WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2026

The Indian EXPRESS

NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 24 PAGES

JOURNALISM of COURAGE

₹7.00 (₹8 RAIPUR, ₹15 SRINAGAR) • www.indianexpress.com

DAILY FROM: AHMEDABAD, CHANDIGARH, DELHI, JAIPUR, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NAGPUR, PATNA, PUNE, VADODARA

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

Digital India
Power To Empower

11 Years of Digital India
Life Made Easier Across Villages and Cities

₹51+ lakh crore transferred directly to bank accounts of beneficiaries through DBT

42+ lakh route km of optical fibre network across the country; nearly 2.2 lakh villages connected

Every second digital transaction in the world takes place in India

70+ crore DigiLocker users

Real-time nutrition monitoring of 8.9+ crore mothers and children through Poshan Tracker

Over 2500 government services are now available on mobile phones

Affordable data and rapid expansion of 5G connectivity

Startup India and Atal Innovation Mission driving deep-tech growth

12 semiconductor plants taking shape

“Digital India means Government at your doorstep, on your mobile phone. Digital India means curbing corruption. Digital India means ensuring that even the poorest receive their rightful benefits.”

– Prime Minister Narendra Modi

CBC 06124/13/0002/2627

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

The World

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2026

Inside Intelligence agencies, a fight over building a master list of spies

Devlin Barrett, William K Rashbaum & Julian E Barnes
Washington, June 30

THE TRUMP administration is demanding that US intelligence officials turn over the names of all foreign espionage targets, including suspected spies and potential recruits, to create a master list that some officials fear will be misused or compromise operations, according to people familiar with the matter.

The effort by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence has intensified in recent months, frustrating counterparts at the FBI and the CIA, who are skeptical of the claims that a master list is necessary to avoid inadvertent conflicts between agencies and to better track foreign intelligence threats in real time. The office was established after the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, to streamline coordination among the intelligence agencies.

Senior counterintelligence officials at the FBI and the CIA have so far resisted those demands, the people familiar with the matter said, and the effort has been mostly unsuccessful. Officials still cannot agree on the most basic details, including how a list of what are known as foreign intelligence threat actors would be created, maintained and kept secure, the people said.

The clash also reflects the strained relationship between the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the FBI and CIA after former Intelligence Director Tulsi Gabbard pursued the president's priorities, including shrinking the office's workforce and scrutinizing allegations of election fraud based on flimsy or unfounded claims.

With Bill Pulte, a housing official who has no prior intelligence experience, serving as acting director, officials are increasingly wary of how the office might handle such secrets.

For the FBI, such a master list of espionage targets would include those the bureau wants to investigate and perhaps someday arrest. For the CIA, it would include a significant number of potential assets.

Some current and former intelligence officials fear that assembling identifying details about some of the most sensitive cases may fatally compromise long-running intelligence investigations and operations. The identities of those targets are carefully protected secrets, walled off from most personnel even inside their own agencies.

Asked for comment, an FBI spokesperson said the bureau was working with other intelligence agencies "to open the books for the American people in historic ways," part of what he characterized as a broader push for transparency under its director, Kash Patel.

The CIA declined to comment. An official from Pulte's office, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that it was simply following a directive President Donald Trump had issued in his first term, National Security Presidential Memorandum 7. NYT

JARED KUSHNER & STEVE WITKOFF IN DOHA TO SAVE PEACE MoU

Qatar: No high level US-Iran dialogue, only technical talks

White House said Trump envoys will hold key meetings, but no sign so far

Reuters
Doha, June 30

TOP US envoys who have arrived in Doha will not hold a high-level meeting with Iran, a Qatari official said on Tuesday, casting doubt on the progress of efforts to bring a lasting halt to the Iran war and fully reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Instead, there will be technical talks this week on issues including regional security that could later be elevated to senior level, Qatar's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed Al Ansari told a media briefing.

