



U.S. NEGOTIATORS EXPECTED IN DELHI LATER THIS MONTH

Trump doubles India tariff to 50%, opens 21-day window

US tariff on India highest among countries; puts world on notice over Russian oil

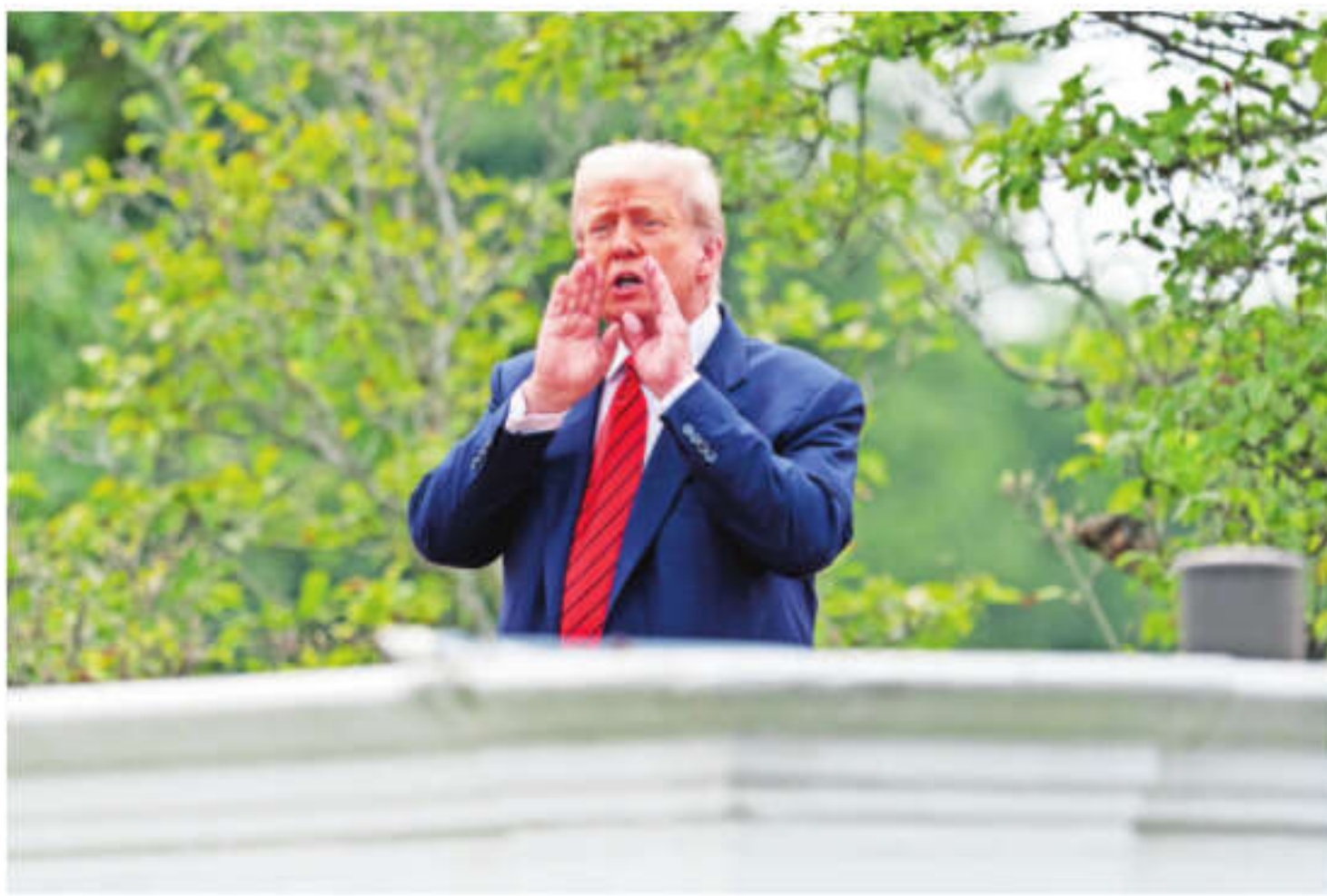
RAVI DUTTA MISHRA & SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

RAMPING UP pressure ahead of the expected arrival in India of US trade negotiators on August 25, President Donald Trump Wednesday doubled the tariffs on India to 50 per cent, but opened a 21-day window before the additional tariff of 25 per cent kicks in.

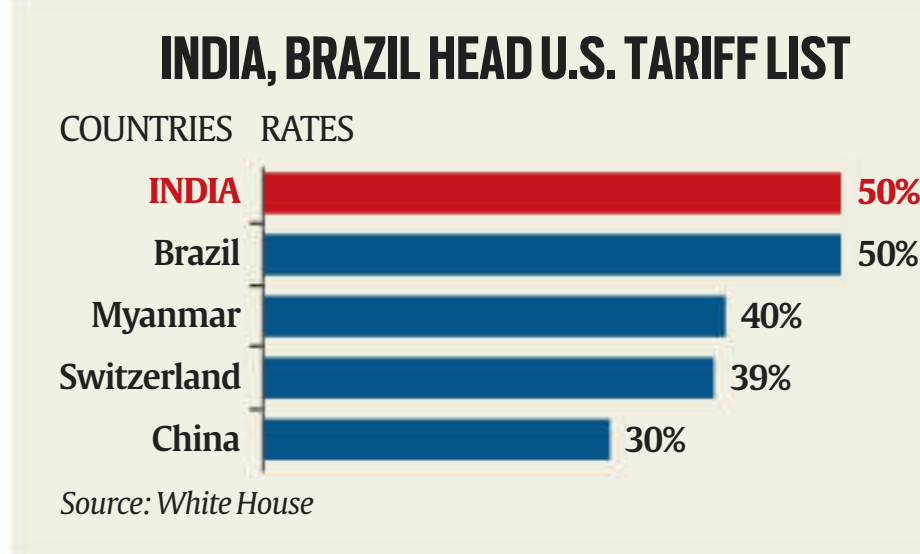
A White House statement said the US will impose “additional 25 per cent ad valorem duty” above the 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs announced on August 1 to “deal with the national emergency stemming from Russia’s actions in Ukraine”. This tariff is deemed necessary and appropriate due to India’s “direct or indirect import of Russian Federation oil”, which the President judges will more effectively address the national emergency, the executive order said.

The additional tariff dramatically raises pressure on India as most of its competitors such as Vietnam, Bangladesh and now

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President Donald Trump shouts to reporters as he surveys the grounds from the roof above the Colonnade that goes to the West Wing of the White House, Tuesday. AP



INSIDE

IN INDIA TARIFF, TRUMP SIGNAL TO OTHER IMPORTERS OF RUSSIAN OIL

RAHUL: ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL, BID TO BULLY INDIA

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Unreasonable, unjustified, unfair: India hits back at Trump tariff

DIVYAA & SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

INDIA ON Wednesday hit back at the United States for doubling the tariff to 50 per cent, reiterating that the action was “unfair, unjustified and unreasonable”. The government said it would take “all actions necessary” to “protect its national interests”.

“The United States has in recent days targeted India’s oil imports from Russia. We have already made clear our position on these issues, including the fact that our imports are based on market factors and done with the overall objective of ensuring the energy security of 1.4 billion people of India,” the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) official spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, said in a statement on Wednesday evening.

“It is therefore extremely unfortunate that the US should choose to impose additional tariffs on India for actions that several other countries are also

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EXPRESS INVESTIGATION: TELANGANA ‘SNOOPING’ - PART 1

Top-secret letters by telecom providers blew lid off ‘illegal surveillance’ during BRS regime

NIKHILA HENRY
HYDERABAD, AUGUST 6

ON DECEMBER 6, 2023, a routine letter from a telecom service provider reached Telangana’s Special Intelligence Branch (SIB) office in Hyderabad. Called a reconciliation letter in official parlance, it was marked ‘top secret’ and addressed to the then DIG of SIB.

Just three days earlier, a new government had stormed to power in the state, with the Congress led by Revanth Reddy ousting K Chandrashekar Rao’s BRS.

The letter asked whether the service provider, Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, should continue legal interception or surveillance of a set of phone numbers. According to the letter, the numbers, included as an attachment, were under legal interception from November 16 to November 30, 2023 — the fortnight leading up to Assembly elections.

Reconciliation letters are sent when the 15-day window of legal surveillance — or surveillance done in the interest of the state — expires and service providers need re-authorisation for another 15 days.

This letter, and similar reconciliation letters for the same number of days sent by well-known private and public service providers to the SIB office, form the foundation of Telangana’s case against five top police and intelligence officers and a TV channel operator, who are accused of indulging in the illegal surveillance of 600 individuals — using the state’s anti-Naxal surveillance mechanisms — to benefit the BRS, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Those allegedly snooped on included politicians, party workers, bureaucrats, businessmen, a sitting High Court judge, as well as their spouses, drivers and even childhood friends, accord-

BJP TO CONG TO BRS, WHO WAS TAPPED?

Investigators are learnt to have named 17 people, who were allegedly surveilled illegally, in the chargesheet. *The Indian Express* spoke to 13 from across parties, many of whom have already deposed before the police

EATALA RAJENDER
FORMER BRS MINISTER WHO IS NOW A BJP MP



“I am 100% sure that I was under surveillance. In Telangana, I was the most tapped politician. My PA to gunmen, about 25 to 30 people’s phones were tapped. The phones of my wife, children were tapped. What sort of people would listen to conversations between a husband and wife? I have deposed this before the SIT.”

RS PRAVEEN KUMAR
IPS OFFICER TURNED BRS LEADER WHO WAS EARLIER HEADING BSP IN TELANGANA



“I got an alert from Apple that ‘state-sponsored hackers’ were trying to access my phone in Dec 2022... did not say which government... I believe no party will ask Intelligence to tap people’s phones... could be administrative overreach and those responsible should be brought to book.”

DHARMAPURI ARAVIND
BJP MP



“The entire BRS phone-tapping episode is proof of how insecure, paranoid and power-drunk K Chandrashekar Rao and his family were... This is nothing short of political criminality. During that time, I used to repeatedly receive official alerts from Apple warning me that my phone was under targeted surveillance.”

TEENMAR MALLANNA ALIAS C NAVEEN KUMAR
FORMER JOURNALIST, CONGRESS MLC



“I had a clear suspicion that I was under surveillance because I was a vocal critic of the KCR government. When the police served summons notices, I realised that my suspicion was well-founded. So many people were under surveillance during the previous government’s tenure.”



PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Kartavya Bhavan, which will house offices of ministries, on Wednesday. PTI REPORT, PAGE 9

PM likely to be in China for SCO meet, his first visit in 7 yrs

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

PREPARATIONS ARE underway to schedule a visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to China where leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation will gather for the Summit in Tianjin from August 31 to September 1, sources said Wednesday.

On the sidelines of the Summit, if the visit materialises, Modi is also expected to hold bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, a meeting that will take place amid rising tensions with the US over trade tariffs and purchase of Russian oil.

The two leaders last met on October 23, 2024 on the margins of the BRICS Summit in the Russian city of Kazan, setting the stage for the disengagement of troops at two friction points along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh and resumption of patrolling.

The Prime Minister’s visit, which sources said is still being planned, will be his first to China in seven years — the last visit was in 2018. The military standoff along the LAC in eastern Ladakh began in May 2020 following Chinese incursions. The disengagement process was completed in November 2024, days

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RBI Governor: Reduced Russia oil purchase won’t impact inflation

SIDDHARTH UPASANI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) sees no major impact on domestic inflation if India reduces its purchases of oil from Russia amid US President Donald Trump’s threats of a “penalty” and announcement slapping a combined tariff of 50 per cent on India.

Speaking to reporters Wednesday at the conclusion of the Monetary Policy Committee’s (MPC) three-day meeting — hours before Trump

ECONOMY



RBI HOLDS REPO RATE AT 5.5%, RETAINS FY26 GDP GROWTH AT 6.5%

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slapped another 25 per cent tariff on India — RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said it was important to keep in mind that India did not buy oil only from Russia.

“It’s not only Russian oil that we are taking; we are taking oil from many other countries. If the mix changes, what is its impact on prices, what is the global commodity prices of crude, it will depend on all that. And the other thing it will depend on is how much of its impact, downwards or upwards, is actually taken by the government in the

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Agri a stumbling block in talks, but India-US trade in sector sees surge

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

EVEN AS agriculture, along with purchase of Russian oil, has emerged as a key sticking point in the trade talks between India and the United States, here’s an interesting fact: Trade in farm produce between the two countries is actually booming and poised to touch a new record this year.

During January-June 2025, India’s imports of agricultural products from the US were, at \$1,693.2 million, a whopping

INDIA, U.S. AGRICULTURE EXPORTS						
Total Exports	2022	2023	2024	Jan-Jun 2024	Jan-Jun 2025	Growth in %
US	2,348.5	2,040.7	2,378.8	1,135.8	1,693.2	49.1
India	6,658.8	5,811.5	6,211.9	2,798.9	3,472.7	24.1

Exports in millions of dollars; Source: US Department of Agriculture

49.1% more than the \$1,135.8 million for the same six months of the last calendar year. India’s agricultural exports to the US, too, were up 24.1%, from \$2,798.9 million in January-June

2024 to \$3,472.7 million in January-June 2025 (see chart).

With US President Donald Trump doubling the tariff on import of goods from India to

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Day after Uttarkashi flash floods, 60 feared missing, search ops on



Search and rescue operations underway at Dharali. PTI

AISWARYA RAJ
DEHRADUN, AUGUST 6

ON THE second day of rescue operations at Uttarakhand’s Dharali, carried out primarily by the Army, the search continued for those missing in the after-

math of the flash floods, estimated to be over 60, as heavy rains lashed the state and several rivers breached the danger level. Two bodies were recovered during the day, and 150 people have been rescued so far.

Colonel Harshvardhan, who

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on June 8, 2024. According to investigators familiar with the probe and the

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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



THE WORLD



U.S. ENVOY MEETS PUTIN

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In Maharashtra port, ship waits to be sunk, start new life as artificial reef

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

SONAL GUPTA
MUMBAI, AUGUST 6

AT THE Vijaydurg port, a natural harbour in Maharashtra’s coastal Sindhudurg district, an 81-metre-long piece of naval history lies still against the blue of the Arabian Sea, awaiting its second innings.

INS Guldar, a decommissioned Navy warship, will soon be deliberately sunk — or ‘scuttled’ — to breathe new life into

its metal bones, transforming it into an artificial reef and an underwater tourist attraction.

Though scuttled ships have been used to create artificial reefs elsewhere in the world, this is the first such attempt in India.

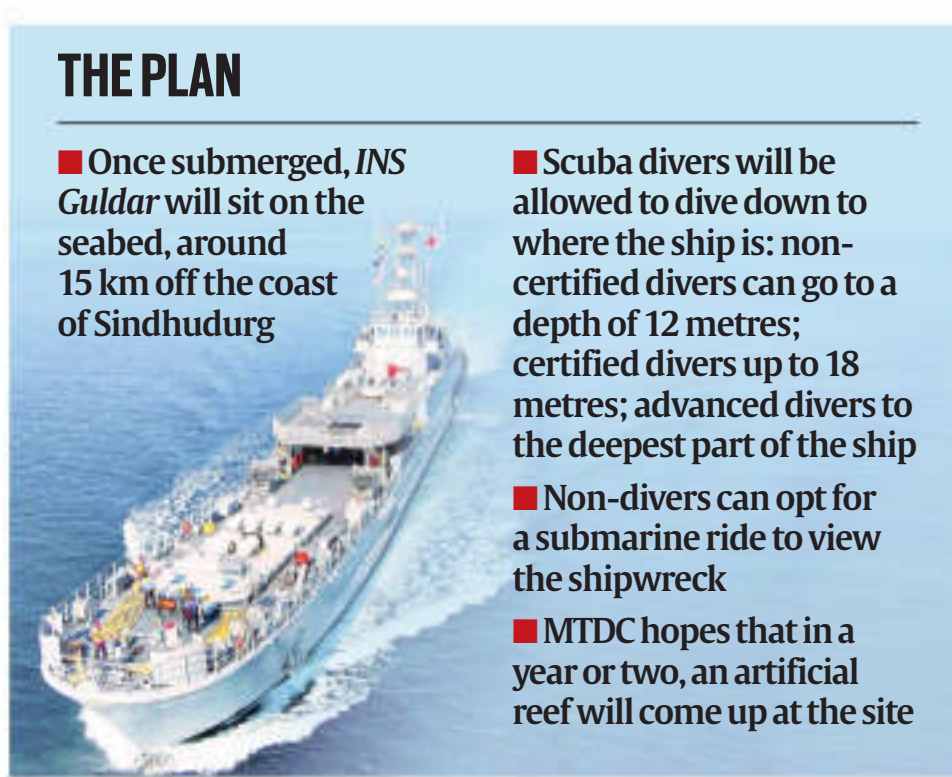
“The idea behind this project is to develop tourism in Sindhudurg. When the ship is submerged, it will gradually form an underwater reef that attracts various kinds of fish. Once that happens, people from all over the world, especially avid scuba divers, will come to the district,” says an official of the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) who is associated

with the project.

Home to MTDC’s Indian Institute of Scuba Diving and Aquatic Sports (IISDA), Sindhudurg, 120 km from Goa, has been a training centre for scuba diving enthusiasts for over a decade.

Had all gone according to plan, *INS Guldar* would have been scuttled in April. Officials said its scuttling was postponed in view of tensions between India and Pakistan after the April 22 terror attack in Pahalagam.

Dock Shipbuilders Limited, the government-run firm responsible for the scuttling, said the



EXPLAINED
A first for India
THE MAHARASHTRA Tourism Development Corporation hopes to transform *INS Guldar* into an underwater tourist attraction. Scuttling is usually a wartime tactic involving the deliberate sinking of a vessel — in case of an emergency or to prevent it from falling into enemy hands.

process was delayed further due to the early arrival of monsoon in Maharashtra.

“Too much wind or rough seas can topple the ship, which means it won’t go down as planned. We are waiting for a lull in the monsoon (to carry out the scuttling),” the official adds.

The ageing *INS Guldar*, a Kumbhir-class landing ship designed for amphibious warfare and capable of beach landings, was once part of India’s peace-keeping mission in Sri Lanka, combating attacks from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the Tamil separatist group, across the beaches of Jaffna and

Trincomalee in the island nation.

The plan to acquire a ship for scuttling took off in December 2023, when the MTDC hosted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, then Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and then Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis in Sindhudurg on the occasion of Navy Day. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, who was then the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, was also in attendance.

The MTDC is learnt to have asked Admiral Tripathi for a

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● India hits back: ‘Unreasonable’

taking in their own national interest,” said the statement, in a reference to Europe and China also buying energy from Russia but not facing any consequences. “We reiterate that these actions are unfair, unjustified and unreasonable. India will take all actions necessary to protect its national interests,” the MEA statement said.

On Monday, too, soon after US President Donald Trump warned that he would raise the tariff on India “substantially” for buying Russian oil, the MEA had said the targeting of India was “unjustified and unreasonable”, adding that the country would take “all necessary measures” to safeguard its “national interests and economic security”.

Pointing out “the double standards”, India had said that both the US and the EU were continuing their trade relations with Russia. “Where the US 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 had said in a statement.

“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 had said.

According to estimates, since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine war, Moscow earned Euro 923 billion in revenue from fossil fuel exports. The EU countries are estimated to have accounted for over Euro 212 billion of these exports.

Such strong statements are rare between India and US. The situation presents the biggest diplomatic challenge for New Delhi on its ties with Washington since the 1998 nuclear tests when the US had imposed sanctions against India.

Sources said that while the government is keeping its door open for negotiations, it is also looking at a range of options, including subsidies to keep Indian products competitive in the international market.

Sources pointed out that India has about three weeks to negotiate with the American interlocutors, during which high-level conversations are expected to take place. The Indian mission in Washington DC will be reaching out to the US establishment to discuss the situation and see how they can overcome the crisis, sources said.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Trump doubles India tariff to 50%, opens 21-day window

China are at lower tariffs. However, exporters said that the US tariff-related uncertainty is already disrupting trade. About half of India's total exports of \$80 billion are, however, in the exemption list that include products such as pharma and electronics goods.

While the fresh order takes the total US tariffs to its highest on any country globally, it also offers a fresh window for discussion. Last Saturday, The Indian Express reported that key economic ministries had been asked for inputs to sweeten the trade deal stuck on India's resistance to US demand for access to the Indian agriculture market. “This 25 per cent ad valorem duty will be effective for goods entered for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time 21 days after the date of the order. There are exceptions for goods that were loaded onto a vessel and in transit before this effective date and are entered for consumption or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption before 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on September 17, 2025,” the order stated.

Hours before the announcement of additional tariff, Trump, while responding to a question from news agency ANI on US import of Russian chemicals and fertilisers, said: “I don't know anything about it. I'd have to check, but we'll get back to you on that.”

On Wednesday, The Indian Express reported that US imports from Russia had been rising, growing 23 per cent year-on-year to \$2.1 billion between January and May this year. The surge was led by a sharp increase in the im-

port of palladium (37%), uranium (28%) and fertilisers (21%).

While Delhi has called the targeting of India over the purchase of Russian oil “unjustified and unreasonable” and vowed to take “all necessary measures” to safeguard its “national interests and economic security”, Indian exporters are in a fix, scrambling to retain access to the US, their most valuable export market, accounting for nearly 20 per cent of India's total outbound shipments.

‘Cannot absorb high US tariffs’

Reacting to higher than expected US tariffs, Indian exporters said they are not in a position to absorb such high tariffs. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) president, S C Ralhan, said: “This (US) move is a severe setback for Indian exports, with nearly 55 per cent of our shipments to the US market directly affected. The 50 per cent reciprocal tariff effectively imposes a cost burden, placing our exporters at a 30-35 per cent competitive disadvantage compared to peers from countries with lesser reciprocal tariff,” he said.

Ralhan said many export orders have already been put on hold as buyers reassess sourcing decisions in light of higher landed costs. For a large number of MSME-led sectors, absorbing this sudden cost escalation is simply not viable and margins are already thin, and this additional blow could force exporters to lose long-standing clients, he said.

CTFI Chairman Rakesh Mehra said, “The US tariff announcement of August 6 is a huge setback for India's textile and apparel ex-

porters as it has further complicated the challenging situation we were already grappling with and will significantly weaken our ability to compete effectively vis-à-vis many other countries for a larger share of the US market.”

Mehra appealed to the government to urgently take steps to come to the aid of India's textile and apparel sector during these hugely testing times given the government's strong commitment to increase the competitiveness of local industry and help our companies become major players on the world stage.

China largest importer of Russian oil

Incidentally, China is the largest buyer of Russian oil, at about 2 million barrels per day, followed by India (just under 2 million barrels a day) and Turkey. The US had agreed to lower tariffs on Chinese goods to 30 per cent from 145 per cent in May.

The executive order does not make any mention of China, but stipulates a mechanism wherein the US Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with other senior officials, “will monitor if any other country (beyond India) is directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil and recommend further action”.

New Delhi-based think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that in 2024 alone, China bought \$62.6 billion of Russian oil – more than India's \$52.7 billion.

Washington avoids targeting Beijing because of China's leverage over critical materials such as gallium, germanium, rare earths and graphite, vital for US defence

and technology, GTRI said.

“The US has also overlooked its allies' trade with Russia: the EU imported \$39.1 billion of Russian goods last year, including \$25.2 billion in oil, while the US itself purchased \$3.3 billion in strategic materials from Russia. The tariffs are expected to make Indian goods far costlier in the US, with potential to cut US-bound exports by 40-50 per cent.

Hit to India-US ties

Indian officials have indicated that the US is unwilling to negotiate sectoral tariffs – such as those on steel and automobiles – which have already impacted nearly \$5 billion worth of Indian exports.

Evan A Feigenbaum, vice president for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said Monday that US-India relations may now become a political football, especially in Delhi. He warned that the core understandings that enabled closer ties may be at serious risk, as Delhi had largely assumed Washington would take political risks to strengthen the relationship – something Trump has not done and clearly will not do.

Feigenbaum said the split in relations is further underscored by Trump's effusive praise for Islamabad and recent engagement with Pakistan's army and government – developments that raise obvious concerns in Delhi.

“The United States was roiled by India's ties to Iran, Myanmar and later Russia. Trump and his administration are now moving to sanction and tariff India over its oil trade with Russia. This significantly shifts the bar for bilateral relations,” he said.

● ‘Reduced Russia oil purchase won't impact inflation’

form of excise duties and other tariffs. So, we don't see any major impact as of now because I think the government will take an appropriate decision on the fiscal side in case there is any shock,” he said.

Delhi has called the targeting of India over the purchase of Russian oil “unjustified and unreasonable” and said these imports began as its traditional supplies were diverted to Europe, with the US having “actively encouraged such imports by India for strengthening global energy markets stability”.

At the time of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the former's share in India's oil imports was under 2 per cent, with Delhi relying heavily on the likes of Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Since then, Indian refiners have lapped up discounted Russian oil that was shunned by developed nations, resulting in its share in India's oil imports jumping to 35-40 per cent.

According to the RBI's most recent Monetary Policy Report, published in April, if crude oil prices are 10 per cent higher than the

RBI's baseline assumption of \$70 per barrel for FY26, domestic inflation may be 30 basis points (bps) higher than the central bank's forecast.

On Wednesday, the RBI cut its full-year headline retail inflation forecast by 60 bps to 3.1 per cent.

Commenting on the impact of the current global trade uncertainties on inflation, Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta told reporters that nearly half of the country's inflation basket consisted of food, whose price does not get impacted directly by global developments.

“A significant part consists of non-tradables, which again does not get impacted by global developments. So, to that extent, a first-order direct impact of these evolving uncertainties on India's inflation is likely to be very, very limited,” Gupta said.

On the growth front, Malhotra said the RBI retained its forecast for the current fiscal at 6.5 per cent as there was not “sufficient data” to make any revisions.

According to him, some of the global uncertainty was already factored in by the central bank

when it cut the GDP growth forecast in April to 6.5 per cent from 6.7 per cent. “However, there is still a lot of uncertainty,” he said.

According to Sakshi Gupta, principal economist at HDFC Bank, GDP growth is seen inching down to 6.3 per cent this year from 6.5 per cent in FY25. “However, in the case where tariffs remain elevated at current levels and/or are further raised we see a downside risk of 20-25 bps to our GDP growth forecast for the year,” she said.

Asked if the RBI, in addition to cutting interest rates, was prepared to support Indian businesses amid the current uncertain global trade scenario, Malhotra said the central bank had taken a number of measures to support growth, including on the regulatory and foreign exchange management norms front to make it easier for companies to do business and take part in international trade.

“We will continue to do whatever is required to be done in such a scenario. Of course, trade negotiations are still continuing. We are hopeful that we will have an amicable solution,” he said.

● In Maharashtra port, ship waits to be sunk

decommissioned ship as a “token of gift” to the state tourism department so that it could be turned into an “underwater museum and artificial reef” at Sindhudurg.

On November 26, 2024, the Union Finance Ministry green-lit the project, followed by a nod from the Maharashtra government on December 19, 2024. On February 21, 2025, the Navy handed over *INS Guldar* to the MTDC on an “as is where is” basis at Karwar in Karnataka.

Built at Poland's Gdynia Shipyard, *INS Guldar* was commissioned into the Indian Navy nearly four decades ago, in 1985. It was first based in Visakhapatnam, where it was used for amphibious warfare, transferring troops and equipment and for disaster relief operations. In 1995, it joined the Andaman and Nicobar command, where it served until its decommissioning on January 12, 2024, according to a statement by the Navy.

The underwater museum-artificial reef project is estimated to cost Rs 78 crore. The Centre will bear nearly 60% of the total cost and the state government the rest, said an MTDC official.

According to the Detailed Project Report (DPR) accessed by *The Indian Express*, the Sindhudurg site will have a carrying capacity of 2,773 divers daily, spread over six diving sessions in an eight-hour operational period. The MTDC expects at least 71,000 tourists to visit the site in the first year, with the figure projected to go up to 1.10 lakh within a decade.

Talking about the underwater museum-cum-artificial reef project, an official said every ship has a scuttling plan that the captain follows to deliberately sink the ship – usually “in case of an emergency or to prevent it from falling into enemy hands”.

The process of scuttling, he

said, follows the Archimedes principle, which states that the buoyant force keeping an object afloat is equal to the weight of the water the object displaces. Simply put, for a ship to sink, it must be filled with water to achieve negative buoyancy.

“To achieve that, the ship's sea chest (a compartment built into the hull below the waterline) will be opened to flood the engine room. The front section will also be flooded simultaneously in a controlled manner,” the official says, adding that the process will take up to 10 hours.

According to the DPR, the ship, which has been stripped of all pollutants that may harm marine life, will be sunk to a depth of nearly 30 metres.

Once submerged, *INS Guldar*, which has a flat bottom, will simply sit on the seabed, around 3 km from existing scuba diving sites near Malvan and Tarkali beaches or around 15 km off the coast of Sindhudurg, near the Vengurla Rocks in the Arabian Sea.

The DPR states that non-certified divers who have completed pool training will be allowed to dive down to a depth of 12 metres; certified divers up to 18 metres, which will give them access to the middle parts of the ship; and advanced divers to the deepest part of the ship, including the hull and the seabed.

For non-divers, the MTDC plans to acquire a 24-seater submarine, offering tourists a 20-minute panoramic underwater view of the shipwreck.

To enhance employment prospects in Sindhudurg, the MTDC plans to train locals in scuba diving, boat handling and as tourist guides.

If successful, this could become India's first operational submarine tourism experience. Gujarat had announced a similar project at the Bet Dwarka island

in 2023.

While the scuba diving plan is expected to take off as soon as the ship is scuttled, experts say it could take a year or more for a reef to “fully establish and function as essential habitat”.

Alex Fogg, Natural Resources Chief of Florida's Okaloosa County in the United States, says that while fish appear “almost immediately”, the formation of an artificial reef is dependent on a number of factors – from the size of the vessel to the depth at which it is sunk, and its proximity to another reef.

“Larger, more complex vessels in shallower waters tend to establish more quickly,” Fogg explains. “That's not to say smaller or deeper reefs aren't beneficial, they are just a different community.”

Okaloosa County deployed its first artificial reef off Destin-Fort Walton Beach in 1976. Today, it hosts over 500 artificial reefs created from concrete structures, old bridge materials, military equipment, and decommissioned vessels.

Marine biologist Vardhan Patankar too says that while the sunken ship could still make for a good scuba diving site since “it will attract fish and a variety of associated invertebrates”, whether it will be a viable reef with diverse composition is debatable.

He says, “An artificial reef is created when free-flowing larvae from a parent reef find another hard substratum (a layer of something, like rock or soil, below another layer). When that happens, they settle and thrive.”

Patankar explains, “Larvae can stay alive for a day and usually settle where their parents are. So, they are not going to come all the way from Angria Bank (a natural reef over 100 km away from Sindhudurg) to this site. They will most likely come from Sindhudurg, where the species composition is low.”

● Uttarkashi

is leading the Army team, said the number of missing is unknown and that relief measures have continued through the night. Additional Army columns, along with tracker dogs, drones, and earthmoving equipment, have been moved ahead to supplement the resources at Harsil to hasten the efforts. Currently, the Army is undertaking the operations with digging tools such as pickaxes, crowbars, and shovels. A source said that the team has a sniffer dog, while more are being brought to the site. Drones are also being used to locate the victims.

Defence PRO Lieutenant

Colonel Manish Srivastava said that IAF and Army helicopters for essential supplies, medicines and evacuation of the marooned are also being coordinated. The residents have been moved to higher reaches in view of rising water levels due to incessant rains.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami also visited the disaster-hit site and met villagers.

Dharali is situated at the confluence of Kheer Ganga, a tributary, and river Bhagirathi. The cause of the flood remains unknown, with IMD data ruling out a cloudburst. A scientist at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology said that while it's unclear until a site visit is undertaken, a glacial lake outburst flood may have resulted in the sudden rise in water levels and the debris slide.

Having rushed to safety in Harsil, Jai Bhagwan, a hotelier, said that on Tuesday, he was at a temple nearby. Some distance away from the market, the temple was one of the structures unharmed

in the floods. Around 1.40 am on Tuesday, Bhagwan was attending the *mela* when a commotion was heard. “First, there was a thunderous sound, and then I heard people screaming from the village nearby. They were whistling too, but we were clueless. Then came massive waves of mud, water, and rocks,” he recalled.

Bhagwan's four-storey hotel was one of the structures swept away in the deluge. “We did not immediately understand what was happening. I tried to rush to my home, some metres away, but in 20 minutes, the water reached our house,” Bhagwan said. He later rushed to Harsil on foot.

He saw the video much later, and the magnitude of the incident dawned on him. “In the video, my hotel is seen being washed away. It was a 40-room hotel, but it flowed away like a leaf,” he said.

He spent the next few hours after fleeing from Dharali calling his family members, ensuring their safety. “I could contact them till 4 pm on Tuesday, after which they became unavailable,” he said. Bhagwan said that most hotels were empty due to the lull in tourism in the monsoon season, and the market had fewer people. “In other months, my hotel is completely booked when the Char Dham yatra is going on. Even

my staff and nephew, who manages the hotel, were not present, fortunately,” Bhagwan said.

Rescuers say there is 50-60 feet of muck, almost like quicksand, at the site, which is near-impossible to move without heavy machinery.

The Commandant of the State Disaster Response Force, Arpan Yaduvanshi, said that the communication with their ground team has been patchy as they are relying entirely on satellite phones. “This gets worse due to deteriorating weather. Though we have dispatched four helicopters, one has reached Harsil helipad, and the supplies with six personnel will reach Dharali on foot, four kilometres away,” he said.

Chinook and Mi-17 are on standby in Chandigarh and Sarsawa. Yaduvanshi, who supervised the Uttarkashi tunnel collapse, said there was optimism in that operation because they could establish a connection with the people stuck inside.

On the floods that have resulted in loss of life and property damage in parts of Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli, falling in his constituency Garhwal, MP Anil Baluni said that he has directed all District Magistrates to ensure that assistance is provided to the affected people and to restore damaged roads as quickly as possible.

● SCO meet

after the meeting in Kazan.

The two countries have since sought to repair ties, resuming the Mansarovar Yatra, visas for Chinese tourists and looking at revival of direct flights. But these efforts took a hit in May when India came across evidence of active Chinese assistance to the Pakistan military during the hostilities that followed Operation Sindoor.

Incidentally, Modi's last visit to China in 2018 was also for a Summit of the SCO leaders in Qingdao in June that year. Xi travelled to India in October 2019, months before the Chinese incursions in eastern Ladakh.

The government, sources said, will be taking a final call on Modi's visit and an announcement will be made once the plans are finalised.

In the months after the meeting in Kazan, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri travelled to China.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also travelled to China last month for a meeting of the SCO Foreign Ministers in Tianjin.

While the disengagement process has been completed in eastern Ladakh, Indian and Chinese troops, some 50,000-60,000 on each side, remain deployed along the LAC in the region. Delhi and Beijing are discussing the roadmap to de-escalation and de-induction of military forces.

● Agri a stumbling block in talks, but India-US trade in sector sees surge

50 per cent on Wednesday, the impact remains to be seen, but the trends so far suggest two-way farm trade at least surpassing previous highs.

If the current growth rates hold, India's agricultural exports to the US could top \$7.7 billion, and that of the US to India could be over \$3.5 billion in 2025.

The US's exports to India have been led by tree nuts – mainly almonds and pistachios – which were valued at \$1.1 billion-plus in 2024, and registering further 42.8% annual growth during the first six months of this year.

The other three big-ticket items are ethanol, soyabean oil and cotton.

Ethanol exports from the US to India, worth over \$420 million last year, are basically for manufacturing alcohol-based chemicals, medicines and other industrial uses. The US wants India to open up imports of ethanol also for fuel use, i.e. blending with petrol and diesel. India has been resisting that, just as much as it is not allowing imports of genetically modified (GM) maize and soyabean.

US farmers mostly grow only GM maize (corn) and soyabean. India currently permits imports of non-fuel ethanol and oil, produced from GM corn and soyabean respectively, but not the whole grain and oilseed as such.

Although the trade negotiations between the two sides are stuck due to India not yielding on GM crops, US exports of both corn-derived ethanol and soyabean oil to India have posted strong growth. The huge jump in soyabean oil exports from the US

INDIA AGRICULTURE EXPORTS TO U.S.

	2022	2023	2024	Jan-Jun 2024	Jan-Jun 2025	% Growth
Seafood	3016.5	2545.1	2483.8	1062.5	1407.9	32.5
Spices	333.9	359.3	410.2	194.7	206.9	6.3
Rice	301	347.4	391.2	176.8	199.6	12.9
Processed F&V	206.5	202.5	227.6	102.8	134.6	30.9
Baked Goods*	190.3	219.4	247.5	115.4	123.5	7.1
Essential Oils	228.9	180	212.1	109	114.2	4.8
Sugars**	218.5	174.6	171	84.6	119	40.8
Vegetable Oils	208.2	151.3	174.8	76.4	77.9	2
Food Preparations	81.1	105.2	137.9	62.5	58.7	-6
TOTAL	6,658.8	5,811.5	6,211.9	2,798.9	3,472.7	24.1

Exports in millions of dollars *Includes Cereals & Pasta; **Includes Sweeteners & Beverage Bases. Source: US Department of Agriculture

U.S. AGRICULTURE EXPORTS TO INDIA

	2022	2023	2024	Jan-Jun 2024	Jan-Jun 2025	Growth in %
Tree Nuts	1,001.4	1,095.5	1,116.1	532	759.6	42.8
Ethanol	182.7	245.9	420.9	213.7	246	15.1
Soyabean Oil	207.6	0.2	37.5	0.1	212.4	1,42,997.6
Cotton	491.2	223.7	209	86.9	181.5	108.8
TOTAL	2,348.5	2,040.7	2,378.8	1,135.8	1,693.2	49.1

Exports in millions of dollars Source: US Department of Agriculture

this year is likely to be sustained by India's move, on May 31, to slash its import duty from 27.5% to 16.5%. Cotton exports from the US have also been growing on the back of India turning into a net importer of the natural fibre.

India's agricultural exports to the US are somewhat more diversified. While seafood (primarily

frozen shrimp) has been the top item, there are others as well – from spices and essential oils to basmati rice, processed fruits & vegetables and baked foods – that have been doing well, with annual shipment value exceeding \$200 million each.

It's not clear how much of all these exports would be affected,

especially with the new Trump tariff.

Take seafood, where India's exports of \$2,483.8 million in 2024 was just behind Canada (\$3,956.9 million) and Chile (\$3,030.1 million), and ahead of Indonesia (\$1,907.9 million), Vietnam (\$1,790.4 million) and Ecuador (\$1,616.4 million). As of now, the 50% tariff on India is above that of all these competitors: Chile (10%), Ecuador (15%), Indonesia (19%), Vietnam (20%) and Canada (35%).

While seafood exports from India have remained buoyant, growing by 32.5% year-on-year in January-June, sustaining that may not be easy as the tariff differentials bite. But the fact that agriculture trade per se between India and the US is booming should be some consolation in the present situation where talks are at a standstill.

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From patrol surge to anti-corruption push, 4 changes Delhi top cop wants to bring about

EXPRESSNEWSSERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

INCREASED POLICE visibility, curb on corruption, better response at police stations, and an audit of cases registered in the last five years – these are the four areas that Delhi Police Commissioner Shashi Bhushan Kumar Singh has asked officers to work on.

A day after assuming additional charge as the Delhi Police chief last week, Singh interacted with the senior officers, discussing several strategies to curb corruption and increase police visibility. The directions issued were:

Increased visibility

Singh has told officers that foot patrolling is the police's top priority. Maximum officers should be on foot patrolling from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm every day. "SHOs (Station House Officers) should choose one beat of their police station area daily and do foot patrolling. District DCPs should also visit at least one beat area of a police station," a senior officer said, citing Singh's directions.

Singh has also said that while on rounds, district DCPs should interact with the division staff and beat staff. "Whenever a beat officer is assessed to be vigilant and aware, he should be rewarded forthwith, and if he does not give a proper reply, he should be warned," the senior officer said.

Curb on corruption

To curb corruption, there is a need to adopt both institutional and non-institutional mecha-

nisms, Singh has said. "Institutional mechanism would imply that ACPs of a sub-division should prepare a list of all investigation officers (IOs) and call two-three IOs daily and discuss cases and issue written directions to them," the officer said, citing Singh's directives. Singh has also said the joint CPs concerned should call the ACPs once a month and take stock of the exercise. Further, in a non-institutional mechanism, the police station staff should be divided into three parts. "Each inspector should closely supervise the staff under his (SHO) command. If any personnel is found involved in corruption, the concerned inspector and sub-inspectors should also be punished..." the senior officer quoted Singh as saying.

Better response

Maintaining that Delhi Police has to improve its response time, Singh has said that trained and smart sub-inspectors, head constables and constables should be selected for public facilitation desks. "One male and one female officer should be trained in handling cyber complaints and also be deployed at facilitation desks."

Audit of cases

An audit of cases registered during the last five years will be carried out to see in how many cases, chargesheets were filed. "Secondly, how many untraced and cancelled cases have been sent to the courts for acceptance... This audit should be completed by August 31," the senior officer cited Singh as saying.

TWO DAYS AFTER THEFT FROM CHANAKYAPURI, SUSPECT ARRESTED

Full sleeve shirt gives away man who stole TN Congress MP's gold chain

PRAGYNESH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

SOHAN RAWAT (24), with 26 cases registered against him, is a snatcher with a dress code. He always dons full sleeve T-shirts and shirts as well as a helmet, with his nose almost always peeping out, while out to commit thefts. The sleeves, which he never rolled up, police said, were to hide his two tattoos – a religious chant on his left hand and the initials of his name 'SR' on his right – his distinguishing marks. But it would be Rawat's trademark full sleeves that would be his undoing, after he allegedly snatched the gold chain of Congress MP from Tamil Nadu, Sudha Ramakrishnan, in Chanakyapuri while she was on a morning walk with MP Rajathi Salma on Monday.

Almost 48 hours after the incident, a team from the Anti-Auto Theft Squad (AATS) of the Delhi Police arrested Rawat from Okhla in Southeast Delhi on Wednesday.

The arrest comes days after he had come out of jail on bail in a motor vehicle theft case.

While he was arrested in the case from Ambedkar Nagar on April 16, he was released on bail on July 27.

The first time the police had noted Rawat's clothes was last July, when the AATS (South) team had arrested him from Chirag Delhi in a snatching case.

The breakthrough in the Congress MP snatching case, which was being investigated by over 70 policemen from three districts of the Capital, came when the AATS team was looking into the route Rawat had taken before and after committing the theft.

He was first spotted in a CCTV camera installed at Govindpur near Okhla around 6 am on Monday. "The footage showed he entered Chanakyapuri from Dhaura Kuan, after crossing Ashram Chowk. Earlier, he had taken the Ring Road from Kalkaji to reach Dhaura Kuan," an officer said.



(Above) Sohan Rawat after his arrest on Wednesday. PTT (Left) CCTV camera footage shows him after he committed the theft on Monday morning.



During questioning, Sohan Rawat reportedly told police that it was only later that he realised that his latest victim, the Congress MP, was someone 'high-profile'

leased from jail on June 27 after he was arrested for stealing a scooter in Ambedkar Nagar," an officer said.

The police contacted Rawat's wife, who resides at Dakshinpuri in Southeast Delhi, with the couple's five-month-old child.

"His wife said Rawat didn't come back home after he was released on bail," the officer said, adding that Rawat's parents also did not know his whereabouts after they disowned him over four years ago.

