professor were allegedly ignored. She succumbed to burn injuries two days later.

Subsequently, assistant professor Samir Kumar Sahu and college principal Dillip Kumar Ghose were arrested by the local police in connection with the case and are under judicial custody.

With the incident triggering nationwide outrage, the probe was handed over to the Crime Against Women and Children Wing of the Crime Branch on July 16 to widen the investigation. The agency looked into whether anyone “instigated” her to set herself on fire after she came out of the principal’s office that day, who supplied her with the petrol and other materials, and whether she was being bullied on social media.

Over 50 people, including students, the victims’ friends, members of an internal committee, and others, were questioned during the probe. “We are still looking at various angles,” said an official.

# Octogenarian couples who died in US crash belonged to family having ties with Gandhiji

**RITU SHARMA**  
AHMEDABAD, AUGUST 4

IN JUNE, Ahmedabad couple Shailesh (87) and Gita Divan (83) left for the US. They were visiting Shailesh’s brother Dr Kishore (89) and his wife Asha Divan (86) who stayed in Buffalo, New York.

On July 29, the four left for West Virginia in their car. Their destination: Prabhupada’s Palace of Gold, an ISKCON Temple situated on McCreary’s Ridge Road in Marshall County. However, the four never made it to the temple.

After a search that lasted four days, the bodies of the four octogenarians were located in the West Virginia mountains late

Saturday night.

“Since the area is a ravine with thick vegetation, nothing could be spotted from the ground during police search operations. The helicopters could not locate anything either. Finally, when the mobile data was extracted, it pointed at a certain location. This helped the police locate the bodies...,” Himani Divan, daughter of Shailesh and Gita, told *The Indian Express*.

**Last conversation**

Recalling the last time the entire family came together, Himani said, “It was last month in the US. Everyone came together from different corners of the world to celebrate my uncle

and aunt’s (Dr Kishore and Asha) 60th wedding anniversary. Though the anniversary was on May 11, we decided to celebrate it on June 21 to ensure everyone was present...,” Himani said.

Before they left for the temple, Himani’s parents had shared their travel plans with her. “It was 10.30 am (IST). She (my mother) told me that she would call me after returning from the temple and share details of their visit. She sounded excited as it was their (her parents’) first visit to the temple. That was a short conversation as there were network issues,” said Himani.

The Divan family is among prominent families of Ahmedabad with their forefathers actively associated with



**(L-R) Dr Kishore, Asha, Gita and Shailesh. Express**

Mahatma Gandhi.

**Mahatma Gandhi connection**

It was Shailesh and Dr Kishore’s maternal grandfather Jivanlal Desai, fondly known as Jivanlal ‘Barrister’ owing to his

profession, who gave his bungalow — Jivan Niwas — in Ahmedabad’s Kochrab village to his “barrister associate” Mahatma Gandhi for setting up his first ashram, the Satyagraha Ashram, in May 1915, said Himani. The ashram ran out of this bungalow for two years before Gandhi shifted it to the bank of Sabarmati in 1917.

In May 2024, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the redeveloped Kochrab Ashram. It is now preserved as a memorial and tourist space managed by Gujarat Vidyapith Mandal while the ownership of the building is with the state government. Shailesh and Gita had visited the Kochrab Ashram in March last year. They were also a part of the

foundation day celebration of the Ashram held on May 25.

The Divan family is also linked to the Proprietary High School Trust founded by Jivanlal and Asha’s paternal grandfather Balvantrai Thakore in 1931. The trust runs several schools under the name Divan Ballubhai, naming it after the founders. Thakore entrusted the Trust Deed of the school to Mahatma Gandhi in 1930.

The US authorities, on Sunday, confirmed that the four individuals were found dead in a vehicle crash, adding that their car was located around 9.30 pm (local time) on Saturday off a steep embankment along Big Wheeling Creek Road, barely five miles from the Prabhupada’s

Palace of Gold near West Virginia’s border with Pennsylvania.

“We informed the police when their mobile phones were not reachable late on July 29. We got suspicious as they had not reached their destination. They were in their own car, which was being driven by my uncle (Dr Kishore). Looking at the initial information, it looks like their car rolled off the road, deep into the ravines. Perhaps, they lost their balance or misjudged the turn on the winding road,” said Himani.

On Sunday, the Hindu Cultural Society of Western New York (HCSWNY) wrote on its Facebook page: “It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing away of Dr Kishore

Divan, Mrs Asha Divan, Mr Shailesh Divan and Mrs Gita Divan. The Divan family is a pillar of the Indian Community of WNY. Dr Divan’s contributions to our community have been long and sustained. He was the founding member of Hindu Cultural Society of WNY and the India Association of Buffalo. Both Dr Kishore Divan and Mrs Asha Divan were well-known, familiar and recognizable faces in the Indian community. Their absence will leave a lasting void in our WNY community.”

Dr Kishore and Asha are survived by two sons, five grandchildren and one great grandson, all settled in the United States. All four will be cremated in the US, family members said.



@ieExplained  
#ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

EXPLAINED CONSERVATION

## ATTEMPT TO SAVE RHINOS BY GIVING THEM RADIOACTIVE HORNS

ANAGHA JAYAKUMAR  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

FIVE RHINOS were administered radioactive isotope injections in the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve in South Africa last week as part of a novel anti-poaching campaign by the University of the Witwatersrand, supported by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The so-called Rhisotope Project cost \$290,000 and underwent six years of intense research and testing. The researchers claim that the procedure has been proven to do no harm to the rhinos, while making their horn “useless” and “poisonous” to humans.

“We have demonstrated, beyond scientific doubt, that the process is completely safe for the animal and effective in making the horn detectable through international customs nuclear security systems,” James Larkin, the project’s Chief Scientific Officer, told the Associated Press.

### How isotope tagging works

Through a non-invasive procedure, rhino horns are tagged with low doses of radioactive isotopes, allowing for their ready detection by radiation portal monitors (RPMs) already deployed at borders, ports, and airports worldwide to identify unauthorised nuclear materials.

Radioisotopes are the unstable form of an element that emit radiation to transform into a more stable form. The radiation can be traced and typically causes changes in the substance it falls upon.

To test this system, the researchers used 3D-printed rhino horns with identical



Radioactive isotopes are injected into rhino horns. Rhisotope Project

shielding properties to real keratin, the substance that makes up rhino horns. According to the university, the tests confirmed that individual horns could be detected inside full 40-foot shipping containers.

It also announced the results of the pilot phase undertaken last June, when it injected radioisotopes into 20 rhinos at the Waterberg Biosphere. A team from Ghent University, Belgium, monitored the health and conducted cytological examinations on 15 treated rhinos, comparing these results with five untreated animals. They found no damage.

### Scale of the poaching crisis

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the global rhino population, estimated to be around 500,000 at the start of the 20th century, has declined to 27,000 due to their poaching for horns. While the project is not a silver bullet to curb poaching, the researchers hope it will be a deterrent. It will certainly be less disruptive to rhino behaviour compared to dehorning, in which rhinos’ horns are removed to deter poaching.

EXPLAINED SCIENCE

## AN ANCESTOR OF THE POTATO WAS A TOMATO, FINDS NEW STUDY

THE POTATO was first cultivated thousands of years ago in the Andes region of South America before it spread globally from the 16th century. But the evolutionary origins of one of the world’s food staples have remained puzzling — until now.

A new analysis of 450 genomes from cultivated potatoes and 56 genomes of wild potato species has revealed that the potato lineage originated through natural interbreeding between a wild tomato plant and a potato-like species in South America about 9 million years ago.

The hybridisation event led to the appearance of the nascent potato plant’s tuber, an enlarged structure housing nutrients underground, according to the researchers, who also identified two key genes involved in tuber formation. Whereas in a tomato plant the edible part is the fruit, in the potato plant it is the tuber.

“Potatoes are truly one of humanity’s most remarkable food staples, combining extraordinary versatility, nutritional value and cultural ubiquity in ways few crops can match,” said Sanwen Huang, a genome biologist and plant breeder at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences



Tuber spread globally in 16th c. File

and senior author of the study published on Friday in the journal *Cell*.

The modern-day potato plant’s scientific name is *Solanum tuberosum*. Its two parents identified in the study were plants that were the ancestors of a potato-like species now found in Peru named *Etuberosum*, which closely resembles the potato plant but lacks a tuber, and the tomato plant. These two plants themselves shared a common ancestor that lived about 14 million years ago, and were able to naturally interbreed when the fortuitous hybridisation event occurred five million years after they had diverged from each other. **REUTERS**

EXPLAINED JAMMU & KASHMIR

## Six years without Article 370

Political activity has resumed in Jammu & Kashmir. The security situation and economy have improved. But the Pahalgam terror attack dealt a blow to booming tourism, broke narrative of returning normalcy

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

IT IS now six years since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and the reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories (UTs).

The decision of August 5, 2019 was billed as the turning point that would usher in peace and development, and pave the way for the closer integration of the Kashmir Valley with the rest of India.

Since then, political activity has resumed in J&K, including the formation of a new government which is now pushing for full statehood. But the Pahalgam terror attack has added a new dimension to the security question.

Here’s a look at how and where the needle has — or has not — moved on the ground over the past six years.

### Politics: Back to representation, but with curtailed powers

The return of democratic representation was seen as a major milestone in the Centre’s post-August 5 roadmap in J&K. But the political dynamics remain fraught with tensions and compromises.

The National Conference (NC) leads a government with reduced powers. Just before the election, control over police and services was given to the Lieutenant Governor, limiting the authority of the elected dispensation.

The Omar Abdullah Cabinet’s first decision was a resolution for the restoration of statehood, after which the Chief Minister visited Delhi for meetings. The NC’s cautiously worded resolution reaffirmed “special status” and called for dialogue, while Mehbooba Mufti’s PDP took a more aggressive line.

The NC’s dilemma lies in balancing its ideological commitment to Article 370 with the constraints of politics in a situation where it has limited powers.

In an interview with *The Indian Express*, Omar conceded that the fight for Article 370 would not yield immediate results from those who “took it away”. A senior Union government source said New Delhi views Omar as a “pragmatic politician” who is capable of negotiating within the current structure.

However, the CM’s recent move to reinstate July 13 as Martyrs’ Day in J&K, and his attempt to visit the graves of those killed in protests against Maharaja Hari Singh’s rule as policemen jostled with him, show that the relationship between the Centre and the UT government are tenuous at best.

### Security: A mixed record marred by Pahalgam attack

The Centre’s strongest argument for the



The abrogation of Article 370 by Parliament on August 5, 2019 (left) was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2023. TV grab/Express

2019 decisions was that it would curb terrorism. Six years on, the data do show a significant decline in violence.

Only 28 terrorists have been killed in 2025 so far, down from 67 in 2024. Local recruitment has fallen drastically from 129 in 2019 to just 1 this year. In 2024, 28 civilians were killed; all 26 deaths reported this year have occurred in a single incident — the Pahalgam terror attack in April.

Incidents of stone throwing, *hartals*, abductions, and the snatching of weapons are down to zero. The Jammu region, which saw cross-border incursions and frequent attacks on security forces over the past three years, now reports far fewer encounters.

But the Pahalgam attack broke the narrative of normalcy, and exposed gaps in security preparedness, especially in the newly opened tourist zones. Officials concede that the security planning underestimated the risks that tourists faced.

In response to the attacks, India launched Operation Sindoor, destroying terror targets deep inside Pakistan. Last month, security forces claimed to have killed all three Pakistani terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack.

### Economy: Investments surge, but core challenges remain

**INVESTMENTS:** The Centre launched a new industrial scheme in 2021 promising incentives to attract investments. Proposed investments in J&K now total Rs 1.63 lakh crore, of which more than Rs 50,000 crore

is in various stages of operationalisation.

Production has begun in 359 industrial units; another 1,424 units are in advanced stages of completion. The government says investment realisation in 2024-25 is 10 times more than the pre-2020 period.

**REVENUES:** J&K has seen a sharp uptick in tax revenues: GST collection increased by 12%, excise by 39%, and overall non-tax revenues rose 25% between 2022 and 2024. The state’s GDP doubled from Rs 1.17 lakh crore in 2015-16 to Rs 2.45 lakh crore in 2023-24, and hit Rs 2.63 lakh crore in 2024-25.

**POWER:** Following power sector reforms, 5.74 lakh smart meters were installed by mid-2024, reducing transmission and distribution losses by 25%. By December 2026, J&K administration sources said, power generation is expected to double. The government has spent nearly Rs 10,000 crore on firming up transmission and distribution infrastructure.

Yet, J&K remains energy-deficient, particularly in winter. Its 3,500 MW installed capacity drops to 600-650 MW in winter, forcing it to rely on central allocations.

**FINANCIAL HEALTH:** J&K Bank went from a loss of Rs 1,139 crore in 2019-20 to a profit of Rs 1,700 crore in 2023-24. NPA levels have halved.

However, the fiscal deficit remains high, the economy is heavily reliant on central grants (up to 70% of expenditure), and core sectors like agriculture and industry contribute far less than services.

### Tourism: Showcase now under shadow of security concerns

In 2023, a record 2.11 crore tourists visited J&K, and tourism contributed 7% to the GDP. The tourism boom was seen as evidence of the post-Article 370 normalcy. The Pahalgam attack and subsequent security lockdown of 50 tourist spots were a severe blow.

After 2019, 75 new destinations were opened. Homestays were encouraged, and nearly 2,000 were registered, especially in remote villages. But gaps in risk assessment and laxity in adherence to seasonal tourism guidelines created vulnerabilities, particularly in high-altitude regions with militant activity.

Private investment in tourism remains sluggish despite incentives. Only five hotels have opted into the new industrial scheme. Projects like Radisson’s 200-room hotel in Srinagar and JW Marriott’s 150-room property in Pahalgam are exceptions. Officials cite limited availability of suitable land as a bottleneck.