The arrival of US President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and envoy Steve Witkoff in Doha on Tuesday followed exchanges of fire over the weekend that tested the June 17 interim accord between the United States and Iran. The 14-point pact allowed 60 days for the two sides to negotiate a permanent truce in the conflict, which began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28, and to resolve thorny issues including the future of Iran's nuclear programme.

The conflict disrupted global trade in oil and other goods, exposed Gulf states to Iranian drone and missile fire and killed thousands of people, mostly in Iran and Lebanon.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said dialogue with mediator Qatar on the implementation of the interim deal, including on the release of frozen Iranian assets, was likely to take place in Doha on Wednesday.

"No meeting at any level with the American side has been scheduled for the coming days," he said. The White House had said on Monday that Kushner and Witkoff would hold "high-level meetings", with technical discussions to continue on the sidelines.

The exact timing of the technical talks was not immediately clear.

"We have a track on the nuclear side, you have a track on the economic and state performance issue, you have a track on security and the regional security," said Ansari.

Iran has since sought to exert control over the strait alongside Oman, which lies across the waterway, saying it plans to charge fees to ships and obstructing vessels that stray outside defined paths. Baghaei said on Tuesday that Tehran would "do whatever is necessary to safeguard its interests" over the strait.

Since last Thursday, the US has accused Iran of hitting at least two commercial ships with missiles or drones, and it bombed Iranian military facilities in response.

Iran in turn launched missiles and drones at US military sites in Kuwait and Bahrain on Sunday, with both sides accusing each other of breaking the ceasefire. Trump and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent are both urging gasoline retailers to lower prices.

People walk past a billboard depicting Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei embracing late senior Iranian military commander General Qassem Soleimani, in Tehran on Tuesday. REUTERS

'Israel won't leave yet': Netanyahu in south Lebanon

Tel Aviv: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Tuesday visited Lebanese territory occupied by the Israeli military, telling soldiers that Israel would not withdraw from the country's south as long as Iran-backed Hezbollah continued to pose a threat.

"Our insistence is that we will not leave southern Lebanon until the threat is removed... and as long as Hezbollah remains here, armed and threatening us, we will remain here," he said. REUTERS

• BRIEFLY

UNITED KINGDOM

Starmer unveils $20bn defence boost to prepare for future wars

Kier Starmer

PRIME MINISTER Keir Starmer pledged on Tuesday to spend an extra $20 billion to modernise Britain's depleted armed forces in a long-delayed investment plan that is designed to prepare for wars of the future and mark his legacy. Starmer said the increased spending over the next four years went further than a previous draft that prompted his ally, John Healey, to resign as defence minister this month. Healey had accused Starmer of failing to secure enough money to keep Britain safe. REUTERS

GREECE

Four trapped in building collapse

FOUR PEOPLE were trapped after a four-story apartment block collapsed on Tuesday in the Petralona area of Athens, the fire brigade said. Firefighters and police were deployed to the area to help with the rescue operation which is ongoing, the service said in a statement. Footage showed rescue workers walking amid rubble. REUTERS

GHANA/IVORY COAST

Floods kill 24 after heavy rains

FLOODS AND landslides triggered by days of torrential rain in the capital cities of Ghana and Ivory Coast have left at least 24 people dead, authorities said Tuesday. Entire buildings and roads were submerged in Accra on Monday, cutting off access to several areas of the Ghanian capital and in the neighbouring city of Tema. AP

• NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

PAKISTAN

14 inmates escape in transit to jail

AT LEAST 14 undertrial prisoners escaped while being taken to Adiala Jail in Pakistan, a media report said on Tuesday. Police caught four, while search operations are underway for the remaining 10, the *Express Tribune* reported. The incident occurred on Monday when 36 prisoners were being escorted to jail after a court appearance in Rawalpindi. PTI

SRI LANKA

Fuel prices cut as supply eases

SRI LANKA has reduced retail prices of diesel and petrol for the first time since the recent spikes triggered by conflict in West Asia, a statement by the state fuel entity said. Ceylon Petroleum Corporation made the announcement Friday night following easing of supply restrictions after the US and Iran agreed to a ceasefire earlier this month. PTI

14 children killed, 20 injured as roof of Lahore tuition centre collapses

Press Trust of India
Lahore, June 30

AT LEAST 14 Pakistani schoolchildren were killed and 20 others injured when the roof of a private tuition centre operating from an under-construction building collapsed in Lahore on Tuesday, police said.