Following this, the police approached one of Rawat's accomplices – also based in

Dakshinpuri – who was arrested along with him last July in a snatching case. "The accomplice was unaware of Rawat's whereabouts, but he pointed us to Rawat's friend Piyush. When questioned, Piyush gave us Rawat's phone number which he was using," the officer said.

The police started tracking the phone, and found that the device was active near Pushpa Bhawan on BRT Corridor early Wednesday.

A team reached the spot, and found a man on the same scooter that was used during the snatching on Monday. The man was identified as Sohan Rawat, who was at the spot to sell the MP's gold chain, said police.

"He admitted to his involvement in the theft and was arrested," said DCP (South) Ankit Chauhan.

He added that the scooter was found to be stolen from Pul Prahladpur. Subsequently, four mobile phones and another scooter stolen from Nizamuddin were recovered on his instance.

Fake life-saving drugs under labels of top brands: Pan-India racket busted, 6 arrested

PRANAY SINGH DHAKA
NEW DELHI AUGUST 6

FROM JOHNSON & Johnson to GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), a pan-India racket involved in producing counterfeit life-saving drugs under the labels of top pharmaceutical companies has been busted by the Crime Branch's

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The six arrested – Rajesh Mishra (52), Parmanand (50), brothers Md Alam (35) and Md Saleem (42), Md Zuvaier (29) and Prem Shankar Prajapati (25)— allegedly used encrypted apps to

Anti-Gang Squad, the Delhi Police said on Wednesday. Six persons, including the kingpin of the racket, have been arrested.

Around 150 kg of loose tablets, 20 kg of loose capsules, 9,000 counterfeit tablets of Ultracet (Johnson & Johnson), 6,100 fake tablets of Augmentin 625 (GSK) and other fake drugs were allegedly recovered. Two factories involved in the racket have been busted in Haryana's Jind and Himachal Pradesh's Baddi, said police. The racket, officers said, involved a pan-India network in Moradabad, Deoria, Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh; Panipat and Jind in Haryana and Baddi and Solan in Himachal Pradesh.

The syndicate came under the

communicate. They also used fictitious accounts and hawala channels to receive money, said police.

Mishra has been identified as the mastermind. "He used his prior experience in the pharmaceutical sector to start counterfeit production at a clandestine unit in Jind operated by Parmanand under the name Maha Laxmi," DCP (Crime) Harsh Indora said.

Mishra would allegedly load fake tablets – produced in his factory – into duplicate boxes of reputed pharmaceutical brands, which he got from other accused.

"Foil materials and dye used for blister packing were procured from Baddi through one Govind Mishra. The packages were supplied by train to Gorakhpur and distributed by handlers like Prem Shankar to ground-level dealers such as Mohd Alam and Mohd Saleem," DCP Indora said.

The syndicate came under the

DUSU POLLS No vehicles with tinted windows, only handmade posters: DU

EXPRESSNEWSSERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

AHEAD OF the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections scheduled for September, university authorities on Wednesday held a high-level meeting and warned that, among other measures, vehicles with tinted windows or missing number plates will be immediately seized if found on the campus.

The warning comes as part of the university's efforts to enforce strict anti-defacement measures for the DUSU polls. Candidates have been instructed to use only handmade posters, within strictly monitored expenditure limits.

In a statement issued after the meeting, the university said, "The student representatives took the note seriously and assured that there shall be no defacement in the DUSU elections."

According to the statement, the student leaders have requested that the university install a "Wall of Democracy", designated for campaign material, in each college, and the administration has agreed to convey this request to all colleges.

Last year, the Delhi High Court had rapped the university over the defacement of public property during the election campaigning, following which the result declaration was postponed by a month.

The DUSU election usually witnesses fly-posting, graffiti-covered walls, and buntings fluttering across trees and lampposts. Vehicles with tinted windows or missing number plates are also a common sight during the student rallies and processions.

DU's Chief Election Officer, members of the Proctorial Board, SHO of Maurice Nagar police, and DUSU office-bearers attended the meeting, held at the proctor's office in Maurice Nagar. Later, the Proctorial Board and the Chief Election Officer held an online meeting with college principals, hostel wardens, heads of departments, SHOs, assistant commissioners of police, and deputy commissioners of police.

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पत्रांक: बरिप्र./ई-निविदा सेल/ /2025/ 643 दिनांक: 05.08.2025

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

महाप्रबन्धक (अभियन्त्रण) ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रेटर नोएडा की ओर से ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या बरि.प्र./ई-निविदा सेल/ /2025/ 642 दिनांक 05.08.2025 के माध्यम से उल्लेखित क्रम संख्या 01 से 20 तक के कार्य की ई-निविदाये आमन्त्रित की जाती है। समस्त नियम व शर्तें ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट: www.greaternoidaauthority.in पर ई-निविदा लिंक एवं ई-पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिए उक्त वेबसाइट देखते रहें।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम/वर्क सर्फिस	अनुमानित लागत
निर्माण का कार्य		
1.	सेक्टर ग्रामा-1 में बारडूडीबोल का अवशेष निर्माण कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस -5)	रु. 02.68 लाख
2.	ग्राम-मधुरापुर के बारात घर के अनुरक्षण का कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस-6)	रु. 13.21 लाख
3.	ग्राम-सूरजपुर में राजकीय आधुनिक अस्पताल के लिए चारदीवारी और पुरुष मर्न का निर्माण कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस - 3)	रु. 59.52 लाख
4.	ग्राम-मलकपुर 6% आबादी भूखण्डों संख्या-53 से 92 तक सी.सी. रोड, आर.सी.सी. ड्रेन का मरम्मत और निर्माण कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस - 4)	रु. 157.85 लाख
5.	ग्रेटर नोएडा के सेक्टर इकोटेक-7 की 60 मीटर सर्विस रोड, हनुमान मन्दिर ग्राम-लुखार से ओम्पो कंपनी और 45 मीटर सर्विस रोड ओम्पो कंपनी से जेल (गांव की ओर) आर.सी.सी. नाली का निर्माण कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस -7)	रु. 225.17 लाख
6.	गौर सेक्टर से सिंगरी ताल झाड़े तक 60 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क पर 02 नग यू-टर्न का निर्माण कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस - 1)	रु. 305.61 लाख
7.	सेक्टर टेकजोन-4 में 130 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क पर सेक्टर क्रॉसिंग से गैलेरिजी रोड तक 60 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क का चौकीकरण का कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस - 3)	रु. 410.15 लाख
8.	ग्रेटर नोएडा 130 मी. सेक्टर से ई-टा-2 मिगना (मकोडा) की 60 मी. चौड़ी सड़क में सेक्टर तक चौकीकरण और सुदृढीकरण का कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस - 6)	रु. 788.53 लाख
विद्युतीकरण का कार्य		
9.	ग्राम-घरबरा के प्राथमिक विद्यालय में आंतरिक विद्युतीकरण का कार्य एवं ग्राम-बुद्धपुर खारद के पार्क में 12.5 मी. हाई मास्ट लगाये जाने का कार्य (वर्क सर्फिस -ईएण्डएम- 3)	रु. 17.38 लाख
10.	ग्रेटर नोएडा सेक्टर-01 की 60 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क की सर्विस रोड (जलपुरा की तरफ) और सूरजपुर पुलिस स्टेशन के सामने 24 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क पर स्ट्रीट लाइट का कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस - ईएण्डएम - 1)	रु. 63.86 लाख
11.	ग्रेटर नोएडा के पुलिस लाईन की मुख्य मार्ग एवं उद्योग केन्द्र-2 (इकोटेक-3) पर स्ट्रीट लाइट का कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस - ईएण्डएम-1)	रु. 111.42 लाख
12.	ग्रेटर नोएडा के विभिन्न स्थानों पर फाउन्टेन-वाटर बॉडीज के 02 वर्ष हेतु संचालन एवं मरम्मत का कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस-ईएण्डएम-3)	रु. 151.58 लाख
13.	ग्रेटर नोएडा के ग्रामी घरबरा, कासना (एम-ब्लॉक एवं नियर पुलिस स्टेशन), नरौं की मटैया (फेज-2) बिरौडी (ए एन्ड सी ब्लॉक) घनामपुर, डाबरा अजायबपुर के 6 प्रतिशत आबादी भूखण्डों के विद्युतीकरण का कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस-ईएण्डएम-3)	रु. 551.10 लाख 12 माह
14.	ग्रेटर नोएडा के ग्राम अरसीली के जलिंग ग्राउन्ड में 33/ 11 के.वी. विद्युत उप-स्टेशन (2x10 एम.सी.ए.) के निर्माण का कार्य (वर्क सर्फिस -ईएण्डएम- 3)	रु. 1844.67 लाख
उद्यानिक कार्य		
15.	ग्रेटर नोएडा के जज कालोनी एवं ए.डी.एम. आवास पर इमारोपण एवं ए.डी.एम. आवास के सामने आन्तरिक सड़क एवं सिविल कार्य स्थापित तीन वर्ष तक अनुरक्षण का कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस-उद्यान)	रु. 58.21 लाख
16.	सेक्टर न्यू - II 40मी. में पेड़ पौधों एवं लीन शेष इमारोपण और धीन बेल्ट एवं पार्कों में सिविल कार्य के साथ दो वर्ष तक का अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस - उद्यान)	रु. 138.67 लाख
17.	ग्रेटर नोएडा वेस्ट के विभिन्न सेक्टरों में ओपन जिम, मार्गर्ड बेंच, झूलों की आपूर्ति और किफियांग के साथ 2 वर्ष का अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस - उद्यान)	रु. 158.06 लाख
जलापूर्ति एवं सीवर के कार्य		
18.	होटल उदमन के निकट 1600 मिमी व्यास की सीवर लाईन के संयन्धानक मूल्यांकन के लिए लागत अनुमान का सीसीटीडी संधरण का कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस-सीवर)	रु. 5.94 लाख
19.	कलाधाम सोसायटी सेक्टर नालेज पार्क-2 ग्रेटर नोएडा में नए ट्यूबवेल का निर्माण कार्य। (वर्क सर्फिस-जल)	रु. 39.64 लाख
20.	जोन-6 की वितरण पाईप लाईन का तीन वर्ष का अनुरक्षण कार्य (सैक्टर न्यू-1, 2, सी.एच.ए-10, न्यू-2, 2बी.एच.ए-16, न्यू-1, सी.एच.ए.ए. 29 मीटर) इकोटेक-1 एफएन्टेन्स, इकोटेक-1 एफएन्टेन्स-1, इकोटेक-6, 7, 8, आई.टी. सिटी ग्रेटर नोएडा। (वर्क सर्फिस-जल)	रु. 289.15 लाख

क्रम सं.-01, 02, 03, 04, 09, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18 एवं 19 पर अंकित कार्यों को दिनांक-08.08.2025 से 18.08.2025 को 500 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है। प्राप ई-निविदाओं की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 20.08.2025 को 11:00 बजे खोली जाएगी एवं क्रम सं.-05, 06, 07, 08, 13, 14 एवं 20 पर अंकित कार्यों को दिनांक-08.08.2025 से 22.08.2025 को 500 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है। प्राप ई-निविदाओं की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 25.08.2025 को 11:00 बजे खोली जाएगी।

वरिष्ठ प्रबंधक (ई-निविदा सेल)

Follow Us on

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No: 18/2025-26/KWA/PHC/D3/TVM
O&M - Water Supply Schemes-74MLD JICA assisted WTP-Operation & Maintenance of 74 MLD Water Treatment Plant at Aruvikkara constructed under JICA Project for 3 Years -General Civil Work, EMD: Rs. 500000, Tender fee: Rs. 19518, Last Date for submitting Tender: 08-09-2025 03:00:pm, Phone: 04712322303, Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle Thiruvananthapuram

KWA-JB-GL-6-264-2025-26

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०.

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत मण्डार मण्डल, आगरा

पत्रांक : 1907 / अधी.अभि.(मं०) / आ / निविदा दिनांक : 06.08.2025

ई-अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

ई-निविदा सूचना : ESC/A/T-07 (2025-26) दिनांक : 06.08.2025

कार्य का नाम :- स्टेशनरी की आपूर्ति का कार्य।

ई-निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क : 1,180 /- घरोहर राशि : 5,000/-

ई-निविदा की अन्तिम तिथि : 22 अगस्त 2025, 14:00 बजे

विस्तृत जानकारी एवं प्रपत्र वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। अग्रेतर समस्त सूचनाएं वेबसाइट पर ही प्रदर्शित की जाएंगी।

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. JHS-N-W-30-25 Date:- 04.08.2025

E-Tendering Notice

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Jhansi, DRM's office, Jhansi, for and on behalf of President of India invite open Tender through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following works.

E-Tender No.: JHS-N-W-30-25, **Description of work:** Provision of Interlocking of LC Gates No. 451 having TVU greater than 20,000 of Jhansi Division.

Approx Cost : ₹ 78,32,382.06 **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,56,700/-

Cost of Tender Form: Nil **Opening of tender:** 29.08.2025 Time 15:00

Completion period from issue of letter of acceptance: 06 Months

• Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 29.08.2025
• For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in (NORTH CENTRAL RLY/JHANSI DIVISION-S-AND T) 1393/25 (MG)

North central railways @ CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

Advertisement giving notice about Conversion of society into Company

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (ICCI), Plot No. 6, 7, 8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana-122050 that Graphic Era Educational Society, a Society registered under Society Act, 1860 may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company.

Notice is hereby given that any person having objection to this conversion application may communicate their objection in writing to the Sub Registrar, Firm Societies and Chits, First Floor, Near RBI, IT Park, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 06/08/2025
Place: Dehradun

Sd/-
Kamal Kumar Ghanshala
Applicant
(Member Secretary)

SURAT MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (SMC)

Muglisara, Surat - 395003, Gujarat
www.suratmunicipal.gov.in

Request for Proposal (RFP) (Online) Notice No. DMC/HR/SS/RFP/2025-26/Work no. I

Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for following work online on <https://smctender.nprocure.com> from reputed company/firm/organizations from India and abroad in this regard matching the basic eligibility criteria mentioned in the documents.

Sr.	Name of the work
I	Request for Proposal (RFP) for the curation and preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR), for exhibition creation, content development, procurement of exhibits and objects, fabrication with all interior works and operation and maintenance for project of Shahid Smarak / Shaurya Smarakat T.P.S. No. 29 (Vesu-Rundh-Magdalla), South West Zone, Surat Municipal Corporation, Surat

The detailed RFP notice will be made available at above address and on website www.suratmunicipal.gov.in

No. P.R.O./261/2025-26 Dy. Municipal Commissioner
Date: 05/08/2025 Surat Municipal Corporation

FIT INDIA



I-DAY PREPARATIONS

Army personnel rehearse for the British-era ceremonial 21-gun salute for Independence Day, outside the Red Fort on Wednesday. Eight Indian-made Light Field Gun E-2, also known as the 105mm Light Field Gun, were stationed facing the fort and fired in unison when the National Anthem started playing at 7.30 am. This is the first time that the practice ground has been shifted across the road, which was previously inside the premises of the Red Fort. *Praveen Khanna*

STRAY INCIDENTS: MINISTER Online classes, advisories as foot & mouth disease cases surface

SOPHIYA MATHEW
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

ISOLATE THE child if symptoms like rashes, fever or mouth sores appear and disinfect toys, surfaces and frequently touched items — this is a part of the advisory issued by some schools as cases of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) surface among young children in the Capital.

Even as Education Minister Ashish Sood said "stray incidents that often occur in monsoon" are being witnessed, some experts observed a surge in HFMD cases.

The contagious viral disease, which usually affects children between the ages of 3 and 7, causes symptoms such as fever, rashes, mouth sores, and discomfort.

Even as localised action is visible in some schools in the Capital, many are yet to report a major surge in HFMD cases.

On Wednesday, R S Junior Modern School at Humayun Road — where two students of Class 1 were recently diagnosed with HFMD and quarantined — issued a formal circular to parents, saying classes for the particular section will be held virtually on Thursday and Friday.

The classrooms are being sanitised and washroom staff has been changed, the school assured.

"We would like to bring to your attention that cases of HFMD are still being reported in the school. While we are taking all precautions, we seek your support in helping us control its spread," the circular read. It also asked parents to monitor their children for symptoms such as fever, red rashes on hands and feet, sore throat, or irritability, and to seek medical attention if needed. "Do not send your child to school and inform the school immediately," the circular warned.

A parent of a Class 1 girl at Sardar Patel Vidyalaya (SPV), Lodhi Road, said his daughter was diagnosed with HFMD mid-July after she developed painful ulcers in her mouth and had a fever. "My daughter recovered but she missed classes. There is no formal advisory or awareness in schools on this," he said. "Our main concern is that some schools are closed, some are not."

Sood told *The Indian Express*, "These are stray incidents that often occur during the monsoon season. Only two students in one class were affected, and the school shifted that class online as a precaution. The Health department has not issued any specific advisory. If we start treating such isolated cases as an outbreak, it will create unnecessary panic." He also said that any consolidated reports of such cases among government schools are presently unavailable.

Sudha Acharya, principal of IITL Public School in Dwarka, and head of the CBSE Sahodaya Schools cluster in Southwest Delhi, said that no such case has been reported from the 50 schools in Dwarka.

However, the school has issued several advisories — with the latest one on HFMD, which warns: "Don't ignore early signs like rashes, blisters, or fever."

"We have issued a monsoon advisory and another one on dengue... We've conducted fumigation and asked students to wear waterproof and non-slippery footwear, carry raincoats, and drink safe water," Acharya said.

Dr Vibhu Kawatra, paediatric pulmonologist, and allergy specialist said he is getting 5–6 cases of HFMD every day for the last one week. "If it happens to one child, it spreads because it is contagious," said Dr Kawatra, who works in a hospital in Malviya Nagar.

Musk's Tesla braces for Gurgaon entry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, AUGUST 6

ELON MUSK'S Tesla is set to make its mark in Gurgaon.

The Tesla India Motors and Energy Pvt. Ltd. has leased a 33,475 sq ft ground-floor space at Orchid Business Park on Sohna Road. The lease is for a multi-purpose facility, according to a blog post on the website of real estate analytics platform CRE Matrix.

The nine-year lease, signed on July 28, includes a three-year lock-in period and covers the entire ground floor, which will house a service centre, delivery hub, and retail outlet for Tesla's customers in Delhi-NCR.

The monthly rent is Rs 40.17 lakh (Rs 120 per sq ft) with a 4.75% annual hike. Tesla paid a stamp duty of Rs 20.69 lakh and a security deposit of Rs 2.41 crore, securing 51 dedicated parking slots, as per the post.

The global electric vehicle giant's Gurgaon entry follows its lease of 24,000 sq ft of warehousing space in Mumbai's Kurla (West) in May for Rs 37.5 lakh monthly.

Tesla had launched its first 4,000 sq ft showroom in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex. The company will also open its second Indian showroom on August 11 at Worldmark 3, Aerocity, in Delhi.

The company will be commencing its India sales with its best-selling Model Y SUV.

Currently, registrations for the car are only allowed in Mumbai, Delhi and Gurgaon. In Delhi, purchasing the Model Y rear-wheel drive (RWD) will set one back by Rs 61.06 lakh. This variant has a claimed range of 500 km and a top speed of 201 km per hour.

The on-road price for the long-range RWD variant, which has a claimed range of 622 km, is Rs 69.14 lakh.

Gurgaon prices are higher than those in the National Capital.

The on-road price for the RWD variant in Gurgaon is Rs 66.76 lakh, while the long-range RWD variant costs Rs 75.61 lakh.

While the on-road price for the RWD variant in Mumbai is slightly higher than Delhi, at Rs 61.07 lakh, the long-range variant costs the same in both cities.

Delhi-NCR is also the only other metropolitan region apart from Mumbai where Tesla plans to install charging infrastructure. The company plans to install four charging stations: one each in Saket and Aerocity in Delhi, one on Golf Course Road in Gurgaon, and another in Noida.

These four charging stations are expected to feature 16 superchargers and 15 destination chargers, according to Isabel Fan, senior regional director at Tesla.

32-year-old woman kills father with *tawa* in Shahdara

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

A 32-YEAR-OLD woman allegedly killed her father by hitting him with a *tawa* at the family's residence in Shahdara.

Police said that around 3 pm on Wednesday, the accused, identified as Anu, hit her father Tek Chand Goyal (55) with a *tawa*. Chand was rushed to the GTB hospital by his son, where the doctors declared him brought dead.

At 3.56 pm, information was received at MS Park police station from the GTB Hospital regarding a person named Tek Chand Goyal, a resident of Budh Bazar in Ramnagar, Shahdara. He was brought to the hospital in an unconscious state by his son, Shivam. The doctors declared

him brought dead." DCP (Shahdara) Prashanth Priya Gautam said.

Shivam allegedly told the police that at the time of the incident, Anu, their mother Bala Devi and his wife Priya (29) were present at home.

JSLJINDAL STAINLESS CIN: L26922HR1980PLC010901 Regd. Office: O.P.Jindal Marg, Hisar-125 005 (Haryana) Ph. No. (01662) 222471-83, Fax No. (01662) 220499, Email Id. for Investors: investorcare@jindalstainless.com, Website: www.jindalstainless.com EXTRACTS OF UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2025 (₹ In crores except per share data)					
Sr. No.	Particulars	For the quarter ended			For the year ended
		30 June 2025	31 March 2025	30 June 2024	31 March 2025
		Unaudited	Audited (Refer Note 3)	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total income from operations	10,207.14	10,198.32	9,429.76	39,312.21
2	EBITDA *	1,309.80	1,060.88	1,211.72	4,666.63
3	Net profit for the period (before tax, exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	969.05	735.81	885.94	3,346.02
4	Net profit for the period before tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	969.05	728.75	885.94	3,338.96
5	Net profit for the period after tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	714.66	589.96	646.07	2,499.72
6	Total comprehensive income for the period [comprising profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	713.57	601.62	647.16	2,537.18
7	Paid up equity share capital (face value of ₹2/- each)	164.73	164.73	164.69	164.73
8	Other equity	17,249.22	16,523.21	14,842.75	16,523.21
9	Securities premium account	4,120.10	4,119.73	4,102.26	4,119.73
10	Net worth	17,413.95	16,687.94	15,007.44	16,687.94
11	Paid up debt capital #	99.00	286.50	474.00	286.50
12	Outstanding redeemable preference shares	-	-	-	-
13	Debt equity ratio	0.35	0.38	0.43	0.38
14	Earning per share (EPS) (face value of ₹2/- each) a) Basic b) Diluted (EPS for the quarter not annualised)	8.67 8.66	7.18 7.17	7.87 7.86	30.42 30.41
15	Capital redemption reserve	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
16	Debenture redemption reserve #	-	-	-	-
17	Debt service coverage ratio	2.94	2.18	5.27	3.26
18	Interest service coverage ratio	9.57	7.71	8.85	8.11

* EBITDA = Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation & amortization and other income
Listed debenture

Notes

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/yearly financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 read with Regulation 63 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("SEBI (LODR)"). The full format of the standalone and consolidated quarterly/yearly financial results along with other line items referred in Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (LODR) are available on the Company's website: (www.jindalstainless.com) and on the websites of Bombay Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com) and the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. (www.nseindia.com). The same can be accessed by scanning the QR Code provided below.

2. Standalone financial information of the Company, pursuant to regulation 47(1)(b) of SEBI (LODR) :

Particulars				
		For the quarter ended		For the year ended
		30 June 2025	31 March 2025	30 June 2024
		Unaudited	Audited (Refer Note 3)	Unaudited
Total income from operations		10,340.51	10,785.53	9,584.90
EBITDA *		1,047.79	890.48	1,004.40
Profit before tax (before exceptional items)		862.78	955.03	788.26
Profit before tax (after exceptional items)		862.78	1,106.58	788.26
Profit after tax		641.64	924.94	578.32

3. The figures for the quarters ended 31 March 2025 are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of full financial years and published year to date figures upto the third quarter of years ended 31 March 2025.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 06 August 2025

By Order of the Board of Directors
For Jindal Stainless Limited

Tarun Kumar Khulbe
Chief Executive officer, Chief Financial Officer
and Whole Time Director

EXTRACT OF STANDALONE / CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
	Quarter ended 30 June 2025 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31 March 2025 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30 June 2024 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31 March 2025 (Audited)	Quarter ended 30 June 2025 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31 March 2025 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30 June 2024 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31 March 2025 (Audited)
Total income from Operations	1,664.19	3,243.45	2,180.48	10,193.14	1,786.28	3,412.07	2,287.13	10,759.58
Net profit / (loss) (before tax & exceptional items)	194.55	258.02	234.31	917.81	211.53	263.05	281.81	939.02
Net profit / (loss) (before tax & after exceptional items)	194.55	258.02	234.31	917.81	211.53	263.05	281.81	939.02
Net profit after tax	150.57	218.21	176.51	737.59	164.10	211.78	224.03	727.83
Profit is attributable to :								
Owners of the Parent	150.57	218.21	176.51	737.59	164.56	210.85	224.02	727.41
Non Controlling Interest	-	-	-	-	(0.46)	0.93	0.01	0.42
Total comprehensive income	150.17	220.64	176.84	743.13	163.70	214.17	224.36	733.32
Equity share capital	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10
Other Equity attributable to Owners of the Parent (Excluding Revaluation Reserve)				6,049.33				6,138.25
Earnings Per Share (not annualized for the quarter)								
(Face Value of ₹ 2/- each)								
(a) Basic (in ₹)	1.60	2.32	1.88	7.84	1.75	2.24	2.38	7.73
(b) Diluted (in ₹)	1.60	2.32	1.88	7.84	1.75	2.24	2.38	7.73

NOTES :

- The above standalone and consolidated financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 6th August, 2025. The Statutory Auditors of the company have conducted limited review of the financial results for the quarter ended 30th June 2025.
- The standalone and consolidated financial results have been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as notified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules thereunder and in terms of Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as Amended) and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended. The full format of the aforesaid financial results are available on the Stock Exchanges website of BSE (https://www.bseindia.com), NSE (https://www.nseindia.com) and Company's website at www.ircon.org.
- Figures for the previous periods / year have been re-grouped / re-classified / re-casted to conform to the classification of the current period / year.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 06th August, 2025

For and on behalf of Ircon International Limited

Sd/-
Hari Mohan Gupta
Chairman & Managing Director and CEO
DIN- 08453476

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

Registered Office: C-4, District Centre Saket, New Delhi-110017; Tel: +91-11-29565666; Fax: +91-11-26522000/26854000
E-mail: info@ircon.org; Website: www.ircon.org; Corporate Identity Number: L45203DL1976G0I008171

SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY, KOLHAPUR Admission Notification Ph.D. Admission 2025-26

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to Ph.D. Programme. For more details the candidate may visit University website www.unishivaji.ac.in under "Ph.D. Admission 2025-26"

Link:- <https://sukapps.unishivaji.ac.in/phd-entrance/#/login>

Important Dates :

- Online Application available from: 07/08/2025 from 12.00 noon onwards.
- Closing date: 25/08/2025 till 12.00 midnight.

(Detailed Time Table and Hall Ticket downloading will be available on University website in due course of time.)

Place : Kolhapur.
Date : 07/08/2025

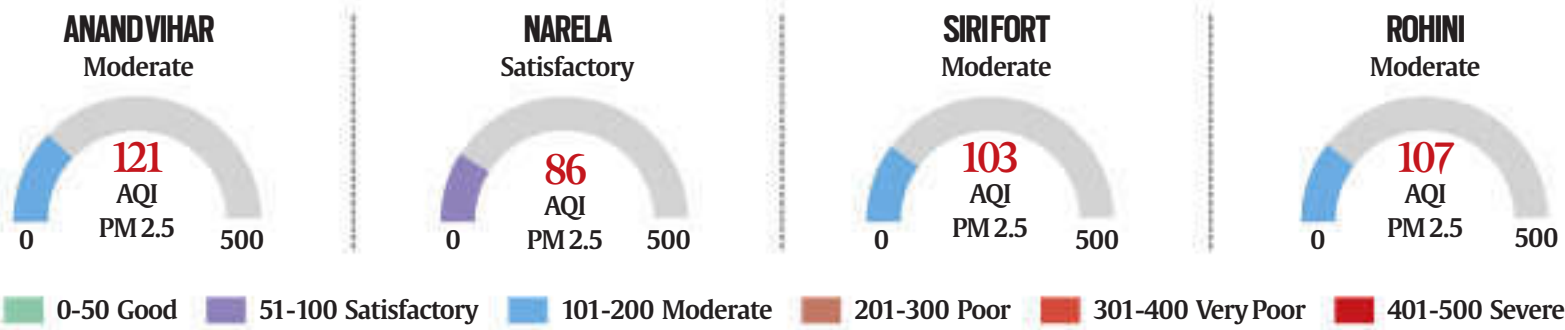
Dr. V. N. Shinde
Registrar

RECRUITMENT

WAPCOS Limited, An ISO 9001:2015 Govt. of India Undertaking intends to recruit 2 posts of Jr. Assistant (P&A) and 2 posts of Jr. Assistant (Finance) on regular basis for work relating to ongoing and upcoming projects. For further details please visit our website <https://www.wapcos.co.in/career/> In case of any changes, the same shall be notified on the website only.

Dy. Chief Manager (HR)

epaper.indianexpress.com



FORECAST: August 7
Partly cloudy sky; possibility of very light rain with thunderstorms

MAX: 33-35
0.8°C below normal

MIN: 24-26
0.9°C below normal

'CREATED FRIENDSHIPS, SPARKED CONVERSATIONS'

DU's U-Special bus service set to return, alumni recall college days

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

IT WAS the year 1997. Every Tuesday morning, just before the bus stopped at Tilak Nagar in West Delhi, this group of Delhi University (DU) students would be ready. Crumpled notes and coins would pass from hand to hand — Rs 5 here, Rs 10 there — until they'd scraped together enough to buy a small box of prasad from the corner sweet shop. One of them would get off the bus and bring back the sweets and the box would be passed around carefully between rows as the vehicle resumed its journey. For these students travelling from Mundhela Khurd, a village at the Capital's edge, it was a weekly ritual aboard the long green DTC

bus called the U-Special. For many years, it ferried thousands of students from the city's border villages to DU's North and South Campuses. By the early 2000s, its numbers started dwindling. And by 2013-14, these buses vanished. Amit Singh, now a faculty member at Shyamal College and a member of the National Democratic Teachers Front (NDTF), was one of them. "We were 12 or 13 from the same village. That Tuesday prasad was something to look forward to in a long commute." He now teaches undergraduate students who arrive on scooters or take the Metro and may never have heard of the U-Special. But when Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced Tuesday that the U-Special buses would be reintroduced, it bought back memories for many like Amit.

"The buses used to start early around 7.30 am and reach the college at 9 am. By 3 pm, it would pick up students after class and drop them home," says Rasal Singh, Principal of Ramanujan College and a former DU Students' Union (DUSU) vice-president (2000). The U-Special wasn't luxurious. There was no air conditioning, no cushioned seats. Sometimes, the windows wouldn't open; sometimes, they wouldn't shut and sometimes even the seats weren't intact. But for students from Delhi's villages, it was a lifeline. "It wasn't just about money it was also about safety and routine," says Rajesh Gautam, a faculty member at Ram Lal Anand College, who commuted daily from Bawana while pursuing his MPhil at Hindu College in the late '90s. "Many girls started coming to



Students arrive as DU reopens after a break in the '90s. Archive

DU because of the U-Special." The service, Gautam recalls, wasn't just efficient, it was an ecosystem. "New students would learn the ropes from seniors about which professor taught what subject... it would be like an informal orientation to DU. We would meet a lot of students... It was inspiring and would motivate us to move ahead. Everyone was very help-

ful back then." On some routes, the boredom of long commutes would give way to something more musical. For instance, the route from Mundela Khurd to Najafgarh, Dwarka Mor, Tilak Nagar, Rajouri Garden took over an hour. "Students would sing to pass time... One voice would start, and before long, the whole bus would be humming," Amit recalls. Sometimes, it was *antakshari*. Other times, heated debates about campus issues. "That bus was where many of us learnt a lot of things. Back then the bus pass used to be Rs 12 for about 3 months," Amit laughs. For students like him, the U-Special did more than just connect homes to classrooms. It created friendships, sparked conversations, and gave structure to a phase of life that was often uncertain and ambitious in equal measure.

The buses began vanishing quietly in the early 2000s. Some chalk it up to the rise of private vehicles and the Metro. Rasal was among those who fought to keep the service alive. "By 2000, the number of buses had started falling. We were pushing hard to increase them," he recalls. "After the '91 economic reforms, privatisation kicked in. More students got two-wheelers. And slowly, the U-Special was deprioritised." But nothing, he says, replaced it. "The Metro helps, yes. But it doesn't reach everywhere. And it doesn't offer what the U-Special did — direct routes, familiar faces, a safe environment, especially for girls from the outer districts." In 2015, there was a brief, politically charged attempt to revive the U-Special, led by Delhi's then Transport Minister Gopal Rai weeks before the DUSU elec-

tion. This was the same year when the Aam Aadmi Party's erstwhile student wing, Chhatra Yuva Sangharsh Samiti, fought its first students' union election. But it fizzled out in weeks and students called it a gimmick to attract votes. In 2013, too, in an effort to expand the U-Special bus network, then Delhi Transport Minister Ramakant Goswami inaugurated three DU special routes from North Campus: Patel Chest to Shyam Lal College via Yamuna Vihar, Patel Chest to Najafgarh and Aditi College to Rithala Metro station. Rasal believes the current moment, with DU expanding its Four-Year Undergraduate Programme and pushing classes from 8 am to 8 pm, is the right time to bring the U-Special back. "You can't stretch the academic day without making the commute safer and more reliable."

DDA plans demolition drive at Majnu Ka Tilla

SOPHIYA MATHEW
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

THE DELHI Development Authority (DDA) is working on a plan to undertake a demolition drive at Majnu Ka Tilla on the Yamuna floodplains, home to hundreds of Pakistani Hindu refugees. This was after a similar drive — slated for July 15 and 16 — was deferred due to the police citing inability to depute personnel as the Kanwar Yatra was in progress. In a status report submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Wednesday, the DDA said the demolition drive is being planned again. "The concerned officials and competent authority are in the process of re-planning and rescheduling the demolition programme, in coordination with Delhi Police and/or any other stakeholders, so as to ensure compliance with the orders of this hon'ble Tribunal and to facilitate ecological restoration of the Yamuna floodplains," the report noted. The drive was delayed after the Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) wrote to the DDA on July 14 stating that due to the ongoing Kanwar Yatra, "adequate police protection for the demoli-

tion drive could not be provided on the scheduled dates". The letter recommended a joint survey and a meeting with stakeholders to assess the situation before proceeding with the drive. After the conclusion of the Kanwar Yatra on July 23, the DDA had asked the police to propose a suitable date and time for a joint site inspection. "...the DDA proposes to organise a joint site inspection...to assess the ground situation and plan the demolition operation in a structured, coordinated, and secure manner," it wrote. The demolition drive comes on the heels of multiple court orders directing the removal of encroachments from the Yamuna floodplains. On May 30, the Delhi High Court had dismissed a plea seeking protection for the refugee camp. It had ruled that the Pakistani Hindu refugees living there "have no legal right to continue to occupy the area in question — the Yamuna floodplains at Majnu Ka Tilla". It had added that safeguarding the floodplains was essential, "not only from an environmental standpoint but also in compliance with the categorical and consistent directions of the Supreme Court, the NGT, as well as the hon'ble High Court."

'Abandoned in jungle, like an animal': Brother of Bihar teen who walked 150 km with severed arm

ABHIMANYU HAZARIKA
GURGAON, AUGUST 6

ON APRIL 14, a 15-year-old left his home in Bihar's Kishanganj along with a few friends. They were heading to Bahadurgarh in Haryana, in the hope of landing a decent job. Their search, however, proved unsuccessful. By June, his friends started heading home by train, but the boy had no money for a train ticket. It was the beginning of what would become an agonising two months — one that would end with him walking 150 km last week, hoping to reach home, clutching his severed arm to his chest. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, his elder brother recalled the ordeal. "After he was unable to secure a job, he found himself stranded at Bahadurgarh Junction, his friends returning home without him. Penniless and desperate, my brother was approached by a stranger, a farm owner, promising work. He followed the man to a remote location, where he was forced into harsh labour at a dairy farm," said the brother, adding that they

made him work like a slave. "His tasks included tending buffaloes and cows, cleaning animal waste, and other grueling farm work. He was given only a few rotis to eat each day and was beaten up for minor mistakes. Once, they thrashed him so badly, it left him unconscious, bleeding from a blow to his forehead." It was after this that the boy first tried to escape, fleeing into the nearby forest and hiding in a tree overnight. "The next morning, however, the farm owner and his family tracked him down, beat him further, and locked him in a room for days," claimed the brother. This crushed his resolve to escape again, the brother said. The nightmare escalated when the boy, while chopping fodder using a machine, accidentally severed his arm at the elbow. "Instead of providing medical care, the owner bandaged the wound crudely, covered his face to disorient him, and abandoned him in only his underwear. They left him in the jungle, like an animal," the brother, who works as an agricultural labourer, said. The boy then began walking home — toward Bihar, nearly

1,000 km away — before being spotted near Tauru in Nuh district by two government school teachers last Tuesday. They offered him food and took him to a nearby police post, eventually reaching the Nuh Sadar police station. The boy told the police that he had been recruited under false pretenses and promised a monthly wage of Rs 10,000. Assistant Sub-Inspector Kamal Singh provided the boy with a set of his own clothes and arranged medical care at the Nuh government health centre. Police said the boy alleged that he was given medication that rendered him unconscious. When he woke up, he was in a dispensary, and had a little money with him. After falling asleep again, he woke up to find his money and clothes missing, and was allegedly asked to leave by a dispensary staff member. They eventually managed to trace his family through the Kishanganj police. His brother and other relatives arrived in Nuh and took him to PGIMS Rohtak. Doctors, however, had to amputate the boy's arm at the elbow.

His mental state is still fragile, his memory of the farm's location hazy at best. "He cannot remember where it was, but he talks about hills and jungles," the brother said. The boy is expected to be discharged on Wednesday, with a follow-up visit to the hospital scheduled in a week. Afterwards, he plans to return to Kishanganj with his father. For the family, however, already grappling with financial hardship, it is a struggle to cover the costs of his treatment. "Our brother's life is ruined. How will he live without one hand? We want justice," the brother said. His brother's body is covered in scars, he added. "We will ask the government to help him." The family has not yet filed a formal police complaint. The Nuh police had said they had considered registering a zero FIR, but the boy's family declined to pursue a case, citing financial hardship. "If we knew where he was detained, we would fight for justice," the brother said, urging the authorities to act. For now, he remains by the side of the 15-year-old, hoping for answers and a path forward for his brother's shattered life.

Yamuna nears warning mark, level likely to rise further



Yamuna amid a surge in water levels. Gajendra Yadav

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

ONCE AGAIN hovering close to the warning mark, the water level in the Yamuna was recorded at 204.14 m on Wednesday evening, as per the Central Water Commission. While the warning threshold is 204.5 m, the danger level stands at 205.33 m. The highest flood level ever recorded in the Yamuna is 208.66 m at the Old Railway Bridge monitoring station during the floods in the Capital in 2023. The river has been rising steadily since July 30, when the water level stood around 202 m. The water levels dipped slightly on Tuesday, and rose again on Wednesday. According to Google's Flood Hub forecasting system, the water level is expected to rise another 10-50 cm by Thursday evening. Delhi has seen above normal rain last month — 260 mm against a normal of 196 mm. It also saw rain on 23 out of 31 days of the month. This is much higher than the usual 10 days rainy days in the month. However, this is not just the case with the Capital. Rainfall across northwest India

has been well above normal this monsoon season. The India Meteorological Department said the region received 337.7 mm of rain between June 1 and July 30, about 20% higher than the long-term average of 280.8 mm. Heavy rains in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand over the past two days are also expected to contribute to a rise in the Yamuna levels in the coming two days. To ward off any unforeseen situation, the Delhi government last month had decided to formally approach the Haryana government once again seeking control of the ITO barrage, which plays a key role in managing Yamuna's flow through the city. The move followed the flooding crisis in 2023, when jammed gates at the ITO barrage, under Haryana's jurisdiction, were blamed for worsening the situation. Over 25,000 people were displaced. The ITO barrage remains a politically sensitive site. While Delhi controls the Wazirabad barrage and Uttar Pradesh manages Okhla barrage, the ITO barrage is with Haryana which has been a source of friction in recent years between the two states.

Vedic roots to modern silhouettes: Handloom heritage in spotlight

ANUSREE K C
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

INDIA'S handloom heritage was in the spotlight on Wednesday as the Delhi government marked the National Handloom Day with 'Vastra Katha' — a curated fashion show that brought together designers, policymakers, and weavers on one platform. Organised by the Delhi Khadi and Village Industries Board at the The Ashok Hotel, the event highlighted the cultural, economic and environmental significance of the country's handloom sector as the government pledged support for the future of the sector. The evening began with the lighting of a ceremonial lamp by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. She had earlier announced the allocation of Rs 50 crore for hand-



Vastra Katha celebrates India's rich handloom legacy, at Ashok Hotel on Wednesday. Amit Mehra

loom and artisan welfare. "Love for the country can be shown not only by standing at the border and firing a gun, but also by wearing clothes woven with the threads of the country," she said. "From Jammu and Kashmir to

Tamil Nadu, every state has a fabric that tells its own story. I proudly wear handloom sarees from different states and I want all sisters of Delhi to join me in embracing our culture," the Chief Minister asserted. Bureaucrats, international dignitaries and renowned fashion designers like Gaurang Shah were in attendance. A "Rainbow Revolution" — the handloom movement that now colours global couture with its threads — is how Delhi minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa described the event. The opening presentation — 'Khadi: Ek Daivik Vardan' — by students of Satyam Fashion Institute visually evoked the idea of khadi as sacred and timeless, with performers dressed as sages and figures from Vedic lore. What followed was a multi-segment showcase of India's tex-

tile diversity. 'Bharat — Vividhta Mein Ekta' featured handlooms from Bihar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra in a tribute to the freedom movement. The vibrance of Punjab took centre stage in 'Punjab Da Rang, Khushiyan Da Sang', where models walked the ramp in brightly coloured traditional attire. 'Delhi Marches Ahead with Handloom Office Wears' reimaged handloom for modern office wear, emphasising everyday utility. The show also spotlighted regional craftsmanship through Banarasi Shringar, designed by Shivam Arts Exports from Varanasi, which brought wedding wear to the ramp — lehenga set, sarees and sherwanis in rich weaves. 'Opulence Through Threads', by students of Satyam Fashion

Institute, celebrated intricate floral threadwork on Khadi wear. The 'Nine Yards Wonder' segment drew attention to sarees from states including West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh. The finale — 'Khadi Handloom Goes International' — presented by designer Samant Chauhan showcased global designs reimaged in Khadi. Speaking at the event, Sirsa described handloom as a force that goes beyond aesthetics. "This is the vision of our Chief Minister, who wants to take the handloom to every home in the country as a fashion icon," he said. With government action aligning with cultural celebration, Vastra Katha positioned the handloom not just as heritage — but as a vital part of India's future, said organisers.