In response to the Pahalgam attack, the administration shut 50 destinations and initiated a comprehensive security review. Since then, 16 such destinations have been reopened for tourists. But adventure tourism may now be limited to areas with a significant presence of security forces.

The Pahalgam incident is a sobering reminder that despite the downward trend in militancy, the threat has not disappeared. Even so, the government sees tourism as a vital economic lever and a tool for youth engagement.

## If statehood is to be restored: legal path ahead

VINEET BHALLA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

SIX YEARS after the Centre’s unprecedented decision to reorganise the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir into two Union Territories — J&K and Ladakh — calls to restore statehood have been getting louder.

Last month, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah made a forceful plea to the Centre for restoring statehood. “We’re not asking for something that is not our due. Statehood is the right, it was promised to the people,” he had said on July 20. What would restoration of statehood mean for J&K? What would it take for that to happen?

### Statehood will empower CM

The J&K Reorganisation Act was passed

in Parliament on August 6, 2019. It gave the Centre, through the Lieutenant Governor, a heightened legislative role in J&K, and put the bureaucratic apparatus in the UT under the Union Home Minister.

Both policing and public order were placed within control of the Centre. Subjects on the Concurrent List in the Constitution were taken off the plate of the legislative Assembly as well.

The Act also barred the UT’s legislature from introducing bills with any fiscal, monetary or taxation implications without the recommendation of the L-G. This is particularly limiting since virtually every policy decision requires taxation, expenditure or revenue adjustments.

So a restoration of statehood would effectively empower the elected government in J&K and vastly reduce the powers of the L-G, who,

according to Section 53 of the Reorganisation Act, has the “final” say on almost every administrative and legislative decision.

“...The decision of the Lieutenant Governor in his discretion shall be final, and the validity of anything done by the Lieutenant Governor shall not be called in question on the ground that he ought or ought not to have acted in his discretion...” Section 53 states.

### Act of Parliament will be needed

The J&K Reorganisation was without precedent — no state had ever been reduced to a UT before. But granting statehood would not be without precedent.

Five UTs have previously been granted statehood by Parliament: Himachal Pradesh in 1971, Manipur and Tripura in 1972, and Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram in 1987.

Additionally, the state of Goa was carved out of the then UT of Goa, Daman and Diu in 1987.

For statehood to be restored to J&K, the Reorganisation Act would have to be repealed, and the Centre would have to introduce a fresh bill in Parliament, which then would have to be passed in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Article 3 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to form a new state out of the territory of any other state or UT, as well as to change the area or name of a state. But a bill to this effect can only be introduced on the recommendation of the President.

Since the President acts only on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers — led by the Prime Minister — this essentially means that it is up to the Centre to recommend the introduction of the bill for restoration of statehood.

## Fighting for adivasi rights to demanding a state: journey of Shibu Soren

ARJUN SENGUPTA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

SHIBU SOREN, who passed away on Monday, is widely recognised as the most influential leader of the Jharkhand movement. His radical politics in the 1970s reconceptualised the Jharkhandi identity, giving second wind to the faltering movement for statehood.

But in the decades that followed, Soren would choose the path of moderation and compromise, often in the face of criticism, to help make the state of Jharkhand a reality. Here’s a brief history.

### A new mobilisation

The early movement for Jharkhand, helmed in the post-Independence years by Jaipal Singh Munda and his Jharkhand Party, ran out of steam by the late 1950s. There were a few fundamental reasons for this.

The Jharkhand Party’s support base was largely urban, and its leadership was

drawn from a relatively small class of educated tribal elite. The conception of a Jharkhand state at this time was solely based on an assertion of *adivasi* identity and indigeneity that stood against the exploitative “*dikus*” (outsiders).

British geographer Stuart Corbridge argued that economic differentiation among *adivasis* and the changing demography of Chhotanagpur following the industrial development of the 20th century (Scheduled Tribes were only 26.21% of the state’s population in the 2011 Census) meant that such a narrow conception of Jharkhand was unsustainable (“Industrialisation, internal colonialism and ethno-regionalism: the Jharkhand, India, 1880-1980, 1987”).

It was in this context that Soren became an important player. Along with the Bengali Marxist trade unionist A K Roy and Kurmi-Mahato leader Binod Bihari Mahato, the Santal leader formed the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) in late 1972. Its vision was to create a “red-green movement” that would fundamentally reconceptualise Jharkhandi identity, sociologist Gail Omvedt wrote in

‘Ecology and Social Movements’.

“The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha was born with a green and red flag, and with the concrete practice of the alliance that this symbolised — Dhanbad mine workers, lower caste peasants, *adivasis*. ‘Lalkhand-Jharkhand’ was the slogan of early marches,” Omvedt wrote in 1984.

### The question of land

The deliberate appeal to non-tribal workers would help the JMM introduce “new forms of mobilisation around socio-economic issues”, political scientist Louise Tillin wrote in *Remapping India: New States and their Political Origins* (2023).

“Land was a major issue for the JMM,” Tillin wrote. “The Chotanagpur Tenancy Act 1908 had made the sale of tribal lands to non-tribals illegal, but considerable tribal land had changed hands nonetheless.” This created an increasingly alienated peasantry, which was being squeezed further by exploitative moneylenders.

“We must eat all year round. So far, the Santhal has worked for twelve months and starved for twelve months, and the moneylender has reaped the harvest. This must change,” Soren said (quoted in the *Economic and Political Weekly* article ‘Material Base of Santhal Movement’, 1975).

Even before the JMM came into being, Soren would travel from village to village on his motorcycle, encouraging *adivasis* and other landless tillers to harvest standing crops on land that was illegally acquired by the “outsiders”.

The so-called *dhan katao andolan* would peak with the harvests of 1974-75. Soren would travel from village to village on his motorcycle, encouraging *adivasis* and other landless tillers to harvest standing crops on land that was illegally acquired by the “outsiders”.

In the late 1970s, the JMM took a leading role in protests against state forestry policies in Singhbhum, backing the so-called *jungle katao andolan* in which government-planted teak trees were cut down to reclaim land for cultivation.

Soren’s challenge to the *status quo* was often “violent”. “The JMM, and Shibu Soren in particular, became known for delivering summary justice against landlords and

moneylenders, even holding their own courts,” Tillin wrote.

But his charisma and candour made him a cult-like figure among the *adivasis*.

### In mainstream politics

Till the early 1980s, the demand for statehood was simply a tool for Soren and the JMM to mobilise support for their primary fight. “Even if Jharkhand does not come into being in my lifetime, why should I be bothered? Our first concern is to chase away the bloodsuckers and help the people lead a respectable, quiet and fraternal life,” he said (quoted in *EPW*, ‘Containing the Jharkhand Movement’, 1979).

But it was an important tool nonetheless. In a 2007 interview with Tillin, Soren described it as a “bridging mechanism” between the Marxist social ideals of the JMM and the sphere of reference of the locals.

“I used to tell Roy-ji (A K Roy)... that the people in Jharkhand understand the language of Birs Munda, Tilka Manjhi, Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu and Shekh Bhikhari (leaders of 18th and 19th century revolts).

They don’t understand the language of Lenin. People here have a right to land, forest and water,” he told Tillin (quoted in *Remapping India*).

After he was elected to Lok Sabha in 1980, however, Soren is said to have struck a deal with Indira Gandhi in exchange for immunity for his activities in the 1970s, which significantly tempered his politics. From a tool to galvanise support, statehood became the primary end of JMM’s politics. In 1983, the JMM dropped the red from its flag.

For the next two decades, Soren championed the cause of a Jharkhand state in Parliament. Along with a number of other players who entered the political scene in the 1980s — most notably the BJP, which supported the creation of Jharkhand but for very different reasons — the JMM helped build mainstream political consensus on statehood by taking the path of moderation, often in the face of criticism from the ground.

Jharkhand officially became a state on November 15, 2000.



## BIHAR REGIMENT



In proud memory of the gallant martyrs of 21st Battalion, The Bihar Regiment, who laid down their lives while repelling an attack on the LOC on this day in 2013. The exemplary courage displayed by these brave hearts ensured that the sanctity of the LOC was maintained. Your gallantry will continue to serve as an inspiration for us. We, the fraternity of the 'Veer Bhairis' salute you.

## BORDER SECURITY FORCE

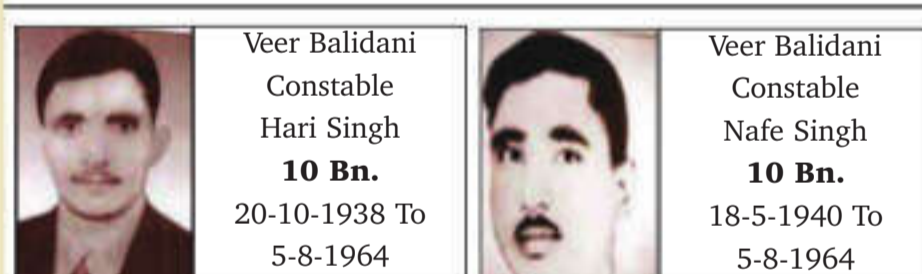
Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawans on their Balidan Diwas.



## CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE



On 5 August 2001, CRPF troops of A Coy of 1 Bn were moving with ATT team to F Coy of 1 Bn in Bijni, Distt. Bongaigaon in two trucks. When this convoy approached Abadipora, Silbaru NDFB militants triggered explosion shattering the front truck of convoy into pieces. The explosion was so powerful that it created a crater 6 ft deep and 12 ft wide. There was no scope of retaliation in this deadly and cowardly attack which took 8 precious lives as the braves martyred in the supreme service of nation.



Constable Hari Singh and Constable Nafe Singh were posted in 10 Bn deployed in Srinagar. While deployed for Naka duties, the party tried to stop an approaching vehicle travelling at great speed. The vehicle instead of stopping, ploughed into the posse of jawans manning the naka killing them. They laid down their lives in keeping with the highest traditions of the Force.

## NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

## E-Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ General, North Western Railway, Bikaner for & on behalf of the President of India, invites E- tenders for the following work: 1. **Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No.:** <http://www.ireps.gov.in>; 2. **Date & time of closing of e-tenders:** 26.08.2025 at 15:00 hours. 3. **Date & time of opening of e-tenders:** After 15.00 Hrs on; 26.08.2025 **Tender Notice No.:** 11-EL-BKN-E-Tender-2025-26; **Name of work:** Electrical work in c/w Development of Bharat Ghar at Sirsa into community halls with Indoor games facilities at Sirsa under ADEN/SSA, Provision of Community Hall with Indoor Badminton Court facilities at Hisar and Provision of Community Hall with Indoor games facilities at Bhiwani under ADEN/BNW; **Approx. Cost of the work (in Rs.):** 4255891.00; **EMD/SD (in Rs.):** 85100; **Tender Documents cost:** NIL; **Notice No.:** 12-EL-BKN-E-Tender-2025-26; **Name of work:** Electrical work in c/w Provision of Health unit in lieu of old at Hisar & Sirsa, Construction of Assistant Safety Commissioner/RPF office building at Hisar under ADEN/Sirsa, Construction of Health unit at Bhiwani and Improvement of ORH at Delhi station, GM suit at NDLS and ORH at Rewari. **Approx Cost of the work (in Rs.):** 4598191.00; **EMD/SD (in Rs.):** 92000; **Tender Documents cost:** NIL; **964-AN/25**

Please join us on <https://www.facebook.com/NWRailways>

## PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)  
(Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813)  
Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in) Mobile No. 94641-10914

**E-Tender Enq. No. 654/P-1/EMPW-13087** dated 02.08.25

Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. **2025\_POWER\_146336\_1** for Replacement of damaged corrugated asbestos sheets in wagon tippler area of CHP, GGSSTP, Ropar..For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 02.08.25 from 05.00 PM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

No. 1907/PSPCL RTP 91/25

## PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)  
(Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813)  
Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in) Mobile No. 94641-10914

**E-Tender Enq. No. 653/P-1/EMPW-13086** dated 02.08.25

Dy.Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. **2025\_POWER\_146360\_1** for Providing and laying 20 mm thick open graded Premix Carpet including tack coat, seal coat, Water Bound Macadam Grading-II (Without screening) with Surface Dressing on roads of Power Colony & road from petrol pump to CHP Railway Yard, GGSSTP Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 02.08.25 from 05.00 PM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

No. 1906/PSPCL RTP 90/25

## CANTONMENT BOARD, MATHURA

No. CBM/DPR / Pvt. Colony/2025-26/469 Date: 04.Aug. 2025

## QUOTATION NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited from reputed firms / contractors from 05.08.2025 to 20.08.2025 for the work of preparing of DPR for construction of a big RCC Nala in the private colonies i.e. Chandanvan Phase-1, Moti Kunj Colony, Moti Kunj Ext., Central Railway Employees Cooperative Housing Society, Rajaram Patti and Hanuman Nagar falling under Cantonment Board Mathura. Interested contractors/firms may inspect the above said site at any working days by making liaison with the J.E. of the Board before quoting their rates. Other details can be seen on the office website <https://mathura.cant.gov.in/>.