More than 30 children, aged between seven and 13 years, were attending classes at the academy, located in the densely populated Kahna Nau area, when the roof caved in, trapping them under the debris. "So far, 14 bodies of children have been recovered from the debris," Lahore Deputy Inspector General Operations Faisal Kamran said.

Twenty injured children and a female teacher were shifted to the hospital, police said. He said rescue teams were continuing efforts to search for any victims trapped under the rubble. "A part of the building was under construction and labourers were busy at work when the roof collapsed. We have arrested the contractor," Kamran said.

Lahore District Education Authority Chief Executive Officer Tariq Mahmood said the building housed a private tuition centre being run by a woman resident of the locality.

US Supreme Court clears way for transgender sports ban

Reuters
Washington, June 30

THE US Supreme Court cleared the way on Tuesday for states to impose restrictions on transgender student athletes, upholding laws in West Virginia and Idaho banning them from female sports teams — a contentious issue enmeshed in the nation's culture wars.

The justices overturned decisions by lower courts siding with transgender students who challenged the bans in the two states as violating the US Constitution and a federal anti-discrimination law. The Idaho and West Virginia laws designate sports teams at public schools including universities according to "biological sex" and bar "students of the male sex" from female teams.

Twenty-five other states have similar laws on the books.

The court decided 9-0 that the state laws do not violate the Title IX civil rights statute that bars discrimination in education "on the basis of sex."

The justices, however, divided along ideological lines — with the six conservative justices in the majority — in deciding that the measures also do not violate the Constitution's 14th Amendment guarantee of equal protection under the law.

US Supreme Court in Washington

The three liberal justices said a factual dispute in the West Virginia case should have precluded resolving that issue.

The ruling was authored by conservative Justice Brett Kavanaugh. "Consistent with Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause, we hold that the states may maintain women's and girls' sports for biological females. They may determine eligibility for women's and girls' sports based on biological sex. The Constitution and Title IX do not require an overhaul of women's and girls' sports throughout America," Kavanaugh wrote.

Republican President Donald Trump's administration, which has cracked down on transgender rights, backed the states in the litigation. Writing on Truth Social, Trump said: "BIG WIN: The United States Supreme Court just RULED AGAINST MEN PLAYING IN WOMEN'S SPORTS. Wow! That takes that ridiculous situation off the table!!!"

Idaho and West Virginia said the laws preserve fair and safe competition for women and girls, while critics see the measures as part of a broader assault on the rights of transgender Americans. The students who challenged the measures said they discriminate based on a person's sex or status as transgender in violation of the 14th Amendment and Title IX.

"Sports are different from, say, a typical employment... where equal protection often may require the government generally treat an individual without regard to the individual's sex," Kavanaugh wrote.

Bangladesh jails Hasina ally for 10 years over 'crimes against humanity'

Press Trust of India
Dhaka, June 30

A BANGLADESHI tribunal on Tuesday sentenced an ally of deposed former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to 10 years' imprisonment on charges of committing "crimes against humanity" during the 2024 street protests. Hasanul Haque Inu, a left-leaning politician, served as a minister in Hasina's coalition government from 2012 to 2018 but had no links to the regime since then.

A 1971 Liberation War veteran and president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Inu was accused of ordering police to kill six people in his home district, Kushtia, during the 2024 uprising, inciting attacks on protesters and maintaining telephonic links with Hasina, who fled to India in August 2024.