Is there a 'phansi-ghar' inside Delhi Assembly? Unlikely, say historians

DEVANSH MITTAL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

DOES THE Delhi Assembly have a sinister past? Was there once a room on the premises where prisoners were executed during the British era? Not likely, say historians. Built in 1912, the Delhi Assembly premises was originally meant to house the Imperial Legislative Council. Designed by British architect E Montague Thomas and constructed under the supervision of contractor Faqir Chand, it was completed in just eight months. It later served as the Central Legislative Assembly after 1919. "The Imperial Legislative Council used to meet here before the newly constructed Parliament House of India in

New Delhi (Sansad Bhawan) was inaugurated on January 18, 1927," said author Sohail Hashmi. "And it is unlikely that the Legislative Council functioned as the Judge and executioner and put people to death on a regular basis on its own premises." "I would think that the story of a *phansi-ghar* at the present day Delhi Assembly is nothing more than a little fanciful fable," he added. The question of whether two rooms in the Assembly building were a *phansi-ghar* (execution room) was hotly debated in the House on the second and third day of the Monsoon Session. Wednesday saw former CM and AAP leader Atishi and others MLA being marshalled out. Citing a map from 2011 when the Assembly building was con-



The 'hanging room', inaugurated by previous AAP government in 2022, is at the centre of a political row. PTI

structed, Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta had said on Tuesday that the previous AAP government under then

chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had in 2022 falsely claimed that the premises had a "*phansi-ghar*" and then renovated it.

On Tuesday, Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh had said that then Speaker Ram Niwas Goel had called the room an "execution room". When contacted, Goel said he stands by his claims and alleged that he had asked the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) thrice to examine the structures, but to no avail. "Vijender Gupta was then the leader of Opposition. Why did he not question it then... Also, the entire Assembly was one storey, but these three-storey structures. We also found some cloth shoes, 40-50 glass bullets and some rope. How do you explain these?" he asked. An official from the Archaeology department told *The Indian Express* that the department has neither looked into the claims of the existence

of a *phansi-ghar* or a tunnel below the Vidhan Sabha, nor have they been asked by any government. Historian Swapna Liddle claimed that such a *phansi-ghar* is highly unlikely. "This building was built as a Secretariat. Nobody builds a *phansi-ghar* in such a building," she said, also doubting the claims that there is a tunnel below the Assembly leading to the Red Fort. "I am not familiar with any accounts or evidence that support this claim," Liddle said. Hashmi also doubted the claims of a tunnel. "This was built by the British and they were ruling over India, and there was no threat of revolt. Why would they build a tunnel here?" He also raised logistical questions. "A tunnel is built for quick

getaways, so it should have the necessary height for a person to ride a horse, which is clearly not the case...," Hashmi said. To dispel claims, Speaker Gupta led a guided tour of the premises on Wednesday. "There is no history of any such space. There was never an execution room here," he said. These rooms, he added, were in fact designed to deliver tiffin boxes to members and formed part of the original building plan. During the tour, Gupta highlighted the Assembly building's historical importance, tracing its origins to the early 20th century when Delhi was declared the new capital of British India. He said that the structure was built in 1912 — following the announcement at the 1911 Coronation Durbar to shift the capital from Calcutta — and was

originally meant to house the Imperial Legislative Council under the Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909. Original architectural drawings of the structure are still preserved in the National Archives of India, Gupta added. On Wednesday, as the war of words continued, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta called these claims a gross distortion of history, an insult to national martyrs, and a betrayal of public trust. AAP MLA Sanjeev Jha, however, defended the room's historical significance, arguing that many such execution sites were never officially recorded. "Historians have differing views on such places. In the 1912 map of this building, that is the only double-storey structure consistent with a hanging chamber," he said.

Assam to launch portal for indigenous people to seek arms licences

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, AUGUST 6

TWO MONTHS after the Assam Cabinet approved a scheme to issue arms licences to “indigenous people” in parts of the state where their “population is in the minority,” Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced Wednesday that the government will soon roll out an online portal where eligible people can apply for the licences.

When the Cabinet decision was announced in May, Sarma had named districts where Bengali-origin Muslims account for majority, such as Dhubri, Morigaon, Nagaon, Barpeta and South Salmara, and said that “indigenous people are in minority” in these areas and often “have to confront the question of their security.”

On Wednesday, he announced on social media that the government is in the process of rolling out a dedicated portal where “indigenous people, who perceive threat to their lives and reside in sensitive areas” can ap-

ply for arms licences.

He announced three key eligibility criteria for the issue of arms licences under this scheme: that the applicant has to be an “original inhabitant or indigenous citizen of Assam,” they must “perceive a genuine threat to life and safety due to the vulnerability of the area of residence,” and that they must “reside in a vulnerable or remote area, as notified by the District Administration, or assessed as such by authorized security agencies.” He also said the applications would be subject to a security assessment, verification and vetting and that once issued, the licences would be subject to periodic review and “monitoring and reporting.”

This portal is likely to be rolled out this month and this comes at a time when vigilantes, particularly those of a group called Bir Lachit Sena, have been issuing ultimatums to Bengali-Muslims living in different parts of Upper Assam in the past few days, giving calls for “all Bangladeshis to leave Upper Assam within seven days.”

J&K Home Dept bans 25 books on Kashmir, cites secessionism

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 6

THE JAMMU & Kashmir Home Department has banned the publication of 25 books on Kashmir, including by authors Arundhati Roy and A G Noorani, saying they propagate “secessionism”.

A notification issued by the Principal Secretary of the Home Department, Chandraker Bhatti, by order of Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha, said: “...it has come to the notice of the Government, that certain literature propagates false narrative and secessionism in Jammu and Kashmir... This literature would deeply impact the psyche of youth by promoting (a) culture of grievance, victimhood and terrorist heroism.”

“Some of the means by which this literature has contributed to the radicalization of youth in J&K include distortion of historical facts, glorification of terrorists, vilification of security forces, religious radicalization, promotion of alienation, pathway to violence and terrorism etc,” said the notification.

It identified 25 books “found



Notification issued under order from L-G Manoj Sinha

to excite secessionism and endangering sovereignty and integrity of India, thereby, attracting the provisions of Sections 152, 196 & 197 of BNS 2023”.

The books include political commentaries and historical accounts such as *The Kashmir Dispute 1947-2012* by noted constitutional expert A G Noorani; *Kashmir at the Crossroads* and *Contested Lands* by Sumantra Bose; *In Search of a Future: The Kashmir Story* by David Devadas; Arundhati Roy’s *Azadi* and *A Dismantled State: The Untold Story of Kashmir After Article 370* by journalist Anuradha Bhasin.

According to the notification, the government has declared that publication of these books and their copies or other docu-

ments “need to be declared as ‘forfeited’ in terms of Section 98 of Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023”.

The international books that were banned include Kashmiri-American author Haifa Kanjwal’s *Colonizing Kashmir: State-building Under Indian occupation*; Haley Duschinski’s *Resisting Occupation in Kashmir*; Victoria Schofield’s *Kashmir in Conflict* and Christopher Snedden’s *Independent Kashmir*.

Seema Kazi’s *Between Democracy & Nation: Gender and Militarisation in Kashmir*; Essar Batool’s *Do you Remember Kunan Poshpora?* and Ather Zia’s *Resisting Disappearance: Military Occupation and Women’s Activism in Kashmir* have been banned.

The publication of Jamat-e-Islami’s founder Moulana Abul A’la Maududi’s *Al Jihad fil Islam* and Muslim Brotherhood founder Hasan al-Banna’s *Mujahid ki Azan* are among the banned books. Some of the other banned books include *Law and Conflict Resolution in Kashmir* by Piotr Balcerowicz and Agnieszka Kuszewska; *USA and Kashmir* by Dr Shamsad Shan and *Tariki-i-Siyasat Kashmir* by Dr Afaq.

SAMBHAL MOSQUE PANEL CHIEF BOOKED

Noida: A case was registered Wednesday against the chairman of Shahi Jama Masjid Management Committee, Zafar Ali, and around 60 others for allegedly taking out a procession in Sambhal following his release after spending over four months in jail over last year’s violence. **ENS**

Actions aligned with highest standards of safety, care: A-I CEO

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

AMID HEIGHTENED concerns about flight safety in the wake of the AI 171 crash, killing 260, Air India CEO Campbell Wilson Wednesday assured flyers that the Tata group airline is focused on ensuring safe flight operations, and listed various measures being taken by the carrier to “reinforce” its operations following the June 12 incident.

In a communication to the members of Air India’s loyalty programme Maharaja Club, Wilson said Air India is ensuring that all its actions are aligned with the “highest standards of safety and care”. “I acknowledge that there have been some operational challenges over the last few weeks that may have impacted your travel experience. Rest assured, we take this seriously and we are committed to strengthening our internal processes to minimise the inconvenience that such circumstances cause to you. Alongside, our broader efforts to modernise operations continue in full swing, including our retrofit programme which will significantly elevate your in-flight experience. So, whenever you choose to fly with Air India, know that your trust is valued and your journey safeguarded by our entire Air India family, through rigorous processes, ad-

vanced technology, and a deeply embedded culture of safety and care,” Wilson said.

He said that the carrier’s regular safety protocols are “rigorous and multi-layered”, with every aircraft undergoing “thorough” pre-departure checks by trained engineers and pilots. “Maintenance is conducted at certified facilities before and between flights. Our pilots, cabin crew, and engineers train regularly at the Air India Training Academy, ensuring full alignment with the latest safety procedures and global best practices and our Integrated Operations Control Centre tracks every flight in real time, monitoring weather, crew, and aircraft performance,” Wilson said.

Wilson’s comments come close on the heels of a few highly publicised aircraft snags over the past few weeks, drawing public attention in the wake of the Ahmedabad crash. Over the past few weeks, AI has been subject to a few regulatory actions by DGCA.

Wilson told AI’s frequent flyers that the “safety pause”, which the airline had adopted after the crash, continues to be in place. This involves additional voluntary technical checks on aircraft and adopting a cautious approach in flight operations, and along with a few other factors, led to a temporary reduction in the carrier’s wide-body international schedule.

Rajasthan minister says his depts will now buy only Made in India

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, AUGUST 6

RAJASTHAN EDUCATION Minister Madan Dilawar announced Wednesday that the three departments he heads — Education, Panchayati Raj and Sanskrit Education — will now purchase only Made in India goods. Staff of these departments who purchase foreign goods for official purposes will be punished and made to pay the costs, he said.

In a video he shared on his social media account, Dilawar emphasized that the move was aimed at realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of ‘Make in India’ and will increase the use of indigenous goods leading to a positive impact on India’s economy.

However, he said, any essential item manufactured only abroad will be purchased after approval at the ministerial level.

Dilawar urged other government departments as well as the general public to participate enthusiastically in this campaign, calling for a “complete boycott” of foreign-made daily-use products such as shaving blades and toothpaste.

He said foreign countries, including China, profit from selling their products in India but use the money “to help Pakistan” — he cited as example China’s support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor.

Retd SC judge Oka: Did Justice Murlidhar face consequences for decisions during Delhi riots

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

NOTING THAT dissent by judges while adhering to Constitutional morality comes at a price, retired Supreme Court judge Justice Abhay Oka on Wednesday publicly asked if Justice (retired) S Muralidhar had to “face consequences” for his “bold decisions” during the 2020 Delhi riots.

At the same event in the capital, themed on morality in judiciary, retired Delhi HC judge Justice Kailash Gambhir drew a contrast between former CJs D Y Chandrachud and M N Venkatachaliah. He said that while one “violated” the Constitutional scheme of separation of powers by inviting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a Ganesh Puja at his residence, the other had refused to meet the then PM, Rajiv Gandhi, when his elevation from the Karnataka HC

to SC was underway.

Justice Chandrachud had defended himself over the visit last year, saying there was “absolutely nothing wrong for the simple reason that these are continuing meetings between the judiciary and the executive, even at a social level”.

Justice Oka, delivering the keynote address at the event in New Delhi, said: “Judges are not bound by traditional concepts of morality, they are bound by the oath of the constitution. We talk about dissenting judgements... We talk of Justice HR Khanna... he gave dissenting judgments because he was bound by his oath, not bound by what politicians feel or people in power feel or what the common man feels... One example I can’t resist, it pertains to Delhi... a midnight bench was constituted (of Justices S Muralidhar and Anup Bhambhani), some victims of riots were stranded and the bench

gave audience at midnight or a little past midnight and not only ensured that they were given safe passage, but also ensured that compliance is reported. We often talk about sacrifices made by the three judges in Kesavananda Bharati, but some day we also have to consider whether the judges who were in the midnight bench during the 2020 Delhi riots) met with consequences of their bold decisions given in the four corners of the Constitution. So when we discuss morality, we have to discuss this also... these judgements were delivered because the judges were not influenced by the opinion of the ruling party.”

Justice Muralidhar, who re-

tired in 2023 and is now practising as an advocate, was transferred from the Delhi High Court to the Punjab & Haryana High Court in February 2020 after questioning the Delhi Police’s conduct in the riots and directing it to register FIRs against those who made hate speeches.

Meanwhile, Justice Gambhir noted recent instances of “judicial impropriety”. He spoke about Justice Yashwant Varma, at whose residence cash was found, and Justice Shekhar Yadav, who had made communal statements in a public address. He said apart from financial corruption, the judiciary has also been under attack owing to judges “temptation for post-retirement jobs”.



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No 28012/92/2024-LRD-LRD

Government of India

Ministry of Rural Development

Department of Land resources

Inviting Research Proposals for undertaking Research from reputed National/International Institutions and Individuals

Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development invites research proposals from individuals/institutions for “**Land Administration**”. Accordingly, research proposals are invited on following topics from relevant and experienced National/International Institutions and Individuals: -

- i. Land administration**
- ii. Land policies, laws and regulations**
- iii. Monitoring land governance and land tenure security**
- iv. Land and socio-economic development**
- v. Land use management**
- vi. Land markets, land value, land transactions**
- vii. Geospatial technology in land governance**
- viii. Innovative land management tools and techniques**

2. The detailed guidelines for Institutional and Individual Research Grant for Land Administration Domain including eligibility criteria, selection process and prescribed application formats etc.. are given at the official website of this Department i.e. <https://dolr.gov.in/>. Interested experienced National/ International Institutions and Individuals may send their proposals duly signed (scanned / PDF) through **e-mail** at navalsingh.meena@nic.in & neebha.2002@gov.in only. The last day of receiving research proposals is one month from the date of publication of the Advertisement.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (LR)
Department of Land Resources,
Ministry of Rural Development
Government of India, New Delhi

CBC-35201/11/0004/2526



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- Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

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CBC 41102/11/0003/2526



HARERA GURUGRAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF THE RESIDENTIAL INDEPENDENT FLOORS NAMELY "PALM FLOORS"

SITUATED IN SECTOR- 2 & 3, PATUADI, GURUGRAM BEING DEVELOPED BY

M/S VK & SONS INFRA TECH PVT. LTD.

It is for the information of the general public that an application dated 29.07.2025 for registration of the project under Section 4 of the Act of 2016 is submitted in the Authority for the project "PALM FLOORS". The Department of Town & Country Planning, Haryana granted license no. 65 of 2025 dated 07.05.2025 measuring 6.475 acres to M/s VK & Sons Infra tech Pvt. Ltd., Inderjeet Yadav S/o Sh. Jaikishan Yadav in collaboration with M/s VK & Sons Infra tech Pvt. Ltd. for setting up an Affordable Plotted Colony (DDJAY-2016) in sector 2 & 3, Pataudi, Gurugram. The above Affordable Plotted Colony is registered in the Authority vide registration no. 68 of 2025 dated 01.07.2025. Now, the promoter, M/s VK & Sons Infra tech Pvt. Ltd. has approached the Authority for the registration of 68 Residential Floors on 17 residential plots in the above project. The relevant application and related documents are available in the office of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram which can be seen by any concerned on any working day during office hours up to 21.08.2025. Also, if anyone wishes to appear, may appear before the Authority on 25.08.2025 at 11:00 am during the hearing. Given under the approval of the Authority and its seal.

Sd/-
Secretary,
Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram.

Dated: 07.08.2025

EXPRESS Careers



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- sd-
Mr. N. G. Bendale
President,
K.C.E. Society's, Jalgaon

Place : Jalgaon
Date : 07/08/2025

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8 IN PARLIAMENT MONSOON SESSION

Unsettled by Bihar roll revision, INDIA parties back on same page; can Congress make it count this time?

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

THE CONGRESS has finally taken the initiative to breathe oxygen into the INDIA bloc, which was in a state of paralysis since the Lok Sabha elections last year. And the last fortnight should, if anything, be a learning curve for the grand old party in Parliament coordination as well.

Before the start of the Monsoon session, the Congress convened an online meeting of Opposition floor leaders, something it had not done in the previous sessions held after the LS polls. And in the last fortnight, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, Leaders of Opposition in LS and RS, respectively, have chaired multiple meetings with their INDIA bloc partners to ensure smooth floor coordination. Now, the top leaders of the alliance will meet over dinner at Gandhi's residence on Thursday and there is a planned march to the EC headquarters in Delhi the day after.

Behind these moves is the Congress leadership's understanding that it can rally Opposition parties — for a prolonged Parliament disruption or a campaign — only on issues of immediate concern to them. This is in contrast to a couple of sessions ago, when the party found itself almost isolated after it forced Parliament disruption over



Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge with INDIA bloc leaders in New Delhi, Wednesday. Anil Sharma

bribery allegations against industrialist Gautam Adani in the US.

Congress and its allies again find themselves on the same page. While almost all of these parties had demanded convening a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgalam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, it was the EC's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar that actually alarmed them. Even when the government agreed to discuss Operation Sindoor in the House, TMC, which was also keen on a debate, felt the Opposition should have extracted an assurance from the government that the SIR would also be debated.

For many of the Opposition parties, it is the prospect of a nationwide electoral roll revision

that is of key concern. And that is what is uniting them. "Special Intensive Revision is a very serious issue... The EC, by way of revising the electoral rolls, is disqualifying many people from having their voting rights. In a country like India, fair and free elections have to be ensured.... Asking to prove citizenship is not within the boundaries of the EC... Today it has started in Bihar, tomorrow it will be Tamil Nadu and West Bengal and all other parts of India... Opposition party voters will be deprived of voting," senior DMK leader Tiruchi Siva said.

"Though we have numerous other issues, the entire Opposition, from the Left to the TMC and the Congress to the AAP, has come together to fight against the SIR

because the original sir (head) of this SIR is sitting elsewhere (and) not in Nirvachan Sadan," said CPI(M)'s John Brittas. His emphasis on the TMC and the Left and the AAP and the Congress — parties that have been bitter rivals — was not lost on anyone.

The AAP, which had walked out of INDIA bloc, Wednesday attended a joint Opposition press conference on SIR issue, which has paralysed Parliament. The TMC, which does not consider itself part of the INDIA bloc, will attend Gandhi's dinner: This is despite the fact that the Mamata Banerjee-led party would not like to be seen rubbing shoulders with the Congress or the Left just months before the West Bengal elections.

This is perhaps the lesson for the Congress. The revision of electoral rolls has become an existential concern for many in the Opposition and regional parties would be willing to join hands with it in disrupting Parliament on issues that concern them, especially federalism, including the allocation of funds or overreach by Governors. There is no coordination among the Opposition parties outside Parliament anyway.

Issues that matter

The regional parties may all talk in one voice on various issues, but what concerns them more are issues that hit closer to home. So, the TMC talks about SIR and in the same breath, it speaks of the alleged ill-treatment of Bengali migrants and the BJP's "insult" of Bangla. With elections in Kerala just eight months away, the Left is as vociferous on the SIR as on the arrest of two nuns from the state in Chhattisgarh.

While the Congress will want to try and score some political points over the government on the sudden resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar as Vice-President, many of the parties feel it has no resonance in their states. So, they will be happy giving token statements. For example, during the Budget session, the SP was more concerned about the stampede at the Kumbh Mela as it presented the

Uttar Pradesh-based party a political opportunity to target the Yogi Adityanath government.

It is also a fact that some of the smaller parties are keen to see Parliament transact normal business so that they can ask questions and raise matters of concern to them. But most are on the same page on the SIR issue. That is why leaders of parties such as the CPI(M) and the Revolutionary Socialist Party (India), which voiced concern about the continued disruption of Parliament at the INDIA bloc meeting on Tuesday, were at the joint Opposition press conference.

With the Opposition displaying a rare sense of consensus, the challenge before Congress is to keep the unity intact for the V-P elections on September 9. With numbers in favour of the NDA, there is little surprise about the outcome. But many in the Opposition feel the choice of the joint candidate and a sharp political narrative on this is crucial.

"He or she (the V-P candidate) should not only be acceptable to all the parties we should be able to create a narrative... The candidate should not be any random person. There should be a story," a leader said. "Look at the choice of BJP's Presidential and Vice-Presidential nominees. There is a clear narrative. Dalit, tribal woman, a so-called farmer's son. We should take note," said another leader.



LS LoP Rahul Gandhi pays his respects to former J&K governor Satya Pal Malik in Delhi, Wednesday. Amit Mehra

Trump's 50% tariffs a bid to bully, economic blackmail: Rahul

Failure of Modi's headline-grabbing style of huglomacy: Jairam Ramesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

FOLLOWING US President Donald Trump's decision to ratchet up tariffs on India to 50%, Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday called it "economic blackmail" and "an attempt to bully India into an unfair trade deal".

In a post on X, Gandhi said: "Trump's 50% tariff is economic blackmail — an attempt to bully India into an unfair trade deal. PM Modi better not let his weakness override the interests of the Indian people."

Earlier in the day, Gandhi had said in a post on X that "India, please understand: The reason PM Modi cannot stand up to President Trump despite his repeated threats is the ongoing U.S. investigation into Adani."

"One threat is to expose the financial links between Modi, AA, and Russian oil deals. Modi's hands are tied," he said.

With Trump repeatedly claiming that he had brokered a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, which India has denied, Gandhi had targeted PM Modi in Lok Sabha during a debate on Operation Sindoor and challenged him to "show courage" and declare that Trump a liar if he was not speaking the truth.

On July 31, a day after Trump announced 25% tariffs for India, Gandhi, in response to Trump's claim that the Indian economy was dead, said: "He is right, everybody knows this except the PM and the Finance Minister (Nirmala Sitharaman). Everybody knows that the Indian economy is a dead economy. I am glad that President Trump has stated a fact."

Analysing the possible effects of the drastic jump in tariffs, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said, "If our total tariff reaches 50%, it will make our products unaffordable for many in the US, especially when you look at these percentages, you have to compare them with the tariffs imposed on some of our competitors... if you look at countries like Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, or even Bangladesh and Pakistan, where tariffs are lower than ours, ultimately people in the US won't buy goods from us if they can get them cheaper elsewhere."

He said that it means India "needs to diversify into those countries and markets that are interested in our offerings". "Now we have an FTA with the UK. We are talking to the EU. There are many countries where we hope we can do this, but in the short term, this is definitely a setback."

Noting that Trump has hit India "hard and unjustly", Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh called for a comprehensive reset of India's foreign policy. "Now President Trump, while still claiming to be a friend of Mr Modi, has hit India hard and unjustly. While his tariff and penalty actions are simply unacceptable, the fact remains that they also reflect the abysmal failure of Mr Modi's personalised and headline-grabbing style of huglomacy," Ramesh said on X.

"India stood up to the bullying of the US in the 1970s, especially under the prime minister ship of Smt. Indira Gandhi. Instead of defaming, distorting, and denigrating her, Mr Modi should shed his ego — if indeed that were possible — and take inspiration from the manner in which she stood up to the USA," he said.

INHOUSE

PM Surya Ghar benefitted 16.51 lakh households

New Delhi: Around 16.51 lakh households have benefitted from rooftop solar installations under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSG:MBY) till July 2025, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said Wednesday, in reply to a question in LS. "A total of 58,01,654 number of applications have been submitted on the National Portal and 16,50,969 number of households have been benefitted with rooftop solar installations under the scheme as on 31.07.2025," Joshi said. As per the data shared by the minister, Arunachal Pradesh has reported nil installations. As of July 2025, Maharashtra has reported highest rooftop installations under at 2,34,736, followed by 2,28,507 in Gujarat. **PTI**

5 QUESTIONS

AAP RS MP **SANJAY SINGH** SPOKE TO **JATIN ANAND** ON PARTY'S POSITION ON THE SIR EXERCISE & ITS TIES WITH THE INDIA BLOC

'Backing INDIA bloc only on SIR as it is a bid to kill democracy'

Is Sandeep Pathak's (AAP national general secretary and MP) participation in the Opposition's joint press conference a sign that the AAP is back in the INDIA bloc?

We have clarified repeatedly that the AAP is not a part of the INDIA bloc and our position remains the same. We only offered support to the Opposition over the SIR, which is an attempt to kill democracy in India.

Going forward, are there other issues on which the AAP may align with the Opposition?

Only time will tell. If there are similar issues of national importance which emerge in the future, we will take a call at the time over extending support to the Opposition.

The government has accused the Opposition of "deliberately disrupting" proceedings over the SIR despite being aware that it is not within Parliament's ambit to discuss it...

The SIR is a matter of grave importance. More than 65 lakh voters have been deleted from Bihar's electoral rolls... It is an attempt to stifle the democratic set-up of the country. Why should the Opposition step back from its duty of calling for a discus-



sion on it?

Are there other plans to ensure that the SIR issue is taken up in Parliament?

We will take it to the people. There is no other way. We will tell the people how their votes are being robbed by a particular party and make them aware of the BJP's intent as well as the consequences of lakhs of voters being disenfranchised.

Will the AAP rely on the SIR issue in Bihar, where the party is planning to contest the upcoming Assembly polls?

The SIR will certainly be a core issue around which the party's Bihar campaign will revolve just like how we have made quality of education a part of our campaign in Uttar Pradesh. Both the campaigns are on the right track and are doing well.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

PARLIAMENT SAW little legislative business Wednesday as the Opposition attempted to bring up the SIR in Bihar and the government said rules and precedent do not allow for a debate on the Election Commission, which is conducting the exercise.

Lok Sabha was adjourned within minutes of its proceedings getting underway. Rajya Sabha proceedings were adjourned until 2 pm soon after it commenced. The RS was later adjourned for the day after the passing of the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill by voice vote.

Opposition parties have repeatedly sought a discussion during this Parliament session on the SIR exercise. Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, during the second half of LS, told the Opposition that the government is "very open to take up for discussion any matter".

"On the issue of SIR which they are disturbing the House (on) from day one, we all know the matter is under the consideration of the Supreme Court and is sub-judice. Under Rule 186 (8), any matter can be discussed in the House only if it does not relate to a matter which is under adjudication by a court of law..." he said.

In the past, he said, it had been clearly established in LS that matters "falling under the domain of the Election Commission cannot be discussed".

"The House cannot have a discussion on the working of an autonomous body like the Election Commission. Do you want to break the rules established by this House? Do you want to throw out the provisions of the Constitution



Opposition members protest in Lok Sabha on Wednesday; (right) Union Minister Kiren Rijiju speaks in the House. PTI

of India?" he said.

Deputy Leader of Congress in LS Gaurav Gogoi said: "Just to jog the memory of the BJP-led NDA government — Parliament has a long history of discussing electoral reforms and functioning of the EC... There is ample precedent," he said, citing debates in 1961, 1981 and 1991, among others.

Congress MP Manish Tewari said the Rijiju was "absolutely wrong" and that the House had "discussed many times" in the past the "conduct of the Election Commission".

In RS, after ministers laid papers on the table of the House, and an obituary was read out for former J&K governor Satya Pal Malik, Deputy Chairman Harivansh said he would not admit 35 notices received under Rule 267. MPs can seek discussions on urgent matters under Rule 267.

"...none of these notices are in

adherence to the rules as enunciated in the past..." Harivansh said, sparking protests.

Harivansh appealed to members to let the House function during Zero Hour.

With the MPs not relenting, the Deputy Chairman adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm. After the House reconvened, members of the Opposition tried to raise a point of order.

Bhubaneswar Kalita, who was then chairing Rajya Sabha, said he would allow a point of order only when there was order in the House. He asked all the members to return to their seats. Leader of Opposition in RS Mallikarjun Kharge said: "When members from this side raise a point of order then you say that the House is not in order. There, they are giving speeches. And, you are allowing them. This is unfair, untenable..."

To this, the leader of House J



P Nadda said: "Sir, those who create disorder in the House have no right to raise point of order. If you are so interested, obey the rules accordingly, otherwise the Chair's direction is final."

When Opposition MPs were called to speak on the Bill, they either did not go back to their seats and forfeited their chance, or tried to raise SIR issue. Kalita said nothing would go on record and moved to the next speaker.



SCAN TO WATCH PROCEEDINGS IN LOK SABHA



Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill clears House

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

RAJYA SABHA on Wednesday passed the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill by voice vote amid protests by Opposition demanding a discussion on the SIR.

The House was adjourned for the day, within half-an-hour of the afternoon proceedings beginning, soon after the Bill was passed.

The Bill, which will replace the 100-year-old Indian Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, simplifies maritime regulations, aligns India's maritime law with international conventions and seeks to modernise provisions governing the transport of goods by sea,

the government has said. Lok Sabha passed it in March.

Opposition parties have said, however, that the Bill gives too much power to the Centre and have called for more protections for shippers.

Moving the Bill, Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State for Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said the repeal of the pre-Constitution legislation and its replacement with a new legislation is "a part of the government's effort to rid ourselves of the vestige of colonial mindset, and to ensure ease of doing business through simple and rationalised law".

He said under PM Narendra Modi, the government has replaced more than 1,500 old laws.

No Tipu Sultan, Anglo-Mysore wars in Class 8 NCERT books: Govt says states can 'provide more coverage'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

ON THE new NCERT Class 8 Social Science textbook omitting the mention of Tipu Sultan, Haidar Ali, and the Anglo-Mysore wars of the 1700s, the Centre said in response to a question in Parliament on Wednesday that states have the "flexibility to provide more coverage about regional personalities and events in their textbooks."

"Education being a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and the majority of schools being under the jurisdic-

tion of the State Governments, the respective State Government may adopt or adapt NCERT textbooks or develop their own textbooks based on the National Curriculum Framework. The states have flexibility to provide more coverage about regional personalities and events in their textbooks," Union Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary said in response to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

Trinamool Congress's Ritabrata Banerjee had asked whether the new book skips the mention of Tipu Sultan, Haidar Ali, or the Anglo-Mysore wars of the 1700s in its chapter on India's colonial era, and the

reasons for this.

Chaudhary said that Part 1 of the new Class 8 Social Science textbook has been developed in alignment with the curricular goals and competencies under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2023.

The new textbook comprises four themes: India and the World; Land and the People; Tapestry of the Past; Governance and Democracy; Economic Life Around Us.

"Personalities featured in these themes have been included contextually and in accordance with curricular objec-

tives. The textbook introduces new pedagogical approaches, emphasizes refined classroom practices, and presents a focused syllabus. These textbooks encourage students to explore more through experiential learning, undertake fieldwork, and focus on evidence-based understanding. The approach adopted for the Middle Stage (Grades 6 to 8) is to provide only a broad survey of Indian civilization from prehistoric times all the way to Independence," Chaudhary's said.

The chapter on the colonial era in the new NCERT Class 8 Social Science textbook released last month contains a section on

early resistance movements that challenged British colonialism in the run-up to the 1857 rebellion. Here, there are references to the 'Sannyasi-Fakir rebellion' of the 1700s, the Kol Uprising, the Santhal rebellion, and "peasant uprisings" of the 1800s.

The book, however, does not mention resistance to the East India Company from the rulers of Mysore — Tipu Sultan and Haidar Ali — or the Anglo-Mysore wars of the 1700s. The earlier Class 8 history textbook referred to Mysore under Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan, and the four Anglo-Mysore wars, as part of a section on expansion of East India Company's rule.

GOVT & POLITICS

CCS not just new buildings, direction of country will be set from here: PM

Modi inaugurates Kartavya Bhavan 3, first of the 10 new Common Central Secretariat buildings

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

UNDERLINING THE administrative reforms undertaken by his government over the past 11 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the new central secretariat building he inaugurated was not merely a building, but would be the site of deliberations for making India a developed country.

“These are not only some new buildings and ordinary infrastructure. In Amrit Kaal, the policies of Viksit Bharat will be made here, important decisions for Viksit Bharat will be taken. In the coming decades, the direction for the country will be set from here,” he said.

Over the past 11 years, he said around 1,500 obsolete laws and 40,000 compliances had been done away with. He said with the use of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and mobile, delivery of government schemes had become transparent and free of leakages. He said



The illuminated Kartavya Bhavan 3 on Kartavya Path on Wednesday night. PTI

10 crore fraudulent names had been removed from the list of beneficiaries of various schemes, saving ₹4.3 lakh crore.

Earlier in the day, the PM inaugurated Kartavya Bhavan 3, the first of the 10 Common Central Secretariat (CCS) buildings proposed by the govern-

ment as a part of its Central Vista redevelopment plan. The building, located on Janpath, will house offices of the Ministries of Home Affairs, External Affairs, Rural Development, Petroleum and Natural Gas and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. In the evening, he addressed

a gathering on Kartavya Path, with ministers including Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal, MPs, bureaucrats and government employees in attendance. At Kartavya Path, he said it was time to change the way the government thinks of files. To the em-

ployees who will be shifting into the new building, he said if a file that affects one lakh people is delayed on their desk, it means that one lakh human days are wasted.

He said important ministries of the Union government, including Home Affairs, were working out of buildings constructed by the British colonial government. “Workers here did not have adequate space, light or ventilation,” he said. He said those working at the new complex would a good working environment. He said Union government ministries operate out of 50 different locations across Delhi, with some working from rented spaces that cost the government ₹1,500 crore a year in rent. The PM also said 8,000 to 10,000 employees have to go from one building to another every day, leading to higher expenditure and traffic congestion.

“The grand Kartavya Bhavan and other major infrastructure projects are not only a testament to India’s pace but also a reflection of its global vision,” he said.

Smart cards to regulate access to KB 3

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

THE CORRIDORS of power in the new Central Secretariat in Delhi, named Kartavya Bhavan, will be guarded by an access control architecture, with smart card readers deployed from the entrance of the building to the elevators to each office, including those of bureaucrats and ministers.

On a visit to Kartavya Bhavan 3 on Tuesday, Solus brand smart card readers were visible outside the offices of bureaucrats and ministers. Access control systems were also seen outside elevators. KB 3 will house the ministries of Home Affairs, External Affairs, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Rural Development, Personnel, and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, as well as the office of the Principal Scientific Advisor.

The buildings that these ministries are shifting out of, including North Block, Shastri Bhavan, Krishi Bhavan and Udyog Bhavan, have limited use of access control systems. In most government buildings, access is controlled through paper passes or government ID cards, with smart card readers deployed only for access to the officers’ toilets.

‘EC is BJP’s bonded labourer’: Mamata says won’t suspend state govt officials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, AUGUST 6

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Wednesday came down heavily on the Election Commission (EC) for ordering the suspension of five officials of the state government over alleged irregularities in voter registration.

Accusing the EC of acting as a “bonded labourer” of the BJP, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo asserted that she would protect the employees of the state government at any cost.

“State government employees are being intimidated. The officers were served suspension notices yesterday. Have elections even been announced yet? Which law allows them to be suspended at this stage? It is our responsibility to protect you all. We will do that. We will not suspend them... I will continue to be your pehredar (guard),” the chief minister said at a public meeting in Jhargram.

“They have started suspending people even though a long time is left before the elections. They (ECI) are the bonded labour of the BJP. They are doing the dalali (tout work) of (Union Home Minister) Amit Shah and the BJP. The home minister thinks whatever he says will happen,” Mamata said.

On Tuesday, the EC ordered suspension and registration of an FIR against two West Bengal Civil Service officers serving as Electoral Registration Officers, two Assistant Electoral Registration Officers from Baruipur Purba and Moyna Assembly constituencies, and a

MAMATA TO SHAH: SHOW PARENTS’ BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Jhargram: Slamming the BJP and the Union Home Minister over the detention and deportation of Bengali migrants and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday challenged Amit Shah to produce the birth certificates of his parents. At a rally in tribal-dominated Jhargram, the TMC chief alleged that SIR, was a backdoor way of implementing the National Register of Citizens in the country. **ENS**

data entry operator.

The EC’s investigation was prompted by a report from the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer, highlighting alleged irregularities. Following the report, the ECI wrote to the state’s Chief Secretary, directing immediate action.

Meanwhile, the West Bengal Civil Services (Executive) Officers’ Association wrote to Chief Secretary Manoj Pant on Wednesday, seeking his intervention to get the EC’s suspension order “reviewed”.

“It is our understanding that the officers concerned have been discharging their responsibilities sincerely under challenging circumstances and had no deliberate or mala fide intent behind any procedural lapse, if any, that may have occurred,” it stated.

Don’t know anything about it, says Trump on US imports from Russia

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

DAYS AFTER India called out the United States and European Union for continuing trade with Russia — countering Washington’s criticism of New Delhi’s energy ties with Moscow — President Donald Trump has said that he doesn’t “know anything” about the US imports of Russian uranium, fertilisers and chemicals.

Responding to a question from ANI on US imports of Russian chemicals and fertilisers, Trump said at a press conference at the White House on Tuesday night: “I don’t know anything about it. I’d have to check, but we’ll get back to you



‘I’d have to check, we’ll get back to you,’ Trump told ANI

on that.”

He also said that he would soon decide on tariffs to be imposed on countries buying Russian energy.

The *Indian Express* reported on Wednesday that US imports from Russia are quietly rising — growing 23 per cent year-on-year to \$2.1 billion between January and May this year. The surge was led by a sharp increase in the import of palladium (37%), uranium (28%) and fertilisers (21%). Earlier on Tuesday, Trump

threatened to raise the tariff on India “very substantially over the next 24 hours” for buying Russian oil. Earlier this week, he said that India was not only buying “massive amounts of Russian oil” but also selling it “on the open market for big profits”. He also accused India of “fuelling the Russian war machine”.

New Delhi had hit back, 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”. This was the sharpest statement since Trump 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.

Pointing out “the double standards”, India had said that both the US and the EU are continuing their trade relations with Russia. “Where the US 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 Ministry of External Affairs had said in a statement.

Meanwhile, at the press conference on Tuesday, Trump also reiterated his claim that he brought the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in May. India has maintained that the understanding on cessation of hostilities with Pakistan was reached following direct talks between the Directors General of Military Operations of the two sides.

Depts led by CM, Shinde appoint different GMs for BEST within hrs

Mumbai: Departments led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde appointed two different IAS officers as the General Managers of Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) undertaking within hours of each other.

On Tuesday, Shinde’s Urban Development Department gave additional charge to Ashwini Joshi. Soon, the General Administration Department of Fadnavis gave additional charge to state GST commissioner Asheesh Sharma.

No official from either department replied to queries. “Ideally, an order for appointment is issued by the GAD. In some cases, the department secretary issues the order but the file has to be approved by the Chief Minister,” said a GAD officer. **ENS**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

THE SUPREME Court Wednesday sought the Election Commission’s reply over a plea alleging that the poll body had not shared the list of names removed from the draft electoral rolls in Bihar published on August 1 under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan and N K Singh issued the notice on an application filed by NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

Seeking an urgent hearing, Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for ADR, said, “We have filed an Interlocutory Application (IA)... the draft roll they have published says 65 lakh voters’ names have been omitted... They have not given a list of those names... they have said people are dead, have migrated... They should disclose who the 65 lakhs are, who are dead, who have migrated...”

Bhushan said the names have been included in the list without the recommendations of the Booth Level Officers (BLOs). “BLOs

when forwarding the forms have said this person is not recommended by BLO... Whether BLOs have recommended or not recommended... this information will be very important,” Bhushan said.

Justice Kant said that according to EC’s Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), every representative of political parties would be provided with the list at the block level. Bhushan, however, claimed that this was not done. “They have not conveyed. In case they have given to some political party, reasons are not given,” he said.

Justice Kant said it was only a draft preliminary list, and reasons may be given when the final list is released.

Appearing for the poll panel, the counsel said that they are obligated to make the draft roll public. He said, “We can show that we have shared the list with the political party representatives.”

“If you have supplied, please give a list of political parties to whom you have supplied, so that Mr Bhushan’s client can collect information from those authorised representatives,” said Justice Kant, giving the Commission time till Saturday.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



At the wedding reception of TMC MP Mahua Moitra and former BJD MP Pinaki Misra. @priyankac19

ACROSS PARTY LINES

THEY MAY be bitter critics in Parliament but a battery of politicians from across parties turned up at TMC MP Mahua Moitra’s wedding reception at a prominent hotel on Tuesday. Besides Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and MoS (Health) Anupriya Patel, other prominent political figures who attended the event included Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and P Chidambaram; Samajwadi Party’s Akhilesh Yadav, Dimple Yadav and Iqra Choudhary; Supriya Sule of the NCP(SP); and Priyanka Chaturvedi of Shiv Sena (UBT). Telangana CM Revanth Reddy and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann were also there. Moitra, the TMC’s Krishnanagar MP, tied the knot with former BJD MP and senior lawyer Pinaki Misra in May.

MEETING THE PM

AMID TENSIONS with Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, Shiv Sena leader and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde met PM Narendra Modi on Wednesday. Shinde meeting the PM with his family was keenly watched by BJP leaders in the capital. Shinde has been caught in a power struggle with Fadnavis and also faces a threat from Uddhav and Raj Thackeray after their reunion. Party insiders are guessing what was discussed and whether he got any assurance from the PM.

FARMERS ‘AT HOME’

AMONG THE invitees for ‘At Home’ at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Independence Day will be farmers cultivating oilseeds (soybean and mustard) under the Centre’s National Mission on Edible Oilseeds (NMEOS). The inclusion of oilseed growers in the list of guests is significant amid government’s stress to make India self-reliant in edible oils.

After protests, Vantara offers to set up rescue facility in Kolhapur for elephant

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 6

THE ANIMAL rescue, conservation and rehabilitation centre established by Reliance Industries and Reliance Foundation, Vantara, will set up a rescue facility for 36-year-old elephant Madhuri, which was relocated to its centre in Gujarat’s Jamnagar last week, in Nandani area of Maharashtra’s Kolhapur, a statement said.

The statement came amid ongoing silent marches held by the Jain community in Kolhapur protesting the elephant’s relocation — which had been with the Swastishri Jinsen Bhattarak Pattacharya Mahaswami Sansthan Mutt or Nandani Math for over three decades — to Jamnagar.

The statement said the decision to relocate Madhuri was taken under judicial authority, and

its role was to provide care, veterinary support, and housing as an independent rescue and rehabilitation centre. “At no stage did Vantara initiate or recommend the relocation, nor was there any intent to interfere with religious practice or sentiment,” it said.

According to the statement, Vantara would work in “close co-ordination with the Jain Math and the state government to establish a satellite rehabilitation centre” for Madhuri, also known as Mahadevi.

“The proposed facility will be developed in accordance with the established animal welfare guidelines, after consultation with experts from the high-powered Committee and consensus of the Matha, while aligned to international best practices in elephant care,” the statement read.

Vantara also said the land to set up the proposed facility will be

identified in consultation with the Jain Matha and the Maharashtra Government. Once it receives the necessary grants and permissions, its team will begin to implement the facility in close coordination with relevant authorities.

In a social media post on ‘X’ on Wednesday, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said, “I had an extensive discussion with The Vantara team today in Mumbai. Good news is that they assured me that they are happy to join Maharashtra Government’s petition before the Hon’ble Supreme Court for the smooth passage of the elephant ‘Madhuri’ back to the Math... The team also showed their willingness to build a rehab centre for Madhuri in Kolhapur near Nandani at a place selected by the Forest Department... They also informed that they give highest respect to the religious sentiments of the community.”



Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy with Congress leader Digvijaya Singh during a protest in New Delhi. Amit Mehra

promulgated an ordinance to provide for 42% quota for BCs in local bodies and sent it to Governor Varma. The Governor sent the ordinance to the President.

Why did Reddy govt take these steps?