Chief Executive Officer  
Mathura Cantt.  
(Divya R, IDES)

## NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Open E-Tender Notice No. IZN/

Elect/OT/13/2025 Dt 28.07.2025

E-Tender are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/ N.E. Railway /Izzatnagar For & on behalf of the President of India for the following work:- **S.No.:- 01., Description of work:-** Electrical work in connection of remodelling of Ramnagar yard to remove existing constraints such as accommodate new washing Pit & augment passenger lines etc, in Izzatnagar division.. **Details:- Approximate tender value in Rs.:- 80,86,048.72, Earnest money in Rs.:- 1,61,800.00, Cost of tender paper in Rs.:- Nil, Date & time of closing E-tender:- 25.08.2025 at 15:00 hours, Completion time from the date of issue of letter of Acceptance:-Eleven months, Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and such manual offer received shall be ignored. The tender can be viewed at web site <http://www.IREPS.gov.in> The tenderer / bidders must have Class-III Digital signature certificate & must have registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidders can participate in e-tendering. All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering.**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/ Izzatnagar  
CPRO/EL-109  
Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

Before Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Delhi.  
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building  
Parliament Street New Delhi - 110001.  
Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rule) 1993) in the matter of  
OAO 498/2022 DATE: 22.04.2025  
AXIS BANK LTD. APPLICANT



**KURUS**  
**MR. SANDEEP KUMAR & ORS. RESPONDENT**  
To, Defendants D1 Mr. Sandeep Kumar S/o Mr. Zia Singh Mandana Rio House No. 1435 Sect-10A Near Community Centre Gurgaon - 122001.  
Also At: House No. 332, Village Farman Khas Tehsil Meham Distt. Rohtak - 124001 Hry Also At: C/o Panasonic India Pvt. Ltd. ABN Tower Iffco Chowk Sect.-25 Gurgaon - 122001 D2. Ms. Swati Singh W/o Mr. Sandeep Kumar Rio House No. 1435 Sect.-10A, Near Community Centre Gurgaon Hry Also At: House No. 332, Village Farman Khas Tehsil Meham Distt. Rohtak - 124001 Hry  
Whereas the above named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 22,57,812/- (Rupee Twenty Two Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Twelve Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 19.08.2025 At 11.00 A.M.  
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.  
All the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing or physical and for that purpose:-  
(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/software; (ii) "Meeting ID" and Password for the date of hearing cases to be taken by Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar shall be displayed in the daily case list itself at DRT Official Portal i.e. [drt.gov.in](http://drt.gov.in); (iii) In any emergency case that the Advocate/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 23748478. Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this 22th day of April, 2025.  
BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL  
SECTION OFFICER, DRT-I, DELHI

Divnl. Railway Manager (Engg.)/ ECR/Danapur  
PR/0718/DNR/Engg./T/25-26/88

## EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

## E-TENDER NOTICE

The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C. Railway, Danapur is inviting online (E-Tendering) Open Tender for and on behalf of the President of India from reputed contractor with experience, financial capability including those registered/working with Railway/Irrigation/CPWD/MES or any other public sector undertaking for the following work:-  
Tender Notice No.:- W-7/E-Tender/12/Opn/ DNR/2025-26.  
1. Name of the work with its location: PNBE - Replacement of 08 Nos. TY-II Old/ Dilapidated quarters with new quarters at Patna Station, Provision of ladies toilet at Patna Jn. and Rajendra Nagar & Provision of deep tube well and pump house at Patna (02 nos.), Rajendra Nagar (01 nos.), Patliputra (01 nos.) and Danapur (01 nos.). Approx. Cost of work: ₹2,71,55,368.44, Bid security: ₹2,85,800/-.  
2. Name of the work with its location: Construction of additional amenities near Raj Ashray, Karbigahya, Patna. Approx. Cost of work: ₹6,59,14,625.82, Bid security: ₹4,79,600/-.  
3. Name of the work with its location: Through Sleeper Renewal (TSRP) work, Cess Repair and other track miscellaneous works in section of ADEN/RGD. Approx. Cost of work: ₹93,45,886.22, Bid security: ₹1,86,900/-.  
4. Name of the work with its location: Supply of Welding Portion and other allied equipment under Sr. DENI/DNR section. Approx. Cost of work: ₹1,89,63,862.68, Bid security: ₹2,44,800/-.  
5. Name of the work with its location: Increasing sleeper Density (ISD) & other misc track work in PNBE-GYA section under ADEN/JHD. Approx. Cost of work: ₹7,19,43,414.20, Bid security: ₹5,39,700/-.  
6. Name of the work with its location: Provision of SS Choked plate on 39 Nos. of steel Girder Bridge over Danapur Division. Approx. Cost of work: ₹5,15,86,500/-, Bid security: ₹4,07,900/-.  
7. Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of Tender: The tender have to be submitted online on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Upto 12.00 hrs. on the date of opening i.e. 22.08.2025 and will be opened on the same day after 12.00 hrs. 8. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender can be purchased etc.: Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in> & full details of notice can be seen on notice board. Amendments/modifications if any shall not be published in news papers, but the same shall be uploaded in the web-site. In case of any dispute in the English & Hindi version, modification/publication in IREPS will be acceptable. It is tenderers responsibility to view web-site for amendments/modifications and submit his tender accordingly.  
Divnl. Railway Manager (Engg.)/ ECR/Danapur  
PR/0718/DNR/Engg./T/25-26/88

 <b>GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA</b> <b>TENDER NOTICE</b> 						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE (APPROX.) IN DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HSIDC	WORK OF DESIGN, MANUFACTURING, SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF ELECTRICAL PLUS CIVIL WORK FOR 2X12.5 MVA, 33/11 KV INDOOR SUBSTATION AT JE NARWANA (HARYANA) ON TURNKEY BASIS	01.08.2025 19.08.2025	6,25,02,602/-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2567482 se.electrical@hisdc.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) OR [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) OR [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) OR

Noida Power Company Limited			
Electric Sub Station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida-201310 (CIN: U31200UP1992PLC014506)			
TENDER NOTICE			
Date: 05.08.2025			
Sealed tender under Two Bid System (Technical & Commercial) are invited from all the interested bidders			
NIT No.	Tender Description	EMD (Rs.)	Start & Due Date & Time of Submission
NPCL/FY25-26/LT CFL/026 Dated 5.08.2025	SUPPLY OF VAN MOUNTED LT CABLE FAULT LOCATOR.	0.6 Lakh	05.08.2025 & 26.08.2025 (up to 15:00 hours)
Cost of Tender Document (Incl. GST) Rs 1180/- For other tender details and further amendment/corrigendum, please visit our website <a href="http://www.noidapower.com">www.noidapower.com</a> →Procurement→Tenders			
DGM (CMM)			

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR	
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION AWANTIPORA Phone/Fax 01933-247152 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com">phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com</a>	
Corrigendum1	
Refer this office e-NIT No. 11/ of 2025-26 D a t e d: 01-08-2025 endorsed vide this office No: AWP/PHE/1489-1504 dated: 01-08-2025- regarding the work "AUGMENTATION OF WSS KHANKAHBAGH FOR PROVIDING OF WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES TO ESTATE QUARTERS SEMPORA/PAMPORE". UNDER DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION (UT CAPEX)", wherein Pre-Bid Meeting which was scheduled to be on 04-08-2025 (11: 00 AM), is hereby re-scheduled as on 07-08-2025 Thursday (02:00 PM) in the office chamber of Worthy Chief Engineer Kashmir (JSD) Srinagar through virtual mode. In this regard the interested contractors/agencies may join the Pre-Bid Meeting online also via below mentioned link on the rescheduled date and time. <a href="https://meet.google.com/kqt-bvod-bfo">https://meet.google.com/kqt-bvod-bfo</a>	
No: AWP/PHE/1521-32 Dated: 02-08-2025 DIPK-4737/25-DATE 05 AUG 2025	Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Awantipora.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM					
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED (HPGCL)	1. NIT REF. NO. 2023, HBC, 30642.1 (BID DOC. NO. 32CEPLGDCORTRPF60-251) 2. CORRIGENDUM-1 DATED 15.09.2023 3. CORRIGENDUM-2 DATED 11.10.2023 4. CORRIGENDUM-3 DATED 06.11.2023 5. CORRIGENDUM-4 DATED 20.11.2023 6. CORRIGENDUM-5 DATED 19.12.2023 7. CORRIGENDUM-6 DATED 18.01.2024 8. CORRIGENDUM-7 DATED 12.02.2024 9. CORRIGENDUM-8 DATED 12.03.2024 10. CORRIGENDUM-9 DATED 09.04.2024 11. CORRIGENDUM-10 DATED 14.05.2024 12. CORRIGENDUM-11 DATED 02.07.2024 13. CORRIGENDUM-12 DATED 13.08.2024 14. CORRIGENDUM-13 DATED 25.09.2024 15. CORRIGENDUM-14 DATED 23.10.2024 16. CORRIGENDUM-15 DATED 07.11.2024 17. CORRIGENDUM-16 DATED 28.11.2024 18. CORRIGENDUM-17 DATED 02.01.2025 19. CORRIGENDUM-18 DATED 04.02.2025 20. CORRIGENDUM-19 DATED 25.02.2025 21. CORRIGENDUM-20 DATED 27.03.2025 22. CORRIGENDUM-21 DATED 15.03.2025 23. CORRIGENDUM-22 DATED 02.04.2025	THE 32CEPLGDCORTRPF60-251 (TENDER 2023, HBC, 30642.1) FOR: WIT LIMESTONE BASED FOD SYSTEM PACKAGE FOR DCRPP, YAMUNANAGAR (2X300MW) IS HEREBY CANCELLED. PLEASE CHECK DEPARTMENT WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.	<a href="http://www.hpgcl.org.in">www.hpgcl.org.in</a> <a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> <a href="mailto:senig.pd@hpgcl.org.in">senig.pd@hpgcl.org.in</a> <a href="mailto:senig.pd@hpgcl.org.in">senig.pd@hpgcl.org.in</a>	9354782005

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) OR [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) OR

CANTONMENT BOARD, MATHURA				
INVITATION OF E-TENDERS (DUAL BID SYSTEM)				
Electronic Bids are invited by Cantonment Board, Mathura for the under mentioned works:				
Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money 2%	Tender Form Fee
1	Repair/Renovation of Underground drainage pipe line with Brick Chambers including M.S. Grill, adjacent to Yodha Marg, Mathura Cantt for the financial year 2025-26.	42.00 Lakh	84,000	1500/-
The interested contractors/firms shall upload all the documents related to above works on the website <a href="https://defproc.gov.in/w.e.f">https://defproc.gov.in/w.e.f</a> starting date 05.08.2025 at 1600 hrs to ending date 20.08.2025 upto 1700 hrs. The terms & conditions for the above mentioned works may look up the ibid website.				
Chief Executive Officer Cantonment Board, Mathura (Divya R, I.D.E.S.)				
NO. CBM/e-Tender/2025-26/467 Dated: 02 Aug, 2025				

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT  
SHILLONG

NO: NAZ. 124/MLA/NAB/2025/3, Dated: Shillong, the 4th August 2025.

## SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

1. Sealed tenders subsequently to be drawn up in M.P.W.D. F-2 form of Tender agreement duly affixed with a non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 2,000.00/- (Rupees Two Thousand) Only are hereby invited in by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Meghalaya, from Government Registered Supplier/Vendor of Meghalaya State or Reputed Firms & Manufacturer, etc having requisite qualifications with experience for supplying/execution of the under mentioned work / project and will be received in the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Secretariat (Nazareth Branch), Shillong up to 1:00 P.M. of 25th August 2025. The sealed tenders will be opened on the same date at 2.00 P.M in the presence of the intending Bidder or their authorized representatives. However, if the last date is declared as a holiday, then the next working day will be the schedule date for receiving and opening of the bid.

2. **NAME OF WORK:** Interior works of the Honourable Speaker's Room including Staff Room & Conference Room, Visitor's Room, VIP Waiting Room, Ante Room, etc (Providing Curtains & Blinds, Carpet & Art Work, Accessories, Loose Furniture's, etc of the New Assembly Building at Mawdiangdiang, New Shillong, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya

3. **TIME OF COMPLETION:** 6 (Six) months Detailed tender papers may be obtained from the office of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Secretariat (Nazareth Branch), Shillong from 5th to 22nd August 2025 on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.10000.00/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) only, per set in cash payable to the Cashier of this office during office hours on any working day, from 11:00 A.M. up to 1:00 P.M.. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-  
(Dr. Andrew Simons)  
Commissioner & Secretary,  
Meghalaya Legislative Assembly

MIPR No.: 1267  
Dt. 4.8.25

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR								
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B)								
JAMMU & KASHMIR PROJECT DIVISION-II JAMMU								
E-MAIL: <a href="mailto:sarfrazahm.741220@jk.gov.in">sarfrazahm.741220@jk.gov.in</a> , <a href="mailto:xenprojectdivision2@gmail.com">xenprojectdivision2@gmail.com</a>								
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER								
Short e-NIT No. 04 of 2025-2026/PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU, Dated 31-07-2025								

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD (R&B) JAMMU & KASHMIR, Railways, MES and other State / Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Adaptive Reuse and Maintenance of Army Headquarters at Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex Jammu Phase I	PWD(R&B) JAMMU & KASHMIR (R&B) PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU	144.86	3000.00	2% of Advertised Cost	12 Months	13.08.2025 at 1100 Hrs	Class "A" registered contractor.