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT-BD) handed down the punishment to Inu as he stood trial in person on eight separate charges.

Other charges included incitement of "use of deadly force" against protesters and direct involvement in decisions for military deployment, curfew imposition and "shoot on sight" orders.

Body of Thai teenage girl in suitcase: Australian man charged with murder

Associated Press
Bangkok, June 30

AN AUSTRALIAN man was charged with murder and concealment of a body in connection with the death of a teenage girl in an eastern tourist city in Thailand, police said Tuesday.

The 17-year-old girl was reported missing Friday. Police said she was last seen on security footage walking into a condominium with the suspect, Simon Peter Carman, in the popular beach city of Pattaya about 150 km east of Bangkok.

Carman was later seen leaving the building alone with a large suitcase and security footage showed him loading the suitcase onto a motorbike and riding into a deserted area along the railway, local police said.

Carman was arrested early Saturday at a Bangkok airport before boarding a flight bound for Perth, Australia, and charged with raping a minor. The suitcase containing the girl's body was found shortly after he was arrested, leading to the additional charges, police said.

The charge of premeditated murder carries a possible death penalty.

Carman, who denied all charges, is in custody and has been provided an attorney. It was not immediately clear when he will appear in court, according to Kanoknan Sooksri, a Pattaya Police investigator who is handling the case.

Security footage shared by Thai media reporting on the case allegedly shows Carman holding hands with the girl as they walked into an elevator of the condominium early Thursday morning, before showing him leaving alone on Thursday night with the dark-coloured suitcase.

Manhunt launched after Monaco blast targets Ukraine-born oligarch

Reuters
Monaco, June 30

POLICE IN Monaco and France were searching for a suspected bomber on Tuesday after three people were wounded by an explosion in the wealthy principality which two sources said was an attack on a Ukrainian-born oligarch.

The suspect is believed to have fled on foot to France, Monaco prosecutor Stephane Thibault said, after the attack on Monday evening involving a parcel bomb.

The principality, which is known for its casino and luxury yachts, its tight security and the luxury lifestyle of its super-rich residents, is surrounded by the Mediterranean on one side and France on the other.

A source familiar with the investigation said the man wounded in the attack was Ukrainian-born oligarch Vadym Yermolaiev and that the woman injured in the same attack, his partner, was badly wounded from the waist down.

A police source confirmed the injured couple were Yermolaiev and his partner, and the third person, who was less seriously injured, was his son.

Yermolaiev was given Cypriot nationality in 2019 and was placed under Ukrainian sanctions in 2023, which Ukrainian media say was for doing business in Russian-occupied Crimea. The Ukrainian embassy in Paris said it was checking the identity and nationality of those involved.

The attacker left a parcel in front of a building shortly before the three people who live in the ground floor flat arrived, at which time the parcel exploded, Thibault told a press conference.

Putin faces increased pressure as Kyiv strikes Moscow again

New York Times
Moscow, Kyiv, June 30

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR Putin of Russia faced a fresh round of pressure Tuesday as Ukraine launched another attack on the Russian capital, continued to disrupt Russian fuel supplies and pressed its campaign to cut off Crimea, the peninsula Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

Moscow's mayor, Sergei Sobyanin, reported several waves of drones, starting Monday night, less than two weeks after Ukraine launched the biggest drone assault on the Russian capital since the start of the war.

The mayor said on Telegram that Russian air defenses had shot down more than 60 drones on approach to Moscow, and that emergency services were working at crash sites. He did not mention any injuries.

The governor of the Moscow region said the attack had killed a 6-month-old child in a town about 60 miles south of the capital.

Overall, including those in Moscow and in Crimea, 419 drones were shot down, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

Ukrainian authorities made no immediate public comment.