With the proposed quotas set to breach the Supreme Court-mandated 50% ceiling, the

Why Telangana CM has led Congress’s BC quota battle to Jantar Mantar

PUSHKAR BANAKAR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

TELANGANA Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy along with a slew of state Congress leaders, including ministers and party MLAs, held a protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi Wednesday to demand Presidential assent to the Bills passed by the Telangana Legislature giving 42% reservation to the Backward Classes (BCs) in the state.

Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also joined the protest.

How were these Bills passed?

The Revanth Reddy-led

Telangana government, in line with its pre-poll promise made in the Kamareddy Declaration to enhance BC reservation, conducted a Socio, Educational, Employment, Economic, and Political Caste (SEEEPC) survey or caste survey in November last year.

In light with the survey’s findings, the Congress government started the process of enhancing reservations for BCs in government jobs, education and local bodies from the existing 23% to 42%. It also constituted a panel under retired bureaucrat Busani Venkateswara Rao to study the data of the caste survey and mandated it to submit a report within a month. The report, which is yet to be made public, recommended 42% reservation for BCs in the state.

In March, the Reddy government passed two Bills — The

Telangana Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (reservation of seats in educational institutions and of appointments or posts in services under the State) Bill 2025 and The Telangana Backward Classes (Reservation of seats in Rural and Urban Local Bodies) Bill 2025 — in the Assembly as well as the Legislative Council.

The Bills were then sent to Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma for his assent. Varma forwarded the Bills to President Droupadi Murmu for her assent on March 30.

The Reddy dispensation also formed an independent working group headed by retired judge, Justice Sudarshan Reddy, for a review of the caste survey, which recently submitted its report to the government.

Last month, the government

Telangana government needs to ensure that its move would fulfil the “triple test” stipulated by the top court.

“We want to ensure that if the move is challenged in court, which in all likelihood this would be, it does not get entangled in a legal hurdle. Hence, we have made sure that the caste survey is scientific and also made sure that experts studied the data to give empirical credence for 42% reservation to BCs,” a senior Congress leader said.

What are the caste survey’s findings?

According to the caste survey, Telangana has 1,15,71,457 households and the population is 3,55,50,759. Of this, the Scheduled Caste (SC)’s population is 61,91,294 (17.42%), Scheduled Tribe (ST) 37,08,408

(10.43%), BCs 2,00,37,668 (56.36%), while other castes number 56,13,389 (15.89%).

Why have Telangana Cong brass hit Delhi streets?

The Congress government has found itself in a tricky situation as it had promised to implement the proposed reservations in the local body elections. However, with the Telangana High Court directing it to hold and complete the rural local body polls by September 30, the Congress is racing against time to implement the enhanced quotas.

A Congress leader said they would do “everything in their power” to ensure that the local body polls are held with the new reservation system in place. “If we need to knock Delhi’s doors, we will do it everyday. We will leave no stone unturned in en-

suring that the BC quota sees the light of day,” he said.

What is Telangana Opp’s stance?

While the BRS has been in favour of reservations, it claims that the approach adopted by the Congress government was “not sincere”. Terming the Congress’s Jantar Mantar dharna as an “attempt to camouflage its failures”, BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan told *The Indian Express* that the Reddy government should have approached the Supreme Court with empirical data to implement the reservations. “They should have held a dialogue with other parties while Rahul Gandhi could have led an all-party delegation seeking its implementation,” he said.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com





Government of Tamil Nadu
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT
Directorate of Municipal Administration, Chennai-28. Tel: 044-29864447
Notice for Inviting Tender (NIT)
(Roc.No. 9365/2025/P-1, Date: 01.08.2025)

1. Tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for 1 number of infrastructural works in Aranthangi Municipality in Tamilnadu, under Kalaignar Nagarapura Mempoitu Thittam (KNMT) 2025-26.

2. The value of work is Rs.2054.00 lakhs.

3. The details of tender can be obtained from web portal: <https://tntenders.gov.in>

4. The tender document can be downloaded from 11.08.2025 to 15.09.2025 from the e-tendering website <https://tntenders.gov.in>

5. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 03.09.2025 at 11.00 A.M in the concerned Municipal office.

6. The last date for downloading the tender document and the last date for uploading/submiton of filled up tender is up to 3.00 P.M on 15.09.2025.

7. The tenders will be opened through online at 3.30 P.M on 15.09.2025 at the office of concerned Municipality.

8. The value of each work, the details of Earnest Money Deposit and the eligibility of bidders can be had from tender document.

Director of Municipal Administration,
Chennai-28

DIPR/4160/TENDER/2025



Prisons and Correctional Services
Home Department (Prisons),
NOTICE INVITNG e-TENDER
(Through e-Procurement mode only)
(<https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)



ई-निविदा सं-कारा / क्रय-04-51 / 2024 / 01(2025-26)

Prisons and Correctional Services, Home Department (Prisons), Govt of Bihar intends to hire agency for supply of raw materials for Food Industries in various Jails.

e-Tender is being invited to welcome interested capable and reputed firm(s)/agency(s).Documents containing further information about the eligibility criteria, terms and condition can be downloaded from ([eproc2.bihar.gov.in](https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))

SL No.	Scope of work	Cost of tender document (To be paid through e-payment mode only through(NET/RTGS/ Credit/Debit Card/ Net Banking) (In Rupees)	Tender processing Fee (Non Refundable) (Inclusive of GST @18.00%) (To be paid through e-payment mode only through(NET/RTGS/Credit/ Debit Card/ Net Banking) (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit(EMD) (To be paid through e-payment mode only through(NET/RTGS/ Credit/Debit Card/ Net Banking) (In Rupees)
1	2	3	4	5
01.	Selection of Agency for supply of raw materials for Food Industries in various Jails of Bihar	Rs 5,000/-	As per BELTRON	Rs 14,50,000 /-

Tender Schedule/Programme

S.n	Activity	Date/Time : Duration Date format:- DD/MM/YYYY
1.	Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents	From 06/08/2025 to 27/08/2025 till 17:00 Hrs.
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting (Attending Pre-Bid meeting is not compulsory)	On 12.08.2025 at 15:30 Hrs.
2.	Last Date/Time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid	Upto 27/08/2025 till 17:00 Hrs.
3.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	28/08/2025 at 10:30 Hrs
4.	Financial Bid Opening Date and Time	Date to be announced later by competent authority.
5.	Nodal Officer	Sri Rajeev Kumar Singh AIG (HQ), Prisons and Correctional Services. Mobile no - 7250448267

(i) For support related to e-tendering process, bidders may contact at following address "mjunction services Limited RJ Complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajpur, Ashiyana Road, P.S.-Shastri Nagar, Patna-800014, Bihar. Toll Free No 18005726571, Email Id : erproc2support@bihar.gov.in, Working Hours: 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM (All days in week except few selected state holidays) or may visit the link "Contact us" at ([eproc2.bihar.gov.in](https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)).

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

PR. No. 010772 (B&C) 25-26

सहायक कारा महानिरीक्षक(मु०). कारा एवं सुधार सेवाएँ निरीक्षणालय बिहार, पटना

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।



समाहरणालय, मधेपुरा
(मद्य-निषेध एवं उत्पाद विभाग)
अधिहरित (Confiscated) वाहन की नीलामी की अल्यकालीन सूचना



एतद द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि विहार मद्यनिषेध एवं उत्पाद अधिनियम के सुमंगत प्रावधानों के तहत मधेपुरा जिलान्तर्गत विभिन्न थाना काण्डों / उपराद वादों में राज्यसात किए गए निम्नांकित वाहनों की आम नीलामी (Public Auction) जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी, मधेपुरा की अध्यक्षता में गठित समिति द्वारा प्रथम नीलामी दिनांक-25.08.2025, द्वितीय नीलामी-08.09.2025 एवं तृतीय नीलामी-22.09.2025 को वाहनों की नीलामी सदर उत्पाद कार्यालय, मधेपुरा में 11:00 बजे पूर्वान्वेष्ट से की जाएगी।

नी० क्र०	अधिहरण वाद संख्या	थाना का नाम /उत्पाद (वाहन अभिलेखा का थाना)	कांड सं०	राज्यसात वाहन का प्रकार	वाहन निबंधन संख्या	वाहन स्वामी का नाम व पता	निधिरित न्यूनतम रखित मूल्य (रुपये)	न्यूनतम रखित मूल्य का 10% अवन की राशि (रुपये)	अन्युक्ति
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
1	75/2024	शंकरपुर	192/23	यमल मोटर साईकिल	DL 85AKC 517	NA	13300.00	1330.00	scrap
2	106/2023	मधेपुरा उत्पाद	255/23	बेमरलेट कार	DL 10CB 5491	रविचंद्र, गे०-रोहतास, सगु-यमल उपखण्ड, थाना-नेरला, राजा-दिल्ली, पिन कोड-110040	22000.00	2200.00	scrap
3	197/2022	परमानंदपुर ओपी०	416/22	हुण्डई सेन्ट्रो कार	DL 4CAJ 3740	NA	24000.00	2400.00	scrap

1. विस्तृत जानकारी मद्यनिषेध एवं उत्पाद कार्यालय, मधेपुरा से किसी भी कार्य दिवस को प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। अधिक जानकारी के लिए मधेपुरा जिला के वेबसाईट www.madhepura.bih.nic.in पर जानकारी प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

विस्तृत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

PR. No. 010651 (Excise) 25-26

बिहार में शराब का व्यापार, बिक्री एवं सेवन अवैध है। इससे संबंधित शिकायत इस नंबर पर दर्ज करायें, आपकी जानकारी गुप्त रखी जाएगी।

टोल फ्री नं०- 15545 या 1800 345 6268



Prisons and Correctional Services
Home Department (Prisons),
NOTICE INVITNG e-TENDER
(Through e-Procurement mode only)
(<https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)



ई-निविदा सं-कारा / क्रय-04-51 / 2024 / 05(2025-26)

Prisons and Correctional Services, Home Department (Prisons), Govt of Bihar intends to hire agency for supply of raw materials for Wood Industries in various Jails.

e-Tender is being invited to welcome interested capable and reputed firm(s)/agency(s).Documents containing further information about the eligibility criteria, terms and condition can be downloaded from ([eproc2.bihar.gov.in](https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))

SL No.	Scope of work	Cost of tender document (To be paid through e-payment mode only through(NET/RTGS/ Credit/Debit Card/ Net Banking) (In Rupees)	Tender processing Fee (Non Refundable) (Inclusive of GST @18.00%) (To be paid through e-payment mode only through(NET/RTGS/Credit/ Debit Card/ Net Banking) (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit(EMD) (To be paid through e-payment mode only through(NET/RTGS/ Credit/Debit Card/ Net Banking) (In Rupees)
1	2	3	4	5
01.	Selection of Agency for supply of raw materials for Wood Industries in various Jails of Bihar	Rs 5,000/-	As per BELTRON	Rs 50,000 /-

Tender Schedule/Programme

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2.	Last Date/Time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid	Upto 27/08/2025 till 17:00 Hrs.
3.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	28/08/2025 at 10:30 Hrs
4.	Financial Bid Opening Date and Time	Date to be announced later by competent authority.
5.	Nodal Officer	Sri Rajeev Kumar Singh AIG (HQ), Prisons and Correctional Services. Mobile no - 7250448267

(i) For support related to e-tendering process, bidders may contact at following address "mjunction services Limited RJ Complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajpur, Ashiyana Road, P.S.-Shastri Nagar, Patna-800014, Bihar. Toll Free No 18005726571, Email Id : erproc2support@bihar.gov.in, Working Hours: 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM (All days in week except few selected state holidays) or may visit the link "Contact us" at ([eproc2.bihar.gov.in](https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)).

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

PR. No. 010771 (B&C) 25-26

सहायक कारा महानिरीक्षक(मु०). कारा एवं सुधार सेवाएँ निरीक्षणालय बिहार, पटना

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।



बिहार सरकार



कार्यपालक अभियंता (याँ०) का कार्यालय
क्षेत्र यंत्र प्रमंडल, भागलपुर
Email ID- mech.bhagalpur812003@gmail.com

कार्यालय आदेश

इस कार्यालय का पत्रांक-643, दिनांक-11.07.2025, द्वारा आमंत्रित **Important Notice for Bidder regarding Re E-Auction No-10/2025-2026** जो समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन हेतु भेजा गया था, जिसका PR No-008556 है, को अपरिहार्य कारणवश रद्द किया जाता है:-

यह आपके सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु समर्पित।

PR. No. 010758 (WRD) 25-26

(ई० अभियंके कुमार) कार्यपालक अभियंता क्षेत्र यंत्र प्रमंडल, भागलपुर

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।



बिहार सरकार



जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
सोन उच्च स्तरीय नहर प्रमण्डल, मुमुआ।

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 01 /2025-2026
(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

1. कार्य का विवरण:-

गुप सं०.	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख रु० में)	अग्रगण्य की राशि (लाख रु० में) (ऑन लाईन अथवा फिजिकल / मैनुअल मोड में भुगतान)	परिमाण-विस्तर का मूल्य (अप्रत्यर्पणी) (केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में भुगतान) रु० में	बेडोंन को देय बिड प्रोसेसिंग फी (अप्रत्यर्पणी) (केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में भुगतान) रु० में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
गुप सं०- 1	बगही-कुसारी लिक कैनाल का पुनर्संपन कार्य।	58.86945	1.18000	10000.00	590.00	12 माह

2. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, सोन उच्च स्तरीय नहर प्रमंडल, मुमुआ। मो०-7463889388 / 9304561983

3. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि :- 04.08.2025

4. निविदा कामजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की अवधि :- 19.08.2025 से दिनांक 26.08.2025 के 03:00 बजे अपहरान तक। (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

5. ग्री-बिड मीटिंग का समय स्थान एवं तिथि :- दिनांक 21.08.2025, समय 3:00 बजे अपहरान में, अधीक्षण अभियंता का कार्यालय, सिंचाई अंचल, मुमुआ कार्यालय कक्ष में।

6. तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 28.08.2025 समय 3:30 बजे अपहरान। (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

7. वित्ति विड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- स्वाम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी। (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

8. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :- www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर

9. निविदा की वैधता अवधि :- 120 दिन

10. विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in एवं wrd.bihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है। (ई० अखिलेश कुमार) कार्यपालक अभियंता सोन उच्च स्तरीय नहर प्रमण्डल, मुमुआ। मो०-7463889388/9304561983

PR-010658 (W R D) 2025-26

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।



E-TENDER NOTICE NO.:-
SG/DSE/OT/01/25/R
(Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Division)



Name of Work with its Location:
Provision of Electronic Coach Indication Boards (CIB) for PF No. 7 at DDU, fare display board for UTS/PRS counter & other amenities like video wall. **Approx. Cost of the Work:** Rs. 1,52,93,282.95 (Rupees One Core Fifty two Lakh Ninety three thousand two hundred eighty two and paisa ninety five only). **Earnest Money:** Rs. 2,26,500/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty six thousand five hundred only). **Closing Date & Time for Submission of e-Tendering:** 26/08/2025 up to 12:30 Hrs. **Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen etc.:** www.ireps.gov.in

On behalf of President of India
Divnl. Signal & Telecom Engineer
East Central Railway, DDU
PR/0726/DDU/DS&TE/T/25-26/28

Bihar minors ‘kill fellow student in hope of shutting down madrasa’

HIMANSHU HARSH
PATNA, AUGUST 6

A 12-YEAR-OLD student was found murdered behind a madrasa in Bihar's Kishanganj district on Saturday morning, with police later detaining two minors who "confessed" to the crime, allegedly committed in the hope that the madrasa would shut down and they could go home.

The victim, a resident of Kishanganj, had been studying at the madrasa for the past three years. On Friday night, he went for dinner around 8 pm with a relative, who studied at the same madrasa. The two allegedly returned to school afterwards. The next morning, only the 13-year-old relative returned home. When the boy's father asked where his son was, the other boy said he had not seen him since morning.

The father rushed to the madrasa, but the staff were unaware of the boy's whereabouts. Later, residents informed him his son's body had been found in the cemetery behind the madrasa. "I saw my son's throat had been slit, and there were stab wounds. A gamcha was tied around his neck," he told the police.

Kishanganj police said the two juveniles have been produced before the Juvenile Justice Board. Police said they are preparing a chargesheet.



E-TENDER NOTICE



The Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/ E.C. Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open Tender from experienced and financially capable tenderers for the following works in e-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways:-

SI. No.: 1 Tender Notice No.: TC-139-2025-SPJ Name of Work: Special Repairs of Service Buildings and other miscellaneous works under jurisdiction of ADEN/SHC. **Tender Value (In ₹):** 18812849.32 **Earnest Money (In ₹):** 244100.00 **Completion Period of the Work:** 09 Months **SI. No.: 2 Tender Notice No.:** TC-140-2025-SPJ **Name of Work:** Special Repairs of Staff Quarters in the jurisdiction of ADEN/SPJ between SPJ (Ex) - KGG (Ex) and MNE (Ex)-SHC (Ex) section. **Tender Value (In ₹):** 16291569.58 **Earnest Money (In ₹):** 231500.00 **Completion Period of the Work:** 09 Months **SI. No.: 3 Tender Notice No.:** TC-141-2025-SPJ **Name of Work:** Special Repairs of Railway Staff Quarters and Colony under jurisdiction of ADEN/SHC. **Tender Value (In ₹):** 18179948.75 **Earnest Money (In ₹):** 240900.00 **Completion Period of the Work:** 09 Months **SI. No.: 4 Tender Notice No.:** TC-142-2025-SPJ **Name of Work:** Special Repairs and Improvement of LC Approach Road Surface and other miscellaneous work in the section 244AD/SPJ. **Tender Value (In ₹):** 18810021.95 **Earnest Money (In ₹):** 244100.00 **Completion Period of the Work:** 09 Months **SI. No.: 5 Tender Notice No.:** TC-143-2025-SPJ **Name of Work:** Mansi-Saharsa - TTR (TWS+CMSC) - 20 Sets (1:12) **Tender Value (In ₹):** 6865183.91 **Earnest Money (In ₹):** 137300.00 **Completion Period of the Work:** 12 Months **SI. No.: 6 Tender Notice No.:** TC-144-2025-SPJ **Name of Work:** Improvement of Road Surface of LHS s in the jurisdiction of SR/DEN/SPJ. **Tender Value (In ₹):** 9249442.86 **Earnest Money (In ₹):** 185000.00 **Completion Period of the Work:** 09 Months **SI. No.: 7 Tender Notice No.:** TC-145-2025-SPJ **Name of Work:** Dismantling of PCC apron excavation of earth work, dismantling 52 Kg of track, linking of 60 Kg/52 kg track leading of 60 kg rail and sleeper to make line no. 4 as ballasted track at Darbhanga Yard. **Tender Value (In ₹):** 5644188.13 **Earnest Money (In ₹):** 112900.00 **Completion Period of the Work:** 06 Months **1. Last Date & time for receiving of Tender in E-Tender mode** 12.00 Hrs. **2. Opening Date & time for E-Tender:** 26/08/2025 after 12.00 hours. **3. Website particulars where complete details of tender & tender document can be seen on Website:** www.ireps.gov.in. **Amendments/modifications if any shall not be published in the newspapers but the same shall be uploaded in the website.**

Sr. Divisional Engineer Co-ord
E.C. Railway/Samastipur
PR/0725/SPJ/Engg.T/25-26/76

CHHATTISGARH HIGH COURT

Man convicted of killing grandmother, father freed on ‘legal insanity’ grounds

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
RAIPUR, AUGUST 6

A 25-YEAR-OLD man who was convicted last year by a Sessions Court for murdering his father and grandmother and sentenced to life imprisonment, has been acquitted by the Chhattisgarh High Court on the grounds that he fits the "legal insanity" criteria.

The crime dates back to April 13, 2021. The accused, according to documents, was reportedly mentally unstable and had been locked in a room. Around 11 pm, he asked his mother to open the door, saying he wanted water. Fearing his behaviour, she refused and called her husband.

When his family asked why he was creating a ruckus, he shoved his mother and allegedly attacked his father and grandmother. His mother rushed to alert their neighbours. By the time she returned, the two were dead. The case went to the Sessions Court, which convicted the man of dou-

ble murder and sentenced him to life imprisonment in February 2024. The case came up before the High Court this year. His counsel, Abhishek Sinha, argued that his client was suffering from insanity at the time, and a non-examination of his mental state creates a serious infirmity in the case. Sinha said the accused had suffered a head injury during the Covid-19 lockdown and was being treated at Raipur "mental hospital".

Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha and Judge Bibhu Datta Guru set aside the life sentence, acquitted the man, and set him free. The court also criticised the police, pointing to an absence of motive. It also cited a Supreme Court order that says: "The absence of motive, especially in cases involving close kin, further supports the inference that the act was not driven by rational intent, but rather by a disturbed mental condition. This factor has been consistently recognised by courts as relevant while evaluating pleas of legal insanity."

Goa land grab: ED files prosecution complaint against ‘masterminds’

Panaji: The Goa Zonal Office of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Panaji has filed a prosecution complaint before a special PMLA court in Mapusa in a case against Rohan Harmalkar, Mohammad Suhail and three other accused in an alleged multi-crore land grabbing scam. It was filed on July 31.

In a statement, the ED said it initiated the probe on the basis of two FIRs registered by the Goa Police on charges of forgery, cheating and criminal conspiracy, involving fraudulent transfer and

sale of immovable properties in Bardez in North Goa.

The ED said the accused persons, led by Harmalkar, in active connivance with others, fraudulently acquired multiple immovable properties by forging documents such as wills, inventory proceedings, genealogical records and sale deeds. Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) leader Harmalkar was arrested by the ED on June 3. Mohammad Suhail, who is also an alleged "mastermind," was arrested in June. ENS



NORTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM



Ref: (i) Tender Notice No. 34/2025-2026 dated 23.07.2025.
(ii) Tender No. 12255003B due on 27.08.2025.

1. In reference to above tender, the due date has been extended from 18.08.2025 to 27.08.2025.

All other terms & conditions remain unchanged.

The Corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2397/25



NORTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM



Ref: (i) Tender Notice No. 31/2025-2026 dated 06.08.2025 S.No. 03
(ii) Tender No. 02252171 due on 06.08.2025 revised due date on 28.08.2025.

In reference to above tender, the due date has been extended as above. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

The Corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2398/2025



OFFICE OF THE SECTERATY KRISHI
UPAJ MANDI SAMITI CHHINDWARA
DIST. CHHINDWARA



Notice Inviting Tender

N.I.T. No/Nirman/2025-26/1260
CHHINDWARA dated: 06 Aug 2025

Online Percentage Rate E-Tenders are invited from contractors registered with the Office of the Engineer in Chief, M.P. Public Works Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh (Centralized Registration Cell) for CONSTRUCTION OF COVERED AUCTION PLATFORM (SIZE 30 X 81 METER)-02 NOS INCLUDING INTERNAL ELECTRIFICATION WORK AT MANDI YARD CHHINDWARA (PAC-485.00 LACS) AND WBM CUM C.C. ROAD AT MANDI YARD CHHINDWARA (PAC-158.72 LACS) Tender Number: 2025.MPSAM.44274L.1 (PAC amount Rs. 640.72 Lakhs). The following works Tender to be received online up to 3:30 PM on 29.08.2025. Technical bid documents with EMD & Financial Offer to be received online only as per Detailed NIT. The tender documents can be obtained online on the https://mptenders.gov.in as per the Notice Published on the above Portal and detailed information can also be seen on website www.mpmamandiboard.gov.in.

Note: Any corrigendum in this NIT, if published, shall be displayed only in our above portal regarding any matter included in this NIT or otherwise. Other details of Construction/Development works and locations & key dates can also be seen on our website www.mpmamandiboard.gov.in

Sd/- Secretary
Krishi Upaj mandi Samiti CHHINDWARA
Distt. CHHINDWARA

K i h U j 6 X8hPRN(20)



South Bihar Power Distribution Co. Ltd, Patna Bihar
Registered Office: Vidhut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-21
A Govt. of Bihar undertaking



CIN No. U40109BR2012SGC018890
(Department of Stores & Purchase)

Corrigendum for Notice Inviting Tender

PR No. IPRD_Nr_009449/25-26
NIT No. 61/PR/SBPDC/2025

(Through e-procurement mode only - www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

South Bihar Power Distribution Co. Ltd. (SBPDCL), a Government of Bihar Undertaking, has invited online tender for procurement of 315 KVA Distribution Transformer for SBPDCL & NBPDC in Two-tier (Techno-Commercial & Price) online bid from eligible and experienced Original Manufacturer as detailed below:-

Name of material	Quantity, Nos.	Cost of tender Document including GST@18%, Rs	Total Estimated Cost including GST@18%,Rs	Earnest Money Deposit, Rs.
11/0.433 KV, 315 KVA, 3-Phase, Core type, Copper wound, Outdoor, Energy Efficiency Level 1, Star 1, CRGO Core Distribution Transformer	400 (SBPDCL-200 & NBPDC-200)	23,600/-	35,42,86,000/-	45,42,900/-

The Time line for the above tender is as follows:

Last Date of Online Submission of bid along with Tender Cost & processing fees:	21.08.2025, up to 18:00 Hrs
Last Date of submission of EMD and hard copy of receipt of BSEDC processing fee & tender cost	22.08.2025, up to 15:00 Hrs
Date of opening of Techno-Commercial bid(Part-I)	22.08.2025, after 17:00 Hrs
Date of Pre Bid Meeting:	11.08.2025, at 15:00 Hrs, Venue: SBPDCL, Vidhut Bhawan-3, Patna

PR-010711 (B & C) 2025-26

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

Electrical Superintending Engineer (Purchase)

EXPRESS NETWORK

‘Villages, towns look like islands’: Rain, rising rivers inundate 24 districts of UP

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 6

AS HEAVY rain continued to lash large parts of Uttar Pradesh for the third consecutive day on Wednesday, the number of flood-affected districts in the state increased to 24, causing serious concern in rural and urban areas.

The flood situation in several districts of the eastern part remains extremely critical, especially in rural areas that are battling rising water levels for nearly a week now. What started as heavy rain has become a serious crisis as major rivers like the Ganga, Yamuna, and Sharda are flowing above the danger mark in several areas.

At many places, the floodwater has entered hundreds of houses, forcing many families to leave their homes and shift to safer and higher places. They moved through waist-deep water, carrying their children, animals, and used small boats to reach safer places.

“Villages now look like waterlogged islands. Large areas of farmland are underwater, and farmers have lost their crops. Many houses were damaged, and vehicles parked on the roads were stuck in floodwater,” said Tej Lal Nishad, a farmer in Lakhimpur Kheri. His wife, Uma Devi, is the pradhan of a village in Phulera block of the district. The Phulera block was among the worst affected by the flood, primarily because the Sharda river flows just about 400 metres away.

The village, home to nearly 6,000 people, is largely dependent on agriculture, and the rising waters submerged the farmlands.

Nishad said that while immediate relief measures have begun, the villagers are now anxiously waiting for the water to recede. “The water level is rising every



A number of cities in Uttar Pradesh are badly hit by flooding this Monsoon season. Prayagraj (above) and Varanasi (below) are among the worst hit. PTI



day, so we urge the government to provide not just temporary relief but long-term solutions, so that we don't have to face this kind of situation again next year.”

The situation was no different in Ballia district in east UP.

Sumer Yadav, the husband of Chandiya village pradhan Mamta Devi, said: “Due to the flood, we are now relying on boats to move around...”

Besides Ballia and Lakhimpur Kheri, other districts affected by the flood are Bijnor, Bahraich, Gonda, Banda, Bhadohi, Chandauli, Chitrakoot, Etawah, Farrukhabad, Fatehpur, Ghazipur, Gorakhpur, Hamerpur, Jalaun, Kanpur Dehat, Kanpur Nagar,

Kasganj, Mirzapur, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Agra, and Auraiya.

Prayagraj city corporator Ranjeev Nishad said, “We have started seeing a gradual decline in the water level... However, large parts of the area, including the grounds where the Kumbh Mela was held, remain submerged.”

Prakash Singh, former pradhan of Sarsol village in Varanasi, said gradual “drop in the water level has brought a sense of hope to the people here”.

Meanwhile, Flood Relief Commissioner Bhanu Chandra Goswami said the government has provided financial assistance to 360 of the 517 households whose homes were damaged.

chargesheet, the surveillance was carried out “to ensure BRS's victory in the (Assembly) elections by monitoring potential political leaders of opponent parties as well as rebels in the BRS”.

The reconciliation letter dated December 6, 2023, read, “This is to inform you that during the above-mentioned period, we have received the request letters from legal interception of Mobile/IMEI/ILD numbers as per the attached details: Kindly confirm the authenticity of the said letters.”

The telecom provider, Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, did not respond to queries from *The Indian Express*.

While the mandate of the SIB, which was set up in 1990, is to track and prevent the activities of the Communist Party of India (Maoist), “at least 600 numbers were found to be unrelated to Left Wing Extremism or the CPI (Maoist)”, highly placed sources said. “When probe agencies investigated further, they were found to be the numbers of politicians, bureaucrats, political party workers, businessmen and others from different walks of life,” a highly placed source said.

The accused

The accused in the case are former SIB chief and IPS officer T Prabhakar Rao, Deputy Superintendent of Police D Praneeth Rao, Additional Superintendents of Police M Thirupathanna and N Bhujanga Rao, former Superintendent of Police P Radhakishan Rao, and a TV channel owner, A Shravan Kumar Rao.

While the Supreme Court had given Prabhakar Rao protection from arrest until August 5, Praneeth Rao, Thirupathanna, Bhujanga Rao and Radhakishan Rao were arrested and are out on bail. A Shravan Kumar Rao is lodged in a Central prison in Hyderabad in connection with a different case.

The BRS, which was earlier called Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), was in power in the newly formed state of Telangana for 10 years starting 2014. BRS leader

FROM PAGE ONE

Top-secret letters by telecom providers blew lid off ‘illegal surveillance’ during BRS regime

BJP TO CONGRESS TO BRS, WHO WAS TAPPED?

TEEGALA KRISHNA REDDY

FORMER HYDERABAD MAYOR AND BRS MLA, NOW A CONGRESS LEADER

“In my 52-year political career, I had never witnessed something as bad as this – the phone tapping. I did not have a suspicion that my phone was tapped, but when the police told me, I realised how bad it was”.

SARITHA THIRUPATHIAIH

CONGRESS MLA CANDIDATE FROM GADWAL ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

“The phone tapping affected my campaign a lot. I lost my MLA seat in Gadwal by just over 3,000 votes because of this. I knew that I was under surveillance because those whom I had canvassed to join the Congress party decided not to support at the last moment because of political interference from the BRS.”

JUVVADI NARSING RAO

CONGRESS LEADER FROM KORUTLA

“I was the first person to react when the phone tapping case came out. I knew I was under surveillance because all of my moves were predicted by my opponents. If I were to visit a village, there would be people waiting to deter me from going there. My suspicion grew as the elections drew near.”

CH VAMSI KRISHNA

CONGRESS MLA

“I remember an instance when a BRS party MLA called me, worried that his phone conversation was being listened to because he was keeping in touch with the Congress

party. I had a strong suspicion that this was true, so I started using different phones to talk to my close associates.”

KAVAMPALLI SATYANARAYANA

CONGRESS MLA

“I have not yet been called by the police for deposition. But I am sure that my phone was tapped because of my closeness with former TPCC president and current chief minister of Telangana A Revanth Reddy. All those who were close to Revanth Reddy were tapped, in my strong belief.”

SHAMBIPUR RAJU

BRS MLC AND TRS YOUTH WING PRESIDENT

“I have not got a notice from the Hyderabad police regarding this case. I do not think that I was under surveillance.”

TATIKONDA RAJAJIAH

BRS MLA AND FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER OF TELANGANA

“I am not concerned with this (tapping). I did not get any notice from the Hyderabad police regarding tapping.”

PATNAM MAHENDER REDDY

BRS MLC AND FORMER MINISTER

“I am not connected with this.”

GALI ANIL KUMAR

BRS LEADER WHO CONTESTED THE ZAHIRABAD MP CONSTITUENCY AND LATER JOINED THE CONGRESS

“I always had a suspicion that I was under close watch and that my movements were being tracked.”

and two-time Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao also held the state intelligence portfolio. It was when the BRS lost elections to the Congress on December 3, 2023, that the case against the six blew open. On December 4, a day after the election results were announced, SIB chief Prabhakar Rao resigned from his official post.

The very same day, allegedly on his instructions, Praneeth Rao and others destroyed 62 hard disks from the SIB office in an attempt to destroy evidence, investigators said.

According to investigators, in the destroyed and formatted electronic devices, some of which

were recovered from the Musi river in Hyderabad, were “political profiles of BRS opponents generated through intelligence gathered illegally using SIB's resources or the state's resources”.

Under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, surveillance in the interest of public safety, in case of a public emergency or in cases of incitement against the state is allowed with due authorisation. According to investigators, in this case, the designated authority for authorisation was Prabhakar Rao, and the review committee comprising the Chief Secretary, Secretary of the General Administration Department and the Law

Secretary followed his lead.

The allegations of illegal phone tapping first surfaced on March 10, 2024, when an Additional Superintendent of Police of the SIB lodged a complaint at Hyderabad's Punjagutta police station, accusing DSP Praneeth Rao of using illegal means to gather intelligence and then destroying the evidence.

It was this complaint that would eventually prompt investigators to revisit the letters sent by telecom service providers with the list of those who were allegedly surveilled.

According to officials, the charges against the accused in-

TN cop killed while intervening in family dispute

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, AUGUST 6

A SPECIAL police sub inspector was hacked to death Tuesday night while trying to resolve a domestic dispute at a farm in Tamil Nadu's Tiruppur district.

The deceased has been identified as M Shanmugavel, 57. He along with constable Azhagu Raja, both attached to Gudimangalam police station, got a call around 11 pm regarding an altercation at a farm between a father and his two sons. The three — Manikandan, Thangapandian and their father Moorthy — lived and worked on the estate. A fight began between Moorthy and Thangapandian.

Shanmugavel tried to protect the father. But enraged over police intervention, Manikandan allegedly attacked Shanmugavel with a sickle, who died on the spot. The accused are absconding. IGP (West Zone) T Senthil Kumar said 6 teams have been formed. CMMK Stalin announced a compensation of ₹1 crore.

Odisha: Student dies after self-immolation over ‘blackmail by boyfriend’

SUJIT BISOIYI
BHUBANESWAR, AUGUST 6

A 21-YEAR-OLD college student from Odisha's Kendrapara district died on Wednesday, allegedly after setting herself on fire. Her family blamed the incident on alleged police inaction on their complaint of alleged blackmail and threats by her former boyfriend.

This is the second reported case of self-immolation in the state within a month. On July 12, a student of a government college in Balasore had set herself on fire over alleged inaction by authorities over her complaint of harassment by a professor.

Police said the Kendrapara incident took place when the student, who was in her final year of graduation, was alone at home. “As per the initial statement of the victim's father, they entered the house by breaking the door and found their daughter dead. We will formally record his statement and begin the investigation as per his allegations. I will personally inquire into the incident,” said Kendrapara SP Siddharth Kataria.

The student's father alleged that she was facing harassment and threats from a man whom she was in a relationship with. “We reported the matter to the police six months ago. The police didn't register a case and took no action on our complaint. They asked to block the man's mobile number if he was harassing.”

He also claimed the man had been threatening to leak photographs of the woman and had also given her death threats for several months. A team was deployed to collect forensic evidence from the spot, police said.

Asked about the allegation of inaction despite the victim approaching police, SP Kataria said the department would examine and “take action accordingly”.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

IMPHAL, AUGUST 6

IN A significant development towards restoring peace, a 16-member delegation of the Thadou community and Meitei civil society organisations held a closed-door meeting in a hotel in Imphal Wednesday as former CM N Biren Singh asserted that there is “a need for a popular government, and it should come”.

This comes a day after the Rajya Sabha cleared a resolution extending the President's Rule in Manipur for another six months. Last week, it was passed in the Lok Sabha.

The Thadou Inpi Manipur (TIM) delegation arrived at Bir Tikendrajit International Airport around 9 am and was received by members of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) and the Manipur Police. TIM described the meeting as a ‘Roadmap to Peace: Covenant of Coexistence on Community Understanding’. This

marks the first visit by the Thadou community to Imphal since ethnic violence erupted in May 2023.

Meitei civil society organisations, including COCOMI, the All Manipur United Clubs' Organisation (AMUCO), the Federation of Civil Societies (FOCS), Arambai Tengol and students' bodies took part in the meet. This was the second such meeting between Thadou and Meitei representatives; the first one was held earlier this year in Guwahati.

Sources said the meeting focused on exploring strategies to restore peace, with special attention to the rehabilitation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) belonging to Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities. The representatives who attended the meeting hinted at a second round of talks.

The Thadou delegation comprised J K Singun, Minthang P. Samuel, C Laltanpui, James Thadou, Thangminlum, Joshur, Dr M Paosei, Jamkhohlung, Manggr, T Michael Lamjathang Haokip, Meikholal, Mangminlal, Mangchungmeng, Nelkam, and Janglen.

but she alleged that her former employer continued to pester her.

She alleged that when she and her husband were about to lodge a complaint against the CEO, the three representatives of the company came for mediation. She alleged that the staff told her Venu was ready to apologise and asked the couple to come to a hotel on July 29, where they were arrested.

The couple, in their complaint, said Venu transferred ₹50,000 to her bank account without informing her. In her complaint, she gave details about the alleged incidents of sexual harassment.

A statement by TIM said: “A major source of confusion between Thadou tribe and those identifying it as a Kuki tribe arises from the similarities... it is crucial to understand that the Thadou tribe is a distinct indigenous identity, while the Kuki nomenclature, as used today, has become a politicised and ideological label. The nomenclature Kuki is not a genuine ethnic identity.”

“This is a defining moment in our shared history... The path to lasting peace in Manipur begins with clarity of identity, rejection of extremism, and a renewed commitment to coexistence.”

Meanwhile, on the sidelines of a programme in Imphal, Biren Singh said, “We all know how President's Rule came to be imposed... There is a need for a popular government... I have stood for popular government from the very beginning. Due to the situation, I was forced to resign...” “I understand people are facing hardship, and I wish for the presence of a popular government as well.” - WITH PTI INPUTS

SC bans hand-pulled rickshaws in Matheran

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

THE SUPREME COURT on Wednesday banned hand-pulled rickshaws in the ecologically sensitive Matheran near Mumbai, a destination which draws tourists in large numbers, saying that the practice “is against the basic concept of human dignity” and needs to be done away with completely.

A bench of Chief Justice of India B R Gavi and Justices Vinod Chandran and NV Anjaria said those plying it are not doing so by choice but because they have no other source of livelihood. “Permitting such an inhuman practice, which hits at the basic concept of human dignity in a country like India... belittles the Constitutional promise of social and economic justice.”

The bench pointed out that the SC had in the case People of India for Democratic Rights v. Union of India, given an expanded meaning to Article 23, holding that it was intended to

abolish every form of forced labour and said that even if remuneration is paid, labour supplied by a person will be hit by Article 23 if it is forced labour. It referred to the SC's 1980 ruling in the case Azad Rickshaw Pullers Union (Regd.) vs State of Punjab & Others which dealt with the rehabilitation of cycle rickshaw pullers in Punjab.

The bench said, “it is really unfortunate that after 45 years of the observations made by this Court in the case of Azad Rickshaw Pullers Union, the inhuman practice of a human being pulling another human being is still prevalent in the town of Matheran.” It directed the “state to stop the practice of hand-pulled rickshaws in a phased manner within a period of 6 months from today”.

It said that the answer lies in switching to environmentally friendly e-rickshaws.

The Court asked the Maharashtra government to roll out a rehabilitation scheme for the rickshaw pullers of Matheran.

After accusing former employee of extortion, Kerala IT firm CEO faces counter sexual harassment case

After getting bail, couple complained to police alleging sexual harassment by former employer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 6

AN ALLEGED extortion case against a woman former employee of an IT firm and her husband has taken a turn with the CEO of the same company and his three colleagues now facing a case of sexual harassment on the complaint of the woman.

A day after Kochi infopark police registered the case against the CEO of Litmus 7 Systems Consulting Private Limited, Venu

Gopalakrishnan, on Wednesday, he sought pre-arrest bail from the High Court. The HC restrained the arrest of his colleagues Jacob P Thambay, Eby Paul and Bimalraj Haridas till the government prosecutor files instructions from the police. However, the HC has not given any relief to 51-year-old Venu booked for criminal intimidation, insulting modesty of woman and sexual harassment.

The CEO and others faced the case a week after his former colleague and her husband were arrested on charges of extortion. After obtaining bail, the couple

filed complaints with police higher ups, leading to registration of FIR against Venu and others.

Last month, Venu, in his complaint, had alleged that the couple had accused him of having an affair with the woman and threatened him with a rape case to extort money.

He alleged that on July 23, she contacted the three staff members of the company and asked them to come to a hotel in Kochi where the couple allegedly demanded ₹30 crore to settle the matter. The couple allegedly sought an assurance in writing

from Venu and asked him to transfer ₹10 crore to her account and two cheques for the remaining amount. On July 28, ₹50,000 was transferred from Venu's account to that of the woman's. The next day, the couple were arrested by the police on charges of extortion and remanded in judicial custody.

Days later after they got bail, the couple complained to police alleging sexual harassment by Venu when she worked with him. She said she joined the company in February 2024 and quit after getting married earlier this year,

HC puts Punjab land pooling policy on hold, to hear case today

MANRAJ GREWAL
SHARMA

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 6

IN AN interim order on Wednesday, the Punjab and Haryana High Court directed the Punjab government to clarify whether Social and Environmental Impact Assessments (SIA and EIA) and were carried out before rolling out the Land Pooling Policy, 2025.

The court, acting on a plea by Gurdeep Singh Gill who questioned the policy's legality and its effect on landowners in Ludhiana's Phagla village, put it on hold till the next date on hear-

ing on August 7.

The interim order by Division Bench of Justice Anupinder Grewal and Justice Deepak Manchanda stemmed from concerns over compliance with provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (commonly referred to as LARR Act, 2013).

The court sought clarification on whether the state made any provisions to rehabilitate landless labourers and other dependent on the land, noting possible omissions in the policy's rollout.

The bench noted, “Learned Advocate General Punjab prays

for time to inform this court as to whether the Social Impact Assessment was carried out before notifying the policy and to respond to the arguments of the counsel for the petitioner as noticed in the order of this Court dated 30.07.2025. He shall also inform this court if the Environmental Impact Assessment had been carried out before notifying the policy.”

During the hearing, the Advocate General of Punjab Maninderjit Singh informed the court that “the policy would be kept on hold and no further steps would be taken till the next date of hearing,” which is August 7.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

WITH DUE RESPECT

SC's singular definition of Indianness, restrictive eye on questions asked of government, go against its own past record

WHILE GRANTING HIM a reprieve on Monday in a defamation case over his alleged remarks on the armed forces in the wake of the 2020 Galwan clash with China, the Supreme Court censured Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi for speaking out on the issue. It also doled out a prescription for being a “true Indian” — “If you are a true Indian, you would not say all these things”, it said. Only days earlier, the Bombay High Court questioned the Left parties’ patriotism while upholding Mumbai Police’s denial of permission to the CPM and CPI to hold a protest rally at Azad Maidan in solidarity with Gaza. The court criticised the prioritising of foreign affairs over national concerns — “You are looking at issues in Gaza and Palestine. Look at your own country”, it said. The observations by the apex court and the high court are disquieting.