Head of Account: UT CAPEX

Position of AAA: ACCORDED

Position of Technical Sanction: ACCORDED

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	31.07.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 31.07.2025 to 12.08.2025 Hrs. up to 1600
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	07.08.2025 at 1130 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) JAMMU & KASHMIR (R&B) PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU
4	Date of clarifications of pre-bid meeting	07.08.2025 to 11.08.2025
5	Bid submission Start Date	31.07.2025
6	Bid Submission End Date	12.08.2025 up to 1600 Hrs.
7	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	13.08.2025 on or after 1100 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) JAMMU & KASHMIR (R&B) PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU
8	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

No :- EE/PD-II/2025-26/580-583  
Date: 30-07-2025  
DIP/J-4256/25 Date: Aug 4 2025

(Sr. Sarfraz Ahmed Chowdhary)  
Executive Engineer  
PWD(R&B) Project Division-II  
Jammu

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No	NAME OF Department	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE Department	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, HISAR	WIDENING AND STRENGTHENING OF 03 NOS. ROAD FROM (I) BASRA TO GORCHI ROAD RD 0.00 TO 2.900 (ROAD ID 8665) (II) BASRA TO MEHRRIAN UPTO RAJESTHAN BORDER ROAD RD 0.00 TO 3.620 (ROAD ID 4950) (III) SARSIANA TO BASRA ROAD RD 0.00 TO 3.620 (ROAD ID 4949) IN HISAR DISTT. WORK PROGRAMME 2025-26 (NALWA CONSTITUENCY) GROUP NO. 15 + 9 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 11.08.2025	3428.59 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9878384499 pwd-eepd1-hissar@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R, PALWAL	SPECIAL REPAIR BY PROVIDING WDGTS/SG ON SEHOL TO KHEDLA ROAD (ID 12111) RD 0.00 TO 3.36 km TRANSFERRED FROM HSAMB TO PWD IN PALWAL	CLOSING DATE 08.08.2025	447.63 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466219169 pwd-eepd-palwal@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R, GURUGRAM	CONSTITUENCY IN JUDICIAL DIVISION, PWD BANDER BR., PALWAL UNDER WORK PROGRAMME 2025-26 IN PALWAL DISTT. (GROUP-5) (WITHOUT GEX)	CLOSING DATE 12.08.2025	443.99 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01242322424 pwd-eepd1-gurgaon@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R, YAMUNA NAGAR	PROVIDING GAS SUPPRESSION SYSTEM IN NEW JUDICIAL COMPLEX (TOWER OF JUSTICE) AT GURUGRAM	CLOSING DATE 02.08.2025 23.08.2025	2104.24 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01732-237834 pwd-eepd-yamunanagar@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R, GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF SDO CIVIL COMPLEX AT RADAUR IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT	CLOSING DATE 12.08.2025	237.18 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01242322424 pwd-eepd1-gurgaon@hry.nic.in
6	PWD B&R, GURUGRAM	PROVIDING IMPROVEMENT OF 6 NOS ROADS (I) PSR ROAD TO KIRANI FROM KM. 0.00 TO 1.750 (ROAD ID 3090) (II) BPDS ROAD TO CHUHAHPUR FROM KM. 0 TO 0.750 (ROAD ID-3100) (III) BPDS ROAD TO NIMOTH ( ID-3094) FROM KM. 0 TO 0.450 (IV) BPDS ROAD TO BAIKHERA VIA KULIKA KM. 0.00 TO 2.10 (ROAD ID 3104) (V) KHATRIKA TO BAIKHERA VIA KULIKA FROM KM. 0.00 TO 2.900 (ROAD ID 3103) (VI) SARMAHLA TO KULIKA FROM KM. 0.00 TO 3.00 (ROAD ID 10682) IN GURUGRAM DISTT. (WORK PROGRAMME 2025-26).	CLOSING DATE 12.08.2025	421.66 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01242322424 pwd-eepd1-gurgaon@hry.nic.in
7	PWD B&R, GURUGRAM	PROVIDING STRENGTHENING OF ROAD FROM MEDAWAS TO ULLAWAS VIA BEHRAMPUR FROM KM. 0.00 TO 4.70 IN GURUGRAM DISTT. (ROAD ID 3070) (WORK PROGRAMME 2025-26)	CLOSING DATE 12.08.2025	375.02 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01242322424 pwd-eepd1-gurgaon@hry.nic.in
8	PWD B&R, GURUGRAM	PROVIDING IMPROVEMENT OF 3 NOS ROADS (I) GURUGRAM - ALWAR ROAD TO SOHNA TO DAULA FROM KM. 0.00 TO 4.70 (ID-3084) (II) GURUGRAM ALWAR ROAD TO GARHI BAZIDPUR UPTO SCHOOL BUILDING FROM KM. 0.00 TO 3.970 ( 3110), (III) SOHNA TO SAMPKI NANGLI IN GURUGRAM DISTT. (ROAD ID 3085) (WORK PROGRAMME 2025-26).	CLOSING DATE 12.08.2025	45 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9467533200 gmhramba@gmail.com
9	GENERAL MANAGER, HARYANA ROADWAYS, AMBALA	TENDER NOTICE FOR ADVERTISEMENT ON BOARDS/HOARDINGS	25.07.2025 18.08.2025	92.69 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466629211 prexeeng_hsr@hry.nic.in
10	PANCHAYATI RAJ, HISAR	DHANI GUARAN, HANSI1, CONST. OF SC CHAUPAL (D PLAN) + 11 WORKS	01.08.2025 13.08.2025	EMD 28000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8059016595 dhogurugram@gmail.com
	HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT, GURUGRAM	REPAIRING AND UP-GRADATION OF HI-TECH GREEN HOUSE (HTGH) AT GURUGRAM.	04.08.2025 04.09.2025			
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT <a href="https://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">www.etenders.hry.nic.in</a>						
No. 37321/HRY						

# Classifieds

## PERSONAL

I, DANISH KHAN,S/O RIFAQAT KHAN, R/O -H.NO.2082/5, KATRA-CHHOTLE LAL,GANJ MEER KHAN, TURKMANGATE, DARYA GANJ, CENTRAL DELHI-110002,have changed my name Mohd Danish to Danish Khan  
0040803354-1

I, Bipin Chandra Tiwari, S/o Amba Dutt Tiwari, R/O B-81, New No. B-341, Gali No.3, West vinod nagar,Shakarpur, Delhi-110092, do hereby solemnly declare that Bipin Chandra Tiwari and Name onpassport (Bipin Chandra) are the one and same person. I have changed my name to Bipin ChandraTiwari for all future purposes. 0040803289-1

I, Bina Yadav spouse of Service No.693429-F, Rank-Ex Sgt. ,Name -Satish Parkash Yadav, resident of House No. 379 (G/F), Block -C, Vikasपुरi, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name from Bina Yadav to Beena Yadav vide affidavit dated 01-08-2025 at Delhi. 0040803334-1

I, Anita W/o, Ratti Pal, R/O-T.11-73, JI Indira Camp-1, Srinivaspuri, East of Kailash, Phase-1, South-Delhi-110065, I inform that my minor sons Aman birth- certificate wrongly-mentioned as Geeta instead of my caret- name Anita 0040803354-2

I hitherto known as SANDEEP KUMARI alias SANDEEP SHARMA, daughter of ShriUDHO RAM and wife of Shri NAVEEN SHARMA, employed as ANM in Mobile HealthScheme, Directorate of Health Services, Govt of NCT of Delhi, Sector-20 Dwarka, NewDelhi-Residing at J-19/MS-1, Dilshad Colony, Delhi-110095, have changed my nameand shall hereafter be known as SANDEEP SHARMA. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirement in this connection. 0040803302-1

I hitherto known as CHETAN S/O NISHU SINGH R/O A-55, FIRST FLOOR, SURESHAN PARK, RAMESH NAGAR, WEST DELHI-110015 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as CHETAN THAKUR. 0070982230-1

I Vidhi Marwah D/o Surinder Maruah R/O 211, Double Storey, New Rajinder Nagar, Rajender Nagar S.O, Delhi - 110060, have changed my name to Khushi Marwah 0070982237-1

I Roshan Lal garg s/o late sh.Nanu Ram garg R/O E-19/102&103,Ground floor, Sector 3, Rohini, Delhi-110085, declare that I have changed my name from Roshan Lal garg to Roshan lal. 0040803418-9

I Rishi Toshniwal S/o-Late Sh.Bhushan Toshniwal R/o H.No.64, Left Portion, Second Floor,Sawariya Kunj,Muthut Finance Govind Mohalla,Haiderpur, Shalimar Bagh,Delhi-88 have changed the name of my-son from Medhansh to Medhansh Toshniwal for all-purposes. 0040803311-1

I Priyanshi D/o-Rishi Toshniwal R/O-H.No.6A, Left Portion,Second Floor,Sawariya Kunj,Muthut Finance Govind Mohalla,Haiderpur, Shalimar Bagh Delhi-88 have changed my-name to Priyanshi Toshniwal for all-purposes. 0040803313-1

I Nagesh Chandra Dutta S/o-Late Akhilesh Chandra Dutta R/o-Flat No.109,Shubh Enclave,Near KIIT World School,Parwana Road,Pitampura, Delhi-110034 inform-that my-father name wrongly-written in my-passport as Late Akhilesh Chandra Datta instead of Late Akhilesh Chandra Dutta. 0040803384-1

We, Brijmohan and Poonam, parents of Gaurav, resident of B-21, Gali no. 8, Raj nagar-2, Delhi-77, hereby declare that we have changed our minor son's name from Gaurav to Gaurav Kasana. He shall henceforth be known as Gaurav Kasana for all purposes. 0110056302-1

I Nagesh Chandra Datta S/o-Late Akhilesh Chandra Dutta R/o-Flat No.109,Shubh Enclave,Near KIIT World School,Parwana Road,Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my-name to Nagesh Chandra Dutta for all purposes. 0040803383-1

I, Bhagchand Singh S/o Dalpati Singh R/o 880, Baba Farid Puri, Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008 have changed my name to BHAG CHAND SINGH RANA for all future purposes. 00709822365-1

I Dharmwati Devi W/o Sh. Shiv Prasad R/O E-80, Sanjay Colony, Okhla Phase-II, New Delhi-110020, In my Aadhar mentioned as Dharmwati Devi, Whereas her Actual correct name for all future purposes. 0040803301-1

I Archana Singh W/o Ranjeet Singh Pathania R/O 7/20 2nd floor Nehru Nagar, south delhi, Delhi-110065 have changed my name from Archana Singh to Archana Thakur. permanently 0040803360-1

I, Kanta Kumari w/o Sunil Mahto r/o WZ-10, K-1, Pratap Nagar, Hari Nagar Delhi-110064 have changed my name to KANTA MAHTO. 0040803340-1

I, Haseena Khatun, W/o Farid Saifi, K-858 Jahangir Puri, Delhi, have changed my name to Haseena for all purposes. 0130054699-1

# CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

I,Rahul S/o Pardeep Yadav R/o Gokalgarh, Rewari (Haryana)- 123401, have changed my name to Rahul Yadav. 0040803402-4

I,Rakesh Kumar Garg S/o Ram Kishore R/o -25,Samman Bazar Lane Jangpura,Bhogal New,Delhi-110014,have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar. 0040803408-7

I,RAJIV JADON,S/O MANOHAR SINGH JADON R/O F-53,4TH FLOOR,SECTOR-14 ROHINI,PRASHANT VIHAR, DELHI-110085, have changed my name to RAJIV KUMAR JADON 0040803395-2

I,Purv D/o Kishor R/o H.No.562, Near Dabal Puliya,Jawahar Colony, Faridabad (Haryana)- 121005,have changed my name to Purvi Munjaal. 0040803402-2

I,Priyanka Malik W/o Rohit Seth R/O-F1/703 Kingsburry Apartment TDI City Kundli(55) Industrial Estate Sonipat Haryana-131028 have changed my name to PRIYANKA SETH 0040803408-5

I,Pritam Kumar Mall S/o Sh. Vakil Mall,R/o-78-A,Betiataha Dubey-Marg,Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh-273001, have changed my name from Pritam Mall to Pritam Kumar mall,for all future Purposes. 0040803494-1

I,Payel Banerjee Mukherjee,w/o Shri Nirmalya Mukherjee, resident of, G2B-701,Golf-Link Residency,Dwarka Sector-18B, New Delhi-110078,have changed my name to Payel Banerjee,for all,future purposes. 0040803402-11

I,Neelam W/o Sh. Manoj, R/o-WZ-134A,Village-Tihar, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Nilam for all purposes. 0040803475-5

I,Navin Goel s/o-Om Prakash Goel,R/o-3029,Gali Meera Wali,Ballimaran Charkhewalan, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Navin Kumar Goel Permanently. 0040803418-1

I,Nagesh Kumar S/o-Mahender Singh, H.No.398,Exction Housing board Colony, Sector -7 Gurgaon Haryana-122001,changed my name to Nagesh Singh. 0040803395-3

I,Mohammad Azharuddin,S/o Mohammad Irshad Ali,R/O RZ-536/24 Tughlakabad-Extn. New-Delhi-110019,have changed my name to Mohammad Azharuddin Alvi,for all purposes. 0040803408-1

I,Manju Sukheja,W/o Sh.Lalit Arora R/o-189-190, 1st Floor,Pocket-6, Near-Prince Public School,Sector-24,North West Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Manju Arora. 0040803395-9

I,Manish Kumar Chauhan S/o Sushil Kumar Chauhan,R/o H.No.1222A/31, Street No.-6A, Laxman Vihar, Phase-1, Gurugram (Haryana)- 122001, have changed my name to Manish Chauhan. 0040803402-5

I,Lalit Singh,S/o-Devender Singh Bisht,R/o,H.No.58,Gali No-15,Block-E,Ajit Vihar,Near Happy Child-School Burari Delhi-110084,have changed my name to Lalit Singh Bisht,for all purposes. 0040803395-7

I,Lakshaya Mittal,S/o Manish Mittal,R/o-3rd MR-12,Nehru Nagar,Ghaziabad,Uttar Pradesh-201001,have changed my name to Lakshya Mittal for all purposes. 0040803408-2

I,LAXMI DEVI W/O SANJAY PRASAD R/O S-443 FIRST-FLOOR SCHOOL-BLOCK SHAKARPUR DELHI-110092.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO LAXMI GUPTA. 0040803402-9

I,LAVISH TOMAR,S/O-MANOJ KUMAR,R/O-M-100 SECTOR-66,NOIDA GAUTAM-BUDHHA NAGAR,U/P.201301 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO LAVISH TAWAR,FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSES 0040803494-2

I,Gautam Grover,R/o C-1/60,Ashok Vihar,Phase-2,2nd floor,Delhi-110052,have CHANGED MY MINOR SON NAME KIAAN GROVER TO KKKIAAN GROVER,DOB-25/07/2012, FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040803402-10

I,Km Jyotika Jaisawal/Jyotika Gupta,W/o-Rahul Kumar Gupta,R/o-Flat no.J-1804, AIG-8,Park Avenue-Gaur-City 1, Greater-Noida West,Gautam-BudhNagar,Uttar-Pradesh 201306,have changed my name to Jyotika Jaiswal,for all,future purposes. 0040803418-6

I,HASEENA BEGUM,W/O-ABDUL HANNAN,R/O-759 GALI WAKIL WALI CHOWK SUIWALAN, DARYA GANJ DELHI-110002, have changed my name to HUSNA BEGUM 0040803475-1