With drones saturating the front lines, Russia has struggled to make progress on the battlefield in eastern Ukraine, where the Kremlin aims to take the rest of the Donetsk region. NYT

• HOW THE MORE THAN FOUR-YEAR-OLD CONFLICT IS RESHAPING NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Bird nests of fibre-optic cables show war's impact on Ukraine

Reuters
Kyiv, June 30

WOVEN FROM fibre-optic cable and grass, a small bird's nest found near the front line of the war in Ukraine shows how the more than four-year-old conflict is reshaping the natural environment, researchers say.

Areas along the 1,200-km (746-mile) front line are covered with ultra-thin fibre-optic cables, which are used by Ukrainian and Russian troops to guide aerial attack drones to make them impervious to electronic jamming.

The cables, which can stretch for 20 km, lie tangled in trees and scattered across fields and on the rooftops of towns in Ukraine's frontline regions, glistening in the sunlight like giant spider web.

Birds have begun repurposing the discarded cables to weave their nests, says Yana Hrynko, a senior researcher at Kyiv's War Museum, cautiously examining two delicate nests which the armed forces sent to the museum from the front line.

"Objects such as bird nests with fragments of optic fibre demonstrate the change in the nature of war," said Hrynko.

Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022 with tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery. Trying to counter Russia's advantage in such conventional equipment, Ukraine has poured resources into developing aerial drones. Drones now dominate the battlefield.

The bird nest made with fragments of optic fibre. REUTERS

Hrynko said researchers did not know which birds made the nests nor how they had gathered the long cables.

"The first nest mainly contains dry grass and fibre-optic cable. And it's pretty tightly twisted," she said.

Reuters spoke to several Ukrainian servicemen in the frontline regions of Donetsk, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia who had found such nests and posted their pictures and videos online.

One of the two nests will remain in Kyiv as a part of the War Museum's war collection, and the other will be sent for study in the Netherlands and later returned, researchers said.

Auke-Florian Hiemstra, a 33-year-old biologist based in the Dutch city of Leiden who specialises in artificial nest materials, said Ukraine had rich avian biodiversity and there were many species that could have built the nests.

"We're going to look for DNA traces still in a nest to determine who actually made the nest," she said. "I have never seen nests like this before - and I have seen many, many bird nests."

The impact of the fibre-optic on birds could be mixed, Hiemstra said. It could cause harm as the birds could become entangled but it could also benefit them by helping them make a strong nest. "And by documenting this nest, we're also documenting the impact of war on nature in Ukraine," Hiemstra said.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2026

The Indian EXPRESS

NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 24 PAGES

JOURNALISM of COURAGE

₹7.00 (₹8 RAIPUR, ₹15 SRINAGAR) • www.indianexpress.com

DAILY FROM: AHMEDABAD, CHANDIGARH, DELHI, JAIPUR, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NAGPUR, PATNA, PUNE, VADODARA

THEIR FIRST CONVERSATION AFTER IRAN-U.S. MOU

Safe Hormuz is key, Modi tells Pezeshkian; extended invite to BRICS summit in India: Tehran

President briefs PM on developments in West Asia and the way forward

Hope for lasting peace in region, PM tells Iran President

Divya A
New Delhi, June 30

IN HIS first conversation with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian who signed a Memorandum of Understanding with US President Donald Trump on June 17 to end hostilities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday expressed the hope for "lasting peace in the region" and underlined "the importance of freedom of navigation" in the Strait of Hormuz, key to India's energy imports.

According to the Iranian readout of the phone conversation, posted on X by its embassy in New Delhi, Prime Minister Modi "formally invited the President of Iran to attend the upcoming BRICS Leaders' Summit to be hosted by India and expressed hope that the meeting would contribute to further strengthening multilateral cooperation among the member countries".