For one, they mark an institutional overstepping. It is not the court’s remit to define, and to circumscribe Indianness, or to hand out certificates of patriotism, or to decide the LoP’s responsibilities and the political party’s priorities. In a climate of political polarisation, in which the right to freedom of speech is often in need of constitutional protection, and when “anti-national” is a label frequently used to demonise the dissenter and delegitimise dissent, the restrictive strictures of the Supreme Court in particular — on which questions can be asked of the government in times of conflict, and which can’t, and on who is and who is not a “true Indian” — are especially dispiriting. The SC, after all, is the custodian of the constitutional letter and spirit. As such, it is the bulwark against any encroachment of fundamental rights, including and especially free expression. In fact, the Court only has to look back on its own record to see why its current stance touches off concerns. It has established a rich tradition of checking executive overreach and protecting and upholding civil liberties. In earlier judgments, it has underlined, for instance, that “national security” cannot be invoked as a ground to curb fundamental rights. In the 2021 case involving the alleged use of Pegasus malware against citizens, the SC held that while there are limits to judicial review when it comes to national security, “this does not mean that the state gets a free pass every time the spectre of ‘national security’ is raised”. And that “National security cannot be the bugbear that the judiciary shies away from, by virtue of its mere mentioning”.

The Constitution of India is distinctive for its capaciousness, for enlarging spaces for expressions of diversity and difference. It accommodates and enables plurality, while enforcing rights and accountability. By laying down a singular definition of Indianness, by turning a restrictive eye on questions asked of the dominant narrative and the government, the Court goes against its own past record and does a disservice to the Constitution. That the oral observations of the Court are not legally binding, that they are only part of the deliberative process, is not a mitigating factor. The Court must recognise that it is a measure of the enormous respect for the institution of the judiciary that what it says is taken seriously — and that, by the same token, in an argumentative democracy, it can have an undesirable chilling effect.

A CONSIDERED PAUSE

RBI keeps interest rates unchanged. Policy action depends on whether growth or inflation deviate from its assessment

IN ITS AUGUST meeting, the RBI’s monetary policy committee voted unanimously to keep the benchmark policy repo rate unchanged — it stands at 5.5 per cent. Alongside, the members also voted to continue with the neutral stance. The decision, which came after the MPC had frontloaded the rate cuts in its previous meeting — in June it had reduced the rate by 50 basis points — was expected, given the prevailing global and domestic environment. As RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said, “the current macroeconomic conditions, outlook and uncertainties call for continuation of the policy”.

The central bank’s forecasts accompanying the August policy indicate that inflationary pressures in the economy are expected to remain muted. The RBI has, in fact, lowered its inflation forecast for the year to 3.1 per cent, from 3.7 per cent earlier. In recent months, food price pressures have eased considerably, and a good monsoon season and trends in kharif sowing indicate that the outlook is benign. Core inflation, which excludes food and fuel, has, however, inched upwards to 4.4 per cent in June. But the price pressures are not broad-based. Inflation was muted in several non-food categories such as clothing and footwear, household goods and services. But the central bank’s forecasts have pegged inflation to rise to 4.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2025–26 and further to 4.9 per cent in the first quarter of 2026–27, as “unfavourable base effects, and demand side factors from policy actions come into play”. With some projecting inflation at around 4.5 per cent in 2026, which translates to a real interest rate of around 1 per cent, it reduces the space for further rate cuts.

On the issue of growth, it is surprising that the central bank has retained its projections. It continues to forecast that the economy will grow at 6.5 per cent this year, in line with its expectations in April and June, even as the global environment has changed considerably since then. US President Donald Trump’s trade and tariff policies have already led to some analysts lowering their estimates of growth. The RBI acknowledges these concerns. Governor Malhotra pointed to the uncertainty of “external demand”, and the headwinds from “geopolitical tensions” and “volatility in global financial markets”. Considering that the uncertainty over tariffs continues, and that the transmission of the interest rate cuts so far is still working through the system, further policy action will possibly depend on whether growth and/or inflation deviate significantly from the central bank’s current assessment.

A DOUBLES’ FAULT

US Open is introducing a dating reality show this year. But nothing can match the drama of a good game of tennis

IT’S NOT QUITE the centre-court showdown one might expect at a Grand Slam, but the USTA, organiser of the US Open, is hoping its latest wild card will still serve up some buzz. This year, a reality dating show, “Game, Set, Matchmaker”, will shadow a former figure skating champion as she volleys her way through seven romantic hopefuls — all on the tournament venue in the week leading up to the main event. The eight-episode series will air on YouTube, with the finale dropping during the women’s final, because, of course, nothing pairs with a baseline rally like a soft-focus exchange about emotional availability.

Critics are crying gimmick and if the serve feels a bit wide, it is with reason. Tennis has long flirted with the need to modernise but it has, so far, limited itself within the sport’s ambit. The Australian Open has leaned into animated streaming to widen viewership; Wimbledon has relaxed its all-white dress code for women. In the US, despite the sport’s grassroots popularity, national viewership still can’t quite hold serve. And yet, dressing the tournament in reality-tv gloss runs the risk of overplaying the point. Tennis is, after all, a sport built on structure and restraint — its very essence born from the unscripted choreography of long rallies, the expectant hush between points, the tension of attacking and recalibrating in real time.

If the USTA really wants to connect with a new generation, it might do well to trust the drama and plot twists embedded in the game. Tennis is inherently cinematic, a love story of unusual depth built on a foundation of showing up again and again — despite its overwhelming demands, despite the critics or the scoreboard. If tennis keeps mistaking visibility for vitality, it risks forgetting that relevance isn’t built through novelty alone. It’s built through storytelling that respects the game — and assumes the audience can, too.



RAJANI SINHA

THE RBI’S MONETARY Policy Committee (MPC), in line with our expectations, left the policy rate unchanged and maintained the stance at neutral. The central bank highlighted that the sharp decline in inflation is primarily due to volatile food prices, specifically vegetable prices. Moreover, it cautioned that with the low base of this year, CPI inflation is projected to rise above 4 per cent and beyond in 2026, implying that there is limited room for further rate cuts in this cycle. The central bank was broadly optimistic about growth and kept the GDP growth projection unchanged at 6.5 per cent for FY26, while acknowledging the uncertain external demand scenario.

CPI inflation fell sharply to around 2 per cent in June 2025 and is estimated to remain benign at around 2.5 per cent in the next two quarters. With the sharper-than-expected fall in inflation, the RBI has lowered the CPI projection for FY26 to 3.1 per cent. Vegetable inflation that was very high in 2024, averaging 27 per cent, has recorded sharp deflation, averaging -15 per cent in the last three months. The vegetable price sub-index that contributes around 6 per cent to the overall CPI index has been particularly volatile in the past year. If we exclude vegetable prices, CPI inflation was in the range of 3–4 per cent for the entire FY25 and remains in the same range in Q1 FY26.

Apart from vegetables, many other components of the food basket are also seeing low inflation or deflation, supported by a good monsoon and a high base from last year. The point to note is that a large part of the fall in inflation is because of the statistical base effect. However, next year, we will see inflation rising again as the base effect reverses. We expect CPI inflation to breach the 4 per cent level in Q4 FY26 and average more than 4.5 per cent in FY27 — this is broadly in line with the RBI’s projections.

RBI’s decision to not cut rates indicates that growth trajectory is largely insulated from tariff pressures

RBI remains optimistic, has maintained the GDP growth projection for FY26 at 6.5 per cent. Factors like recent interest rate cuts, strong agricultural activity boosting rural demand, benign inflationary conditions, favourable monsoon and lower income tax burden are supportive of growth. While the recently announced higher reciprocal tariff by the US has raised some growth concerns, it is to be noted that India is a domestic demand-driven economy, and merchandise exports to the US contribute only around 2 per cent to our GDP.

As far as growth is concerned, RBI remains optimistic and has maintained the GDP growth projection for FY26 at 6.5 per cent (broadly in line with our projection of 6.4 per cent). Factors like recent interest rate cuts, strong agricultural activity boosting rural demand, benign inflationary conditions, favourable monsoon and lower income tax burden are supportive of growth this year. While the recently announced higher reciprocal tariff by the US has raised some growth concerns, it should be noted that India is a domestic demand-driven economy, and merchandise exports to the US contribute only around 2 per cent to our GDP. We feel the adverse impact of tariffs through the export channel could be limited. It’s also important to consider that there is still a lack of clarity on US trade policy, and hence it’s difficult to assess the overall impact on GDP growth. It is quite possible that India manages to negotiate a trade deal with the US, leading to lower tariff barriers.

On the domestic front, there are some concerns around consumption and investment recovery not being broad-based. While a healthy monsoon has supported rural demand, subdued income growth in urban areas is concerning. This becomes specifically critical amidst weak hiring in the IT sector. Our study shows that aggregate headcount at the top five domestic IT firms plateaued in FY25 after a 4 per cent contraction in FY24. Growth in employee cost for IT firms in our sample (670 listed non-financial companies) slumped to just 5 per cent in FY25 from an average growth of 14 per cent between FY19 and FY24. We feel that the subdued household income growth is also getting reflected in weaker consumption growth, specifically in urban areas.

On the investment front, the Centre’s push to capex has continued with a growth of 52 per cent recorded in Q1 FY26.

However, private players remain cautious in the midst of economic uncertainties. Even in the midst of these headwinds, India is likely to manage a healthy growth in FY26.

India’s external sector will continue to face uncertainties given the risk posed by the US’s reciprocal tariff. The benefit that India had vis-à-vis some of the other Asian peers has been reversed, with India now facing a higher tariff. We expect India’s merchandise exports to contract in FY26. However, services exports will remain healthy, albeit with some moderation in growth. Overall, we expect India’s current account deficit to be manageable at 0.9 per cent of GDP in FY26. However, capital flows could remain volatile in the midst of aggravated global uncertainties. With forex reserves at a comfortable level of \$689 billion covering 11 months of merchandise imports, we can say that India’s external sector is broadly insulated, though we need to remain cautious.

What should we expect going forward? RBI had already cut the policy rate by 100 bps since February 2025 and taken measures to ensure ample liquidity in the system to facilitate rate transmission. Hence, the central bank would now like to wait and watch to see the impact of further transmission. Moreover, with average CPI inflation expected to be around 4.5 per cent or even more in 2026, we are already talking about a very low real interest rate of around 1 per cent. With growth momentum likely to be maintained at around 6.5 per cent, there is no need for further rate cuts. Only if the growth trajectory gets severely dented by the aggravation of trade risks can we expect a further rate cut by the central bank in this cycle.

The writer is chief economist, Care Edge Ratings



SANJAY BOSU MULICK

WITH THE PASSING away of Dishom Guru Shibu Shoren, an era in the movement of Jharkhand’s Adivasis has come to an end. The era that began with the luminaries of the tribal political leadership, such as Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh and N E Horo, witnessed the formation of the Jharkhand state. Jaipal Singh failed to translate the aspirations of the indigenous peoples of Jharkhand into reality despite being educated in England. Shibu Soren succeeded to a great extent, though, unlike Singh, he wasn’t exposed to the top political leadership of his time.

The trauma of losing his father at an early age, killed by the moneylenders, left a deep impact on Soren. It also played a big role in Soren becoming the spokesperson of Jharkhand’s oppressed people. Unlike his mentors and contemporaries, who believed in “direct action”, Soren chose the path of negotiation. His reliance on the principles of accommodation was instrumental in the emergence of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) as the largest political party in the state. Soren, who began his career as a firebrand leader with deep ties to the grassroots, became one of the most successful politicians of his time. But when he died, he left behind several unachieved goals from his early life.

Soren’s political journey can be divided into two parts — before and after his entry into parliamentary politics. The gruesome murder of his father, Sobran Manji, turned

REBEL AND STATESMAN

Shibu Soren’s success came from his closeness to the ground, arc of accommodation

Shibu Soren gradually entered electoral politics and, after a short teething period, succeeded in becoming an MP in 1980. The decade turned out to be a turning point in his political career. He parted with his Marxist mentors in 1984 and moved ahead to establish JMM as the most popular political party in Jharkhand, expanding its presence in neighbouring West Bengal and Odisha.

Shivcharan Majhi of Nemra — his ancestral village in Ramgarh district — into the rebellious Shibu Soren. His fight against non-tribal oppressors made him the leader of Sonot Santal Samaj, a people’s platform to fight against the oppressors. On February 4, 1972, he joined hands with the Marxist leader Binod Bihari Mahato, the head of another social platform, Shivaji Samaj, to form an outfit whose agenda was not just social reform but political empowerment. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha was formally founded the following year on the same day. It was blessed by the firebrand Marxist trade union leader of Dhanbad’s coal belt, Arun Kumar Roy, who was so impressed by Soren’s leadership qualities that he called him the emerging “Lenin of Jharkhand”. The Marxist red flag and tribal green flag were unfurled together to unite the workers and peasants, leading to a new era in the Jharkhand movement. To the call of the leaders, “How do you want to achieve Jharkhand,” the collective voice of the Adivasis resounded — “We will wage a battle to wrench it out”.

Soren led the Dhan Kati movement, which encouraged Santals to harvest paddy from the lands that were illegally occupied and cultivated by moneylenders after the Adivasis had failed to pay off their debt. He was put behind bars and came out even more determined. People cheered Soren back to the movement by placing him on the highest pedestal of their social organisation, the Dishom Guru, the supreme

guide of the land. Militant activism forced him to remain underground for a long time.

Activist Shibu Soren gradually entered electoral politics and, after a short teething period, succeeded in becoming an MP in 1980. The decade turned out to be a turning point in his political career. He parted with his Marxist mentors on the issues of ideology and political strategies in 1984 and moved ahead to establish JMM as the most popular political party in Jharkhand, expanding its political presence in neighbouring West Bengal and Odisha. He was elected to the Lok Sabha three times and was a three-time chief minister of Jharkhand. His leadership as the supreme leader of the movement for a separate state for Adivasis was challenged by the All Jharkhand Students’ Union in 1986 — an outfit that pursued militant agitation and condemned his strategy of electoral politics. The ‘90s was a bad phase in his life when Soren faced serious allegations and was put behind bars.

On August 4, the rebel boy Shivcharan Manjhi breathed his last as Dishom Guru Shibu Soren at 81, leaving behind an illustrious family that includes his sons Hemant Soren, the chief minister of Jharkhand and Basant Soren, a MLA, daughter-in-law Kalpana Soren, also a MLA, and daughter Anjali Soren.

The writer, a social scientist, participated in Jharkhand’s statehood movement



AUGUST 7, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

HIROSHIMA DAY

THE EXPLOSION OF an atomic bomb over the Japanese city of Hiroshima 40 years ago was marked at the blast site and elsewhere in the world with warnings that nuclear weapons should never be used again. Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, speaking before a crowd of 55,000 people in Hiroshima’s Peace Park, called for the ultimate abolition of nuclear arsenals. The park stands below the spot where the US B-29 bomber “Enola Gay” dropped the first operational nuclear weapon on the morning of August 6, 1945.

ASSAM SOLUTION

THE HOME MINISTER, S B Chavan, is visit-

ing Guwahati for two days to consult people from various sections on the possibility of a solution to the foreigners problem in Assam. Although the government has not fixed any date yet for the resumption of formal talks with the Assam agitation leaders, they may also be consulted during Chavan’s Guwahati visit. Chavan’s visit follows the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, which discussed the issue.

WOMEN IN CRPF

THE CENTRAL RESERVE Police Force is, for the first time, raising a battalion of women in an attempt to create a force of female police to be deployed in specific situations. Though it is being done on an experimental

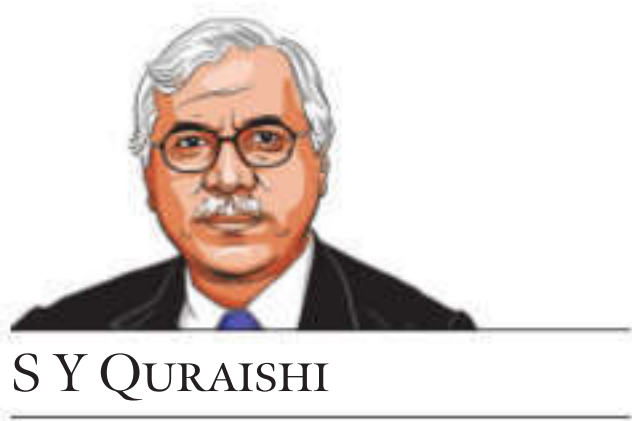
basis, the Home Ministry is credited with the view that such a force is necessary and should “be given all the encouragement”. The role of policewomen in situations like communal riots and civil strife could go a long way in containing trouble, it is felt.

OIL IN CAUVERY

OIL AND GAS have been struck in the Cauvery Basin in Tamil Nadu. This is the second find of hydrocarbons in the onland Cauvery Basin in recent months. The Minister of State for Petroleum, Nawal Kishore, made this announcement in both houses of Parliament. The first oil find in the basin was made in January 1985. This was, however, a much smaller one and was located about 10 km from the present location.

Absence is abdication

Heeding calls for boycotting Bihar assembly elections in wake of controversial electoral roll revision would lead to forfeiting the fight, give ruling dispensation a walkover



S Y QURAISHI

IN THE FESTIVAL of democracy that elections represent, participation is both a right and a responsibility. Yet, from time to time, political actors withdraw from this arena, hoping that their absence will make a louder statement than their presence. The tactic of boycotting elections — either by political parties or segments of the electorate — has become a recurring feature across democracies, old and new. But history offers a sobering lesson: Election boycotts rarely succeed. Instead, they often backfire, weakening opposition forces and strengthening incumbents.

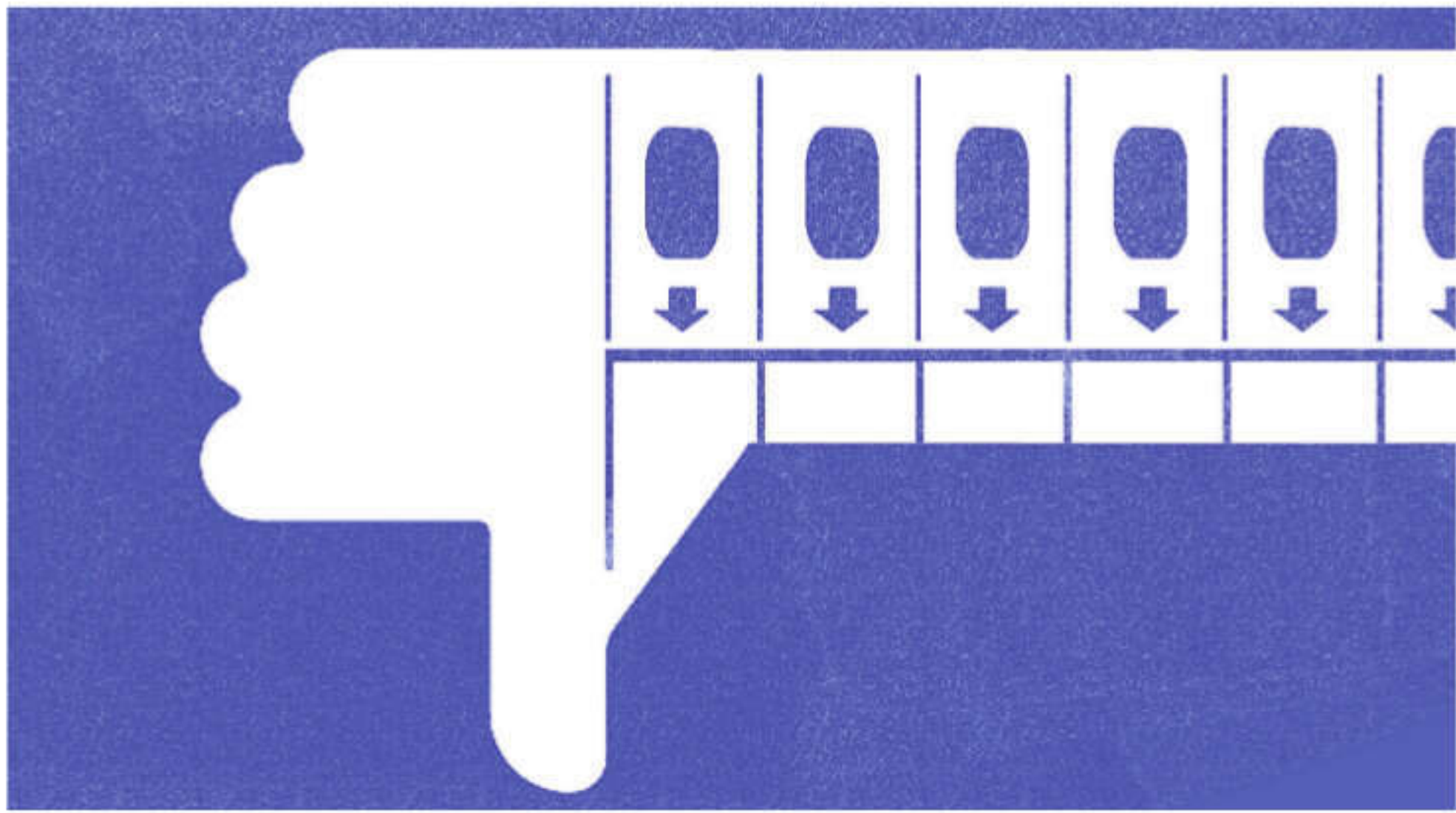
Calls for boycotting the upcoming elections in Bihar have gained ground in recent weeks, driven by serious apprehensions about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) ordered by the Election Commission (EC). Critics allege that the SIR is being used as a tool for mass deletion of voter names, disproportionately affecting the poor, minorities and migrants. Reports of a lack of transparency in verification processes have fuelled public distrust. While concerns about electoral integrity must be addressed seriously — and urgently — by the EC, the call for a boycott as a political response deserves deeper scrutiny.

History offers a cautionary tale from our own region: Bangladesh, 2014. That year, the country's largest opposition party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), boycotted the general elections, demanding that the ruling Awami League hand over power to a neutral caretaker government for the conduct of polls. Their fears were not unfounded — there were legitimate concerns about state capture and political persecution. But in choosing to boycott, the BNP ended up vacating the entire field. As a result, 153 of the 300 parliamentary seats were won uncontested, mostly by the ruling party and its allies. I was in Dhaka soon after. Ironically, many observers told me that had the BNP not boycotted, they were actually winning. Their boycott gifted the ruling party a walkover and left them politically marginalised for years.

India, too, has witnessed its share of election boycotts — Punjab's 1992 assembly elections, for example. With the Shiromani Akali Dal boycotting, turnout plunged to as low as 13 per cent in some districts, and Beant Singh won on the votes of a tiny fraction of the electorate. The boycott handed Congress an easy victory and left democracy poorer for the lack of real competition.

There have been many other boycotts, though often from non-mainstream or separatist quarters. In Jammu and Kashmir, separatist groups have historically called for poll boycotts, arguing that participation would lend legitimacy to Indian governance. Yet, elections were conducted regardless of turnout, and governments formed. In some instances, low turnout allowed particular parties to win with wafer-thin mandates, undermining broader representation.

In central India, Left-wing extremist



C R Sasikumar

groups have regularly used violence and intimidation to enforce poll boycotts. But the EC, committed to protecting the democratic right to vote, has pushed back — with security deployments, special polling booths, and remarkable logistical efforts. The message has been consistent: Democracy will not be held hostage to boycott threats.

Globally, too, boycotts have fared poorly. Venezuela offers a textbook warning: In 2005, the opposition boycotted and the ruling alliance took every National Assembly seat; in 2018, a partial boycott helped Nicolas Maduro secure reelection amid ~46 per cent turnout; and in 2020, another opposition boycott saw ~31 per cent turnout and delivered the government a supermajority. In Zimbabwe, Morgan Tsvangirai's withdrawal from the 2008 runoff allowed Robert Mugabe to claim victory unopposed. International criticism followed, but in vain.

Serbia in 2000 proved the opposite. By contesting and then mobilising against fraud, the opposition toppled Slobodan Milošević. Had they boycotted, he would have claimed victory uncontested, as in Venezuela 2005. But such outcomes are exceptions, not the rule. More often, a boycott becomes a symbolic gesture — loud in rhetoric but empty in consequence.

In India, the Constitution does not provide for invalidation of elections due to boycotts or low voter turnout. The EC is duty-bound to conduct polls as per schedule and to declare winners based on the votes polled. A boycott, therefore, does not halt the process — it simply ensures a walkover.

This is why the call to boycott elections in Bihar, in response to the SIR controversy, must be reconsidered. Yes, the SIR process must be subjected to robust scrutiny. The EC must remove all doubts of every party and civil society to ensure transparency in deletions and provide effective grievance redress mechanisms. Civil society, media, and courts must remain vigilant. But the electoral arena should not be abandoned.

To vacate the field is to forfeit the fight. Let us not forget that in a democracy, absence is not protest — it is abdication.

The call to boycott elections in Bihar, in response to the SIR controversy, must be reconsidered. Yes, the SIR process must be subjected to robust scrutiny. The EC must remove all doubts of every party and civil society to ensure transparency in deletions and provide effective grievance redress mechanisms. Civil society, media, and courts must remain vigilant. But the electoral arena should not be abandoned. To vacate the field is to forfeit the fight. Let us not forget that in a democracy, absence is not protest — it is abdication.

Equally self-defeating is the Opposition's habit of boycotting Parliament. While walkouts and prolonged disruptions are sometimes intended as symbolic protest, their practical effect is to gift the ruling party a free hand to pass crucial legislation without scrutiny or debate. In India, several landmark laws — from the farm bills in 2020 to key constitutional amendments in earlier years — were pushed through in near-empty Houses as Opposition MPs staged walkouts. In Bangladesh, the opposition's long parliamentary boycotts in the 1990s and 2000s allowed the government to legislate virtually unopposed. Pakistan offers similar lessons: Opposition boycotts of the National Assembly, most recently in 2022 after the change in government, enabled the Treasury benches to pass finance bills and controversial amendments with minimal challenge. Such tactics may momentarily grab headlines, but they deprive citizens of robust debate, weaken legislative oversight, and ultimately erode the very democracy the opposition claims to defend.

Democracy thrives on participation, vigilance, and constructive engagement. Whether in elections or in Parliament, the opposition's role is to challenge, question, and hold the government to account. Boycotts may offer an outlet for anger and frustration, but they also abandon the very platforms where battles for accountability are meant to be fought.

History shows that the most effective Opposition leaders have been those who stayed in the arena, however hostile, and used the tools of democracy to expose wrongs, build public opinion, and win people's trust. By walking away, the Opposition concedes both the space and the narrative to its adversaries — a political blunder from which recovery can take years, if not decades.

Remember, an empty Opposition bench is the ruling party's dream and democracy's nightmare.

The writer is former Chief Election Commissioner of India and author of An Undocumented Wonder: The Making of the Great Indian Election

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“One year on from the uprising, we urge critical reflection from all its stakeholders. They all must do more, and do better.” — THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH

Nuclear dialogue, sans politics

Given emerging dual-capability arsenals, heightened risk post Op Sindoor, Subcontinent needs a conversation on atomic weapons' use



ARUN PRAKASH

LOST IN THE thrust and parry of the parliamentary debate on Operation Sindoor were PM Narendra Modi's several references to Pakistan's “nuclear threats” and “nuclear blackmail”. They reflected a deliberate articulation of India's more assertive security doctrine, representing a calculated move to redefine the deterrence equation in South Asia. That India is prepared to act against terrorism regardless of Pakistan's “nuclear bluff” is ostensibly intended to enhance India's deterrent credibility.

The three-way China-India-Pakistan nuclear relationship has created a complex web of interlocking deterrence. All three countries are modernising and expanding their nuclear arsenals and delivery systems. Given the lack of transparency regarding nuclear arsenals and doctrines, and a marked reluctance to engage in a dialogue on measures to mitigate nuclear risk, the ongoing arms race can further destabilise the region, especially in a crisis such as Pahalgam. August 6, the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, was a reminder of the horrors of a nuclear holocaust. We need to focus on the management of this complex dynamic and on the prevention of accidental or intentional escalation.

China, while officially maintaining principles of both “credible minimum deterrence” and “no first use” (NFU), is engaged in rapid expansion of its nuclear arsenal — predicted to reach 1,000 warheads by 2030. At the same time, the PLA's Rocket Force (PLARF) is fielding increasingly sophisticated missile systems, such as the 12,000-15,000 km range DF-41 and the hypersonic DF-17. PLARF's inventory consists of both conventionally armed and nuclear-tipped missiles, raising a question about China's posture: Is this “dual-capability” a deliberate strategic choice or merely an organisational detail?

Pakistan's nuclear arsenal is aimed exclusively at India, and apart from reserving the right to “first use”, it has refrained from declaring an official nuclear doctrine. Pakistan's transition from “minimum credible deterrence” to “full spectrum deterrence” (FSD), which envisages the deployment of low-yield or tactical nuclear weapons, has been rationalised as a measure to counter the Indian army's “Cold Start” doctrine. The latter, it may be recalled, was a conceptual remedy for India's slow general mobilisation during the 2001-2002 Operation Parakram. However, it is only now that this concept of integrated battle groups is seeing daylight in the form of recently announced “Rudra” brigades.

India's political leadership has stood by its two long-held beliefs: (a) that the sole purpose of nuclear weapons is to deter a nuclear attack, by holding out a threat of “massive retaliation” and (b) nuclear weapons were political instruments rather than military warfighting tools. As a status quo power, India's declarations of NFU and its intention of maintaining a “credible minimum deterrent” made eminent sense. But much has changed since this doctrine was promulgated in 2003. Moreover, emerging technologies have added to the complexity of existing nuclear conundrums.

The “dual-use” potential of technologies such as AI, advanced computing, and hyper-

sonic delivery systems could blur the traditional distinction between conventional and nuclear. For example, a precise surface-to-surface missile could carry either a conventional or a nuclear warhead, making it difficult to ascertain the nature of an incoming attack and decide an appropriate response. The development of smaller, “dial a yield” nuclear warheads permits calibration of a single warhead to be detonated with a range of explosive effects, varying from sub-kiloton to hundreds of kilotons. The availability of such options could make their use more thinkable in a conventional conflict scenario, potentially lowering the nuclear threshold.

Since 1998, the Subcontinent has seen a few sporadic attempts at evolving confidence-building measures and nuclear risk reduction measures (NRRMs), including the 1999 Lahore MoU on measures to prevent accidental or unauthorised use of nuclear weapons, the 2005 Agreement on Pre-Notification of Missile Tests, and the 2007 Agreement to Reduce Nuclear Risks. But these are not enough, and a sustained dialogue is essential.

In the context of NRRMs, serious note needs to be taken of media reports citing open-source intelligence that during Operation Sindoor, some of the Indian missiles that targeted Mushaf air base in Pakistan's Sargodha region and the Nur Khan air base near Rawalpindi had impacted in the close vicinity of either nuclear warhead storages or Pakistan's nuclear command and control nodes. While the IAF's DG Air Operations firmly denied the targeting of any of Pakistan's nuclear installations, mischievous speculation has persisted about India's “warning strike”, implying that it was a demonstration of capability rather than an attempt to destroy the underground facilities.

The planners and custodians of nuclear weapons must note that targeting an adversary's nuclear assets, even inadvertently, with conventional weapons, can be misinterpreted as a “counter-force” strategy, which is fraught with the risk of rapid escalation to nuclear war. The hazards and doctrinal confusion that would arise from such an action bear consideration.

First, a conventional strike against a nuclear facility would be indistinguishable from a nuclear first strike. Given the extremely short timelines for decision-making in a nuclear crisis, the “use them or lose them” syndrome may cut in, leading the targeted party to launch its nuclear arsenal before it is destroyed. Desperate options like “launch on warning” or “launch under attack” may be considered.

Second, while it may not trigger a nuclear detonation, a conventional attack or “near-miss” on a nuclear storage facility could cause a massive release of radioactive material, simulating a “dirty bomb”, with devastating humanitarian and environmental consequences.

Finally, conventional attacks aimed at command-and-control nodes could render the adversary deaf and blind, depriving him of the ability to assess the situation accurately, communicate with his forces or issue rational orders.

These are amongst some of the manifold reasons why there is an urgent need for initiation of a sustained nuclear dialogue between India and Pakistan, insulated from the vagaries of politics. Such an interaction, by reducing mutual suspicion and enhancing transparency, might slow down the nuclear arms race and the mindless build-up of arsenals.

The writer is a former Indian Navy chief



PAROMITA CHAKRABARTI

Citizens and others

Targeting of Bengali-speaking migrants is part of a cynical, pessimistic politics

IN RECENT MONTHS, a disturbing pattern has emerged across several states: The conflation of language, religion, and citizenship into a mechanism of exclusion. In the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack in May, the Union Home Ministry had directed states to identify and deport illegal migrants, especially those from Bangladesh and Myanmar. Across states such as Haryana, Odisha, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Delhi, the security imperative has often disquietingly bypassed due process and led to the targeting of vulnerable communities — often Bengali-speaking Muslims who are Indian citizens. In Gurgaon, blue-collar workers were rounded up and detained, many allegedly despite valid identity documents. In Delhi's Jai Hind Camp, essential services were cut off to facilitate evictions. In Odisha, over 400 Bengali migrants were detained on suspicion of being illegal Bangladeshis.

While the national security imperative is beyond dispute, the response to immigration needs to be grounded in justice, transparency, and compassion. Yet, from the former AAP-led Delhi government's campaign to identify “illegal Bangladeshi” students in schools to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's routine targeting of “outsiders” and inflammatory references to land, flood and love “jihad”, to Amit Malviya, head of BJP's IT cell, claiming “Bengali” denotes ethnicity, not linguistic uniformity” on social media to defend Delhi Police's reference to Bengali as the “language of Bangladeshis”

in a recent letter, the narrative around immigration has been deeply polarising. The repeated vilification of Bengali-speakers undermines the Constitution's promise of equality, dignity, and due process. More concerning still, it reflects a rising impulse toward majoritarian governance.

This weaponisation of identity is not entirely new. In the early 1990s, when the Sangh Parivar had first raised the pitch against undocumented Bangladeshis in India, the then Congress-led Union Home Ministry had responded with Operation Pushback in the capital, a campaign to round up and deport alleged Bangladeshi migrants. The attempt was haphazard and short-lived, but not before many were forcibly sent across the border by-passing due process.

Assam's own history of exclusion is steeped in post-colonial anxieties. The anti-Bengali sentiment in the state has roots in the mass migrations following Partition and the formation of Bangladesh in 1971. The Bongal Kheda movement of the 1960s solidified in the Assam Agitation (1979-1985) and the subsequent Assam Accord sought to protect indigenous identity — but it came often at the expense of long-settled Bengali-speaking communities. The 2019 National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise stoked old fears. Over 19 lakh people were excluded from the final list, a majority of them Bengali-speaking, and Muslim. The process — opaque, inconsistent, and marred by bureaucratic hurdles — devolved into a Kafkaesque ordeal marked by detention

centres, exclusion from welfare schemes, and a constant threat of statelessness. Under Sarma, the state government's recent move to invoke the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950 — allowing district collectors to deport individuals labelled as “foreigners” without the oversight of Foreigners Tribunals — raises pressing concerns about the erosion of institutional safeguards and the risk of communal profiling that could wrongfully implicate lawful residents alongside the undocumented.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has described the current spate of detentions as targeted assault against Bengali speakers. Referring to the Election Commission's plan to implement the Special Intensive Revision nationwide, she has accused the BJP-led Centre of attempting to introduce the NRC “through the back door”. She has launched a Bhasha Andolan (language movement) in protest. With critical Assembly elections due in both Bengal and Assam next year, the thickening of identity politics can turn into a flashpoint. In 2021, the TMC's campaign slogan — *Bangla nijer meykei chay* (Bengal wants its own daughter) — channelled regional pride in response to the BJP's aggressive Hindutva push. Now, amid corruption scandals and a spate of incidents of sexual violence, the migrant issue has given TMC a new platform. It has reoriented its campaign to focus on the rights of Bengali-speaking migrants — an estimated 22.5 lakh Bengalis work outside West Bengal.

And yet, Banerjee herself has played into this narrative earlier. In January, she accused the BSF at Bengal's border with Bangladesh of letting in Bangladeshis illegally to pin the blame of infiltration on the state government. This rhetoric of “infiltrators” and “outsiders” may reap electoral dividends in the short term, but in the long run, it foments division, distrust and a breakdown of order. In Pune last week, for instance, a mob, several of them allegedly belonging to the Bajrang Dal, barged into the home of a Kargil War veteran's relative, and demanded identity proofs, calling the family Bangladeshi.

Migration is a natural phenomenon in a country as diverse and dynamic as India. Article 19 of the Constitution guarantees all citizens the right to move and reside freely within the country. For many, migration is not a choice but a compulsion, driven by economic hardship, displacement, or historical patterns of mobility. To reduce individuals to narrow markers of language, faith, or ethnicity is to chip away at the pluralistic foundations of Indian democracy.

The warning bells are loud and clear: If identity continues to be weaponised, India risks further shrinking its civic space into something narrow, brittle, and unjust. When a system focuses on binaries — citizen vs infiltrator, us vs them — it erodes the nuanced, layered understanding of what it means to be Indian.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CAPTAIN'S KNOCK

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘The Age of Gill’ (IE, August 6). It showcases the arrival of a new Team India under the leadership of Shubman Gill. The Test series will go down as one of the finest. Gill's talent and composure were on display, as were his skills as an efficient captain. His record-breaking tally of 754 runs in the series speaks volumes. Gill's most important job now will be to work on improving the side's fielding and managing the team.

Deepanshu Srivastava, Pune

AFTER HASINA

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘One year later’ (IE, August 6). In the year since the Sheikh Hasina regime was toppled, more has stayed the same than changed. The impartiality of the country's courts and its political process remains under a cloud

SS Paul, Nadia

UNFAIR DEMANDS

THIS REFERS TO the report, ‘Trump

warns of tariff hike in 24 hrs, Russia says countries can choose trade partners’ (IE, August 6). US President Donald Trump continues to take a beligerent attitude towards India. It is difficult to comprehend why he is turning so hostile. He speaks the language of the leader of an imperial power.

G David Milton, Maruthancode

THE RECENT THREAT by former US President Donald Trump to “very substantially” raise tariffs on India over its purchase of Russian oil is both alarming and unfair. India has the right to make decisions on trade and foreign policy based on its national interests. Energy security is non-negotiable for a country of 1.4 billion people. In this regard, Russian imports have been critical in ensuring stable, affordable energy supplies. Trump calling India as the “highest tariffed nation” and not a fair trading partner overlooks the growing economic relationship that took on great momentum 20 years ago. US-India ties have also benefitted greatly from the latter's liberalisation of key sectors over the years.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

'PASSING ABSURD, ERRONEOUS ORDER'

SC bars Allahabad HC judge from hearing criminal cases till retirement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

UPSET BY an Allahabad High Court judge permitting criminal prosecution in what the Supreme Court said was essentially a civil dispute, the top court has barred the judge from hearing criminal matters till his retirement.

“The Chief Justice shall make the concerned judge sit in a division bench with a seasoned senior judge of the high court. We further direct that the concerned judge shall not be assigned any criminal determination, till he demits office. If at all at some point of time, he is to be made to sit as a single judge, he shall not be assigned any criminal determination,” a bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said in its August 4 order.

The case involved a dispute between the owners of M/s Lalita Textile Concern, which was in the business of wholesale and retail business of yarn used in fabric manufacturing, and M/s Shikhar Chemicals, which was involved in the business of manufacturing and selling cloth made from yarn supplied by the former. Lalita Textile Concern had supplied thread worth ₹152,34,385 to Shikhar Chemicals, of which ₹47,75,000 was paid and the rest ₹4,59,385 remained unpaid since August 2019.

As per the complainant owner of Lalita Textile Concern, he made several attempts to contact the opposite party telephonically for payment, but no amount was paid. The GST department also initiated proceedings, but to no avail. He added that he also served a legal notice to the other side through his advocate, but all notices sent to the factory/home/office addresses were returned with remarks such as “Premises Locked.” Again, he sent recovery notices and legal notices for initiating criminal action for fraud and cheating, but they too were returned.

It was following this that he filed a complaint with the police, but no FIR was lodged. He then moved a magistrate court, which took cognisance of the complaint, and issued summons for the offence punishable under Section 406 (criminal breach of trust) of the Indian Penal Code. This was challenged before the high court, which, however, dismissed the same.

Preacher arrested for minor’s 2023 rape in Karnataka

Bengaluru: A 22-year-old cleric was arrested Wednesday in Karnataka for allegedly raping a five-year-old girl inside a mosque in October 2023, police said.

The incident came to light after CCTV footage, allegedly showing the cleric with the minor, was shared on X on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Belagavi district SP Bheemashankar S Guleed said they have arrested the cleric, who hails from Bagalkot district.

The incident took place on October 5, 2023, police said, adding that a case was registered under the POCSO Act.

ENS

Shikhar Chemicals then moved the Supreme Court.

Deciding it, the SC said, “With all due deference and humility at our command, we are constrained to observe that the impugned order is one of the worst and most erroneous orders that we have come across in our respective tenures as judges of this court.” The top court added, “The judge concerned has not only cut a sorry figure for himself but has made a mockery of justice. We are at our wits’ end to understand what is wrong with the Indian judiciary at the level of high court. At times, we are left wondering whether such orders are passed on some extraneous considerations or it is sheer ignorance of law. Whatever it be, passing of such absurd and erroneous orders is something unpardonable.”

The SC said, “It was expected of the Additional CJM to know that in a case of sale transaction where is the question of any entrustment of goods so as to bring the case within the ambit of criminal breach of trust punishable under Section 406 of the IPC.” The court also referred to judgments “wherein this Court stated that a mere transaction of sale cannot amount to an entrustment”.

The court said, “We are not taken by surprise with the magistrate exhibiting complete ignorance of law as regards the position of law, as to what constitutes cheating punishable under Section 420 of the IPC and criminal breach of trust punishable under Section 406 of the IPC. However, we expected at least the high court to understand the fine distinction between the two offences and the necessary ingredients to constitute the offence of cheating and criminal breach of trust.”

It also said the “most disturbing part” of this matter is the “manner in which the high court dealt with the quashing application filed by the petitioner—herein and the observations made in para 12 of its impugned order”.

The court said, “The judge has gone to the extent of saying that asking the complainant to pursue civil remedy for the purpose of recovery of the balance amount will be very unreasonable as civil suit may take a long time before it is decided and, therefore, the complainant should be permitted to institute criminal proceedings for the purpose of recovery of the balance amount.”

Uttarkashi flash flood site is in eco-sensitive zone, experts flagged violations over past year

NIKHIL GHANEKAR & AISWARYA RAJ
NEW DELHI, DEHRADUN, AUGUST 6

DHARALI IN Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand, the ground zero of the flash flood and debris avalanche Tuesday, is located in the fragile Bhagirathi eco-sensitive zone (ESZ), and experts believe that unregulated activities, like construction on river floodplains, could have contributed to making the disaster more severe. Over 60 people are reported to be missing in the flash floods in Uttarkashi as the rescue operations entered the second day Wednesday.

The Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone is a 4,157 sq km expanse between Gangotri and Uttarkashi town, and it was notified in 2012 to protect the Ganga river’s ecology and watershed near its origin. The Bhagirathi river is one of the main headstreams of the Ganga. It joins with the Alaknanda river in Devprayag to form the Ganga river.

The ESZ tag provides the region with a safety net against unregulated development. However, the region has been in the spotlight due to the construction of the Centre’s flagship Char Dham all-weather highway project, which faced legal challenges due to ecological threats, and was cleared by the Supreme Court.

Members of the BSEZ monitoring committee routinely flag



ITBP personnel during rescue operations after the flash floods in Dharali, a village in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand, on Wednesday. AP

issues of unregulated development, two members told *The Indian Express*.