I,Devendra Singh,S/o-Kunwar Singh Bisht,R/o,H.No.58,Gali No-15,Block-E,Ajit-Vihar Near-Happy Child School Burari, Delhi-110084,have changed my name to Devender Singh Bisht,for all purposes. 0040803395-8

I,Rohit Kumar,S/o Hira Lal,R/o-B-1/233, Gali.No.9,New Ashok Nagar,East Delhi,Delhi-110096 name of my,father has been wrongly-written as HARI LAL hereby declare that in my PAN Card-GXPK6720D,Correct name of my,father is HIRA LAL, this shall be used for all,future purposes. 0040803402-12

I,Ravindra Ved Prakash Kapoor, S/o V P Kapoor R/O-232, Celestial Heights(The Aarti CGHS), Plot-1A, Sector-2,Dwarka,Delhi-110075,have changed my name to RAVINDRA KAPOOR. 0040803402-6

I,Ramesh Chander Mehendiratta,S/o-Kunj Behari Lal Mendiratta,H.No-2G-6,N.I.T. Faridabad Haryana-121001, have to change my name to Ramesh Chander Mendiratta,for all,future purposes. 0040803395-6

I, Girish Dua S/o Kashmiri Lal, R/o H NO: 1141/26, Gandhi Nagar, Rohtak, Haryana - 124001, have changed my name to Girish. 00709822301-1

I,Dev S/o Kishor,R/o H.No.562, Near Dabal Puliya, Jawahar Colony, Faridabad (Haryana)- 121005,have changed my name to Dev Munjaal. 0040803402-3

I,DEEPA RANI GUPTA,D/O SALEK CHAND,W/O-MANISH GUPTA,R/O-FLAT NO.91 SANSKRIT NAGAR APARTMENT SECTOR-14,ROHINI DELHI-110085,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DEEPA. 0040803402-7

I,Bhavana Bhatnagar W/o Arun Bhatnagar R/o 820, Sector 7C, Faridabad have changed my name to Bhawna Bhatnagar after marriage. 0040803418-2

I,Arti W/o Kishor R/o H.No.562,Near Dabal Puliya,Jawahar Colony, Faridabad (Haryana)- 121005, have changed my name to Arti Munjaal. 0040803402-1

I,Anil Kumar,R/O-493,Mata Wali Dharamshala,Chhipyana Buzurg,Gautam Budh-Nagar,Uttar-Pradesh-201009,have changed minor daughter's name,from Kalash Dagar to Kalash Daagar,for all,future purposes. 0040803418-7

I,Amit Kumar S/o Suresh Kumar R/o,RZ-C-3/194,Gali-No.13,Gurdwara Road, Mahavir-Enclave,Palam Village,Delhi-110045,have changed my-name to Amit Maheshwari. 0040803475-6

I,ARCHANA W/O RAJIV KUMAR JADON,R/O F-53,4TH FLOOR,SECTOR-14,ROHINI, PRASHANT VIHAR,DELHI-110085,have changed my name to ARCHANA JADON. 0040803395-1

I,ANIL KHURANA,S/o-NATHA SINGH KHURANA, resident of, Flat no-1004,Tower-7 Orange County Indirapuram Ghaziabad-201014,Uttar Pradesh,have changed my name to ANIL JEET KHURANA,for all,future purposes. 0040803395-4

I,ANIL KAPOOR S/O MADAN KAL KAPOOR R/O C-6/142 KESHAV PURAM DELHI-110035.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANIL KUMAR. 0040803402-8

I,ABHISHEK GUPTA R/O C-193 Mansarovar Garden,New Delhi-110015,have Changed my Minor Son's Name form RAAJ. A. GUPTA to RAAJ ABHISHEK GUPTA. (D.O.B-10.8.2009) 0040803418-4

I, Virender Yadav S/o Gyarsa Ram R/o 3/58, Nehru Nagar, Delhi-65 have changed my name to Virender Kumar 0070982375-1

I, Zayenah Fatima A C/o Shamsad Anjum Khan R/o 88, 4th Floor, 14, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-25 have changed my name to Zayenah Fatima 0070982374-1

I, Veena Verma C/o Suneel Kumar R/o RC-829, Gali No.12, Near Jagriti Public School, Khora Colony, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201309, have changed my name Veena to Veena Verma for all purposes. 0070982344-1

I, Soni Devi W/o Bhag Chand Singh Rana R/o 880, Baba Farid Puri, Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008 have changed my name to SAUNI DEVI for all future purposes. 0070982347-1

I, Suneel Kumar S/o Sukhwasi Singh R/o RC-829, Street No.12, Near Jagriti Public School, Khoda Colony, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201001, have changed my name Suneel to Suneel Kumar for all purposes. 0070982346-1

I, Satinder Malik wife of Kulraj Singh Malik resident of 002, Ground Floor, VipulBelmonte, Gurgaon - 122022, have changed my minor son name from "SAIARAHAAN MALIK" to "ARHAAN SINGH MALIK" for all future purposes. 0040803328-1

I, Rajesh Kumar Maharjan S/o Prem Bahadur Maharjan R/o 83-D Pocket -B Mayur Vihar -II Delhi, East Vinod Nagar, Delhi-110091 have changed the name of my minor son namely Tejas Maharjan to Tejas Rajesh Maharjan for all purposes 0070982292-1

I, RUMA KUMARI W/o Chandan Kumar Sinha R/o Veer Kunwar Singh Colony, Buxar, Bihar, Pin-802101 declare that Both Ruma Kumari & Ruma Singh are the same person. The correct name is Ruma Kumari for all future purposes. 0040803382-1

I, MUKESH KUMAR THAKUR S/O Brij Mohan Thakur R/o B-525, Sadapur Khajoor Colony, Near Hanuman Mandir, Sector-45, Noida, G.B Nagar, U.P. have changed my son name from Mihir Rakesh Thakur to name Mihir Thakur. all future purposes 0070982303-1

I, Laxmi Raj Singh S/o Bhoop Singh R/o C-17, Flat No.5. Gali No.4A, West Vinod Nagar, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-92 is also known as L.R. Singh. Laxmi RajSingh and L.R. Singh are one and the same person. 0040803323-1

I, RUMA KUMARI W/o Chandan Kumar Sinha R/o Veer Kunwar Singh Colony, Buxar, Bihar, Pin-802101 declare that Both Ruma Kumari & Ruma Singh are the same person. The correct name is Ruma Kumari for all future purposes. 0040803382-1

I, RUMESH KUMAR THAKUR S/O Brij Mohan Thakur R/o B-525, Sadapur Khajoor Colony, Near Hanuman Mandir, Sector-45, Noida, G.B Nagar, U.P. have changed my son name from Mihir Rakesh Thakur to name Mihir Thakur. all future purposes 0070982303-1

I, Laxmi Raj Singh S/o Bhoop Singh R/o C-17, Flat No.5. Gali No.4A, West Vinod Nagar, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-92 is also known as L.R. Singh. Laxmi RajSingh and L.R. Singh are one and the same person. 0040803323-1

I, RUMA KUMARI W/o Chandan Kumar Sinha R/o Veer Kunwar Singh Colony, Buxar, Bihar, Pin-802101 declare that Both Ruma Kumari & Ruma Singh are the same person. The correct name is Ruma Kumari for all future purposes. 0040803382-1

I, RUMESH KUMAR THAKUR S/O Brij Mohan Thakur R/o B-525, Sadapur Khajoor Colony, Near Hanuman Mandir, Sector-45, Noida, G.B Nagar, U.P. have changed my son name from Mihir Rakesh Thakur to name Mihir Thakur. all future purposes 0070982303-1

I, Laxmi Raj Singh S/o Bhoop Singh R/o C-17, Flat No.5. Gali No.4A, West Vinod Nagar, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-92 is also known as L.R. Singh. Laxmi RajSingh and L.R. Singh are one and the same person. 0040803323-1

I, RUMA KUMARI W/o Chandan Kumar Sinha R/o Veer Kunwar Singh Colony, Buxar, Bihar, Pin-802101 declare that Both Ruma Kumari & Ruma Singh are the same person. The correct name is Ruma Kumari for all future purposes. 0040803382-1

I, RUMESH KUMAR THAKUR S/O Brij Mohan Thakur R/o B-525, Sadapur Khajoor Colony, Near Hanuman Mandir, Sector-45, Noida, G.B Nagar, U.P. have changed my son name from Mihir Rakesh Thakur to name Mihir Thakur. all future purposes 0070982303-1

## LOST & FOUND

Lost my Original Share Certificate of Flat-No.11-A, Block-B-3, Gasta CGHS Ltd.,Paschim Vihar,New-Delhi-110063.Finder may Contact- Krishna Gogia,W/o-Late Sh.D.S.Gogia at -above noted address. 0040803494-3

I,Sanjeev Dahiya,S/o-Late Col.zile Singh,R/o-H-601,Sispal-Vihar,Sector-49,Gurugram (Haryana),have Lost Original-Property Documents ie, Allotment-Letter,Possession-Certificate, Hading/Taking Over-Certificates,related to the above mentioned Property.Finder-Kindly Contact.No.9622326447. 0040803494-4

I,PURSHOTTAM DASS,S/O-LATE SHRI BHAGAT RAM,R/O-D-11,D-12-D-BLOCK,JHILMIL COLONY,DELHI-110095,have lost some of the original-documents e.g. Allotment-Letter and some other documents,which are related to my-Property No.D-11,Jhilmil Colony,Delhi-110095.I have lodged a complaint in this regard- vide LR.No.3078710/2025,Dated-04/08/2025, P.S.Crime-Branch,Delhi. 0040803395-10

I,PURSHOTTAM DASS,S/O-LATE SHRI BHAGAT RAM,R/O-D-11,D-12,D-BLOCK,JHILMIL-COLONY,DELHI-110095, have lost some of the original-documents e.g. Allotment Letter and some other documents,which are related to my-Property No.D-12,Jhilmil-Colony,Delhi-110095.I,have lodged a complaint in this regard- vide LR.No.3078760/2025,Dated-04/08/2025,P.S.Crime-Branch,Delhi. 0040803395-11

I,Rohit Sharma S/o Surinder Pal Sharma R/o C-15 D Rajat Vihar Sector-62, Noida Have Lost my Builder buyr Agreement And payment Receipts of Amrapali Builders If found by anyone please contact- 9810169414 0070982369-1

I, Munish Khosla S/o Sh. Rajneesh Khosla R/o 112, G/F, Street No.5, South Anarkali, Delhi-110051 have declare that my a photocopy of an Agreement to Sell, Affidavit, Will, Reciteit executed on 17.02.1995 of Property No.112, South Anarkali, Delhi-110051, executed by Smt. Satwant Kaur W/o Shri Gian Singh in favour of Shri Joginder Singh S/o S. Gian Singh have been lost. Finder please contact the above address. 0070982324-1

I RUCHI MITTAL W/O MAHESH KUMAR MITTAL R/O RZ-68612B RAJ NAGAR PART 1, PALAM VILLAGE DELHI, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT ALLOTMENT LETTER DTD. 04.07.2023 AND 4 RECEIPTS IN ORIGINALS ISSUED BY DLF I.E. RDUCRB0623/00277 DTD. 28.06.2023, RDUCRB0823/00013 DTD. 03.08.2023, RDUCRB0923/00308 DTD. 28.09.2023, 10167500000341 DTD. 14.06.2025 OF APARTMENT OMA3006 ONE MIDTOWN 15 SHIVAJI MARG, MOTI NAGAR, NEW DELHI HAVE LOST. FIR/LR No:3036926/2025 DTD. 02.08.2025. FINDER MAY RETURN TO ABOVE ADDRESS. 0040803290-1

I RUCHI MITTAL W/O MAHESH KUMAR MITTAL R/O RZ-68612B RAJ NAGAR PART 1, PALAM VILLAGE DELHI, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT ALLOTMENT LETTER DTD. 04.07.2023 AND 4 RECEIPTS IN ORIGINALS ISSUED BY DLF I.E. RDUCRB0623/00276 DTD. 28.06.2023, RDUCRB0823/00014 DTD. 03.08.2023, RDUCRB0525/00209 DTD. 20.05.2025, 10167500000338 DTD. 14.06.2025 OF APARTMENT OMA3005 ONE MIDTOWN 15 SHIVAJI MARG, MOTI NAGAR, NEW DELHI HAVE LOST. FIR/LR No:3036926/2025 DTD. 02.08.2025. FINDER MAY RETURN TO ABOVE ADDRESS. 0040803297-1

I RUCHI MITTAL W/O MAHESH KUMAR MITTAL R/O RZ-68612B RAJ NAGAR PART 1, PALAM VILLAGE DELHI, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT ALLOTMENT LETTER DTD. 04.07.2023 AND 4 RECEIPTS IN ORIGINALS ISSUED BY DLF I.E. RDUCRB0623/00276 DTD. 28.06.2023, RDUCRB0823/00014 DTD. 03.08.2023, RDUCRB0525/00209 DTD. 20.05.2025, 10167500000338 DTD. 14.06.2025 OF APARTMENT OMA3005 ONE MIDTOWN 15 SHIVAJI MARG, MOTI NAGAR, NEW DELHI HAVE LOST. FIR/LR No:3036926/2025 DTD. 02.08.2025. FINDER MAY RETURN TO ABOVE ADDRESS. 0040803297-1