Modi, the Iranian readout said, "conveyed the condolences and sympathy of the Government and people of India following the martyrdom

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Army gets a new chief

General Dhiraj Seth (left) takes over as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff from General Upendra Dwivedi, in New Delhi on Tuesday. X/@ADGPI REPORT, PAGE 7

PROBE INTO 'THEFT' AT RAM TEMPLE

Police approach Rai, Mishra for details, another arrest likely

Under fire, Trust likely to move informal staff to non-cash duties

Bhupendra Pandey & Divya A
Lucknow, New Delhi, June 30

POLICE IN Ayodhya, investigating the alleged theft and embezzlement of funds and valuables donated to the Ram temple, have been seeking details from Champat Rai, general secretary of the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, and trustee Anil Mishra on the duties and responsibilities of eight persons arrested so far in the case.

Rai and Mishra sent their resignations to the Trust following the registration of an FIR on June 25 and the arrest of Avinash Shukla, Lavkush Mishra, Anukalp Mishra, Manish Kumar Yadav, Karunesh Pandey, Ramashankar Mishra, Ram Shankar Yadav alias Tinnu Yadav and Subhash Srivastav.

Tinnu Yadav is Rai's former driver. All the arrested men are currently in judicial custody.

Following court permission, a police team visited the jail Tuesday to question Avinash Shukla on the role of the private agency hired by the State Bank of India for counting of cash and its dispatch to the bank branch. Shukla, an official said, was recruited by the agency and the bank. It is likely that another arrest will be made soon, an official said.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Business as Usual
By EP UNNY

NATION PAGE 13

CONG LEADERS PUT UNDER HOUSE ARREST FOR 24 HRS

Happening today

● JAPAN PM SANAE TAKAICHI arrives in Delhi on a three-day visit during which she and PM Narendra Modi will hold the India-Japan Annual Summit.

TRACK THIS AND MORE ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Small firms panic over Govt probe at behest of JSW joint venture

Company wants penal duty on suppliers from China, South Korea

Pratyush Deep & Ravi Dutta Mishra
New Delhi, June 30

AN ANTI-DUMPING probe initiated by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Cold Rolled Grain Oriented (CRGO) steel, a specialised type of steel, has sparked outrage among MSME transformer manufacturers, and also raised fears of a hike in electricity cost for consumers.

The investigation, ordered on June 22, is based on an application by one company, JSW JFE Electrical Steel Nashik Private Limited, which is a joint venture between JSW Steel Limited, India's largest steel producer, and Japan-based JFE Steel Corporation.

JSW JFE Electrical Steel is the only producer of CRGO steel in India, and is seen as strategically crucial for the country. It is a key input material in transformers, which forms the backbone of the electricity transmission system. The probe comes in the backdrop of a

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

In setback for Trump, US top court upholds birthright citizenship

6-3 ruling; Trump urges Congress to act, says 'too bad for our country'

This is the second time the court has invalidated a major Trump initiative; it struck down his sweeping global tariffs in Feb

Andrew Chung
Washington, June 30

HANDING PRESIDENT Donald Trump a stinging defeat, the US Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected his attempt to restrict birthright citizenship in the United States — a right long woven into the fabric of American society — scuttling one of his top priorities in his crackdown on immigration.

The 6-3 ruling marked the second time this year that the court has invalidated a major Trump initiative, following its February decision to strike down his sweeping global tariffs.

The Justices upheld a lower court's decision that blocked

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

E. EXPLAINED

The impact

Ahead of the ruling, experts had estimated that US President Donald Trump's directive could affect the legal status of as many as 250,000 babies born each year, and could require the families of millions more to prove the citizenship status of their newborns.

THE BIG PICTURE

WHAT U.P. WANTS: POSTCARD FROM 5 CITIES — A YEAR BEFORE POLLS PAGE 15

After June deficit, below-normal rainfall expected in July too: IMD

Amitabh Sinha
New Delhi, June 30

WHILE JUNE recorded a 40 per cent rainfall deficit, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday said rainfall in the month of July was also expected to be below normal, less than 94 per cent of the long period average.