Mallika Bhanot, a member of the Bhagirathi ESZ monitoring committee from Ganga Ahvaan, a non-profit organisation, said, “This is a natural event turned into a disaster which is due to man-made reasons. Unregulated construction along the sides of small tributaries and rivers leads to devastation downstream. If BESZ Notification is implemented effectively, then construction along flood plains will be regulated and disasters can be prevented in case

of these natural events.”

Last year, Bhanot and other independent members of the ESZ monitoring committee flagged the construction of a helipad in Jhala village of Uttarkashi. They had also flagged “illegal structures” in Maneri, Jamak, near Uttarkashi town, along the banks of Ganga, which are “multi-storey” hotel buildings. These structures violate the ESZ norms and compromise the safety of the region, they said.

There have also been issues with the stretch of the Char Dham project passing through this area.

One of the key sticking points on Char Dham was the stand of the Border Roads Organisation that is executing the project that the road widening on the Gangotri stretch did not require a separate Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The monitoring committee members had cautioned that, in light of the Silkyara tunnel episode in 2023, disregarding precautionary aspects and laws in place was “totally unacceptable”.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Border Roads Organisation has taken up widening of the

Dharasu-Gangotri stretch, and Dharali falls on this route.

Over the past year, several citizen groups in Uttarkashi have opposed the proposed construction of a bypass between Hina and Tekhla on NH-34, which is located south of Dharali. People even wrote to a Supreme Court-appointed committee, opposing the plan to fell 6,000 Deodar trees for the bypass.

Ravi Chopra, who headed an SC-appointed high-powered panel which appraised the Char Dham project in-depth, said, “On the stretch from Dharasu to Gangotri, the headquarters of Bhatwari block is located. The slope here has been sliding away over a period of time... We had said the road widening was not recommended and advised (the authorities) not to touch it.”

“The route to Harsil is narrow and composed of igneous rock, making it extremely dangerous. Rather than widen it, we suggested that the rock be shaped in the form of a half-tunnel. We imposed a lot of strict conditions on the widening—we recommended not to widen it at all—and if insisted, it should be under strict conditions,” Chopra said.

Cause not clear

The Dharali disaster is suspected to have been triggered by heavy rain in an area which is already prone to unstable slopes and thus landslides.

In fact, as per a bulletin of the Central Water Commission’s

JCO AMONG 9 ARMY PERSONNEL MISSING

New Delhi: At least nine Army personnel, including one JCO, are still missing following a massive cloudburst in Dharali. The Army has been conducting rescue and relief operations for the second consecutive day and has intensified efforts, it said Wednesday. **ENS**

Himalayan Ganga Division, three different spots – Dharali, an area near Sukhi top (between Harshil and Gangnani), and the area near Harshil Army camp witnessed rain-triggered floods and debris flow. The IMD data, though, shows that neither Uttarkashi nor the surrounding districts received an anomalous extreme rain, with maximum rainfall of 43 mm recorded at Sankri Tuesday.

Explaining the process behind debris and mud slides, Dipali Jindal, senior consultant, land-slides, NDMA, said, “From the videos, it looks like a mudslide, a type of landslide which involves rapid flow of mud, debris. The cause of the failure is not clear as of now. But it could have been triggered by a cloudburst-type event in areas above the disaster spot, in the catchment of the Kheer Ganga river... will be confirmed only after an investigation.” She added, “Prolonged rainfall may have caused saturation of the topsoil.”

BJP ex-spokesperson named Bombay HC judge: Who is Aarti Sathe, caught in row?

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE & OMKAR GOKHALE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 6

A LEGAL professional who specialises in complex tax disputes and is no stranger to the RSS and BJP, Aarti Sathe hit the headlines on Tuesday after she was recommended as a judge of the Bombay High Court on July 28.

Born to Maharashtrian parents involved in the legal profession, Sathe has seen courts, cases, debates and legal drama since her growing days in Mumbai. While she has preferred to work from the background, the row over her appointment as a judge has seemingly unsettled her legal colleagues.

“I do not want to comment on the politics but those attack-



Aarti Sathe is a lawyer by profession

ing her should judge her professionally. She has carved out her identity through hard work. Also, she will be on probation and will have to prove herself while her judgments would be closely watched by everyone. Why is the Opposition targeting BJP through a professional advocate,” said a senior lawyer.

With over 20 years of legal experience, Sathe has primarily dealt with tax disputes, specialising in direct tax matters and argued cases before the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Securities Appellate Tribunal

(SAT), and Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) along with matrimonial disputes before the Bombay HC. She worked with the Economic Law Practice (ELP) and was a part of senior lawyer Percy Pardiwala’s chamber. She also argued cases in the SC and other High Courts.

Sathe’s family too was associated with the RSS and BJP. Her father, Arun Sathe, a well-known lawyer, is the brother of former LS Speaker Sumitra Mahajan and was a member of the BJP’s national executive. He is one of the founding members of the party.

Though Sathe was officially appointed as the spokesperson of the Mumbai BJP in February 2023, sources said she was not seen regularly in the party office like other office-bearers. She also served as the head of the Mumbai BJP’s legal

cell. “Her appointment as the spokesperson was symbolic,” a source said. She resigned from the posts and the primary membership of the party in January 2024.

However, she continued to participate in seminars and forums, and was seen to champion the cause of the role of women in jobs and education. “Women should collaborate with each other, give wings and impetus... They should network with like-minded people from all walks of life,” she had said at an event.

The Opposition has been up in arms against the government while questioning how the BJP could “appoint an individual affiliated to a political party to such a high post”.

Sathe, with two other lawyers, will be inducted as additional judges of the Bombay HC.

SC quashes Madras HC order banning use of Stalin name for scheme

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

THE SUPREME Court Wednesday set aside the Madras High Court order that stopped Tamil Nadu’s DMK government from naming a scheme after Chief Minister M K Stalin.

Stating that the petition was “misconceived in law” and amounted to “abuse of the process of law”, the bench of Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and NV Anjaria cautioned, “Time and again, we have observed that political battles should be settled before the electoral roll and courts should not be used for this.”

The top court also made clear its displeasure with the petitioner, AIADMK leader and MPC Ve Shanmugam, for approaching it within three days of making a representation to the Election Commission of India in this regard.

The bench imposed a cost of ₹10 lakh on the petitioner and asked him to pay it to the Tamil Nadu government, directing that the amount be spent for the welfare of the underprivileged.

The petitioner had sought a ban on the state’s use of the chief minister’s name in public outreach programmes such as Ungaludan Stalin (With You, Stalin), which he claimed violated judicial guidelines and the Election Commission’s code.

The court took into account submissions by the state govern-



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin

ment that governments of other political parties too have named schemes after their political leaders. The state referred to schemes named after ‘Amma’ in this regard. Former Tamil Nadu chief minister Jayalalithaa was popularly referred to as ‘Amma’.

A division bench of the high court had on August 1 restrained the state government from naming or rebranding any public scheme after living individuals. The court also barred the use of portraits of ideological figures or former chief ministers, and any insignia or emblem of the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in government advertisements promoting such schemes.

The Supreme Court bench said, “The naming of schemes in the name of political leaders is a phenomenon which is followed across the country. When such schemes are floated in the name of all leaders of political parties, we do not appreciate the anxiety of the petitioner to choose only one political party and one political leader.”

“If the petitioner was so concerned about the misuse of political funds, the petitioner could have made a challenge to all such schemes. However, singling out only one political leader shows the intentions of the petitioner,” it said.

Vadodara: Expert team retrieves tanker dangling from collapsed bridge

ADITIRAJA
VADODARA, AUGUST 6

A TEAM of around 60 experts from the Marine Emergency Response Centre (MERC) of Vishwakarma company, Porbandar, Tuesday successfully retrieved the precariously hanging tanker on the Anand-district end of the broken Mujpur-Gambhira bridge in Vadodara, in a remarkable feat of precision and skill even as an Anand district resident succumbed to his injuries taking the toll of the bridge collapse to 22.

The operation, which took four days to complete, was carried out by the company that specialises in salvaging ships.

From the makeshift control room set up in a prefabricated cabin in Gambhira to specialised pneumatic marine airbags, horizontal cantilevers and strand jacks on standby even as multiple drone cameras kept promptly ready to monitor the operations—the task to retrieve the chemical tanker hanging on

the broken bridge since July 9, was all about meticulous calculations and probabilities.

On Tuesday, Dilipsinh Padhiyar, a resident of Nani Sherdi village in Anand district’s Borsad taluka, who was undergoing treatment for his injuries, succumbed, taking the toll to 22. On July 9, Dilipsinh was on a two-wheeler, returning from his night shift at a pharma company in Bharuch, when the bridge collapsed. Dilipsinh was among the four injured to be initially rescued. Another injured person, Narendra Parmar, had also succumbed to his injuries during the course of the treatment.

On Tuesday evening, almost four weeks after the bridge collapsed, leaving the chemical tanker hanging with a drop of about 50 meters on the separated span, MERC Vishwakarma retrieved the tanker, flawlessly executing the operation from 900 meters away without any human presence around the tanker.

Not only was it a first for the district administration where

usual rescue services involving heavy cranes could not be pressed into action but even the marine emergency team was working on retrieving a road transport vehicle stranded on a collapsed river bridge for the first time instead of the usual salvage operations carried out in waters along the Indian coastline. With the structure of the bridge compromised and the movement of heavy machinery restricted, MERC experts deployed marine technology to retrieve the vehicle.

On Tuesday, the fourth day since the experts arrived in Anand district, a team of experts began the deployment of the pneumatic roller bags (marine airbags) in the undercarriage of the truck. After several hours of preparation, including inflating the roller bags, personnel wearing safety harnesses, the physical deployment of the roller bags started. Once fitted to the necessary height aligned with the existing bridge span, the team of workers returned to the end of the bridge, leaving the rest to the



The tanker had been precariously perched on the bridge since July 9. Bhupendra Rana

remotely operated cantilevers and strand jacks.

MERC Director Ketan Gajjar told *The Indian Express* that the task of raising the tanker to align it to the road surface was the first step in the challenge, especially as the bridge had no strength and was surrounded by water. Gajjar said, “The process appears to be simple but it is complex as the deployment of roller bags requires proper methodology and

equipment to make the system work effectively and safely. It is a task for an expert as things can go wrong immediately if the placement is not right and the vessel (vehicle) does not lift in the right manner... Once the pneumatic bags were successfully deployed and the vehicle was in an upright position to be safely pulled out, the next step was carried out... The execution was done with a combination of

lifting with the marine bags as well as pulling with the strand jacks. We had brought in a payload of 200 tonnes from Mumbai to complete the task of extracting the truck.”

The director said that with human safety as the first priority, the deployment of the bags was done manually. “We could not use any hydraulic machines as the bridge is compromised and human safety is priority. So, the team manually placed the bags. The personnel who worked on the task were from the rigging team, hydraulic jack pulling team as well as engineers... Not damaging the bridge further was also a big challenge.”

Gajjar elaborated that meticulous calculations were crucial in determining the sizes of the components to be pushed under the tanker, given its unique bottom structure, which differs significantly from that of a typical sea vessel. To facilitate the operation, a smaller roller was strategically positioned under the bulkhead, where the tanker was most in-

clined, while a larger roller was pushed under the centre floor frame.

“Given the fact that unlike at sea, this deployment is on a bridge that has a fractured segment precariously holding position, we also needed to fasten the pneumatic bags to the bridge rails while inflating it to ensure that they do not roll away during the process or it could cause a major accident with the vehicle... Our experience of years means that we immediately calculate the necessary combinations to execute the task in a fast, effective and safe manner,” Gajjar added.

As per the protocol, the MERC team initially assessed the situation, the position of the truck as well as the strength load required to lift and align the truck to the centreline of the bridge.

Gajjar said, “The first day was spent inspecting the truck’s position, the height at which it needs to be lifted to align the wheels to the road surface of the existing portion of the bridge in order to successfully be able to pull it out...

The process requires detailed calculation as it is a rare case of a road transport vehicle needing marine emergency response. Since the local authorities had assessed that bringing heavy cranes or equipment close to the tanker is impractical, it can remotely be pulled out only using the marine salvage technique...,” Gajjar said.

The company then began setting up its other equipment including the strand jack and the horizontal cantilever that will allow the team to complete the process of pulling out the vehicle. An engineered horizontal cantilever was used to steer the vehicle in alignment to the bridge and a horizontal driven strand jack, which utilises a hydraulic grip and pull force, was used for the calibrated pulling of the truck from the spot. “The horizontal movement is precisely controlled and helps move the vehicle upright as is the need in the present situation as we have to be careful that pulling out of the truck does not damage the existing bridge rails,” Gajjar said.



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Loan fraud case: ED investigation against Anil Ambani

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

FIVE YEARS after he was questioned in the Yes Bank loan fraud case, industrialist Anil Ambani is once again under the scrutiny of investigative agencies. On July 24, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided premises linked to his companies in connection with a Rs 17,000 crore alleged money laundering investigation. Anil Ambani appeared before ED investigators on Tuesday.

The ED action came some days after the State Bank of India classified the loan account of one of his companies as fraudulent, and markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued an order detailing a systematic diversion of funds.

ED's investigation

The investigation flows from FIRs registered earlier by the CBI and inputs from institutions including SEBI, National Housing Bank (NHB), and Bank of Baroda, and covers several Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group companies including Reliance Infrastructure, Reliance Power, Reliance Communications,

and Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL).

The ED suspects a scheme of loan fraud and diversion of funds involving thousands of crores. Loans extended by RHFL and Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd were allegedly routed to group companies and shell firms, bypassing norms and creating a false impression of loan performance through evergreening.

According to the preliminary investigation: ■ A Rs 3,000 crore loan from Yes Bank (2017-19) was allegedly diverted soon after disbursement. In some cases, the loan was sanctioned before due diligence, and backdated documentation was used.

■ Loans were allegedly onward lent on the day of sanction, often to firms with common addresses and directors.

■ "C Company", an undisclosed related party, was used to route funds without disclosure. Reliance Infrastructure allegedly diverted Rs 10,000 crore in this way.

■ The group allegedly took a haircut of Rs 5,480 crore, receiving only Rs 4 crore in cash and the rest in inactive power distribution companies, with no chance of recovery.

ED actions so far

The July 24 searches covered 35 premises,

including 50 companies and 25 individuals, including senior Reliance Group officials.

On August 5, Anil Ambani is learnt to have told the ED that he had no knowledge of several of the alleged fraudulent transactions and loan disbursements, and asked for a week's time to verify the details.

The agency has written to a dozen banks including SBI, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank, asking for details of due diligence on loans sanctioned to his companies, including RHFL and Reliance Communications.

On August 4, Partha Sarathi Biswal, managing director of Biswal Tradelink Pvt Ltd (BTPL), was arrested for allegedly arranging fake bank guarantees worth Rs 68.2 crore that were provided by Reliance Power for a Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) tender.

The ED is also examining the role of Yes Bank officials and probing possible *quid pro quo*. Under the scanner is a Rs 2,850 crore investment by Reliance Mutual Fund in AT-1 bonds of Yes Bank.

SBI loan fraud case

On June 13, SBI, in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India's directions on fraud risk management, classified Reliance

Communications, along with promoter director Anil Ambani, as "fraud". The bank is in the process of lodging a complaint with the CBI.

SBI's credit exposure in RCom includes fund-based principal outstanding amount of Rs 2,227.64 crore along with accrued interest and expenses with effect from August 26, 2016, and non-fund-based bank guarantee of Rs 786.52 crore.

The loan was declared fraudulent on the ground that the company had used the funds in violation of "agreed terms", and due to "irregularities observed in the conduct of the account of Reliance Communications".

RCom has said that it is undergoing a corporate insolvency resolution process, and has earlier reported outstanding debt of Rs 40,400 crore. The company has said that the loans referred to by SBI pertain to the period before the insolvency resolution process, and are required to be resolved through the process.

SEBI's findings

In a strong order earlier this year, SEBI laid out how RHFL and its key executives, including Anil Ambani, allegedly orchestrated a fraud on public investors and shareholders.

■ Rs 12,487 crore in loans were disbursed

to 47 shell companies (Potentially Indirectly Linked Entities) between FY17 and FY19.

■ Many of these companies shared common addresses, directors, or email domains with Anil Ambani group firms.

■ Deviations from credit policies were routine: loans disbursed on the day of application, backdated sanction memos, incomplete documentation, no security creation.

■ Loans were allegedly routed to repay earlier loans — an evergreening loop that misrepresented financial health.

■ A forensic audit by Grant Thornton found that in many cases, the funds ended up back with group companies like Reliance Capital, Reliance Infra, and Reliance Big Entertainment.

■ SEBI said the GPCL (General Purpose Corporate Loan) scheme was a facade for diversion. It restrained Anil Ambani and top company executives from accessing the securities market, pending further proceedings.

Anil Ambani's troubles

The developments have come as Anil Ambani was trying to rebuild after years of financial and reputational setbacks.

His troubles began soon after the high-

profile split with brother Mukesh Ambani. Companies such as Reliance Communications, Reliance Capital, and Reliance Power collapsed under financial strain — RCom shut down operations in 2019 with liabilities exceeding Rs 46,000 crore.

The downfall was marked by defaults, insolvency proceedings, and regulatory actions, including a five-year SEBI ban on Anil Ambani for allegedly orchestrating a scheme to siphon off funds.

His troubles extended to defence and infrastructure ventures. Reliance Naval failed to deliver key defence contracts and entered bankruptcy. Other high-profile ventures like Dassault Reliance Aerospace played only modest roles in India's defence sector. Anil Ambani stepped down from several board positions, and group assets were either sold or restructured through insolvency proceedings.

A slow turnaround began in 2022. The group pivoted to clean energy, infrastructure, and defence manufacturing. Reliance Power achieved zero debt, and new defence partnerships were forged with European companies.

WITH INPUTS FROM
MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL

EXPLAINED SCIENCE

HOW SCIENTISTS FINALLY IDENTIFIED THE ELUSIVE KILLER OF STARFISH

TWELVE YEARS after a mysterious disease started killing starfish in droves — more than 5 billion are estimated to have died since 2013 — scientists have identified a bacterium to be the culprit.

The starfish, or sea stars, of various species died due to a wasting disease, in which their limbs fell off and their bodies melted away to leave just a pile of gunk. The epidemic was found along the Pacific coast of North America.

A study, published in the journal *Nature* on August 5, revealed that the starfish were falling victim to *Vibrio pectenicida*, which is related to the bacterium that causes cholera in humans.

How did scientists find the bacterium responsible?

It was a long process. While studies earlier focused on a virus type called the densovirus, it was later found to occur naturally in some starfish. Also, some studies were examining the tissue samples of the dead starfish, when the bacterium was in fact present in the coelomic fluid, the equivalent of starfish blood.

The breakthrough came at the Hakai Institute in British Columbia, Canada, where scientists raised sunflower sea stars in the labs, and then exposed them to the infected starfish in various ways, such as bringing them physically in contact with diseased body parts or injecting mixtures from such parts. It was found that injections passed on the infection, but not when their contents had been treated with heat. In effect, boiling was killing the cause of the disease, pointing to a bacterium.

The scientists then examined the coelomic fluid — a fluid that fills the body cavity and surrounds the internal organs



Sunflower starfish off the coast of California, US. Wikimedia Commons

— of both healthy and infected starfish. Dr Alyssa Gehmanopens, co-author of the study, was quoted by the UK's National History Museum as saying, "When we compared the coelomic fluid of exposed and healthy sea stars, there was basically one thing different: *Vibrio*. We all had chills. We thought, 'That's it. We have it. That's what causes wasting.'"

Why is this significant?

Understanding the cause of a disease is the first step to treating it. Scientists will now see if starfish in the sea can be given probiotics to fight off the bacteria, and if *Vibrio*-resistant starfish can be grown in labs and introduced into the wild, among other measures.

Protecting the population of starfish is crucial for the marine ecosystem as they help maintain a stable food chain. When billions of starfish died, the population of sea urchins, which they feed on, exploded. These sea urchins started eating away whole forests of kelp, a seaweed other marine animals thrive on and which helps sequester carbon. **ENS**



HARISH DAMODARAN

CROP PROTECTION chemicals, commonly known as "pesticides", are classified based on the pest they target. Insecticides target insects that cause damage by feeding on crops or transmitting disease, fungicides control fungal diseases, and herbicides kill or inhibit the growth of weeds.

India's organised domestic crop protection chemicals market is valued at roughly Rs 24,500 crore with insecticides, at Rs 10,700 crore, being the largest segment followed by herbicides (Rs 8,200 crore) and fungicides (Rs 5,600 crore).

That said, it is also the market for herbicides that, at 10% per annum, is growing at the highest rate. Here's why.

The herbicide market

Much of India's herbicide market is controlled by multinationals: German Bayer AG (which has an estimated 15% market share), Chinese state-owned Syngenta (12%) and ADAMA (10%), American Corteva Agriscience (7%), and Japanese Sumitomo Chemical (6%). Major Indian players include Dhanuka Agritech (6%) and Crystal Crop Protection Ltd (CCPL, 4%).

CCPL recently purchased the rights to Ethoxysulfuron, a herbicide used against broad-leaved weeds and sedges in rice and sugarcane, from Bayer AG for sales in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Southeast Asian countries. The deal, announced in January, covered Bayer's 'Sunrice' trademark for mixture products containing this active ingredient.

Earlier, in December 2023, CCPL had acquired 'Gramoxone', a broad-spectrum herbicide containing the active ingredient Paraquat, from Syngenta for sale in India.

"We are very bullish on herbicides. While the all-India market for this segment grew by 10% in 2024-25 (from Rs 7,460 crore to Rs



Pavan Khengre

INDIA'S CROP PROTECTION CHEMICALS MARKET

	Market Size	Annual Growth
Insecticides	₹10,706 cr	5.3%-5.5%
Fungicides	₹5,571 cr	5.5%-6%
Herbicides	₹8,209 cr	10%-11%

Source: Industry estimates for 2024-25. Growth is for last five years.

8,209 crore), our own sales rose over 47%," said Ankur Aggarwal, managing director of the Delhi-based company that recorded a turnover of Rs 2,201 crore from crop protection chemicals last fiscal.

Growth driver: labour shortage

Weeds, unlike insect pests and disease-causing pathogens, do not directly damage or destroy crops. Instead, they compete with them for nutrients, water and sunlight. Yield losses happen because the crops are deprived of these essential resources. Besides growing at their expense, weeds sometimes even harbour pests and pathogens inflicting further harm.

By keeping their fields free from weeds, farmers can ensure that the benefits of the fertilisers and irrigation water go to crops and not these unwanted plants.

Weed control has traditionally been manual: either by hand or simple tools with flat blades such as *khurpi*. There are also power weeders that can be run between rows of standing crops to remove weeds in and around those spaces.

But manual weeding is time-consuming, with a labourer taking 8-10 hours to cover a single acre. And since the weeds regrow, the process has to often be repeated during the crop's lifecycle.

According to the Labour Bureau's data, the all-India daily wage rate for plant protection workers averaged Rs 447.6 in December 2024, as against Rs 326.2 five years ago. Cost aside, this labour is not available when the farmer needs it. While power weeders take 2-3 hours per acre, these are not effective against weeds with deep roots or growing within densely planted crop areas.

That's where herbicides come in: the demand for these chemicals is growing mainly on the back of rising agricultural labour scarcity.

How market is evolving

Farmers generally spray insecticides and fungicides only when they physically observe and assess the pest population or disease incidence to be significant enough to impact crop yield and quality.

There's a certain economic threshold level,

where the cost of controlling the pest/disease using chemicals is justified by the extent of anticipated crop loss. In herbicides, too, farmers tend to mostly spray only after the weeds appear, that is, "post-emergence".

In recent times, however, farmers have also been resorting to prophylactic application of "pre-emergent" herbicides around or just after crop sowing. These stop the weeds from coming out, helping keep the field clean from the very start. Alternatively, they may use "early post-emergent" herbicides to control weeds at the crop's initial sensitive growth stage. In both cases, the spraying is preventive, as opposed to being reactive.

And it is this segment that is leading growth, as farmers increasingly opt for timely and smart weed control amid rising labour shortages. Currently, out of the estimated Rs 1,500-crore paddy herbicide market, the "pre-emergent" sub-segment accounts for roughly Rs 550 crore. That share is about a fifth in the Rs 1,000-crore market for wheat herbicides.

Monopoly concerns

Unlike seeds and fertilisers, where there are enough Indian public as well as private sector players, the crop protection chemicals industry is practically a multinational monopoly.

But some Indian companies, nevertheless, are attempting to break through, by acquiring the rights to active ingredients and brands from big global majors or introducing innovative formulations.

CCPL, for instance, has collaborated with the Ohio (US)-based Battelle and Japan's Mitsui AgriScience to develop a new paddy herbicide called 'Sikos'. Containing two active ingredients, Bensulfuron-methyl and Pretilachlor, in a patented oil-dispersion formulation, 'Sikos' spreads quickly in water and works well when sprayed within 0-3 days after transplanting.

"The product cost is Rs 850-900 per acre, compared to Rs 2,000-plus with manual weeding," Aggarwal claimed.

That said India is still some distance away from having its own Sinochem, which owns both Syngenta and ADAMA.

LONGER VERSION ON
indianexpress.com/expained

Why Sylheti, spoken by millions in Northeast, is not a 'Bangladeshi language'

SUKRITA BARUAH & ARJUN SENGUPTA
GUWAHATI, NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

AFTER A Delhi Police letter seemingly referred to Bengali as the "Bangladeshi national language", a social media post by BJP leader Amit Malviya defending the letter has sparked an outcry in Assam's Barak Valley.

Malviya claimed the letter was referring to "a set of dialects, syntax, and speech patterns that are distinctly different from the Bangla spoken in India", and gave the example of "Sylheti" as being "nearly incomprehensible to Indian Bengalis".

But there has long been a sizable Sylheti population in India. "Over 7 million people in Northeast India...speak Sylheti. They are proud Indian and Bengalis. To dismiss their language as something foreign...is to rub salt in the wounds of a people already scarred by Partition," prominent BJP leader and former Silchar MP Rajdeep Roy posted on X.

Dialect or language?

Sylheti is spoken on both sides of the bor-

der, in the Sylhet Division of Bangladesh and the Barak Valley Division of southern Assam. There is also a sizable presence of Sylheti-speakers in Meghalaya and Tripura.

"Every language has dialects and Bengali has several of them," said Joydeep Biswas, who teaches economics in Cachar College.

The primary argument for referring to Sylheti as a dialect of Bengali — and not a language in its own right — is mutual intelligibility, that is, speakers of both tongues understand each other. However, there is scholarly disagreement on the matter.

"The claim of mutual intelligibility by some speakers of both Sylheti and Bengali may be more an effect of the speakers' exposure to both languages," linguists Candide

Simard, Sarah M Dopierala, and E Marie Thaut wrote in their paper "Introducing the Sylheti language and its speakers" (2020).

Nonetheless, Sylheti-speakers have a strong affinity to the Bengali language, and often identify as Bengali themselves. "Families such as mine also speak Sylheti. But I identify my linguistic identity as Bengali because Sylheti is a dialect. Even if non-Sylhetis do not understand Sylheti, that



doesn't take away the [Bengali] linguistic identity of the Sylheti people," Biswas said.

Tapodhir Bhattacharjee, former vice-chancellor of Assam University Silchar and a Bengali literary theorist, said the primary difference between the Sylheti dialect and standardised Bengali is phonetic, and the two are near identical in morphology and syntax.

While Bhattacharjee recognises that

there was once a Sylhet-Nagri script — the existence of a unique system of writing is often seen as a marker of a language — he refers to it as an "esoteric script" which was never commonly used.

Sylhet, Partition & migration

The present-day Sylhet Division in Bangladesh, comprising the districts of

Habibganj, Sunamganj, Sylhet, and Moulvibazar, was made a part of Assam soon after it was split from Bengal in 1874.

"Although vast in area, this new province (Assam), with its population of 2.4 million, had a low revenue potential... To make it financially viable... [the British] decided in September 1874 to annex the Bengali-speaking and populous district of Sylhet. With its population of 1.7 million, Sylhet had been historically an integral part of Bengal," historian Ashfaq Hossain wrote in 'The Making and Unmaking of Assam-Bengal Borders and the Sylhet Referendum' (2013).

Sylhet, which is geographically contiguous with Cachar in the Bengali-majority Barak Valley, saw a churn between 1874 and 1947 over the question of whether it should be a part of Assam or Bengal.

Historian Anindita Dasgupta wrote in 'Remembering Sylhet: A Forgotten Story of India's 1947 Partition', "...the Hindus of Sylhet demanded for a return to the more 'advanced' Bengal, whereas the Muslims by and large preferred to remain in Assam where its leaders, along with the Assamese Muslims, found a more powerful political voice..."

But come 1947, the situation was reversed. Now the Hindus of Sylhet demanded to re-

main in Assam, and hence India, while the Muslims sought to join East Pakistan. A controversial referendum held in July eventually led to Sylhet going to East Pakistan. Only a part of Sylhet, comprising present-day Sribhumi (formerly Karimganj) district in the Barak Valley, remained in Indian Assam.

In the initial years after Partition, a wave of Hindu Sylheti refugees settled in the Barak Valley. But the story of Sylheti migration across the Northeast is even older. Dasgupta wrote about "Sylheti Hindu *bhadrakol*" who were "economic migrants" in British Assam.

"Sylheti middle-class economic migrants to the Brahmaputra Valley and Cachar areas were a population in motion in colonial Assam, moving back and forth, many with simultaneous homes in both Sylhet and the Brahmaputra Valley districts and Cachar since the late nineteenth century," she wrote in 'Denial and resistance: Sylheti Partition refugees in Assam' (2001).

The Census of 1901 noted that "Sylhetis who are good clerks and are enterprising traders are found, in small numbers, in most of the districts of the province (Assam)".

There was thus a significant population of Sylhetis in what is now India well before East Pakistan, let alone Bangladesh, was imagined.

16 The World

TOP OF THE WORLD



Republika Srpska in Banja Luka, Bosnia in February. Reuters file

BOSNIA

Serb separatist leader stripped of poll mandate

Sarajevo: Bosnia's election commission on Wednesday revoked the mandate of the separatist Bosnian Serb president after he rejected a court order jailing him for a year and banning him from political office for obstructing implementation of the 1995 peace deal. The commission's decision against Milorad Dodik will take effect after an appeals period expires. An early election for president of Bosnia's autonomous Serb Republic would then be called within 90 days, commission member Suad Arnautovic told reporters. The Dodik has rejected the verdict, which banned him from government for six years. **REUTERS**

ITALY

Sicily-mainland bridge gets final nod after decades

Italy's government gave final approval on Wednesday to the construction of what will be the world's longest single-span bridge, linking Sicily to the mainland, despite environmental, financial and other concerns that have delayed it for decades. The 3.7 km (2.3-mile) structure has been under discussion since at least the late 1960s as a tool to develop the impoverished south of Italy. According to the Messina Strait Company, the bridge will be completed in 2032. The right-wing government of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni made it a priority and has set aside 13.5 billion euros over the next 10 years to build it and surrounding facilities. **REUTERS**

LEBANON

Hezbollah: State monopoly on arms is 'grave sin'

Beirut: Hezbollah said on Wednesday the Lebanese government was committing a "grave sin" by tasking the army with establishing a state monopoly on arms, sharpening a national divide over calls for the Shia Muslim group to disarm. The cabinet on Tuesday tasked the Lebanese army with drawing up a plan to confine arms across the country. Hezbollah rejected the decision on Wednesday, saying it was a result of U.S. "diktats" and that it would "deal with it as if it does not exist". **REUTERS**

WILL WORK TOWARDS ENDING WAR IN UKRAINE: U.S. PRESIDENT

Trump says 'great progress' made in envoy Witkoff's meeting with Putin

ANDREA SHALAL & DOINA CHIAUCU
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 6

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Wednesday said his special envoy Steve Witkoff had made "great progress" in his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, as Washington continued its preparations to impose secondary sanctions on Friday.

Trump, in a post on Truth Social, said he had briefed some European allies about Witkoff's meeting with Putin, which was focused on ending the 3-1/2-year war that began with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

"Everyone agrees this War must come to a close, and we will work towards that in the days and weeks to come," Trump added, without providing further details.

A White House official said earlier that the meeting had gone well, and Moscow was eager to continue engaging with the United States.

The official said secondary sanctions that Trump has threatened against countries doing business with Russia were still expected to be implemented on Friday. No details were provided.

Witkoff met Putin for around three hours on a last-minute mission to seek a breakthrough in the war. Trump has threatened sanctions on Moscow and secondary sanctions on countries that buy its oil if no moves



Russian President Vladimir Putin with US envoy Steve Witkoff in Moscow, Wednesday. Reuters

are made to end the war in Ukraine.

Trump took a key step in that direction on Wednesday when he imposed an additional 25% tariff on imports from India, citing New Delhi's continued imports of Russian oil. No similar order was signed for China, which also imports Russian oil.

The new measure raises tariffs on some Indian goods to as high as 50% — among the steepest faced by any U.S. trading partner. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent last week warned Chinese officials that purchases of sanctioned Russian oil would lead to big tariffs due to legislation in Congress. **REUTERS**

Trump signals V-P Vance 'most likely' heir apparent, says Rubio to join him

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK, AUGUST 6

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump has suggested that Vice President JD Vance is "most likely" the heir apparent to his Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement, while Secretary of State Marco Rubio can also join him in "some form".

"Well, I think most likely. In all fairness, he's the vice president," Trump said on Tuesday while answering a question on

his "heir apparent" to MAGA. Trump, who assumed office over six months ago, said that it is "too early" to talk about successors, but Vance is certainly "doing a great job, and he would be probably favourite at this point," CNN reported.

However, Trump was quick to add that Rubio can also "get together with JD in some form."

Trump had earlier declined to offer any endorsement for a 2028 successor. Trump said in February that Vance was "very

capable" but that it was too early to name him as the leading candidate, the report added.

Vance, 40, is a former Marine and served as Ohio Senator from 2023 to 2025. Rubio, in an interview with Fox News last month, brushed off talks of his presidential ambitions for 2028 and said that he is focused on his current job, *Time.com* reported.

However, he did not completely rule it out, adding, "you never know what the future holds."

Expanding offensive in Gaza: Netanyahu faces pushback from Israeli military chief

Toll in aid site attacks touch 1,400 after 38 Palestinians killed overnight

REUTERS & AP
CAIRO, JERUSALEM, AUGUST 6

ISRAEL'S MILITARY chief has pushed back against Benjamin Netanyahu's plans to seize areas of Gaza it doesn't already control, three Israeli officials said, as the prime minister faces increasing pressure over the war both at home and abroad.

During a tense, three-hour meeting on Tuesday, Eyal Zamir, the military chief of staff, warned the prime minister that taking the rest of Gaza could trap the military in the territory, which it withdrew from two decades ago, and could lead to harm to the hostages being held there, the sources briefed on the meeting said.

The Israeli military says it already controls 75% of Gaza after nearly two years of war, which



Reuters

Palestinians wait to collect water in Gaza City on Wednesday

began when militant group Hamas attacked southern Israeli communities in October 2023. It has repeatedly opposed imposing military rule, annexing the

territory, and rebuilding Jewish settlements there — policies advocated by some government members. Netanyahu is under intense international pressure to

reach a ceasefire in the coastal enclave, which has been reduced to rubble in the fighting. Most of the population of about 2 million has been displaced multiple times and aid groups say residents are on the verge of famine.

The U.N. has called reports about a possible expansion of Israel's military operations in Gaza "deeply alarming" if true.

Meanwhile, at least 38 Palestinians were killed overnight and into Wednesday in the Gaza Strip while seeking aid from United Nations convoys and sites run by an Israeli-backed American contractor, according to local health officials. The Israeli military said it had fired warning shots when crowds approached.

The UN human rights office said last week that some 1,400 Palestinians have been killed seeking aid since May.

Pakistan starts deporting documented Afghans, says UN body for refugees

MUSHTAQ ALI
PESHAWAR, AUGUST 6

PAKISTAN HAS started to deport documented Afghan refugees ahead of its deadline for them to leave, according to the United Nations, in a move that could see more than 1 million Afghans expelled from the country.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said that it had received reports of ar-

rests and expulsions of legally registered Afghans across the country before Pakistan's September 1 deadline for them to leave.

The UNHCR said that sending the Afghans back in this way was a breach of Pakistan's international obligations. "UNHCR is calling on the government to stop the forcible return and adopt a humane approach to ensure voluntary, gradual, and dignified return of Afghans," it said in a statement.

The voluntary return of the

documented refugees shall commence forthwith, said a Pakistan's interior ministry order. It said the formal deportation process will start after the deadline. But Qaisar Khan Afridi, a spokesman for the UNHCR, said Wednesday that hundreds of legally registered Afghan refugees had already been detained and deported to Afghanistan from August 1 to August 4. The interior ministry did not respond a Reuters request for a comment. **REUTERS**

Monsoon peaks in southern China, unleashing landslides and diseases

REUTERS
BEIJING, AUGUST 6

RESCUE CREWS raced on Wednesday to clear debris and flooded roads as southern China braced for more extreme rainfall and spreading infection after some of the worst downpours this century, brought by a peak in East Asian monsoon rains.

Forecasters warned of more thunderstorms after the cen-



Site of a landslide in Baiyun in Guangzhou. Reuters

tury's second-heaviest August rains pounded Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province, forcing its Baiyun airport, one of the world's busiest, to cancel 363 flights and delay 311.

Rescue teams in Guangdong scrambled to open drains and pump water away from urban areas, state media said, as the intense rain set off mudslides and felled trees on highways, ripping up roads to expose cabling and other infrastructure.

AT A TIME ANTI-ROMA DISCRIMINATION WAS MAINSTREAM, LAKATOS STARTED SINGING ELVIS SONGS TO CONNECT WITH ETHNIC ROMANIAN YOUTH

Teacher fights discrimination against the Roma people, one Elvis song at a time

VADIM GHIRDA & ANDREEA ALEXANDRU
BUCHAREST, AUGUST 6

TUDOR LAKATOS is fighting discrimination against the Roma people, one Elvis Presley song at a time.

Decked out in a rhinestone shirt and oversized sunglasses, with his black hair slicked back into a 1950s-style quiff, Lakatos swivels his hips and belts out his own idiosyncratic versions of hits like "Blue Suede Shoes" at venues throughout Romania.

But don't call him an Elvis impersonator. Lakatos prefers

to say that he "channels" the King of rock 'n' roll's global appeal to break down stereotypes about the Roma and provide a positive role model for Roma children.

"I never wanted to get on stage, I didn't think about it," Lakatos, 58, said after a recent gig at a restaurant in the capital, Bucharest.

"Only wanted one thing — to make friends with Romanians, to stop being called a Gypsy," he added, using an often derided term for people belonging to the Roma ethnic group.

The Roma, an ethnic group that traces its roots to South Asia,

have been persecuted across eastern Europe for centuries and are still associated with high rates of poverty, unemployment and crime.

They account for about 7% of the population of Romania, where a fifth say they have faced discrimination in the past year, according to a recent survey by the European Union.

Lakatos' quest to change that began in the early 1980s when he was an art student and Romania was ruled by the hard-line communist regime of Nicolae Ceausescu.

At a time when anti-Roma discrimination was mainstream,



Tudor Lakatos, who goes by the stage name Elvis Rromano. AP

Lakatos found that singing Elvis songs was a way to connect with ethnic Romanian students while rock music was a symbol of rebellion against the oppressive government. Four decades later, he's added a new audience.

A school teacher for the past 25 years, Lakatos uses his music to show his students that they can aspire to something more than the dirt roads and horse driven carts of their village in northwestern Romania.

"The adjective Gypsy is used everywhere as a substitute for insult," Lakatos said.

"We older people have gotten used to it, we can swallow it,

we grew up with it. I have said many times, 'Call us what you want, dinosaur and brontosaurus, but at least join hands with us to educate the next generation.'"

But Lakatos still crisscrosses the country to perform at venues large and small.

The audience included those who came for the show and others attracted by the sausages, pork roast and Moldavian meatballs on the menu.

A few danced and others took selfies as they enjoyed Lakatos' trademark "Rock 'n' Rom" show, a mix of Elvis songs delivered in the Romani lan-

guage, Romanian and English.

The eclectic mix of languages can sometimes lead to surprises because there isn't always a literal translation for Elvis' 1950s American English.

For example, "Don't step on my blue suede shoes" doesn't make sense to many of the children he teaches because they are so poor, Lakatos said.

In his version, the lyric Elvis made famous becomes simply "don't step on my bare feet."

It's a message that Elvis — born in a two-room house in Tupelo, Mississippi, during the Great Depression — probably would have understood. **AP**

Five US soldiers shot at Georgia base, shooter in custody: Officials

RICH MCKAY & PHIL STEWART
ATLANTA, AUGUST 6

FIVE US soldiers were shot and wounded at the Fort Stewart base in the state of Georgia on Wednesday, and the suspected shooter is in custody, Army officials said. The soldiers were treated on site and then transported to Winn Army Community Hospital for further treatment, Fort Stewart said in a Facebook post.

Authorities did not immediately provide further details on the condition of the victims.

"There is no active threat to the community," the post said.

Law enforcement responded to reports of a shooting in the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team area at 10:56 am ET (1456 GMT), and the base was locked down shortly after 11:04 am.

The suspect was arrested at 11:35 am, Fort Stewart said.

The Army did not offer details about the suspect, including whether he or she is a soldier.

Governor Brian Kemp wrote on X that he and his family were "saddened by today's tragedy" at the base. "We are keeping the victims, their families, and all those who answer the call to serve in our hearts and prayers, and we ask that Georgians everywhere do the same," he added. **REUTERS**



The main gate of Fort Stewart, Georgia on Wednesday. AP

President Donald Trump has been briefed on the shooting and is monitoring the situation, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said on X.

Mass shootings are relatively common in the U.S., where guns are widely available, and military bases, which are among the highest-security places in the country, have not been spared.

The deadliest was at the Fort Hood Army base in 2009, when a major fatally shot unarmed soldiers in a medical building with a laser-sighted handgun, killing 13 people and injuring more than 30. Less than five years later, a soldier at the same Texas base fatally shot three service members and injured 16 others before killing himself. In 2013, an employee of a government defense contractor killed 12 people at Washington's Navy Yard. **REUTERS**

Terrible thirst hits Gaza with polluted aquifers, broken pipelines

RAMADAN ABED & NIDAL AL-MUGHRABI
GAZA, CAIRO, AUGUST 6

WEAKENED BY hunger, many Gazans trek across a ruined landscape each day to haul all their drinking and washing water — a painful load that is still far below the levels needed to keep people healthy.

Even as global attention has turned to starvation in Gaza, the water crisis is just as severe according to aid groups.

Though some water comes from small desalination units run by aid agencies, most is drawn from wells in a brackish aquifer that has been further polluted by sewage and chemicals seeping through the rubble, spreading diarrhoea and hepatitis.

COGAT, the Israeli military agency responsible for coordinating aid in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories, says it operates two water pipelines into Gaza providing millions of litres of water a day.

Palestinian officials say these have not been working recently. Israel stopped all water and electricity supply to Gaza early in the war but resumed some supply later though the pipeline network in the territory has been badly damaged.