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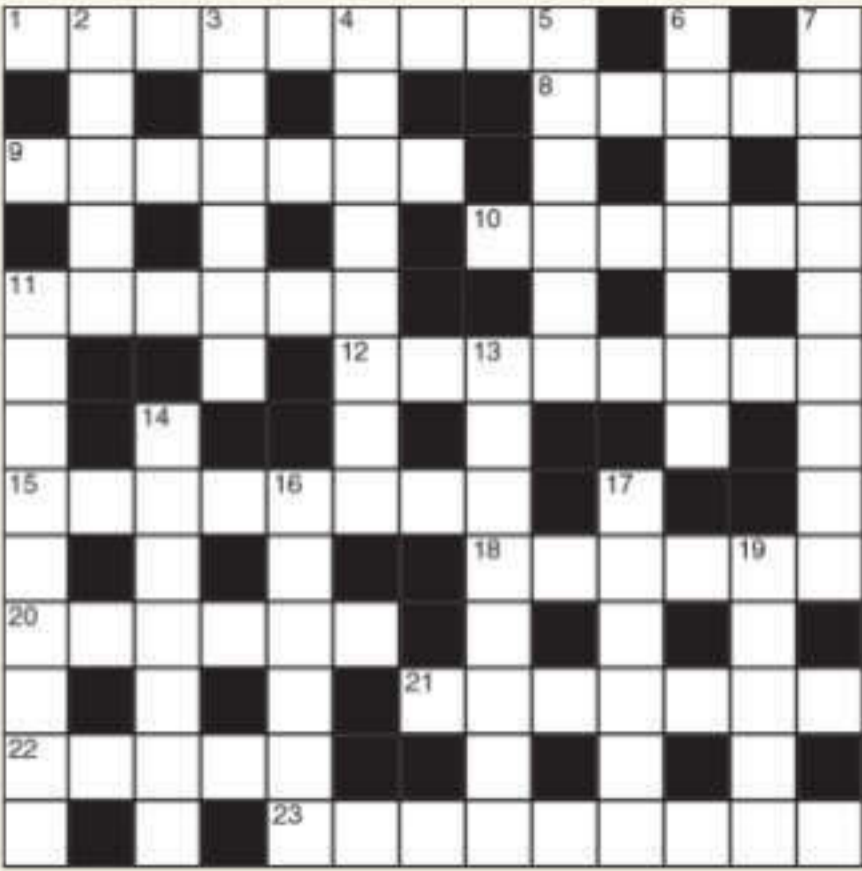
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I RUCHI MITTAL W/O MAHESH KUMAR MITTAL R/O RZ-68612B RAJ NAGAR PART 1, PALAM VILLAGE DELHI, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT ALLOTMENT LETTER DTD. 04.07.2023

CROSSWORD 5746



- ACROSS
- 1 Bring in present (9)
- 8 Eve is upset by this riddle (5)
- 9 Some illumination provided in case (7)
- 10 More like the snow I threw out? (6)
- 11 One is supposed to look better for eating it (6)
- 12 I'm put to the test and made better (8)
- 15 Motherly alarm not disguised (8)
- 18 Game admission of defeat (3,3)
- 20 This appeared at the end of the Eighties (6)
- 21 Capital investment as a status symbol perhaps (7)
- 22 Gets level. Despite that nothing is lost (5)
- 23 Alice pops out of the church (9)
- DOWN
- 2 African lake in which there's many a salmon (5)
- 3 A sharp response about a breach of duty (6)
- 4 The length of time around it varies (8)
- 5 Hester's other name (6)
- 6 The sleep I have is disturbed (7)
- 7 Retired permanently on grounds of ill health (9)
- 11 Naval officer gives an order with hesitation (9)
- 13 There are many sides to them (8)
- 14 Exceptional student performed aerobatics (7)
- 16 Fancy us to be stupid (6)
- 17 Others care for its offspring (6)
- 19 Recipient of a booked passage (5)

Solutions Crossword 5745 Across: 1 Coppers, 4 Arena, 7 Tide, 8 Triplets, 10 Ringmaster, 12 Animus, 13 Stroll, 15 Vindicates, 18 Terminus, 19 Anil, 20 Cutin, 21 Transit, Down: 1 Cater, 2 Pedantic, 3 Stress, 4 Apprentice, 5 Eyed, 6 Arsenal, 9 Ammunition, 11 Contends, 12 Aquatic, 14 Adjust, 16 Split, 17 Writ

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.  
Progressive societies outgrow \_\_\_ as children outgrow clothes. - Henry George (12)

CNIIO

SIKES

AERTTT

BETNNU

Solution: IONIC, SKIES, TATTER, UNBENT  
Answer: Progressive societies outgrow institutions as children outgrow clothes. - Henry George

SUDOKU 6037

Difficulty Level 1s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

SOLUTION SUDOKU 6036

SHRI VISHWAKARMA SKILL UNIVERSITY

Recruitment Notice

Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Dudhola Palwal invites Offline applications from the eligible candidates for recruitment of Skill Assistant Professor (vide Advertisement No. SVSU/2025/Estt./Cont./006) and Skill Instructor (vide Advertisement No. SVSU/2025/Estt./Cont./007) on Contract basis. Category-wise number of vacant seats along with Advt. Nos., detailed instructions, requisite qualifications and other information are given on the University Website [www.svsu.ac.in](http://www.svsu.ac.in).

Any addendum/corrigendum (if any) shall be posted on website only. No communication will be made separately to any applicant.

No. 37292/HP REGISTRAR

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Batch No : 17/25 dated 01.08.2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager, East Central Railway invites e-tenders for supply of the following items :

S.N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Due Date	Due Time
1	04251049	Coupler Body with Shank Wear Plate for upgraded high tensile centre buffer coupler for BOXN HL wagons	1242 Nos	18.08.25	14:00
2	07235161A	Running Contract for Supply of 1 in 12 Turn out (Prestressed tension type) Sleeper in running metre for BG (1673 mm)	66875.88 Mtr.	18.08.25	14:00
3	14254693	Battery for TRD-Lead Acid 110V, 40 AH-LM (Dry & Uncharged condition)	68 Set	25.08.25	14:00
4	04253379	Polyrings-3 for constant contact polyurethane side bearer pad assly. for HS bogie	35746 Nos	01.09.25	14:00
5	04254713	Air Brake Hose Coupling Brake Pipe	9047 Nos	08.09.25	14:00
6	04253380	Bogie Centre pivot top for BOXN HL wagon	1465 Nos	15.09.25	14:00
7	14251526	Brushless DC Railway carriage fan (sensorless) 400mm sweep 110V DC	5621 Nos	25.08.25	14:00
8	03253213	Gear case assly. For WAG7 locos	289 Set	25.08.25	14:00
9	03244074G	42KV Gapless lightning arrestor	78 Nos	25.08.25	14:00
10	03254044	Control Card Module Assy for Brake Electronics	37 Nos	25.08.25	14:00
11	14251092	Regulated Battery Charger for LHB AC Sleeper Coaches	102 Nos	25.08.25	14:00
12	0624RGCI	Running Contract for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of different types of SMPs based IPS.	425 Nos	25.08.25	14:00
13	07255037	Supply of 60 Kg. Special Fish Plate for Glued Insulated Rail Joint	6088 Nos	25.08.25	14:00
14	04254871	Air Spring assembly (Capacity 160 KN)	80 Nos	25.08.25	14:00

Note : All the above-mentioned tenders are e-tenders and all tenderers are requested to submit their bids on-line through the IREPS website at [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). All corrigendum to above-mentioned tenders shall also be published online in IREPS website only. For more details regarding the above-mentioned tenders and other supply tenders please visit IREPS website.

Sr. Materials Manager (C&W)/ ECR/Hajipur

PR/0715/HQ/Store/T/25-26/112

PRE-BID MEETING NOTICE

Haryana School Shiksha Pariyojna Parishad has to purchase the equipments for Science, Physics, Chemistry and Biology Labs of PM Shri Schools in Haryana State. Therefore, to discuss/finalize the specifications, interested firms are requested to attend the "Pre-Bid meeting" scheduled to be held on 07.08.2025 at 11.00 AM in O/o Joint State Project Director, 3rd Floor, Shiksha Sadan, Sector-5, Panchkula.

Sd/-  
Procurement Officer  
HSSPP, Panchkula

37311

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited

Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad- 500003, Telangana, India CIN:U40109TG1997PLC028483  
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)  
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

HOD - EMD, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the supply of:  
Tender Enquiry No. 056GATPEMD20017828/17835/17837 dated 04/08/2025  
1) "Procurement of Electrical Spares"  
at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications."

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 04/08/2025 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

No. 1914/PB GATP-43/25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Lakes (East Zone & K.R. Puram Constituency), Room No. 309, 3rd Floor, Annex-3 Building, BBMP Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: EE/Lakes/East&KRPC/TN-07/2025-26 Date: 04-08-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Lakes (East Zone & KRPC), BBMP, Bengaluru for the work mentioned below from the registered Contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1	Procurement of Aquatic De-weeder including 3 Years Maintenance. (General) - Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 128.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,00,000.00

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents can be downloaded from GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 05-08-2025 after 15.00 Hours. 2) Date of Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 11-08-2025 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer, FECC, No. 308, 3rd Floor, Annex-2 Building, BBMP Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002. 3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: 19-08-2025 upto 15.00 Hours. 4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid: 20-08-2025 at 15.30 Hours. 5) Date of Opening of Financial Bid: After Approval of Technical Bid. Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer  
Lakes (East Zone & K.R. Puram Constituency), BBMP.

कार्यालय प्रधानाचार्य, पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय मेडिकल कॉलेज, चूरू

website: [www.education.rajasthan.gov.in/mcchuru](http://www.education.rajasthan.gov.in/mcchuru)  
Email: [principal.mc.churu@rajasthan.gov.in](mailto:principal.mc.churu@rajasthan.gov.in), Phone: 01562-251888

क्रमांक :- लेखा/निविदा/ENT Equipment/2025/333 दिनांक: 23.7.25

E-NIT-11/2025-26  
(UBN No.-MCC2526GLOB00014)

Online Bid for Supply of ENT Equipments are invited from interested bidders up to 05:00 PM on 04/08/2025 for Medical College, Churu. The estimated value of procurement is about Rs 1,35,00,000/-. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement Portal <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> of the State, <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>.

Sd/-  
Principal  
DIPRC/10657/2025 PDU Medical College, Churu

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited

Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad- 500003, Telangana, India CIN:U40109TG1997PLC028483  
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)  
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

HOD-MMD, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the supply of:  
Tender Enquiry No. 55GATP/MMD/AHP/SPARES/20017788 dated 04/08/2025  
1) "Procurement of Spares for BOTTOM ASH HOPPER CLINKER GRINDER FEED SUMP" at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications."

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 04/08/2025 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

No. 1913/PB GATP-42/25

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited

Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad- 500003, Telangana, India CIN:U40109TG1997PLC028483  
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)  
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

HOD-MMD, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the supply of:  
Tender Enquiry No. 54GATP/MMD/AHP/SPARES/20017711 dated 04/08/2025  
1). "Procurement of Fly Ash conveying system spares for AHP Area" at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications."

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 04/08/2025 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

No. 1912/PB GATP-41/25

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)  
(Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813  
Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in) Mobile No. 96461-10914)

E-Tender Enq. No. 655/P-1/EMPW-13088 dated 02.08.25  
Dy Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-I) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2025\_POWER\_146341\_1 for Repainting of 18 no Dust Extractors, 5 no wagon Tipplers & 3 no. Stack Reclaimer in CHP Area of GGSSTP. Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 02.08.25 from 05.00 PM onwards

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

No. 1908/PSPCL RTP 92/25

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Dy. CSTE/Sig, Metro Railway, Kolkata for & on behalf of the President of India invites e-Tender against Open e-Tender due to open on 22.08.2025 at 15.30 hrs. Manual Offers are not allowed against the tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Name of Work : S&T work in connection with alteration of yard layout at Sahid Khudiram Station of Metro Railway, Kolkata.; Tender Value : ₹26,24,899.15; Earnest Money : ₹52,500; Cost of Tender Documents : 0 (Zero); Completion Period : Two Months. The Tender can be viewed at website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. The Tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tender.

Open Tender Notice No. : S&T/Works/27-2025

Follow us at: [@metrorailwaykol](https://twitter.com/metrorailwaykol) [/metroraillkolkata](https://www.facebook.com/metroraillkolkata)

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)  
It's rush hour as far as the planets are concerned, but the lights are on amber. Whether you choose to go ahead is up to you and your own understanding of your individual situation. What concerns you are hidden resentments, especially other people's.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)  
It may not be time for congratulations just yet, but it soon will be. You'll have something to celebrate over the next few days. Turn your back on the past and resolve to make a completely fresh start. But you must keep a very close watch on all practical developments.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)  
Today may not be easy, but there's little you can't handle with your usual skill. You may react to even surprise developments with a sense of déjà vu, as if you had known all along what would happen. Life at the moment can be so strange! That's partly because failure turns into success.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)  
Only a very negative frame of mind will prevent you from ending the week better off materially and spiritually than when it began. A little optimism will carry you to the stars. There could be a spot of social friction, but only if you fail to keep your commitments.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)  
A victory in one area of life has probably increased the likelihood of delay in another, the universe always returns to a state of balance. Right now you might be wondering just when that's going to happen!

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)  
Someone special is reaching out to you now. They may come from a different world but this doesn't mean that the connection won't become valuable and permanent. Neither does it mean that you won't soon be able to benefit from the contact.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)  
You may have squandered a great deal of time on one particular project. Wait a while and you'll see how nothing is wasted and that sooner or later your experience and expertise will be highly prized. You've reached a turning point.



TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)  
There is still a measure of uncertainty and confusing developments keep occurring, but with a positive side. You're now at the stage at which you can see increasing stability and security emerging from the fog.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)  
Some planets are urging you to move forward. Others are persuading you to stay still. Changes may seem to come out of the blue. Remember everything that happens now relates to developments which took place a month or even a year ago.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)  
Your inner tension may be a little more than is healthy. Yet, if you try to relax now, you may allow an opportunity to slip through your fingers. So, keep your eye on the ball and check up on every single detail.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)  
You are not normally one to doubt your own confidence. Yet you will question your own priorities, partly because there are fresh discoveries to be made. It's all a question of seeing the world anew, realising how much you have taken for granted.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)  
What you need now is enough money to get you out of a fix. It's about time you enjoyed a spot of luxury, and if your earnings are to increase, it must be soon. Never forget though, that, if you set out to persuade someone that you're in the right, you will almost certainly be successful.