The IMD had predicted 92 per cent rainfall for June, but the month brought in just about 60 per cent of normal rains, making it the fifth driest June since 1901 — the year from which rainfall records are available in India. The shortfall in June has put a question mark over the rainfall prediction for the entire monsoon season.

In May, the IMD had said that under the influence of a developing El Nino phase in the Pacific region, the four-month monsoon season starting in June was expected to bring less than normal rainfall.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Rainfall deficit in June

STATE/UT	DEFICIT
Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	84%
Gujarat	82%
Chandigarh	75%
Meghalaya	74%
Manipur	71%

SOURCE: IMD

Two European giants out, Paraguay, Morocco win in tense shootouts

EXPRESS AT WORLD CUP

Sandip G
Boston, June 30

GERMANS ARE masters of penalties, especially at World Cups. They had won the last four shootouts before Paraguay's 6'6" goalkeeper Orlando Gill beat them at their own game. Gill made himself look even bigger to make two crucial saves in the tie-breaker to script a historic South American victory.

The Netherlands, blessed with incredible attacking prowess and midfield riches, are known to settle matters in open play. Morocco held them 1-1 for more than 120 minutes, and

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Germany lost to Paraguay in the penalty shootout, Monday. REUTERS

● AFTER YEARS OF PRIVATE PERFORMANCES, HE IS TAKING HIS PASSION FOR MENTALISM PUBLIC

Before his next film, director Chaitanya Tamhane wants to read your mind

Alaka Sahani
Mumbai, June 30

MUCH BEFORE Chaitanya Tamhane made it to global attention and acclaim with his debut feature *Court* (2014), he was studying magic.

The writer-director, who has often spoken about how magic has influenced his filmmaking, will be holding his maiden public mentalism show, 'While I Still Can: Mindreading, Wonder and other Lost Causes', on July 3 at Mumbai's 3 Art House.

Currently developing his third feature film, with two-time Oscar-winner Alfonso Cuarón on board as a producer, Tamhane, who penned the script two years ago under the working title '*Who Is Metcena*', says that pivoting to mentalism fulfills his need for "more autonomy".

"Filmmaking takes a long time — raising funds, making the film, working with distributors and exhibitors. I felt the need for something more immediate and autonomous, where I could create and perform entirely on my own terms... Magic has been a significant part of my life for nearly 20 years, and now I've decided to share that publicly," says the 39-year-old director.

Mentalism, he says, is magic of the mind. "This involves playing with attention, perception and, moreover, storytelling, while using techniques from magic. Intuition and psychology are also involved in

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PAGE 1 anchor

Magic and cinema are both forms of illusion, says Chaitanya Tamhane

New IB chief

Senior IPS officer Mahesh Dixit assumes office as Director of the Intelligence Bureau, in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

In 2025, 747 foreign nationals held in India in drug cases — most from Nepal

Area of destroyed poppy cultivation has doubled in a year — from 22,512 acres in 2024 to 42,282 in 2025

Mahender Singh Manral
New Delhi, June 30

A TOTAL of 747 foreign nationals were arrested in India in 2025 in narcotics cases, with the highest numbers from Nepal (203), Nigeria (143), and Myanmar (97), according to the Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) Annual Report 2025.

The country-wise break-up of foreign nationals arrested showed that Bangladesh accounted for 17 arrests, followed by Kenya (10), Ghana (9), and Uganda (6). Russia, Brazil, Israel, Senegal, and Tanzania accounted for four arrests each.

Smaller numbers were recorded for several other countries, including Afghanistan, Cameroon, Germany, Japan, Sudan, and Sweden.

Details for about 203 foreign nationals were not reported country-wise.

The data showed that the number of foreign nationals arrested rose to 747 in 2025, compared with 660 in 2024.

In 2023, the figure was 735, while 777 foreign nationals were arrested in 2022 and 593 in 2021.

Highest narcotics-related arrests in 5 yrs

India also saw a significant rise in narcotics-related enforcement in 2025, with the number of people arrested in anti-drug operations increasing sharply, according to the report.