Most water and sanitation infrastructure has been destroyed and pumps from the aquifer often rely on electricity from small generators — for which fuel is rarely available. **REUTERS**



CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
Ganderbal, www.cukashmir.ac.in

(ADMISSION 2025) [B. SC. CHEMISTRY (HONOURS/HONOURS WITH RESEARCH)]

Central University of Kashmir invites applications for admission to B. Sc. Chemistry (Hons/Hons. with Research) programme for the academic session 2025-26. Candidates who have appeared in CUET-UG 2025 in the test paper/code **Chemistry-306** can register for admission. The registration process shall start from 06th August 2025. For detailed information like course scheme, eligibility, registration process & schedule of events, the candidates are advised to visit the University website: www.cukashmir.ac.in.
Date: 05-08-2025.

S/d Director (I/C)
Directorate of Admissions

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL S. M.S. MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER OF THE ATTACHED HOSPITALS, JAIPUR
No-F/MC/Store/2025-26/ 4216
Dated:- 28/7/2025

Notice Inviting Bid
E-Bid for Providing Hiring of Manpower Services at SMS medical college & Attached Hospital Jaipur, Rajasthan are invited from interested bidder's up to 11/08/2025 at 04.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state and SMS Medical College, Jaipur Department website.
UBN:- SMS 2526 SLOB00232
NIB NO:- 764216 dated 28/7/25

Sd/-

PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER



कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, वृत्त सीकर
सहायी गैड-सीकर (नगर) -332001
E- Mail: phedsikar@gmail.com & se.sik.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
क्रमांक :- 1570 -79
दिनांक : 25/07/2025

CORRIGENDUM No. 02
(NIB NO.03/2025-26 to 06/2025-26)
जिला सीकर में मुख्यमंत्री चट्टर घोषणा में स्वीकृत विभिन्न कार्यों हेतु अति. मूल्य अभियन्ता, जन स्वा. अधी. विभाग, क्षेत्र सीकर के खंडों 981-94 दिनांक 24.06.25 द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा संख्या 03/2025-26 से 06/2025-26 को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 12.08.25 (सायं 6.00 बजे तक) न खोलने की तिथि 13.08.25 (प्रातः 11.15 बजे से) की जाती है। विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <https://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in> & <https://www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध है।
हस्ता:-
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग,
वृत्त सीकर
DIPRC/CI0895/2025



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer, Trans. Line Maintt. Division-VII, JKPTCL, Bemina, Srinagar-190010
Ph. No. 0194-3516481 e-mail: tmd77.jkptcl@gmail.com

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE
Due to administrative reasons e-NIT No. TLMD-7/03 of 2025-26 dated: 26-07-2025 for "Supply of 220 kV Current Transformers and 220 kV Capacitive Voltage Transformer as Per Specifications." is hereby cancelled abinitio.
The e-NIT shall be floated afresh
No. TLMD7/TS/1415-19
Dated: 05/08/2025
DIPK-NB-1520/25 Date: Aug 6 2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer
TLMD-VII Srinagar

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़
-:- शुद्धि पत्र :-:-
e-Procurement Tender Reference No. BCD/EE/ RAMGARH/ 10/2025-26 Dated 24-07-2025 कार्य से संबंधित है, जिसकी PR NO. 358267 (Building) 25*26D के कुछ तिथियों में तकनीकी एवं अपरिहार्य कारणवश संशोधन किया जा रहा है जिसका विवरणी निम्नवत् है :-

क्र०सं०	मद	पूर्व की तिथि	संशोधित तिथि
1	वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	01.08.2025	07.08.2025
2	ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	14.08.2025	20.08.2025 3.00 Pm
3	ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	18.08.2025	21.08.2025 3.00 Pm

कार्यपालक अभियंता
भवन प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़।
PR.NO.358949 Building(25-26):D

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
The Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-tender under One Packet System for the under noted work:-

1. Name of work and location	Trial Implementation of Retrofit Emission Control Device (RECD) using catalytic converter technology on BCM 371, Model No. DEUTZ BF 12 L 513 C and Engine No. 9192752, working in Delhi/NCR.
2. Completion period of the work	02 Months
3. Approx. cost of work	Rs. 2926919.2
4. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs. 58500/-
5. Cost of Tender Document (to be deposited Online)	Rs. Nil
6. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tender document remain available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 06.08.2025 upto 15:00 Hrs. on 29.08.2025. Tender Bids may be uploaded from 15.08.2025 & upto 15:00 hrs on 29.08.2025 on IREPS web site. The tender will be opened soon after 15:00 hrs on 29.08.2025.
7. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in . Above tender document will be available for online submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 15.08.2025 to 29.08.2025. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

Tender Notice No. 1-W-Dy.CETMC-L-RECD-9-25-26
2393/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 CrPC
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Dharmender Bharti R/o 195, 2nd Floor, G4, Sector-11, Rohini, Rajapur Kalan, Sector-7, Rohini, North-West, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in CC NI Act 621/2022, U/S 138 NI Act, PS Model Town, North-West Distt., Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Dharmender Bharti cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Dharmender Bharti has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);
Proclamation is hereby made that Dharmender Bharti the said accused of CC NI Act 621/2022, U/S 138 NI Act, PS Model Town, North-West Distt., Delhi, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 11.09.2025.
By Order
Sh. Himanshu Sehloth
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03,
Court No.-213, North, Rohini Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Majjan@Suhail, S/o Eban, R/o Gali No. 01, Kabir Nagar, Delhi, has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 203/2014, U/s 379/34 IPC, P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Majjan@Suhail cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Majjan@Suhail has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Majjan@Suhail of case FIR No. 203/2014, U/s 379/34 IPC, P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said case on or before 18.09.2025.
By Order
Ms. Kanika Agarwal
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03
Room No. 22, 1st Floor
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi
DP/10323/NE/2025 (Court Matter)

Government of Rajasthan
Office of the Chairman, NEET UG Admission/Counseling Board-2025 SMS Medical College, Jaipur, Rajasthan
Phone: 0141-2619020

No. State UG Counseling Board/2025/29
Dated: 06-08-2025

REVISED NOTIFICATION
State NEET UG Medical & Dental (MBBS, BDS) Counseling-2025
In continuation to earlier notification, the Round-01 procedure for UG Course (MBBS, BDS) will commence from 07-08-2025 and will be carried out as per the detailed schedule available at www.rajunet2025.com. The candidates are advised to visit the website for all details and further updates.
DIPRC/11172/25-26
Sd/- CHAIRMAN



उपराज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
ए-1/4, सत्यनगर, कानपुर

ई-निविदा सूचना
एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है, कि विभिन्न औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों के अन्तर्गत विकास/अनुसंधान/उत्पत्तिकरण कार्यों हेतु सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/विभागों/प्राधिकरणों/परिषदों/नगर विकासों में पंजीकृत फर्मों/डेवलपर्स से ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जिसको अपलोड करने की समयसीमा निम्नवत् है:-
1. क्रम सं० 1 से 2 पर अंकित निविदा दिनांक 07.08.2025 को पूर्वान्न 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 14.08.2025 को अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है, जिन्हें दिनांक 14.08.2025 को अपराह्न 5.30 बजे खोला जायेगा (अवलंबाधिक)
निविदादाताओं द्वारा केवल श्रावणपत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ निविदा खोलने की तिथि से दो कार्यदिनस के अन्तर कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकेंगी। ई-निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदाओं का विवरण निम्नवत् है:-

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	अंदाजित लागत (रु.)
1	Construction of Entry Gate at I.A. Sahibabad Site-IV, Distt-Ghaziabad	Rs. 104.36
2	Annual Repair & Maintenance of Miscellaneous Civil Works at UPSIDA I.A. Sahibabad Site-4 Distt. Ghaziabad.	Rs. 186.68

नोट:- निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर सहित दरे अंकित करें। जीएसटीएल अलग से देय होगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी प्राधिकरण की website: www.onlineupsidc.com पर विष्टा ई-लिक एवं यूजरमैनुअल की website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखी जा सकती है। अन्य जानकारी हेतु कार्यालय के प्रबन्धक (सिक्किट) के मोबाइल नं० 8791905769 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।
महाप्रबन्धक, उपमहानगराधिकारि, कानपुर

MOTILAL NEHRU SCHOOL OF SPORTS RAI - 131029 DISTRICT (SONIPAT) HARYANA AUCTION

Auction for Male- Buffalo of Motilal Nehru School of Sports, Rai will be held on 12.08.2025 at 11:00 AM at school premises. Eligible bidders are invited for auction for Male-Bufferlo. The details for the same are as under:-

Sr No	Particulars	Quantity	Date of Purchasing	Age	Breed	Remarks
1	Male- Buffalo	01 (One)	05.02.2019	9 years	Mehsana/ Not Verified	Healthy Condition

Terms & Conditions :-

- Security Deposit:** Every bidder has to deposit Rs. 2000/- to cashier in school as security money. Bidder will not participate in auction without security money.
- Highest bidder has to deposit full amount on the spot. If bidder not able to deposit bid amount, Principal and Director reserves the right to forfeit the security amount.
- Principal & Director MNSS, Rai reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason(s) and Principal & Director may say for increase of bid of any item.
- Documents Required:** 02 Nos. ID Proof of bidder is required for participating in Auction i.e Aadhaar Card/ Driving license/ Voter Card etc.
- The base price of Male- Bufferlo is Rs. 38,000/-
- Interested bidders have to be present on 12.08.2025 at 11:00 AM in school premises.

Sd/-
Principal & Director
MNSS Rai



GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA
TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED	ONLINE TENDER FOR THE RATE CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF MEDICINES TO VARIOUS HOSPITALS OF GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS FOR GROUP A MEDICINES	06.08.2025 27.08.2025	7.20 LACS	www.hmscd.org.in	0172-478822 hmsctenders@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in
No. 37416/HRY



GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA
TENDER NOTICE

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1	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, NANGAL CHOUDHARY	GYANCHAND TO LALAHAN IN WARD NO 8 (D-Plan 2025-26) + 2 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 14.08.2025	RS. 10,58,211/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812892869 secy-nangal@ubharyana.gov.in
2	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, NANGAL CHOUDHARY	SUPPLY AND ERECTION OF 16 MM 2 CORE ALUMINIUM CABLE IN MC AREA	CLOSING DATE 19.08.2025	RS. 63.24 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812892869 secy-nangal@ubharyana.gov.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in
No. 37399/HRY



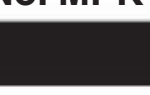
MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, RAHURI-413 722, DIST-AHILYANAGAR
Office of the University Engineer
Phone (02426) 243 272, 243235 (Office) Web: www.mpkv.mah.nic.in, e-mail-unienigneermpkv@gmail.com

No. MPKV/WRK/TC/2557/2025
Dated: 05/08/2025

E-Tender Notice
The University Engineer invites online e-tenders in B-1 form, from the registered Civil contractors in appropriate class registered in state PWD/Central PWD/Military Engineering services and Railway Department for the following works at Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Govt. College of Agriculture, Halgoan, Dist. Ahilyanagar.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Lakhs.)
1.	Construction of Auditorium at Punyashlok Ahilyadevi, Holkar Govt. College of Agriculture, Halgoan, Dist. Ahilyanagar	926.00
(Nine Crores twenty six lakhs only)		

For Detail Tender Notice please see website Portal - <https://mahatenders.gov.in>, Organization-Department of Agricultural, Department- Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri. University Engineer Division- University Engineer



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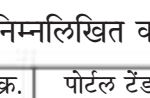
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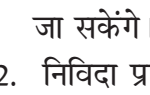
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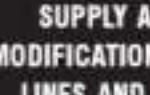
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TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, NANGAL CHOUDHARY	GYANCHAND TO LALAHAN IN WARD NO 8 (D-Plan 2025-26) + 2 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 14.08.2025	RS. 10,58,211/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812892869 secy-nangal@ubharyana.gov.in
2	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, NANGAL CHOUDHARY	SUPPLY AND ERECTION OF 16 MM 2 CORE ALUMINIUM CABLE IN MC AREA	CLOSING DATE 19.08.2025	RS. 63.24 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812892869 secy-nangal@ubharyana.gov.in

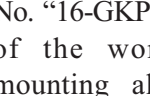
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in
No. 37399/HRY



GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA
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Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Navreet Singh Lamba S/O Kul Mohan Singh R/O C-4B/13/17, Janak Puri, NEW DELHI-110058, have changed my daughter's name from Ganiyat Kaur to Ganiyat Kaur Lamba and her correct date of birth is 27/11/2011, for all future purposes.
0050271596-1

We, Brijmohan and Poonam, parents of Divyanshi, resident of B-21, Gali no. 8, Raj nagar-2, Delhi-77, hereby declare that we have changed our minor daughter's name from Divyanshi to Divyanshi Kasana. She shall henceforth be known as Divyanshi Kasana for all purposes.
0110056360-1

I, hithero known, as RAJRANI, W/O- SUSHEE R/O, GAON- KOSHIYA MAJRA UNCHA GAOKN GOSWA HARDOI UTTAR- PRADESH-241303, Changed my, name and, shall hereafter be known, as SUSHEELA.
0040803923-1

I, ZEENAT JAHAN, D/O MEHBOOB ELAHI R/O-4055, GALI KHAN KHANA URDU BAZAR JAMA MASJID DELHI-6, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ZEE NAT.
0040803891-3

I, WANGMAYUM SAHINAJ, W/O- SYLED TAMIJUR RAHMAN, R/O- Lilong Haoreibi Awang Leikai PO/PS-Lilong, Thoubal Manipur-795130, have changed my name from WANGMAYUM SAHINAJ to SAHINAJ Vide- affidavit dated-06.Aug-25.
0040803891-8

I, Vivek Jain, S/o Kastoore Chand Jain, R/o H.No.-376 Sector-45, Gurgaon Haryana-122003 have changed my minor daughter's name Maahi Jain to Shaanvi Jain.
0040803917-2

I, TANYA, D/O PARVEEN JINDAL, R/O J-96 SEC-10 BALLABGARH FARIDABAD SEC-7, HARYANA-121006, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO TANYA JINDAL.
0040803891-2

I, Shad Mahmood S/O Mahmood Alam R/O- C-226/2, Shaheen-Bagh, Abul-Fazal Enclave-2, Jamia-Nagar, South Delhi-110925, have changed my-name to Shaad Mahmood all purposes.
0040803928-2

I, SUNITA JAIN W/O ASHOK KUMAR JAIN R/O Mandi Marsh Ganj, Shamli (UP) have changed my name to SUNITA DEVI JAIN.
0040803931-2

I, SUMEDHA MOR W/O VIKAS MOR R/O FLAT NO.355-356 POCKET-1 SECTOR-46 DELHI-110040. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUMEDHA.
0040803926-9

I, Renu W/o Rinku Aggarwal, R/o-3019, New Housing Board Colony, Sector -15, Sonipat (Haryana)-131001, have changed my name to Renu Gupta for all Purposes.
0040803926-5

I, Renu Bala, W/o Devender Dhall R/o, C-10, Second Floor Back Side, Block-C, Jeewan-Park, Uttam-Nagar, West Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Renu Dhall.
0040803926-1

I, Ras Bihari Prasad Verma, S/O- Bhola Prasad Verma, R/O-R-142-143, GALI No-4, Chanakya Place Part-2, Uttam-Nagar New-Delhi-110059, Have Changed my Name to Ras Bihari Prasad.
0040803917-10

I, Prabhdeep Singh S/o Sukhbir Singh R/o C-188, J J Colony, Raghbir-Nagar Delhi-27, have changed my name to Prabhdeep Singh Dadyal
0040803926-10

I, Ram Binaya Singh S/O Besh Lal Singh (B L Singh) R/O H.No. 706, Niti Khand-3, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Have changed my name to Ram Binay Singh for all purposes.
0040803861-1

I, Rajkumar Sharma, S/o- Rohtash Kumar, R/o H.No.239, Sector-3, HUDA, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana-121004, have changed my name to Raj Kumar, for all purposes.
0040803917-7

I, Priyanshu Kumar S/o NAVEEN KUMAR R/O-363, Third Floor, Gali No.4, Majlish Park B-Block, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033, have changed my name to Chetan Kashyap
0040803917-4

I, P Shyam Prasad, S/o P.Sundaraiah, R/o 31-A, Pocket-A-14, Himgiri-Apartments, Kalkaji-Extn., New-Delhi-110019, declare that P Shyam Prasad and Poonooru Shyam Prasad are one and the same-person.
0040803917-6

I, Navya Singh, D/o Rajendra Singh, R/o H.No.-357, Gali.No.-3/23, Pandit Mohalla, Mandawali Fazalpur, East Delhi-110092, have changed my name from Neeraj to Navya Singh, for all future purposes.
0040803931-8

I, Milil Shailesh Patel, W/o Harshit Patel, H.No.-19, Road Number-13, Aggrawal Bhawan, East Punjabi Bagh, West Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Milil Patel.
0040803926-2

I, HITHERTO known as Rashmi Ranjan W/o Sarvesh Ranjan, House-No-619, Mahaddipur, Pasraha, Khagaria, Bihar-851212, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rashmi Kumari.
0040803792-1

I, Ashwini Vashisth, S/o Tara Chand, R/o H.no.-159 Sector-15, Part-1, Gurgaon, Haryana 122001, Have changed my name to Ashwini Kumar Vashisth, for all purposes.
0040803891-1

I, ARUN KUMAR JAIN S/O MANAK CHAND R/O H.No.256, Masha Ganj, Shamli (UP) have changed my name to ARUN KUMAR.
0040803931-1

I, AJAY AGARWAL, S/O- SHRI RAM AGARWAL, R/O-2A, 2th FLOOR, HIMALAYA LEGEND- NYAY KHAND-1, INDIRAPURAM SHIPRA SUN-CITY GHAZIABAD UTTAR PRADESH-201014, CHANGE MY NAME TO ANJAY KUMAR AGARWAL, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSE.
0040803891-6

I, ABHINAV SHARMA, S/O- RAM SWAROOP SHARMA, R/o- F2-1801 Cleo-County, GH-05, Sec-121, Noida, Gautam-Buddha-Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301, have changed my-minor daughter's name SAMAIRA SHARMA to ANGEL SHARMA. Aged-17-years.
0040803928-1

I, hitherto known as DHAWAN MOHIT DARSHANLAL ALIAS MOHIT DARSHANLAL DHAWAN, S/O DARSHANLAL ATMARAM DHAWAN, R/O R-231, TOP FLOOR, GREATER KAILASH-1, VTC: GREATER KAILASH, PO: GREATER KAILASH, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110048 have change my name and shall hereafter be known as MOHIT DARSHANLAL DHAWAN
0070982690-1

I, DINESH JAIN S/O MANIK CHAND JAIN R/O Mandi Marsh Ganj, Shamli (UP) have changed my name to DINESH KUMAR JAIN.
0040803931-3

I, Jyoti Pandey, W/o Girish Chandra, R/o-1161, Block-I, Phase-1, Ashok Vihar, Delhi, Delhi-110052, have changed my name to Jyoti Kandpal for all Purposes.
0040803926-3

I, Tushika Chaudhary D/o Ajay Kumar Singh R/o B-002, Platinum Heights, Ramprastha Greens, Sector-8 Extension, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010 have changed my name to TUSHIKA SINGH for all future purposes.
0070982815-1

I, Gulam Ahmad C/o Ashik Husain R/o F-69, Vishwakarma Colony, Pulhpadpur, Delhi-44 have changed my name to Gulam Ahmamd
0070982810-1

I, Soniya Tomar W/o Ankur Shishodiya R/o H.No.363, Bisahda, Bisara, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201008 have changed my name to SONIYA for all future purposes.
0070982802-1

I, Shrikant Agnihotri, S/o Jagat Narayan, R/o at RZ-119, Durga Vihar, Phase 2, Block-D, Deenpur, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043, have Changed my name Shri kant to Shrikant Agnihotri, for all future purposes
0070982808-1

I, Santosh Gupta W/o Shyam Sunder R/o 9518, Gali Doriwali, Sadar Bazar Delhi-110006 have changed my name from Santosh Gupta to Santosh Aggarwal for all purpose.
0070982813-1

I, Sanjeev Kumar Singhal, S/o Rajender Prashad Singhal, R/o- RZ-1267, Gali.No.5, Main-Sagarpur, delhi-110046, have changed my name to Sanjeev singhal
0040803817-2

I, SONI DEVI W/O Shambhu Lal Prasad, R/o Flat No. 510, Migsun Homz, Sector-14, Kausambi, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Pin Code 201010 have changed my name to Soni Prasad for all purposes.
0070982746-1

I, Ravindra Singh S/o Raghurib Singh Rawat R/O C-262, Gali No-11, Bhajanpura, Delhi-53 have changed my name to Ravindra Singh Rawat
0070982819-1

I, Pooja Shriwas W/o Sh. Parshuram Rajak R/O H.No 33-B, Dashmesh Enclave, Dhakoli, Zirakpur Dist. SAS Nagar (Punjab)140603 have changed my name from Pooja Shriwas to Pooja Rajak.
0020497979-1

I, Param Chaudhary S/o Yashbir Singh R/o A-294, New Ashok Nagar, Vasundhara Enclave, East Delhi, Delhi-110096, have changed my name from Param Choudhary to Param Chaudhary for all future purposes.
0040803724-1

I, Nikita Kumar W/o Abhishek Verma R/O C-93, Sector-50, Noida (U.P) have changed my name to Nikita Verma for all purposes.
0040803757-1

I, Neelam Chopra W/o Shri Ashok Chopra R/o 16-C, Bharat Apartments, I. P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi -110092 do hereby inform the Public at large that my nickname has been mentioned as "Pooja", "Pooja Chopra" instead of "Neelam Chopra" in the property documents. Henceforth, I wish to be called with my correct name i.e. "Neelam Chopra". Pooja, Pooja Chopra and Neelam Chopra all are same and one person i.e. me
0040803793-1

I, Makan Singh Panwar C/o Bharat Singh Panwar C/O 7D, J-Pocket, Sheikh Sarai Phase-2, Malviya Nagar, Delhi-17 have changed my name to Makan Singh
0070982817-1

I, Deepa Kukreja W/o Sudhir Kulkarni R/O BE-377 T/F Hari Nagar Delhi-110064 have changed my name to Deepa.
0040803917-1

I, Samnaru Singh Patel F/O Vinay Kumar Patel R/O Vill - Padar, Post - Mithabel, Dist - Gorakhpur (UP) Pin - 273203, Have Changed My Name To Samharu Singh
0130054759-1

Classifieds & TENDERS

LOST & FOUND

I Ashok Gupta S/o Shri J.P Gupta, R/O D-15, Sector-Gama-1 Greater Noida District Gautam Buddha Nagar have lost My Allotment lette, Allotment Letter No. Property/GAMA/ALT/G/93/10/1759 date-22.10.1993 & Allotment No.G0123002 Owned by Ashish kaul S/o Ratan Kaul. If found Please Contact- Ashok Gupta Mob- 9899071060
0040803782-1

I, Madhvi Lambert (Madhvi Kumiari) D/o Raj Mohan Thakur R/o Flat no-1904, Orchid Tower, Paramount Symphony, Crossing Republic Ghaziabad-201016 have lost Original Allotment Letter dated 03.03.2014 of my flat. I searched it everywhere but couldn't found. If any person got/found it then please contact on my Mobile 6207100446.
0070982794-1

I, Kalawati Devi, W/o- Late Sh. Satya Dev Gupta, R/o, House, No-H-648-649, Shakurpur Colony Delhi-110034, have declare that I have lost my property document of, H-649, Shakurpur Colony, Delhi-110034, in house. If found contact-9971780635.
0040803931-10

PROPERTY

Platinum-9 World Tower, Wakad, Pune's Tallest Commercial, Iconic Award Winning Project & India's 1st 3 Level 360° Revolving Restaurant, Dream Investment in Premium Showrooms, Retail Shops, Food Court, Smart Corporate Offices & Multipurpose Spaces 15Fl. Height, Your Legacy Starts Here- Once in a Lifetime Opportunity. Contact- 7205970999.
0090379661-1

CHANGE OF NAME

मैं अमीर्न नं. 1544070 6X रावचरें मे गस्ती पुत्र बालप्पा गस्ती निवासी- मल्लपुर गोकक बेलागाम कर्नाटक 591101 में मेरे सरकारी दस्तावेजों में मेरी माता का नाम गंगा एवं जन्मतिथि- 12/07/1970 अंकित है जो कि गलत है सही नाम गंगा बालप्पा गस्ती एवं जन्मतिथि- 01/01/1968 है।
0070982798-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed to the public at large that my clients, Sh. Ashok Sikka (UID-xxxx-xxxx-0590) S/o Sh. Bhagwan Dass & Smt. Poonam Sikka (UID-xxxx-xxxx-4818) both R/o 460A-179, Ganga Ram Gali, Jhande Wali Gali, Madowali Fazapur, Shakar Pur Baramand, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110029 have disowned & debanded their elder son. Sh. Gaurav Sikka (UID-xxxx-xxxx-3931) from all their movable & immovable properties. My clients have severed all their relations from his elder son & hence my client shall not be responsible for any acts, deed and things of him. **SHUBHAM AGGARWAL (Advocate)** Ch No.25, DDA-Mahal, R/o Block, Wazirpur, Delhi-110002

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at large is hereby informed that Freehold DDA built up SFS Flat No. 5028, Third Floor, With Scooter Garage, Category-II, Sector-C, Pocket-9, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, presently owned and possessed by Sh. Pyush Arora by virtue of Sale Deed duly registered vide Regd. No. 2025/8/11/173, dated 27/02/2025 and the same is proposed to be offered as Security with State Bank of India, Branch RACI, South Delhi, New Delhi and as per present owner's (s) version the said property is/are free from all sorts of encumbrance except First Charge created by ONGC. The ORIGINAL Sale Deed executed by Sh. Sh. Babu Singh Bhaswa in favor of Mr. Roshan Tanjeia, duly registered vide Regd. No. 3211, dated 24/09/2001 is reported as lost vide Regd. No. 3086222/2025, dated 05/08/2025 with Crime Branch, Delhi Police.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified that any person and/or Bank/financial institution (except ONGC) having any claim, any charge, interest or lien or claim and /or objection to thereof, he/she/ they may lodge/notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof / court judgment, within 15 days from the day of publication of this public notice, failing which any further / future claim/objection/ shall be rejected and my client is free to create Equitable/ Registered First Charge / Second Charge with SBI.

SATYENDER YADAV (ADVOCATE)
Chamber no. 361, 5 Floor, Saket Courts, New Delhi, Mob. - 9711212421 E-mail- sbi.15683@sbi.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that: NAVEEN JAITLY S/O SH. K. C. JAITLY, the legal heir of SH. ARUN JAITLY has applied for mutation of Plot No. E-40 MASJID MOHTA (E-40) NEW DELHI having file no. 18/841/731/LAB (RES.), Original Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Possession Slip, copy of conveyance deed, duly executed on 7th March 2003, but not registered in the sub-registered and Permanent Lease Deed duly canceled at the time of execution of conveyance deed of above land Plot have been lost. As FIR in this effect has been lodged in Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi R/o 3084607/2025 Date: 05/08/2025. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone no. 9818061519 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Asst.Dy. Director, LAB Residential, Vinay Sadan, INA, New Delhi. (Jaswant Rai Aggarwal Adv)

PUBLIC NOTICE
We, Mr. Prem Narang son of Sh. Dsh Raj Narang and Mrs. Nirmal Narang wife of Sh. Prem Narang both R/o 11 No. 46, Second Floor, Pocket A-8, Kalkaji Extn., New Delhi-110019 from lease hold on right in DDA, that My original NOC Water and electricity issued by DDA in respect of Flat No. J-3165 Singal Story, Kalkaji Extn., New Delhi-110019 has been lost or misplaced by me and is not traceable despite of my best efforts. We have lodge a FIR in Police Station Crime Branch, New Delhi vide L.R. No. 3083471/2025 dated 05/08/2025. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact with above named person Mobile Number 9810170704 at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, or personally inform or write to Dy Director (H) or Dy. Director (H), Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Anand S/o Dayaram R/O D-414, Second Floor, West Vinod Nagar, Mandawali Fazalpur, Delhi-110092 inform that my correct name is Anand but in my LIC Policy my name is wrongly mentioned as Ramnath Rajpoot. Both name Anand and Ramnath Rajpoot belong to one and the same person

RECRUITMENT

SITUATION VACANT

OTHERS

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Our client Mrs Nimo Innovatives Private Limited intends to purchase property bearing Plot No. A-235, Oshia Industrial Area Phase-II, from its owner named/ Mr. Saurabh Rahman. General public are hereby informed that, if any person(s) claiming any rights, title or interests whatsoever, in and over the aforesaid property or any part thereof through sale, exchange, mortgage, gift, trust, inheritance, bequest, possession, lease, ten, easement or otherwise may lodge his claims/objections with documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, as otherwise our client shall proceed towards the mortgage transaction with good faith, as if there are no subsisting claims/objections, and all such claims/objections not filed in time shall be deemed to have been waived & given-up and shall not be binding our client Mrs Nimo Innovatives Private Limited.
Rajendra Yadav (Advocate)
Ch. No. 272, Saket Court, New Delhi-17 Mobile No. 9512467533

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is known to all through the public notice that my Client, Mrs. MUKESH KUMAR SO RAI SINGH and Mrs. ANITA DEVI WAO MUKESH KUMAR both R/o H.No. 5554, SANDHU ENCLAVE PART I, HARDOA KARAN, OPPOSITE CRPF CAMP, NAGARJALA, SOUTH WEST, NEW DELHI, 110023 have disowned and debanded his son ANSHUL CHHILKAR (Son) and KANYA (Daughter-in-law) since 1st AUGUST 2019, from all their Movable and Immovable properties, due to his unethical and unethical behavior towards my clients. My clients have also severed all his relation with them and if anybody deals with them, he/she will do so at his/her own risk, cost and peril, and my clients shall not be responsible in any manner, whatsoever, for the same.
Sd/-
DIRHVI GOKHARA (Advocate)
Enrl. No. (0442020231)
Office at: T-124 15, 3rd Floor, Mahan Palace Plaza, Dwarika Sector 22, New Delhi-110079

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that Our Clients (1) Mrs. Sheila Sen, W/o Mr. Sanjay Sen, R/o B-15, Defence Colony, New Delhi, South Delhi, Delhi-110024, intends to purchase the First (01) Floor and Mrs. Monica Majitha, R/o F-164, 2nd Floor, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi intends to purchase the Ground Floor in Plot No.128 Block-S-2 Safdarjung Enclave New Delhi-110029 (hereinafter referred to as "Schedule Property") from Ms. Asha Jain, having her office at B-3/58, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029. It is hereby informed to the general public that any person/bank/financial institutions etc. having any claim, charge, mortgage, right, title and interest in or on the Schedule Property, are hereby requested to inform Pav Law Offices F/111 Hauz Khas Enclave, New Delhi-110016 in writing by Registered Post/e-mail to manager@pavlo.in along with supporting documents within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the claim of such persons will be deemed to have been waived and / or abandoned and the buyer shall proceed to complete the proposed transaction.
Kiron Prabhakar (Advocate)
Office: Lower Ground Floor, F-111, Hauz Khas Enclave, New Delhi-110016
Phone: +91-11-26518505/506/507
Fax: +91-11-4146443
Place: New Delhi | Date: 08.08.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform general public that my clients, Mr. Rasik Thakkar and Mrs. Chetna Thakkar, residents of 16, East End Enclave, Laxmi Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, are in the process of purchasing a property situated at Plot No. 52, Silver Park, Chander Nagar, Delhi-110051. Any person, institution or entity, whether located within Delhi or outside, who has any objection, claim, right, interest or encumbrance with respect to the said property is hereby requested to submit their objection in writing to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Pradeep Mahajan (Advocate)
9810310927, 9250904722

Public Notice
I, Mohammad Mustaqueem S/o Mohammad Saleem, Resident- Flat No. 409, 4th Floor, Mosadecs Apartment, Dhorra Mafi, Near Sunny PCO, Koil, Aligarh, U.P.-202001. I have changed my name from Khalid Irfan ur Mohammad Mustaqueem in short name K.I.M. Mustaqueem S/o Mohammad Saleem to Mohammad Mustaqueem S/o Mohammad Saleem for all future purposes. I should be known and identified only by this modified/changed name.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Santosh Devi W/o Satya Pal Singh R/o I-145 I-Block, Gali No-9, Malviya Pur ext, South West Delhi, Delhi-110037 has several relations with her son Prashant Sachrawat has debarred him from all My Movable/ Immoveable properties, due to his disobedience, misbehavior & misconduct. Anybody deals with him, my client shall never be responsible for his any act in any manner in future.
KAMAL SINGH (Advocate)
Enrl.No.D/748/2014

"IMPORTANT"

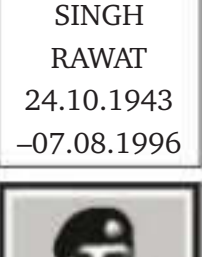
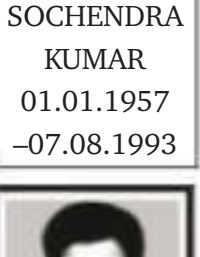
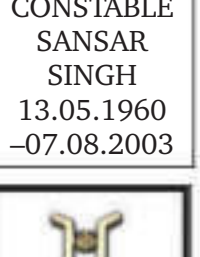
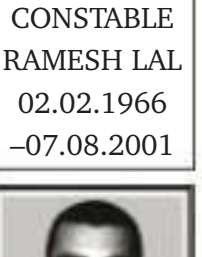
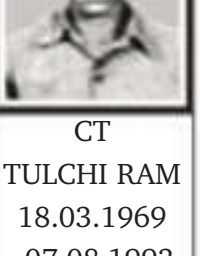
Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

GOVT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH
0-524 AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770026, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com
No. Tender Online - RWCCSNG - 07 of 2025-26. Letter No. 1891 / Dtd. 30.07.2025
e-Procurement Notice

Type of Work	Class of contractor	Time of Completion	Detail Projects	Estimated Cost	Other details
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCSNG-07 of 2025-26	12:08:25 11:00 AM	25:08:25 5:00 PM	22:08.2025 5:00 PM	26:08.2025 11:00 AM

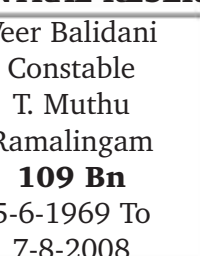
Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
OIPR-251331/11/0057/2526

SALUTE THE SOLDIER
BORDER SECURITY FORCE

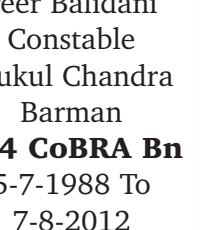
 SI GIRWAR SINGH RAWAT 24.10.1943 -07.08.1996	 HC SOCHENDRA KUMAR 01.01.1957 -07.08.1993	 HEAD CONSTABLE SANSAR SINGH 13.05.1960 -07.08.2003	 HEAD CONSTABLE RAMESH LAL 02.02.1966 -07.08.2001
 NK ABDUL RAZAQ GANI 05.04.1955 -07.08.1993	 CT TULCHI RAM 18.03.1969 -07.08.1993	 CT VIJAY PAL 25.05.1972 -07.08.1993	 CONSTABLE HARI RAM 07.10.1976 -07.08.2003
 CONSTABLE VIDYA DHAR 04.07.1967 -07.08.1994	 NAIK RAM LAL 02.09.1956 -07.08.1993		

INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE
ITBP salutes its braveheart Constable Devendra Singh of 16th Battalion, who laid down his life in the line of duty on this day in Ladakh in 2019.
Resident of : Vill.- Sarouth, Distt.- Hathras (Uttar Pradesh)

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

 Veer Balidani Constable T. Muthu Ramalingam 109 Bn 5-6-1969 To 7-8-2008	 Veer Balidani Constable Manjunath A. 109 Bn 1-7-1985 To 7-8-2008
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On 7 August 2008, CRPF troops of 109 Bn were deployed for Road Opening Patrol on NH-53, PS- Saparamina, Dist. Senapati. As the troops were establishing pickets along the road, KYKL insurgents, who were waiting in an ambush, opened indiscriminate fire and lobbed bombs at one of the pickets. The troops retaliated and counter-attacked the insurgents forcing them to flee from the area. In the counter-attack Constable T. Muthu Ramalingam and Constable Manjunath A. received fatal bullet injuries when they were advancing close to the insurgents. Later, they succumbed to their injuries and attained martyrdom. Their brave and courageous action in the face of heavy hostile fire will be always remembered by CRPF.

 Veer Balidani Constable Mukul Chandra Barman 204 CoBRA Bn 5-7-1988 To 7-8-2012	 Veer Balidani Constable/Driver Krishan Pal Singh 204 CoBRA Bn 25-12-1979 To 7-8-2012
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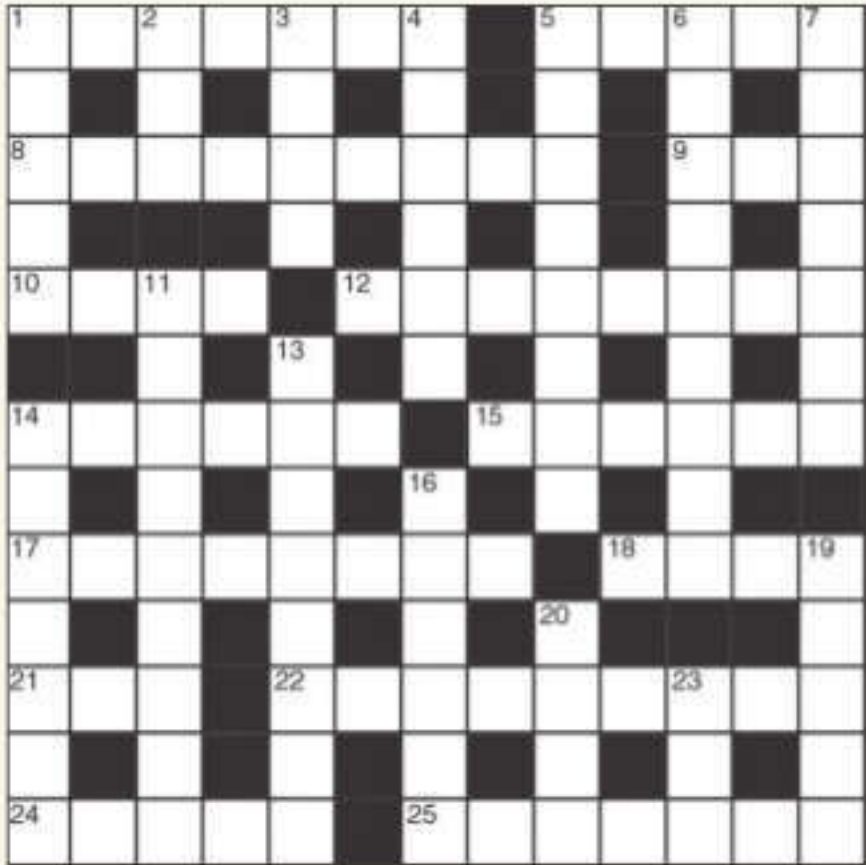
On 7 August 2012, troops of 204 CoBRA Bn were deployed for road opening patrol in the general area of Basaguda, PS- Basaguda, Dist. Bijapur for induction and de-induction of the troops from Sarkeguda camp. When the troops were moving towards Basaguda, the maoists who had laid an ambush, opened heavy fire at them coupled with blasting of IEDs. One of the vehicles came under the impact of the blast and its occupants sustained severe injuries. Undeterred, the troops advanced and counter-attacked the maoists. Seeing the advance, the maoists fled from the area. Later, Constable Mukul Chandra Barman and Constable/ Driver Krishan Pal Singh, who had sustained severe injuries during the encounter, succumbed to their injuries and attained martyrdom.


Veer Balidani Constable Jai Dev Sharma 113 Bn
24-1-1965 To 7-8-1996

On 7 August 1996, CRPF troops of 113th Bn were carrying out an area domination patrol when they saw three road cannons planted between grass and trees. As the troops were waiting for bomb disposal squad, one of the cannons blew off due to which Constable Jay Dev Sharma slipped off from the edge of a hill into deep valley. He was evacuated to Rural hospital Teliamura and declared dead. He attained martyrdom in the line of duty serving the nation.