<div>GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA</div> <div><b>TENDER NOTICE</b></div>						
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, MEHAM	CONSTRUCTION OF MRF CENTER IN MC MEHAM	01.08.2025 11.08.2025	RS. 42,35,961/-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9416022295 secy-meham@ulbharyana.gov.in
2	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, MEHAM	MAINTENANCE OF STREET LIGHT, ROAD LIGHTS, HIGH MAST LIGHT AND CABLING WARD NO. 01 TO 15 MEHAM	30.07.2025 07.08.2025	RS. 19,03,476/-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9416022295 secy-meham@ulbharyana.gov.in
3	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, MEHAM	INSTALLATION OF 36 WATT LED STREET LIGHT VARIOUS LOCATION MC MEHAM	30.07.2025 07.08.2025	RS. 2,31,420/-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9416022295 secy-meham@ulbharyana.gov.in
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT <a href="http://www.haryana.e-procurement.gov.in">www.haryana.e-procurement.gov.in</a> or <a href="http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">www.etenders.hry.nic.in</a>						



EXPRESS IN ENGLAND

SANDEEP DWIVEDI  
LONDON, AUGUST 4

IT WAS about a month before he was to take the most important flight of his life to Heathrow, London, for his first assignment as India's Test captain at 25. On one gloomy day in Chandigarh before Shubman Gill came to England, England came to Shubman Gill.

It was IPL time, he was leading the Gujarat Titans and having nets on what seemed like a 'dicey' pitch – some balls flying towards his face, others darting at his ribs. Shubman would stop training, dump the white balls back in the kit bag, and ask for a shiny red new one, the kind used for Test matches. Even while playing IPL, Shubman wasn't missing a chance to be England-ready.

Gujarat Titans' assistant coach Naeem Amin is based out of London, and he was there to witness Shubman's quick ball-switch. "And the bit that you will find interesting was him keen to practice just against a new ball. As soon as the new ball would become a little bit old, he'd change it for another new ball," says Amin. As India's new Test No.4, Shubman knew that after facing the white-ball on flat tracks, he had to deal with the swinging-seaming red cherry in England. Amin also talks about the young skipper's hunger to learn and the desire to improve. "His appetite always puts cricket first, and in that aspect, he is second to none. When Kane Williamson (former New Zealand captain and world's leading modern-day batsman) was in our team (GT), he was asking him about his thoughts all the time. 'How would you go about this or that? Why are you doing this drill? How does it benefit you?'"

England and New Zealand are miles apart, but on the cricketing map of conditions and pitches, they aren't that different. Williamson is in England playing county cricket these days, and turned up for the Lord's Test to find his one-time IPL teammate in the middle of the form of his life. He was pretty happy with what he saw.

The pursuit of batting perfection has been Shubman's life goal since his wonder years in Punjab's border town of Fazilka. His father, a landed farmer, would pay kids in the neighbourhood Rs 100 to bowl at his son all day. When in his teens, Shubman knew that he could go back to tractors, fields and the family agriculture income, if cricket didn't work out. Like many others around him, the batting prodigy didn't lose sleep over the dilemma of academics or a career option. He would get up fresh with only cricket on his mind.

Shubman would follow a punishing schedule, all through his Under-16 and Under-19 days, bat close to 6 to 8 hours every day. A typical day for him in Chandigarh, where he and his father moved from their village, would be about 3 to 4 hours of batting in the morning, a quick Amritsari lunch of patty or chhola kulcha, and again 3 to 4 hours of batting. Even when he made it to the Indian team, he was among the batsmen who batted the most at the nets.

"I want my body to take control of my mind ... Not my mind taking control of me, seeding inside me self-doubts or getting carried away. Because I have practised so much for so many years, I want my body to take control of my mind. Let the muscle memory kick in. That's my challenge: use the mind to tell itself to stay quiet," he once told *The Indian Express*.

In England at the age 25, Shubman seemed to have achieved that batting nirvana. India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak has been watching him closely for the past several months, and he could notice a change.

"From the Australia series to this series, I have seen his thought process and the way he batted. It is little different from what he has done in Australia ... I would give a lot of credit to him for deciding what he wants to play, when he does not ... Every batter, at some stage of their life, thinks and changes the way they bat in Test cricket. And Shubman seemed to be doing that brilliantly in this England series," Kotak said.

Before this series, Shubman's highest Test score was his 128 against Australia in 2023. As if he was given a Midas touch along with the captain's armband, everything that he touched in England has turned to gold. Between June 20 to July 6 – his fortnight of fortitude from the first to the third Test – Shubman registered three higher scores: 147, 269, 161. This was like the Swedish pole-vaulter Mondo Duplantis clearing new heights every other day, raising the bar at will.

It was in Birmingham that Shubman would find his Bodhi Tree, where he found enlightenment. In England, his 267 is being hailed as the most perfect knock he's ever played. Data shows that epic innings had a false shot percentage of 3.5 – that's the least for any innings in England since this statistic came into existence 20 years back.

Since geniuses like Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Pointing, Rahul Dravid, Virat Kohli are on the list below Shubman, the Birmingham innings is worthy to be framed in India's batting Hall of Fame. The near-perfect 267 was the outcome of his long penance, after

Every batter, at some stage of their life, thinks and changes the way they bat in Test cricket. And Shubman seemed to be doing that brilliantly in this series."

SITANSHU KOTAK  
INDIA BATTING COACH

# GILL'S PURSUIT OF PERFECTION

His quest to ace Test cricket in England began in earnest, even when he was leading Gujarat Titans in the IPL. Shubman's life goal, since his wonder years in Punjab's border town of Fazilka, has been to perfect his technique. And it showed, as he topped the batting chart in the series.



754

Shubman Gill's series tally of 754 runs stands as the second-highest total by any captain in a single series in Test cricket history. It is only behind Don Bradman's of 810 against England in 1936-37.

4

Gill hit four hundreds, including a double hundred, in the five-match series. Bradman (against India in 1947-48) and Sunil Gavaskar (against West Indies in 1978-79) are the only other captains to have ever done so before.

269

Before the England tour began, Gill's highest Test score was 128. In the series, three of his four tons were higher scores: 147, 269, 161. His 430 runs at Edgbaston is the 2nd most in a single Test match ever.

41.35

That Gill hadn't quite figured out consistency in Test cricket was reflected in his pre-England average of 35.05. But at the end of Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy his average has crossed 40 for the first time since his 4th Test.



Before the series, Shubman Gill was under pressure both as a new captain and a batter waiting to prove his Test mettle.



AP/ANI

mullying over many dismissals. It lifted him to a higher level, elevated him to the spiritual state where "the body controls the mind" and the "mind tells itself to stay quiet."



England isn't an easy place to play cricket. In summer, the days are long; for cricketers, they are longer. They can suck the energy out of you, the weather can be murky, it can make you gloomy. This time, during the day, there was heat too.

Consider the schedule of an Indian cricketer during the Lord's Test to understand this. The day would start at 6 am to be on the team bus that would start at 8 am. The match timing would be 11 am to 6.30 pm. By the time the team settles on the bus for the journey back to the team hotel, after press conferences and interviews, it would be 7.30 p.m.

From Lord's to St James Court, where the team stayed, was easily a one and half hour long journey on the team bus, negotiating London's notorious traffic. After that the players would have a meal, some me-time and then hit the bed. Within hours, the alarm

would go off once again. The schedule would be more or less the same for 25 days, plus there was the pressure of performance and fear of failure to deal with.

For Gautam Gambhir, Shubman's biggest achievement as a first-time skipper was to remain unfazed all through this very demanding tour. "This England team challenges a captain much more than Australia. They have many batsmen who can just run away with the game, and this puts pressure on the captain when the team is fielding. But not once has he looked shattered or lost," he says. In Australia, there's just one Travis Head in the Test team who can mentally disintegrate an opposition captain and make the fielding side rudderless. In England, Bazballers are crawling out of the dressing room ever so frequently. It starts with openers Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett, the batting buccaneers who can brain freeze the best.

Down the batting line-up, there is Harry Brook, Jamie Smith, and Ben Stokes – all three with swinging bats that can rattle any captain. The run machine Joe Root, with his solidity, seems to loom as a fulcrum. There have been occasions when Shubman has looked clueless, when he seemed to have lost the grip on the game but the team didn't give up.

As was the case at The Oval when Brook and Root seemed to have the game in their pocket, India kept on coming back at them. And when they got a toe-hold in the door, they barged in as a commando unit on a covert operation.

But as a member of the tour said, this series has been one of learning for the young skipper. "See the way Ben Stokes leads his team, he has a few fielding templates, or call them plans, to get wickets. He keeps his fielders moving around. Suddenly, there would be a leg-side trap, next the off-side would have fielders in funky positions. Shubman needs to find his own templates and plan. He is young, he is hungry, he will learn," a team official says.

Gujarat Titans coach Amin gives an example of Shubman's thinking of a course correction as soon as he gets out. "He is not the kind you will say I could have done this or that. After he has made a mistake as a batsman and got out, he has already dissected it on his walk back to the dugout. This is how quickly he realizes what he needs to do. There are times when there might be video analysis going on for another batter. He's keen to listen in, just in case he can upskill 0.5%," he says.

In the first Test in Leeds, he got out playing a reckless shot when on 147. It would have helped if he had stayed on longer. On the eve of the next Test, he would take the blame, promise to do better and an astonishing atonement waited for him. He would score a double hundred in the next innings. What was that compelling reason for the improved performance?

"Sometimes, especially when you are the captain, I think you need to lead by example so that whenever there is another player in

that situation, you can command that player," the team official said. This was a captain subtly asserting himself; this was a skipper earning the right to be the "commander." Former England captain Nasser Hussain, who had noted during the first Test that Gill "lacked aura" would reassess his verdict at the end of the second Test: "He (Gill) is not going to be a Kohli-type character. He's got a low heartbeat, but that can help. Look at this crowd here today. Look at all of India watching on. You may need someone just to calm the team."

As for Gambhir, he hasn't been over-interfering in the proceedings on the field. For long periods of stand-offs where wickets have been hard to come by, the captain has been changing fields, bowlers, and tactics without any obvious prompt from the dressing room. When Shubman is batting, the substitutes haven't randomly run on the field with gloves, or when the team is fielding, carrying unasked-for water bottles.

Shubman does his thing, the way he likes. He does have counsel available on the field. Vice-captain Pant, seniors KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, and even Mohammed Siraj, to chip in – when asked

This English team and their batsmen challenge a captain much more than Australia. But not once has he (Gill) looked shattered or lost."

GAUTAM GAMBHIR  
INDIA HEAD COACH

## Indian cricket's PRINCE OF WALES

SANDEEP DWIVEDI  
LONDON, AUGUST 4

INDIANS KNOW the former English county cricketer Alan Wilkins as the suave and erudite pundit from the early days of cricket broadcasting. What's lesser known is how he played a role in facilitating for the England experience for Shubman Gill that came in handy on this tour. A couple of years back, as president of Glamorgan County, he played a big role in signing up Shubman as their overseas player. It is learnt that Shubman's county mates would give him inputs about playing conditions at various Test venues where India was to play and also help to choose which of his horses he should unbolt at which course.

Wilkins, 70, points to Glamorgan's rather lesser-known history with Indian captains. "Sourav Ganguly, Ravi Shastri, Shubman Gill ... three Indian captains have been associated with the county. Ravi Shastri has gone down in folklore, we loved having Sourav, and now Shubman has just been handed the baton," he tells *The Indian Express*.

In terms of the (batting) transition, I don't know how much better it could have gone, to be honest. I think it's been quite seamless."



ALAN WILKINS  
PRESIDENT, GLAMORGAN COUNTY

Having watched Indian cricket closely, Wilkins understands the importance of Shubman to India and his place in the pantheon of Indian batting greats. "I think at times India's batting has looked a little light given that you've taken two huge heavyweights like Sharma and Kohli out of the lineup. So you've got Pant batting at five, whereas in the halcyon years that I covered Indian cricket, you had Laxman batting at six. That batting lineup had Sachin, Ganguly, Dravid and Laxman. Shubman's runs in this series have come at the right time. In terms of the transition, I don't know how much better it could have gone, to be honest. I think it's been quite seamless," Wilkins says.

Wilkins has fond memories of Shubman at Glamorgan. "Matthew Maynard, former England player, was the Glamorgan coach when Shubman played. Matthew is a good friend of many years, he told me that Shubman was fantastic in the dressing room. He is very easy-going and has a nice sense of humour. And the Glamorgan boys really enjoyed his company in the dressing room ... And I think he enjoyed it too. I saw him a couple of times and he would give thumbs up and a big smile," he says.

Having seen Tendulkar and Kohli's stardom, Wilkins knows what a cricketing superstar has to go through. "I think the scrutiny is on Shubman now because of the weight of runs that he has scored. He is the main billing. As an Indian cricketer, he stands out from the crowd. Everyone, every camera, every phone is pointing at him. But he is calm, which stands him in good stead. In the mad landscape of modern cricket, there's so much scrutiny, and I think he's weathered the storm of scrutiny."



for and even offer unsolicited advice. As the pundits from the commentators box, especially while assessing the new captain during the first Test have said "Shubman is running the team by committee."

Amin speaks about this same leadership trait in the captain, who is always willing to listen. "Shubman is the kind of guy where a 15-year-old was there and he had an opinion on something and Shubman thought it would be useful to him, he would listen to him," he says.

Behind those soft features and dimpled smile, there is a steely resolve to stay ahead. "The guy puts in hours... he puts in some serious hours to get better. Like I'm telling you about the red ball, how he's practising against it, even when he's in India. He's just trying to stay one step ahead," says Amin.

It is the same pursuit of perfection that started from the border town. Life came full circle for Shubman at The Oval. In a 2-2 verdict, it was tough to say if the runs brought the best out of his captaincy or the captaincy triggered an avalanche of runs.

ANDERSON-TENDULKAR TROPHY: SERIES DRAWN

# Buzz goes missing in Bazball

Flat pitches, fragile top order make England pay as McCullum-Stokes era remains without a series win against India, Australia

SRIRAM VEERA  
AUGUST 4

WHAT HAVE England learnt from this Test series? They had the flat pitches that their game demands, they won all the tosses to further facilitate that approach, and yet they had to settle for a 2-2 series result. The series has tamed Bazball.

Their top order remains wobbly - how and why Ollie Pope owns that No.3 spot is a mystery and at the first signs of the ball movement, their top order collapses. This wasn't a weak Indian team, as the absence of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, who have been struggling for a long while in Tests, wasn't a handicap, but certainly a team taking its first steps without their identity makers. Jasprit Bumrah was unavailable for just two Tests; incidentally, England lost both.

In the longer run, when the thrill of this dramatic, albeit mediocre, quality of their cricket in several ways fades out, England should worry. That they won't is part of the Bazball DNA, perhaps; this team, if anything, is stubborn in nature, which is a good and a bad thing. They won't drop Zak Crawley, they won't nudge out Pope, they won't include batsmen with skills to face the moving ball if the strike rate isn't healthy. All that has worked for them in many ways, but has left cricket a touch poorer.

To make Bazball happen, they have had to take life out of the pitches. Their bowlers are run to the ground, too much dirty work is asked of them. That the bowlers have bought into this Bazball-ism is a credit to the charismatic leadership of Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum. The other day on BBC TMS, former England captain Alastair Cook mentioned if he were to tell his bowlers these kinds of tracks day in and day out, and chose to bowl after winning tosses repeatedly, there would be some stern faces.

The flat-track bullies then have a swing and the game meanders along towards the final-day finale without a proper contest between bat and ball. All the drama unfolds on the final day because of the match situation rather than any deterioration in the pitch to level up the bowling-batting mismatch. This Test at The Oval threw in a bit of a curveball with the conditions changing. When suddenly things happen out of script, as it did in the last 30 minutes on Sunday evening and on Monday morning when the old ball wobbled around, England's batsmen flail helplessly.

Pope averages just 34, and it's easy to see why. A more nervous starter than him is difficult to imagine and one whose game doesn't hold up when the ball moves a bit. To length balls straightening outside off, he stabs like he is a juvenile prisoner and against nipbackers, he falls over like an old drunk prisoner. Crawley's batting is only made for impact - and that too on flat tracks and even then, he just averages 31.55 from 59 Tests. Says much.

They had the opportunity to give Jacob Bethell a proper run in this series instead of shoving him in the fog end in a pressure-cooker situation. Jamie Smith has looked pretty decent and is likely to have a long run as wicket-keeper batsman but he and the young guns aren't able to develop their game due to the flat pitches being served up.

No other big team in the circuit loads up the team with batsmen without ability against moving ball, and almost handcuffs themselves to produce pitches where these batsmen can prosper.

For a while now, England have been talking about how their Bazball has made Test cricket sexy, but it's a hollow claim. There was a definite thrill to watch them blaze away in the initial year or two, but when the same pattern repeats and takes out the pleasure of watching batsmen cope with good pitches



In the longer run, when the thrill of this dramatic, albeit mediocre, quality of their cricket in several ways fades out, England should worry. PTI

SCORECARD	
ENGLAND vs INDIA	
THE OVAL	
Toss: England, chose to bowl	
INDIA 1ST INNINGS	224
ENGLAND 1ST INNINGS	247
INDIA 2ND INNINGS	396
ENGLAND 2ND INNINGS O/N	339/6
J Smith c Jurelb Siraj	2 (20b)
J Overton lbw b Siraj	9 (17b, 2x4)
G Atkinson b Siraj	17 (29b, 1x6)
J Tongue b Krishna	0 (2b)
C Woakes not out	0 (0b)
Extras (b 2, lb 9, nb 1, w 11)	23
Total (85.1 Ov, RR: 4.30)	367
FoW: 7-347 (Smith, 77.3 ov), 8-354 (Overton, 79.5 ov), 9-357 (Smith, 82.6 ov), 10-367 (Atkinson, 85.1 ov)	
Bowling: A Deep 20-4-85-1, P Krishna 27-3-126-4, M Siraj 30.1-6-104-5, W Sundar 4-0-19-0, R Jadeja 4-0-22-0	

that aid an even contest, it has got a bit boring to watch. It's perhaps good for English cricket with the kind of resources they have and the personnel they chose, but to claim that it's great for Test cricket for everyone sounds a tall claim.

As Australia's Steve Smith had a pop at the Englishmen, thus: "Their (England) batters are going to be challenged a little bit differently to the wickets they have had over in England for a while, which have looked pretty flat and good for batting."

'Boring' is an adjective that not just the England team but even its commentators and fans won't use and its usage will be slammed for a 'thriller' of a series. But this is not a diss on the cricket seen, but a sigh about the kind of cricket quality being missed due to England's methods. It's to India's credit that they sensationally made it a 2-2 result and in such a thrilling fashion at The Oval. But England's Bazball isn't that sexy; the 'young gun' Indians have exposed its banality - and cowardice that lies in its soul.

## Krishna's journey from a meme-troll to Siraj's ally

SANDIP G  
AUGUST 4

A SERIES that began on a catastrophic tone, an embarrassing statistical millstone, a frank admission of his listlessness, and the tedium on the bench, has ended on a redemptive note for Prasidh Krishna. Until the last five days of the long and arduous tour, he was the answer to the pub-side trivia. A) Who is the first bowler in Test cricket to bleed more than run a ball in both innings? B) Who owns the highest match economy for an India Test bowler? The heartless meme-troll world celebrated the failure of Prasidh.

His could be fodder to cruel humour until someone emerges with more disfigured numbers, but the last five days of tour would have felt like liberation, an unbundling of all the accumulated angst and doubts. Bouquets would be showered on Mohammed Siraj, confetti popped on Shubman Gill and maybe a fizz of champagne splashed on Gautam Gambhir. But Prasidh could reflect satisfactorily on the spirited support shift, a haul of eight-fer, he put on in Oval, the match-defining wickets as well as take the learnings from his longest streak of Tests. The toil could at least buy him a few more Tests.

He has rough edges. Like several tall bowlers, he is prone to bowling too short too often. It is a paradox, when the greatest gift is also the biggest enemy. Height, and the discomfiting bounce he could generate, can make batting an ordeal. But the failure to harness his ferocious strength, that is by erring on the shorter side, on flat and modestly fast England decks, and overcompensation in the form of half-volleys, can bleed a torrent of boundaries. He leaked 69 fours and eight sixes, that is nearly one of eight balls. Like the first ball he bowled on the fifth day, a short-ball filth



Prasidh Krishna can reflect satisfactorily on the spirited support shift. PTI

that Jamie Overton slugged to the fence. He is not the first tall bowler who has experienced this frustration. His own bowling struggled to direct the venom of his bounce at the start; as did his predecessor Ishant Sharma.

### 'X factor'

But throughout the carnage of runs plundered, he also illustrated the reason the team management has invested in him, those that once made Virat Kohli tweet about his "X factor". Whenever he bowled a yard fuller, he not only purchased movement, but also extra lift and skid. Jamie Smith would confess. He tried to crunch him on the rise, rose with the height of the ball, but still could not ride the bounce and ended up missing the ball altogether. And not to forget he might have killed the contest pretty early on day 4 itself when he had Harry Brook heaving to long-leg where

Siraj fluffed it. A shorter, but not quite a rank-short one, ball hurried into Zak Crawley's pull in the first innings at Oval. It was only a few centimetres, but the impact was markedly different, and vicious.

If only he could hit the hard, or even veer onto the good-length band, he would be a deadlier proposition.

When he hits that length, batsmen become wary of driving him and so even when the ball is there to be driven they often fail to get fully forward, bringing the edge into play. They are caught in a dilemma, as Jamie Smith was in the first innings, square-driving a ball that bounced more than he had judged, and Joe Root in the second innings when he tried to glide the ball past gully but with static feet and heavy hands, unusual of England's talisman. A trifle fuller, he nips the ball devilishly into the right-hander. Then tall seamers tend to avoid the fuller length, because

they risk floating the ball up when striving to bowl fuller.

How he balances his virtues and cracks the consistency code would determine his career, whether the Oval sizzle was an aberration or the sign of a genuine upturn in his graph. A tall bowler who could coax bounce would be an invaluable commodity, irrespective of conditions.

If he could fuse bounce with seam movement both ways, he could be an even precious jewel. Among India's seamers, he has the highest release point, he generates the steepest bounce, is fairly quick, and can bowl long spells. The height is the difference between one bowler hitting the middle of the bat, and him jarring the splice from the same length. Trajectory apart, they create the illusion of bowling shorter than they really do.

But he is 29, not young any more, an age when bowlers mature and peak, patience would soon wear thin. But if he is groomed smartly and his frame does not wilt, he could enjoy a late spring like Ishant enjoyed towards the tail-end of his career.

As much as the gifts of his physique, the strength of his mind too stands out. Few bowlers recover from the spate of injuries, from stress fractures to quadricep tears, he had suffered in the last few years, just when he seemed ready for Test cricket.

Months of rehab cost his game that could have developed him into a rounded, worldly-wise operator. Fewer still would have recovered from bashings in the first Test, the crude humour on social media and still made a decisive impact in squaring the series.

In Oval, too, there were times he was hideously erratic, when the English bowlers feasted on him. But he showed the wherewithal to fight back, to not lose his head, to try still and wait for the kiss of life. So much so he would take the trivia jokes in a light-hearted vein.

## BRIEFLY

### CW Sport team to visit A'bad on Tues

New Delhi: A team of officials from Commonwealth Sport, led by its Director of Games Darren Hall, will be in Ahmedabad for three days from Tuesday to inspect the venues and meet Gujarat government officials as India's chances of hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games brightens. The team landed in the national capital on Sunday and will be in Ahmedabad — the proposed host city if India gets the hosting rights — on Tuesday.

### Bagan ease past BSF in Durand Cup

Kolkata: Mohun Bagan Super Giant slammed three goals in quick succession to secure a comfortable 4-0 victory over Border Security Force for their second consecutive victory in the Group B fixture of the 134th Durand Cup here on Monday. Liston Colaco scored a brace, while Sahal Abdul Samad also found the target after Manvir Singh had given the Mariners the lead in the first half at the Kishore Bharati Kirangan.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

## Karthi returns as Fulton names squad for Aus tour

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

AT THE 2023 Asian Champions Trophy, which witnessed a high-level international hockey tournament in Chennai, after 16 long years, one of the star attractions was Karthi Selvam. The forward from Tamil Nadu got plenty of love from the local crowd but after a decent outing in the team, he didn't make the cut for subsequent squads.

On Monday, he found his name on the team sheet once more as Hockey India announced the 24-member squad for a four-match tour of Australia that is going to be a key series in determining the squad for Asia Cup in Rajgir, a World Cup qualifier.

With the retirement of Lalit Upadhyay opening up a spot in the forward line, Karthi - and another youngster in Aditya Lalage - enter the fray along with Mandeep Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, and Dilpreet Singh.

Karthi's recent return to the core probable group for the national camp and subsequent call-up for the India 'A' side followed good performances in the revamped Hockey India League earlier this year, where he impressed for the Tamil Nadu Dragons.

The recent tour to Europe with India 'A' was a shot in the arm. "It instilled fresh hope for India comeback for me. It's going to be two years since I last wore the India colours and there've been a lot of learnings for me in this tour, which had a combination of young players and those who have played for India," Karthi told Hockey India before the squad was announced.

Speaking about his own game, Karthi said, "There have been some specific inputs that Craig (Fulton) has given me and also Cosma, our Analytical Coach, has provided valuable inputs for my game particularly on off-the-ball tactics. I've been implementing this in my game and look forward to breaking into the India side again."

The four-match Tour of Australia is from 15th August to 21st August in Perth while the Asia Cup starts on 29th August.

**SQUAD: Goalkeepers:** Krishan B Pathak, Suraj Karkera; **Defenders:** Sumit, Jarmanpreet Singh, Harmanpreet Singh (C), Sanjay, Amit Rohidas, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Jugraj Singh, Poovanna CB; **Midfielders:** Rajinder Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Rabichandra Singh Moirangthem, Vishnu Kant Singh; **Forwards:** Mandeep Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Karthi Selvam, Aditya Lalage

## Paris medallist Aman headlines power-packed Indian team for Wrestling World Championships

PRITISH RAJ  
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 4

THE MEN'S wrestling trials for the World Championships scheduled in Zagreb concluded on the expected lines as Paris Olympics medallist Aman Sehrawat (57 kg), Budapest Ranking series gold medallist Sujeet Kalkal (65 kg), and Tokyo Olympian Deepak Punia (92 kg) booked their berth for the event.

While Aman Sehrawat barely faced any resistance in his two hours, Sujeet had to work hard for his place as Vishal Kaliraman tested him in the final. Aman, who has just played the Ulanbatar Ranking Series after Paris, looked a little rustic against Sumit in the semis of 57 kg but eventually won the bout 12-2. In the finals, he defeated Rahul 11-0. It was a classic attacking strategy where he went for the legs and converted it into takedown.

This will be the second World Championships appearance for the 22-year-old from Haryana.

In the 65kg, Sujeet was defensively solid and reversed two attacks from Anuj in the semi-final to win 8-0.

Sujeet took a big lead of 7-1 in the final but Vishal came back to score three more points. However, Sujeet defended well



Aman Sehrawat was untroubled during the selection trials in Lucknow on Monday. PTI/File

throughout the bout to book his berth.

"My experience at the two Ranking series (Ulaanbaatar and Budapest) are going to help me at the World Championships. For the past one year, I have worked hard on strength and conditioning," Sujeet told The Indian Express after winning his final.

Deepak Punia decimated both his opponents, one by power and one by tactics. In the 92 kg, he defeated Anil 10-0 in the semi-finals and pinned young Sachin to claim his berth.