On 7 August 2008, troops of 26 Bn CRPF launched an operation against maoists in the forest area under PS- Nimiaghat, district Giridih. To counter a bandh call by CPI(Maoist) while the troops were at Laxman

CROSSWORD 5748



ACROSS

- 1 Experimental regimen of diet and run (7)
5 Brush or brushwood (5)
8 Smooth foil used for decoration (4,5)
9 A pound note gets you a drink (3)
10 Born in Paris; died in penury (4)
12 Seat breaks with danger to star (8)
14 Refuse to have young (6)
15 Journalist has to reverse the trend as alternative (6)
17 Apprehends about a thousand supporters (8)
18 One spots the experts (4)
21 Part of play passed by Parliament (3)
22 Set fire to one outhouse - polished it off (9)
24 Death or abode of a dramatic witch (5)
25 Main plant producing wonder in children (7)

DOWN

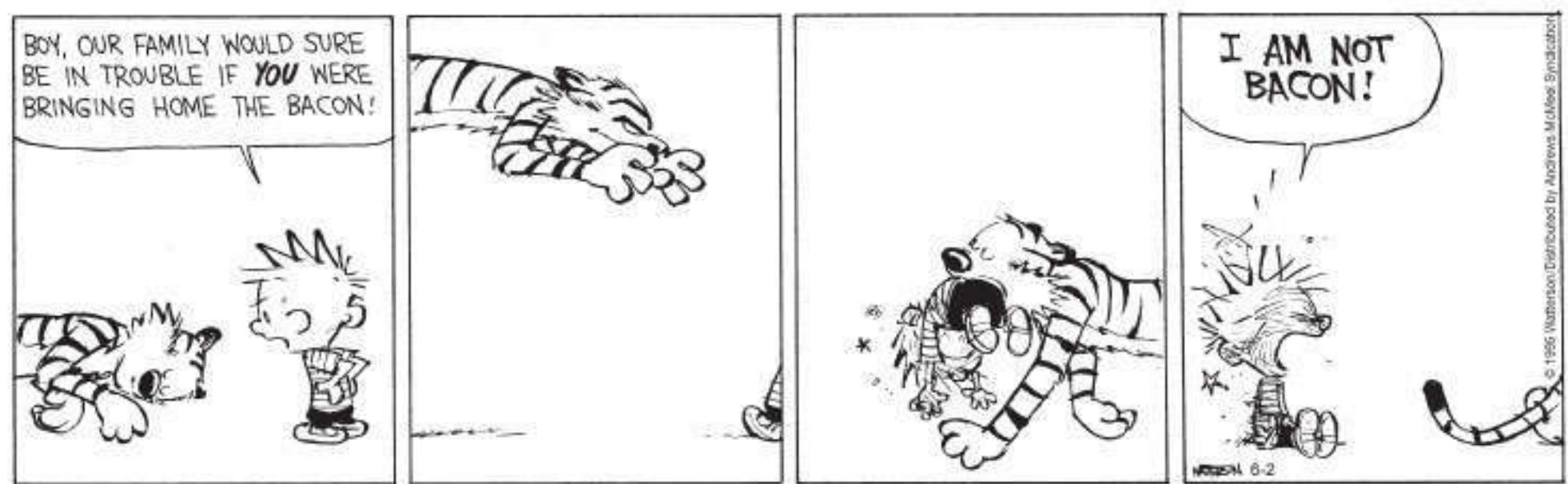
- 1 University head in no panic to get to wedding (5)
2 Overstated figure? (3)
3 In certain charts it may indicate a mile (4)
4 Words get muddled at end of day when tired (6)
5 Stays and uses up the money going round America (8)
6 Article is changed to be practical (9)
7 Small cask for fresh water - or sea water? (7)
11 Reckoned the date and times are changed (9)
13 Don't forget about a person in society (8)
14 Unofficial news of an escape (7)
16 Jumps at openings (6)
19 Took the part of another (5)
20 Father is trapped inside Italian city (4)
23 Hurry to express a greeting (3)

Solutions Crossword 5747 Across: 1 Birdbath, 5 Cast, 9 Tutti, 10 Partook, 11 Hang one's head, 13 Steppe, 14 Andrew, 17 Restaurateur, 20 Battery, 21 Naive, 22 Song, 23 Interest Down: 1 Butt, 2 Rat race, 3 Bridge player, 4 Typing, 6 Atone, 7 Take down, 8 Present tense, 12 Ascribes, 15 Routine, 16 Crayon, 18 Set on, 19 Test

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. The _____ does not set his mind either for anything, or against anything. What is right he will follow. - Confucius (8,3)

AUGER



DLNSU



BTIOR



AANSMP



Solution: AUGER, DLNSU, BTIOR, AANSMP. Answer: The superior man does not set his mind either for anything, or against anything. What is right he will follow. - Confucius

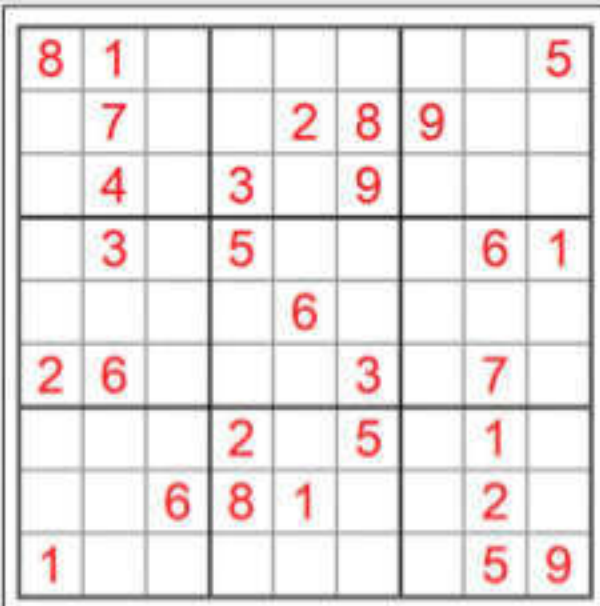
SUDOKU 6039

Difficulty Level 2s

Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 6038



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You have a tough choice to make. Whichever side of the fence you come down on, you will open yourself up for a set of very interesting personal experiences. It's time to take a sober look at a couple of suggestions that you've been treating rather frivolously.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You may not be affected by current circumstances in the same way as other people. It's possible that you'll have to watch while partners take the limelight, but not for long. On the brighter side you could be left in peace to get on with your own schemes.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Someone is enchanting you. But they may be more under your spell than you are under theirs. But, it seems certain that a meeting of minds is inevitable. And, out of that, could come a new, solid commitment.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You may be on tenterhooks. The obvious response to your concerns is 'relax, it might never happen'. You may find this unsympathetic but then you have been here before, haven't you? In fact what you're thinking about might already have happened - without your noticing.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

It should be particularly easy to express yourself at the moment. Even for those who are not interested in what you have to say, your views will eventually prove to be deeply pertinent, prophetic even. You can begin to wind down the pressure in a number of areas.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You are probably spending far too much and thinking about money more than is really necessary. You may come to realise, gradually, that your security relies more on emotional contentment than the quantity of coins in your pocket.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Today's planetary formation is like a sort of small birthday shared by everyone born under your sign all at the same time. Work out what your priority is and make a personal wish. Implement whatever you decide without delay.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

It's time for some heavy day-dreaming. If you have chores and responsibilities you really can't shelve, then make whatever time for yourself you can. In love, play it cool. But don't pretend that feelings don't matter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Your charms are definitely coming to the fore again, which will be useful for your long-term interests. Be prepared to lay out some cash up front if you are pursuing important schemes.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

There is no reason for any unpleasantness, so don't allow yourself to be easily provoked. Authority needs to be respected and you, in your turn, must exercise power with dignity. There'll be moments when you have to stand back and let partners take first place.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Although you, and people around you, may be rather edgy, you need to be making stalwart resolutions about where you are going, and how. Travel influences are exceptionally strong, so take the opportunity to develop all overseas and long-distance contacts.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

It is inevitable that money will loom large in your consciousness. Some may pick up bargains. Others will make a smart, long-term investment. But remember that if you do have to spend extra cash, it should be on items you need rather than want.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work and its location:- 30-Elect-20-T-2025-26-E3 Electrical work in connection with Renovation of 3rd floor TA building for CCRS office.
Approx cost of the works in :- Rs. 1906462
Address of the office :- Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money:- Rs. 38100.00
Last Date & time of submission of tender :- 27.08.2025, 16.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender :- 27.08.2025, 16.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board :- www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2391/2025

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, Trainset Depot, Shakurbasti; for and on behalf of President of India, invites GeM portal (https://gem.gov.in) for the under noted work.
Tender No. GEM/2025/B/6524880, Dated 02.08.2025
Name of work Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for preventive maintenance and breakdown maintenance of 04 nos. IGBT based 1600HP 3-Phase DEMU DPCs for a period of three years at Trainset Depot, Shakurbasti.
Approximate cost ₹ 99,32,503.68 including GST
Earnest money ₹ 1,98,660.00
Completion period of the work 03 Years
Date and time for opening of Tender 23.08.2025 at 18:30 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen Above tender is available on GeM portal i.e. https://gem.gov.in w.e.f. 02.08.2025
No.: 25.8.892.DSL.SSB Date: 04.08.2025 2387/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

JEJURI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, JEJURI
E-Tender Notice No. 01 for 2025-26
Jejuri Municipal Council
Out. No. JNP/KAVI/16/05/2025
Date - 06/08/2025
Jejuri Municipal Council, Jejuri Tal Purandar Dist - Pune, Water supply department invite e-Tender for the work-Augmentation of Raw Water Rising Main From Neer River To Water Treatment Plant At Jejuri Municipal Council Please visit website http://mahatenders.gov.in for detailed information.
Sd/-
Charudatta Igule
Chief Officer,
Jejuri Municipal, Jejuri

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE GOVERNMENT
MEDICAL COLLEGE CHHAINSA,
FARIDABAD, HARYANA, 121004
Tel. No. 0129 2840600
Emails: dirsabvgmc-fbd.dmer@hry.gov.in, directorsabvgmcfaridabad@gmail.com
Website- www.sabvgmcfbd.edu.in
Ref. No. SABVGM/PS/2025/2171 Dated: 06/08/2025
ADVERTISEMENT
The Walk-in-interview for the vacant posts of Senior Residents to be recruited on yearly tenure basis extendable upto maximum 03 years at Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government Medical College, Chhainsa, Faridabad, Haryana will be conducted on every Tuesday of every week on working days. The interested candidates may visit website of institute i.e. https://www.sabvgmcfbd.edu.in/ for further updates.
Sd/-
Director Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Govt. Medical College, Chhainsa, Faridabad, Haryana.
No.37385/HRV

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, PSPLCL)
HOD-Mechanical, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of:
1 Tender Enquiry No. 057/GATP/MMD/TG/SPARES/20017848 dated 06/08/2025
"Procurement of Spares For HP Bypass Spray Valve E32S and HP Bypass Isolation Valve E45S Area of 2 x 270 MW Thermal Power Plant GATP, Goindwal Sahib" 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 06/08/2025 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eroc.punjab.gov.in
No. 2000/PB GATP-44/25

No.8696 Dated:- 06/08/2025
विकास एवं पंचायत विभाग में विभागीय तौर पर करवाये जाने वाले विकास कार्यों के लिए इंटरलॉकिंग पेंचर ब्लॉक के रेट निर्धारित करने हेतु कोटेशन आमंत्रण ।
सरकार की हिदायतों अनुसार जिला भिवानी में विभागीय तौर पर करवाये जाने वाले विकास कार्यों के लिए आईपीबी रेट निर्धारित किये जाने हैं। इनके रेट के लिए कोटेशन आमंत्रित की जानी है। अतः सभी से निवेदन है कि आप अपनी कोटेशन निम्नलिखित प्रोफॉर्मा में भरकर दिनांक 11.08.2025 तक अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में जमा करवायें।
Item Description Unit Rate without GST (Per Unit) Rate with GST (Per Unit)
IPB 60mm (M-35) No
IPB 80 mm (M-40) No

नियम व शर्तें निम्न प्रकार से होंगी:-
1. सभी रेट उपरोक्त फॉर्मेट में देने होंगे।
2. विभाग के पास किसी भी निविदाओं को रद्द करने का अधिकार होगा।
3. शर्तों वाली कोई भी कोटेशन स्वीकार नहीं होगी।
4. कोटेशन समय सीमा के पश्चात प्राप्त होने वाले प्रस्ताव स्वीकार नहीं किये जायेंगे।
5. उपरोक्त कोटेशन केवल रेट निर्धारित करने हेतु है। किसी भी फर्म को सपलाई आर्डर नहीं दिया जायेगा।
हस्ता/-
कार्यकारी अभियंता
पंचायती राज, भिवानी।
No.37396/HRV

MADHYA PRADESH ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)
45-A, Arera Hills, Bhopal - 462011, Madhya Pradesh
Ph. No. : 0755-2527290, 2765205 (EPBX), Fax : 0755-2572643, Website : www.mprdc.gov.in
NIT No. : 674/MPRDC/Procu/2025
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation Limited (MPRDC) Bhopal invites online tender for the following works.
S. No. Name of Work Estimated Project Cost (EPC) Excluding GST (in INR Cr.) Bid Security (EMD) (in INR Cr.) Cost of RFP/Bid Document (in Rs.) Period of Completion (In Months)
1. Upgradation and Development of Ujjain Simhasht Bypass Road on 4 Lane with paved shoulder.(Length 19.815 Km) 430.38 4.30 50,000/- 24 Months
The Dates for purchase, submission, etc. are mentioned in the key dates. Tender forms can be purchased online only upto 15:30 hrs. on 16.09.2025 from website www.mptenders.gov.in. The bidders have to submit the Technical bid as well as Financial Bid online only. The Addendum/Corrigendum (if any) shall only be published on the website of www.mptenders.gov.in only. If holiday is declared by Govt. of M.P. on the date of opening, the same will automatically be shifted to subsequent working days.
MPRDC reserves the right to accept/reject any/all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
M.P. Madhyam/121449/2025
MANAGING DIRECTOR

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tenders through E-procurement System
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the president of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-
S. Tender No. Brief Description Qty. Closing Date
1. 09252092 Modified Elastomeric Pad (Design B) 50581 Nos. 29.08.2025
2. 09252189A Brake Wear Plate. Drawing No.: SK-69597 60307 Nos. 29.08.2025
3. 18251211 T524 F: Reservation/Cancellation Requestion Form 46502 THSND 01.09.2025
4. 09252131 Knuckle for BCNHL 15822 Nos. 03.09.2025
5. 09252002A Roller Bearing NU 311ECJ of Driving 2135 Nos. 04.09.2025
6. 77255170 Blown Aluminium Powder 220 MT 08.09.2025
Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No.: 37/2025-2026 Dated: 06.08.2025 2399/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-AUCTION NOTICE
No. 23AC/393/E-Auction/Pkg/2025 Dated: 06.08.2025
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (https://ireps.gov.in/) for the allotment of under mention contracts at following Railway stations/locations:
E-Catalogue No. Date & Time of bidding Railway Stations/Locations/Lots
Parking- 34-2025 22.08.2025 at 11:00 Hrs Meerut Cantt (Kankankhera), Delhi 2nd Entry KGS Side (TW parking), Bareilly, Muradnagar, Kurukshetra (Site-1), Kamal (375 sq-Mtrs), Shahabad Markanda, Rohtak (2nd Entry) (Cycle-Scooter), Shamli (PRS), Naya Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad (City Side), Panipat (2nd Entry) = 12 Total Sites
Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen https://ireps.gov.in/
All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:
1. Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module -Active IREPS User Account for E- Auction Leasing Module 2. Payment of One Time Registration Fee 3. Current Account in State Bank of India 4. Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account 5. Lien Marking of Funds 6. Updation of Turnover Details 7. Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender /E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.
Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi 110055. Email: pkg.delhidivision@gmail.com Tel: 011- 23743084
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS Northern Railway, Delhi Division
2395/25
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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, PSPLCL)
HOD- Chemistry, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of:
1 Tender Enquiry No. 058/GATP/CHEMICAL/COOLINGTOWER/20017847 dated 06/08/2025
"Annual Service contracts for Chemical treatment (including all type of Chemicals required for treatment of water) of cooling water of both power generation unit and Chlorination System Area of 2 x 270 MW Thermal Power Plant GATP, Goindwal Sahib" 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 06/08/2025 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eroc.punjab.gov.in
No. 2001/PB GATP-45/25

KISHAU CORPORATION LIMITED
(A JV OF GoI & GoHP)
H.O.: LAKHWAR BHAWAN, TONS COLONY, DAKPATHAR, DEHRADUN-248125
(Telephones: 01360-222799 Fax-01360-222799)
CIN No U79990UR2017SG0007521
RO No. 548 TENDER NOTICE Date: 06.08.2025
Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Kishau Project, Dakpathar invites bids from the interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below-
Tender No:01/EE(E&M)/KISHAU/2025-26
Name of work:- Hiring of a Non AC Diesel vehicle (6+1 seater) along with Driver for the office of Dy. General Manager (Civil) Kishau Multipurpose Project on contract basis for one year.
Estimated value of Tender:- Rs. 5,06,035.00 (Excluding GST)
Date & Time of availability of bid document on website -From 17:00 Hrs of 07.08.2025
Last Date & Time for submission of tender:- Up to 13:00 Hrs of 29.08.2025
For fuller & further detail, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the nigm's website Executive Engineer (E&M) Kishau Project
"www.kishau.co.in".
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

Director Extension Education
Directorate of Extension Education
CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar-125004 (Haryana),
[Established by Parliament Act 16 of 1970, A⁺ University]
Phone: 01662-284320, 255234, 90530-68379, 94164-82401
Tender Notice
Tender are invited for Display material/ Infrastructure/ Tentage for "Agro-Industrial Exhibition" for Krishi Mela (Rabi)-2024 to be organised by CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar (Haryana) on dated September 17-18, 2025. For detailed information, please visit university website: https://www.hau.ac.in or contact Director, Extension Education, Gandhi Bhawan, CCSHAU, Hisar-125004 (Haryana) or on above mentioned numbers. Last date of submitted tender is August 26, 2025 before 4:30 PM.
Sd/-
Director Extension Education
CCSHAU, Hisar
No. 37387/HRV

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE
SR. No. NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1 MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, MEHAR CONST. OF IPB STREET AND DRAIN FROM KHERI DARWAZA NEAR MEDICAL STORE (PROPERTY ID THU2025 TO PARMANA CHANGI NEAR HOUSE OF MAHABIR NEHRA (PROPERTY ID 7482Q07) W.NO. 08 MC MEHAR, TENDER ID 2025_HRY_463192_1 05.08.2025 12.08.2025 AS PER DNT https://tenders.hry.nic.in 941602295 secy-mehar@ubharyana.gov.in
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1 HVPNL APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT ENGINEER FOR JHAJAR POWER TRANSMISSION PROJECT 01.08.2025 01.09.2025 EMD 87000/- www.hypn.org.in 0172-2583789 PRO@hvpnl.org.in
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RECORD PRIZE MONEY AT US OPEN

New York: Prize money at the U.S. Open will rise to nearly \$85 million across all competitions this year, including a record \$5 million each to the women's and men's singles champions, and total player compensation is jumping 20% to \$90 million, the most in tennis history. AP



Several things go missing on the tour — a cat, a key, a tooth — and a fox makes its move, but a kind-hearted Polish cafe owner, a bus driver and Indian cricketers bring joy throughout a closely-fought, enthralling series

The Indian Pulp Fiction



SANDEEP DWIVEDI

LEEDS

JUNE 18: Chaotic first few hours in England. Land at London Heathrow, the ticket shows a connection from Terminal TN for the trip to Leeds, the venue for the first Test. The travel person back home insists it's a flight. No one at Heathrow agrees. "There's no Terminal TN here, unless Hogwarts School has started air services for overseas wizards," jokes a witty Black Customs lady. "Maybe, it's a bus". A 20-something Indian at the bus reception solves the case. It's a train from King's Cross. By the way, King's Cross has a platform 9 ¾ - fictional point from where Harry and wizards go to school. The Customs lady wasn't totally wrong.

JUNE 19: Leeds has the Yorkshire Cricket Club — an institution of great legacy and stickler of tradition. As luck would have it, get a chance to speak to two cricketing giants — Sachin Tendulkar and Cheteshwar Pujara. They both played for the north England club and share memories.

"One needed to wear formals and leather shoes when you landed up at the ground before the match. At the ground you change to whites and store the formals in the locker," informs Pujara. Tendulkar chuckles when reminded of the summer of 1992 when he became the first cricketer not born in Yorkshire to play for the county.

You tell the master the Pujara formal wear story and he laughs more. "When Pujara played for Yorkshire, he was in his late 20s, I was just 19 years old ... and putting on the Yorkshire blazer each morning was new to me. There was also a tie to be put. So what I did was I tied the knot and kept it like that for my entire stint ... I ensured that whenever I put it on the knot would not break."

JUNE 22: Rishabh Pant hits his tumbling shot, also does a handspring, a basic floor routine gymnastics to celebrate his hundred. England is head-over-heels in love with his behind the stump falling shot — they call it roly-poly sweep. It proved to be a roller coaster series for him.

JUNE 23: There is a church, not far from the local Jama Masjid, that has a neatly carpentered wooden box. The front is a wooden frame with glass with lovely leaves painted on it. This is the Little Free Library with two shelves of about a foot long. There is a dictionary and few pulp-fiction paperbacks.

JUNE 24: Ben Duckett reverse sweeps England to victory. The England opener has strong wrists, he played hockey as a child. There is an endearing story about Duckett's mom and her risk-taking, reverse sweeping son. She once went for a Duckett game and was seated in the stands. A guy behind her would say, "He isn't going to last long .. he will get out to one of his reverse sweeps". At Leed's he didn't, he completed his 100 with three reverse sweeps. England win because of Duckett's knock. It is unlikely, Duckett's mom would be hearing reverse-sweep taunts from fans any more.

ENGLAND 1, INDIA 0.

JUNE 25: Bradford is also called Bradfordistan. It mostly has those with Pakistan roots. It's a short drive from the Leeds stadium. Meet Nasa Hussain, he is a curator, narrator of cricket stories and scholar on social issues. He is 55, has faced racism and is now checking discrimination and derogatory remarks entering cricket fields in the local leagues. Nasa is in-charge of the Park Avenue ground, he has been manning these grounds for years. The other day he got a call from his daughter, who told him that he's got an official letter from the King. Why would the King write to me? — Nasa wondered. He was getting a BME — British Empire Medal for keeping the grass green for all these years. It's like a Padma for the Kotla curator.

JUNE 26: Barely 10 paces from the Airbnb I stay at, a room in the attic co-hosted by two men, is a local café. A tall hard-working Polish lady runs it. She cooks, cleans and also does small talk. It's the place for the working class men to move. Not the one in suits and tie, but men in stained dungarees and dirty cargos walk in with a loud 'Hi Angela' to leave with a warm 'Bye Angela'. She offers simple breakfast but the basic 'bacon sandwich' is to die for. The local postman is fiddling his change as Angela waits. "Whatever you have, just give," shouts the hands-on owner who has just returned from cleaning the large glass shop window. Postman leaves with the loudest 'Bye Angela, thank you'.

JUNE 27: Serious problem, Augustine's cat is missing, she found this out after returning from school. She is ginger in colour, her eyes are either brown or green. She isn't sure. Please don't call on Tuesdays and Wednesday since Augustine doesn't carry a phone to the club she goes to. There are also chances that she might go dead. All this information is on a cute 'missing poster' — a page torn from a single-lined school book — on the electric pole in the lane next to the place I stay. Passed the place



two days later, the posters were still there. Pray for the return of Augustine's cat.

BIRMINGHAM

JUNE 28: Take a bus to Birmingham for the next Test. Most seats are empty, settle for the one behind the driver. It has business class leg-room. After a couple of stops, a young boy, travelling alone, walks to the driver. He looks worried, he has got into the wrong bus. What follows is something unseen and unheard. The driver, while on wheel, makes at least 10 calls, probably to the control room of the bus network. In half an hour, the boy has a smile on his face. The bus takes a small detour, leaves the motorway for a bit, drives to a village bus stop where another bus is waiting. A pleasant matronly lady receives the boy and takes him to the bus he should have been on.

JUNE 29: Airbnb entries for self-check in homes are nothing short of a treasure hunt. The one at Birmingham would need Holmes and Dr Watson to both get in. The instructions are detailed but tediously intricate. This went as — Collect the building key from the box outside, use combination 1249. Enter the building, go to the first floor and return left. Pick another key from under the doormat and enter the flat. Place the key back under the mat as the cleaners need it. Go to the kitchen, under the sink is another key box. Use combination 3434 to collect the key for your room. Phew. The most difficult part — crawling under the sink, trying to get the sequence of code right in complete darkness using a phone torch.

JUNE 30: Birmingham is buzzing, certainly not for the Test but Black Sabbath's farewell gig. It's called Back to the Beginning. Check with the friendly corner shop lady at the till, if it's possible to get tickets. "Yeah... sure" — she says sarcastically. Stick to cricket. Life's cruel in a few weeks time, see a ticker on a television in a shop that announces Ozzy Osbourne's death. Beginning and End weren't too far.

JULY 1: An English reporter reminds Shubman Gill that India has never won in Birmingham. The most amazing thing about most young Indian cricketers is their articulation and poise at press conferences. They pick

the right words, have a sense of humour — all in a language that is not their mother tongue or the language of the dressing room. Gill snubs the man without being rude. First with his words and later with his bat.

JULY 2: Live close to Birmingham Uni. Striking things about the area are the businesses catering to overseas students. Real estate sharks seem to be making a killing. Watch two worried Indian parents - father holding a folder with papers, mother keep her hand on the daughter's shoulder — following an agent-type into a building. Overhear a line from the mother — "Is it a safe area for girls at night?"

JULY 3: Saw VVS Laxman hit 281 in 2001 and now Shubman Gill's 269 in 2025. VVS's silky drives still stay in the mind, even Shubman's strokes have no polyester in them. There are some players who are just born to play cover drives, their body aligned by the Maker for the purpose of spreading joy. The initial drive to cover this tour was to see the last of Rohit and Virat. As a witness to their sparkling storied career, there was desire for closure. They retired, and didn't turn up here. You wait for two buses and a Rolls Royce comes your way. They say something sounding similar about public transport in England.

JULY 5: Walk to a café near the University — it turns out to be an unusual place. It's almost like a 2BHK, there are sofas, couches, dining tables, and a courtyard with chairs. It has a notice board with brochures about support groups that stand by those unable to deal with life away from home. It's a café that has a lot more than a coffee to deal with mental fatigue.

JULY 6: India get a new hero in Akash Deep. India won the Test. In the streets outside the stadium, a busking guitarist has composed a song for him. The same can't be said about him in a month's time. This was that kind of series. There were ups, downs, ebbs, flows, spikes, dips.

ENGLAND 1, INDIA 1.

LONDON

JULY 7: Have a serendipitous moment on the way to Lord's. The walk from the Airbnb takes one past the world's most fa-

(Clockwise from top) Indian team reacts after pulling off a comeback on Day 5 of the fifth Test at The Oval to level the series 2-2. AP

A note for a missing cat pasted on a pillar in Birmingham — which did not go down for a few days as the pet was not yet recovered. Sandeep Dwivedi

The GJ-07 paan shop, a regular haunt of Indian residents of Kingsbury, the very Gujarati part of London. It gets its name from Nadiad's RTO registrations. Sandeep Dwivedi

Rishabh Pant performed a gymnastics routine to celebrate his first hundred of the series, to much fanfare from British and Indian audiences alike. AP

A fervent plea from Indian fans to Shubman Gill and KL Rahul going into the fifth day of the Manchester Test. Sandeep Dwivedi

Rock singer Ozzy Osbourne passed away weeks after a 'farewell' show of his band, Black Sabbath, was attended by droves in his hometown of Birmingham. X/@OzzyOsbourne

mous zebra crossing. On Abbey Road, near the Abbey Studio, it the Abbey crossing. Four young men once got clicked while crossing the road and many decades later, the world wants to replace themselves on the same frame. Buses and cars stop patiently as tourists from around the world, almost 24x7, try the Beatles walk.

JULY 8: Another day, another walk to Lord's, another brief stopover at Abbey Street to enjoy watching the tourists do the walk while apologetically keeping an eye on the traffic. Everyone is excited but there is a girl with many piercings who is delirious. She is on the footpath and busy clicking pictures of a group of men who themselves are having a fan moment with the iconic studio where Beatles recorded songs. She wants to share her joy with someone. The men she is excited about are the members of Molotov, Mexico's top band. The Molotov are here to pay homage to the Beatles. At the Abbey Hill crossroad she came to experience the presence of one set of heroes, she got two.

JULY 10: Day 1 at Lord's is a ritual. Dressed in smart suits and the very ugly orange and yellow tie, MCC members stand in queues reading newspapers to get in. Next to them are Indian fans wearing not India's whites but the white-ball blue. It's a stunning contrast. It takes all types to fill a cricket stadium.

JULY 11: Lord's stadium arena is a busy place with a lot happening. There is a museum to see, there are food courts that sell cheese toasties, coffees and even strawberries and cream. There's the WG Grace statue in a small garden-type area where fans sit on benches to discuss cricket. A new addition is the games section. There is one where about 10 tennis balls hang from the wooden circle. You need to stand below as balls drop suddenly and randomly. Grown up men take the challenge as a crowd watches them. They fail, they get embarrassed.

JULY 12: It's the last over before lunch. KL is in his 90s, his partner Rishabh Pant wants that his mate has the medal as a centurion. Pant takes off for a run and is found out of his crease. At the samosa stall that's India's good old Bajaj three-wheeler, they can't stop talking about who was to blame.



JULY 13: It is late at night, only a Persian eating place open. They have rice with a layer of saffron with baingan stuffed in. It's one of the meals of the series.

ENGLAND 2, INDIA 1

JULY 15: Travel to Guildford to meet Shoaib Bashir's one-time captain Olly Birts. You ask him about him getting Siraj's wicket while bowling with a fractured finger, he tells you about him losing his teeth while taking a catch in a club game.

JULY 16: Take a short trip to Bristol. It is the place where the mysterious painter Banksy lived and for cricket tourists it is where Ben Stokes punched the living daylight out of a few pesky men outside a bar. Visit the Stokes pilgrimage place but the staff there can get a whiff of inquisitive reporters from a mile. Beer is all that you end up with.

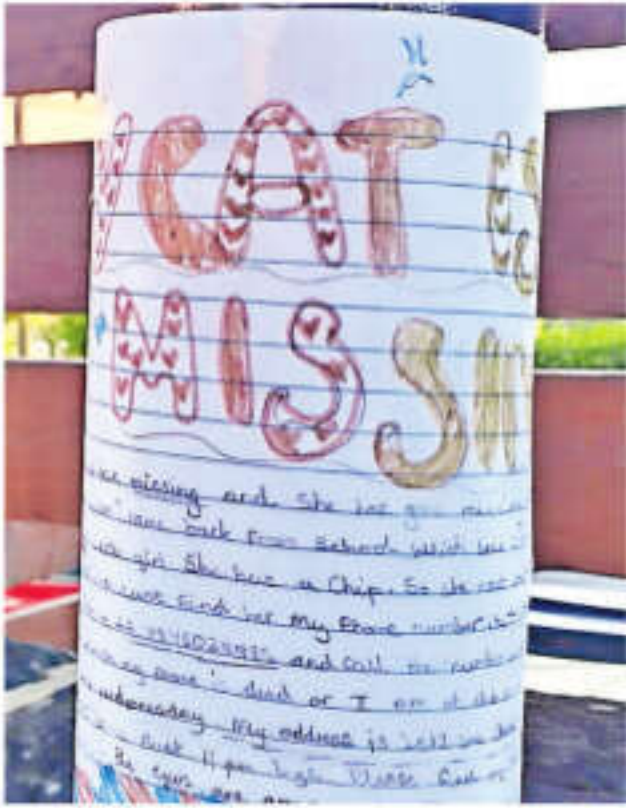
JULY 18: Move to Kingsbury, the very Gujarati part of London. On the street, men are settled in a huddle, chewing paan and a family on the road searching for a post-dinner snack, a Gujarati tradition. There are shops selling peanuts with 10 flavours and a Gujarati Express restaurant shop that has undhiyu and sev tomato on the menu. But the flagship of this high street is GJ-07 paan shop — it gets its name from Nadiad's RTO registrations for vehicles.

JULY 20: A train trip in England that reminded me of a Delhi-Kanpur ride in the general compartment of a rail journey from hell. It's a Bristol-Manchester trip on Sunday. First there is a platform change at the last minute. And after sprinting with luggage in tow, standing space outside the toilet is all you get. A lady with kids and heavy luggage is in tears. She is struggling to breathe, someone offers a seat.

MANCHESTER

JULY 23: Here's an expert tip from a Airbnb regular. If words like 'quaint' and 'bohemian' are used in description of the home, see it as a red flag. What you get is an unequipped, wifi-less, shared toilet space.

JULY 27: India snatch draw from the jaws of defeat. Jadeja and Washington are the mir-



acle men. Jadeja does the sword swirl after completing his 50 and after 100 he rubs his bat against the forehead. He writes his fortune with his bat.

ENGLAND 2, INDIA 1

LONDON

JULY 28: Walk to accommodation after bus ride. There are lots of gardens in the area. See a small fox crossing road. Think eyes playing tricks, must be a dog. Find another little one is following. Was this London or Jungle Book? Next day take cab at night, spot another one. Cabbie says there are 10,000 of them in London. Is he serious? Yes, he was.

JULY 29: Get off at Green Park, pass the periphery of Hyde Park. See a familiar face with family. It's Rohit Sharma. He has a kiddie scooter in one hand as his wife and kids follow him. No one really bothers him. He is enjoying family time — it's the picture perfect frame for what stars miss in India. No wonder, they love London and the space, read Hyde Park, which it gives them.

JULY 30: Curator vs Gambhir — that's the fight of the day. Someone mixed the weight category. Curator is a giant, Gambhir isn't. There is an angry exchange of words. It is rumored that during the confrontations some from the ground staff said 'now you see the pitch you get'. It wasn't true, the Oval pitch was great.

JULY 31: Late night adventure. Return to Airbnb after dinner, realise the key is inside. The host doesn't answer calls, the phone is dying. Call a reporter who isn't too far. Spend night on couch. Host wakes the next morning, says there is a spare key in the key box. What a night!

AUG 1: What a day. 15 wickets fall. Siraj is winning hearts. He is playing the cheerleader to the Bharat Army. He is like a rock star playing to the crowd.

AUG 4: To watch a match that would last barely an hour, a full house turns up. Siraj does it for India. Gets a hug from Shubman. They both are at the press conference. You wait for one and two turn up. Before the series, you would be fine with just 1 win but you get 2-2.

Dealing with new-found stardom

Divya has been busy with felicitations after a huge crowd welcomed her back in Nagpur following her success in Batumi

AMIT KAMATH
MUMBAI, AUGUST 6

DIVYA DESHMUKH starts chuckling as she talks about her ‘Messi moment’ in Batumi.

In the heady hours after she became the FIDE Women’s World Cup champion — simultaneously sealing her Grandmaster title in one shot and securing a spot at the Women’s Candidates event — she was briefly confronted with a problem: how to pose with her trophy for *Instagram*.

Then, Lionel Messi came up with an assist: Divya remembered three photos the Argentine legend had posted snuggling the World Cup Trophy in bed that garnered over 50 million likes. It’s a photo that has been recreated by multiple athletes like Spanish footballer Jenni Hermoso after winning the FIFA World Cup.

“I saw this picture long ago from Messi. So yeah, it was definitely inspired by Messi,” Divya tells *The Indian Express*. “I also wanted to click one while I was sleeping next to the trophy (like the original photo from Messi). But unfortunately, I was so tired, I just fell asleep.”

Remind her that the trophy is hers to keep so she can recreate it any day, and she smiles: “I’m thinking maybe I’ll do it with the next trophy.”

Since that title in Batumi, the teenager’s fame has shot through the roof. Everyone wants to be a part of her success: union minis-

ters and state chief ministers have video-called her. She’s been invited to the country’s capital for an audience with the sports minister. There were so many messages on her phone across apps that she’s lost count now.

“There were too many of them. Unfortunately, I still haven’t gotten back to most of them. I’m just one person. It’s taking me a lot of time. But I’m so grateful that there were a lot of messages,” she says.

Divya’s coronation as Indian chess’ next big thing happened in Nagpur, complete with a road show in front of thousands of residents, just like Chennai welcomed its chess sons after world-conquering feats in distant lands. She’s still as tired as she was in Batumi a week back; her time is at a premium now as wave after wave of felicitation events and well-wishers dropping by at her home keep her occupied.

“When I landed in Nagpur, seeing the crowd that showed up, particularly so many kids, that was very special for me,” she says before adding: “But among all of that, the most enduring moment came on August 2 (at the event where she was felicitated by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis). When I entered, I saw at least 50 percent of the crowd were kids and they were all cheering my name. It just felt like such a nice moment.”

A guide remembered

Amidst all the hype, Divya’s been keen to share the spotlight.



Divya Deshmukh became a GM by winning FIDE World Cup. PTI

At the Nagpur roadshow, she held up a framed photo of her first coach Rahul Joshi, who passed away a few years back. She even dedicated her grandmaster title to him. Joshi was, after all, the first believer in Divya’s

talent, a man who convinced her parents and Divya herself that she could be one of the best.

Divya reveals that she was just six or seven years old when Joshi had prophesied that she would become a grandmaster

one day. So convinced was Joshi of his prediction that he made the then seven-year-old sign a declaration on a piece of paper that she would become a GM by the age of 14 or 15.

“He was the guiding force behind my career since I was too small to understand. He was guiding my parents too, telling them how things work in the chess world. He was the one who pushed me to play at the state championship and then the Nationals. When I won my first Nationals, both my parents and I were not even aware that the Nationals lead to the Asian Championships and World Championships; or that there were events like Asian Championships and World Championships in the sport. For my first age-group Championship, he came along with me and the experience was quite surreal.

“From my childhood, the grandmaster title was something that he knew I was eventually going to achieve. If he was here today, he would have been very happy,” Divya says.

It was at those age-group tournaments, Divya says, that she picked up the attributes that make her among the best today. Like her ability to never agree to draws. Her aggression on the chessboard. The mentality of never being overawed by the occasion, no matter how big.

“What has helped me the most in my career was playing in age-category events. Usually in the last round of these events, it

was quite crucial because either you get a medal or you just come fourth or something. So, it was in those events that I learned how to manage my nerves and I always wanted to aim for the gold. I think I got my fighting spirit to never give up from there. That is the one thing that has helped me a lot,” she adds.

India’s moment

Ask her if there is one moment from her career — barring the FIDE World Cup title — that stands out for her and defines her career, and she replies: “I don’t think one moment would ever be enough, right?”

The World Cup triumph was not just a crowning moment for Divya, it was a turn-of-the-page moment for Indian chess, particularly women’s chess, perfectly captured by the sight of two Indian women, Divya and Koneru Humpy, fighting for the title while two Chinese players fought for third place on the next board.

“When I initially got to know that Humpy is the one who is in the final with me, I was very happy for India and Indian chess. Especially young girls who may be looking to take chess as a sport. I knew that either way, the trophy was coming to India.

“In the last two-three years, it has been quite an uprising for Indian chess. India — thanks to everything others like Gukesh, Pragg, Arjun (Erigaisi), Nihal (Sarin) have done — has definitely proven that we are here to stay,” she adds.

Fire at venue delays Chennai chess event

EXPRESS NEW SERVICE
CHENNAI, AUGUST 6

THE START of the Chennai Grand Masters chess had to be postponed by a day after a fire incident at the venue which was playing host to the event. Late on Tuesday evening, a small fire broke out in the 9th floor of a private hotel, which apart from being the venue of the event, is also hosting the entire tournament contingent.

While there were no casualties or injuries, as a precautionary measure the hotel staff evacuated the entire premises before the situation was brought under control.

According to the event organisers, all the 20 players were moved to a different hotel in the city on Wednesday early morning. Given the circumstances the organisers decided to start the event on Thursday and the tournament will now not have any rest day as originally planned.

The hotel was also hosting 15 cricketers from Australia, who are in Chennai as part of the developmental tour programme.

“Fire at Hotel Hyatt Regency last night, the venue of the Chennai GM. All the players are safe and shifted to another hotel nearby. Tournament postponed by a day,” wrote Indian GM and tournament director Srinath

Narayanan on X.

It is understood that the organisers had a word with the players to gauge the mood, and with them being in high spirits decided to start the event at the earliest. “Around 11.30 pm, the hotel staff asked us to evacuate,” one of the organisers said. “We didn’t see fire, but there was a lot of smoke in the building and the fire alarms were off. The hotel staff had a good plan in place, so we managed to make our way through the fire exit,” he added.

While the players immediately found shelter at another hotel close to the property, they were later moved to a different one. “There were no panic scenes as they had the protocols in place. Some of us (organisers) actually came back to our respective rooms at 5 am. The players and their family joined us in the afternoon,” he said.

Since there was plenty of smoke, *The Indian Express* understands that players have requested for air purifiers to be installed in their rooms. According to those in the know, it took some time to wake up a few players who had switched to DND mode in their room.

“Some even had their mobiles in flight mode because they usually don’t like to be disturbed. But eventually with the fire alarms going off, it didn’t take long,” the official said.

Amendment in Sports Bill to keep BCCI out of RTI Act

PRITISH RAJ
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will not be subject to provisions of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, after the government introduced amendments to the National Sports Governance Bill that has been tabled in Parliament.

The union sports ministry has cited a provision of the RTI Act, according to which only bodies ‘substantially financed’ by the government can be defined as a ‘public authority’.

When the Bill was tabled in Parliament on July 23, it had a provision in Clause 15(2) that ensured that all sports bodies recognised by the National Sports Bill would be considered a public authority under the Right to Information Act (RTI), 2005. However, *The Indian Express* has learnt that the clause stating, “a recognised sports organisation shall be considered a public authority under the Right to Information Act, 2005 with respect to the exercise of its functions, duties and powers under this Act,” has been omitted from the Bill via an amendment.

The omitted clause would have brought every national Sports Federation (NSF) under the RTI Act. The BCCI has always resisted coming under the purview of the Act arguing that it’s not dependent on government funds, unlike other sports governing bodies. The RTI Act defines a “public authority” as any institution or body created by any law made by Parliament or a State Legislature, including bodies owned, controlled, or

substantially financed by the government, with ‘substantially financed’ being the key word in this case.

The amendment has introduced a new clause that states, “A recognised sports organisation, receiving grants or any other financial assistance from the Central Government under sub-section (1) or from a State Government, shall be considered as a public authority under the Right to Information Act, 2005, with respect to utilisation of such grants or any other financial assistance.”

The change would mean that all NSFs will be under the RTI Act, but the only queries they are required to answer will be related only to government aid and other financial assistance, unlike the previous clause that allowed questions on duties and powers of the NSF, including selection.

“The amended clause will ensure that we don’t violate the RTI Act. With the amendment, we have defined a public authority as an entity relying on government funds and assistance. We have removed the grey area from the Bill that could have resulted in it getting held up or being challenged in court,” a sports ministry source told this paper.

However, the BCCI will come under the purview of the Bill and can be questioned if there is any kind of government assistance involved.

“The BCCI will still come under the Bill and they will have to form an Ethics Commission, an Athletes Committee and implement the Safe Sports policy. They can also be questioned if government assistance of any kind is involved, like the usage of infrastructure,” the source said.

Another significant amendment in the Bill is that it has included the Societies Registration

Act of a state as one of the criteria for recognition of an NSF.

Earlier Clause 8(2) stated, “No sports organisation shall be recognised under sub-section (1) unless such organisation is a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or is a not-for-profit company incorporated under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 or is a trust created under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.”

Now the clause will also add the Societies Registration Act of a state bringing the BCCI under the purview of the Bill as it’s registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975.

Sports minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** tabled two Bills in the monsoon session of Parliament — the National Sports Governance Bill and the National Anti-Doping (Amendment Bill). Both Bills are expected to be passed by the Lower House in the next couple of days.

In 2016, the Supreme Court-appointed RM Lodha Committee, looking into cricket reforms, had recommended bringing the BCCI under the RTI Act. While considering the recommendation, the apex court had referred the specific issue to the Law Commission in July 2016.

In its 275th report in 2018, the Law Commission too had recommended bringing the BCCI under the RTI Act. The Commission had underlined BCCI’s monopolistic character, the public nature of its functions, and the ‘substantial financing’ it has received from appropriate governments over the years (through tax exemptions, land grants, etc.) to hold that the cricket body can be termed a ‘public authority’ under the existing legal framework and brought within the purview of the RTI Act.

Chennaiyin FC suspends operations

New Delhi: Indian club football appeared to be in complete crisis as Chennaiyin FC on Wednesday suspended its operations in view of the uncertainty surrounding the Indian Super League, days after Bengaluru FC and Odisha FC decided to stop paying salaries to their first-team players and staff.

Chennaiyin’s decision came a day before a crucial meeting between the All India Football Federation (AIFF) top brass and eight ISL clubs on Thursday. Chennaiyin FC is, however, unlikely to have a representation in the meeting as the club is not

among the signatories calling for such a move.

“In the light of the continuing uncertainty surrounding the future of the ISL, Chennaiyin FC has taken the extremely difficult decision to temporarily pause club operations,” the Chennai-based club said on its social media handle. “These are never easy decisions to make, and ours has come after much thoughtful consideration and careful deliberation. The challenges of being a stakeholder in Indian football are well recognized.

Late on Monday, Bengaluru

FC indefinitely suspended contracts of its first-team players and staff amid the continued uncertainty over the ISL, which remains on hold.

The club, home to legendary striker and former India captain Sunil Chhetri, said the lack of clarity on the League’s future left it with no choice.

The ISL was put on hold by its organisers, Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), due to the unresolved status of the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) with the All India Football Federation (AIFF). PTI



STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

The Board of Directors of Hero MotoCorp Limited ("the Company") at its meeting held on August 06, 2025, approved the un-audited (standalone and consolidated) Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended June 30, 2025.

The Financial Results are available on the website of Stock Exchange at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com and also on the Company's website at <https://www.heromotocorp.com/en-in/company/investors/annual-report.html?key1=quarterly-results> and can be accessed by scanning the QR Code.



Date: August 06, 2025
Place: New Delhi

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
Dr. PAWAN MUNJAL
Executive Chairman
DIN: 00004223

Note: The above information is in accordance with Regulation 33 & 47 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015

Financial Highlights	Key Parameters		Quarter ended June 25	Quarter ended June 24
	Revenue from operations	Standalone	Rs. 9,579 Crores	Rs. 10,144 Crores
		Consolidated	Rs. 9,728 Crores	Rs. 10,211 Crores
	Profit after Tax (PAT)	Standalone	Rs. 1,126 Crores	Rs. 1,123 Crores
		Consolidated	Rs. 1,706 Crores	Rs. 1,032 Crores

Hero MotoCorp Ltd. - Regd. Office: The Grand Plaza, Plot No.2, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj- Phase-II, New Delhi- 110070. | CIN NO. L35911DL1984PLC017354 • Visit www.heromotocorp.com