The report said 1,83,675 people were arrested in 2025, up from 1,22,224 in 2024. This was the highest figure recorded during the five years from 2021 to 2025. It also said that 810 detention orders were issued in 2025, a steep rise from 531 in 2024.

"At the same time, enforcement agencies reported major action against illicit cultivation. Area of destroyed poppy cultivation rose dramatically to 42,282 acres in 2025, nearly double the 22,512 acres eradicated in 2024. (Area under) cannabis cultivation destroyed also increased, reaching 38,193 acres, up from 34,018 acres a year earlier," the report said.

According to the report, amphetamine-type stimulants accounted for nearly half of all synthetic drug seizures globally in 2023, with methamphetamine and amphetamine remaining the dominant substances.

The report also said methamphetamine production remained concentrated in hubs including Mexico, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Czechia, and the Netherlands, while trafficking patterns were expanding across Europe, Africa, the Near East, and West Asia.

The report also pointed to uncertainty over the future of the Captagon trade following political changes in Syria, warning that production could shift geographically rather than disappear.

Top court rejects plea for probe into Bharat Tiwari encounter: 'Go to HC'

Express News Service
New Delhi, June 30

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition seeking its intervention in the alleged encounter killing of Bharat Bhushan Tiwari in Bihar earlier this month.

A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Sheel Nagu, before which the plea came up, asked the petitioner, Vishal Tiwari, to approach the Patna High Court.

The PIL sought the constitution of an independent expert committee under the chairmanship of a former Supreme Court judge to inquire into Tiwari's death. The petitioner said the matter is serious as encounter killings have become common not only in one state but in others as well.

When the bench asked why he had not approached the high court, the petitioner, an advocate, pointed out that similar petitions were pending before the Supreme Court and that the top court had issued guidelines regarding the manner of arrest and related matters.

Justice Sundresh, however, said the petitioner could seek enforcement of the guidelines through the high court too.

To a query about his locus standi, the petitioner said he had filed the petition in public interest. Justice Sundresh said, "Then we will not entertain."

While disposing of the plea, the court granted him liberty to approach the high court.

The petitioner urged the bench to send his petition to the high court, but the Supreme Court declined the prayer, stating that Bharat Bhushan Tiwari's family was already pursuing it.

"Go to High Court because they are monitoring better," the bench said.

Bharat Bhushan Tiwari, whose family describes him as a social activist, was shot on the morning of June 17 and died of "profuse bleeding" later that day at Patna Medical College and Hospital. The police claim he was armed and mentally unstable, while his family alleges he had surrendered and was targeted for pressing for the rehabilitation of flood victims.

An FIR under murder and Arms Act charges was filed against the police team, including then Jagdishpur subdivisional police officer Rajesh Kumar Sharma and Shahpur station house officer Rajesh Malakar. Sharma was stripped of his duties, attached to police headquarters, and replaced by Pankaj Mishra. The state government has also ordered a judicial inquiry into the shooting by a retired high court judge.

CORRECTION | PAGE 13, 30.06.2026

● In the news report 'Govt sets up study group to strengthen film industry', the spelling of Prasar Bharati Chairman Prasoon Joshi's name was misspelled due to an editorial oversight. The error is regretted.

[FROM PAGE 1 | FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM]

Ram temple 'theft'

Rai and Mishra, officials said, were the key persons behind the administration of the Ram temple and knew the eight accused.

While the Uttar Pradesh SIT already has collected details from Rai and Mishra, the police team investigating the case has also been making inquiries from them on the functioning of the temple affairs, especially about the donation boxes kept on two floors of the temple and the persons entrusted the task of monitoring the counting of the cash and valuables from the boxes.

The SBI was given the responsibility of ensuring the deposits in the bank branch and keeping the Trust informed. The bank, an official said, had hired a private agency for the counting of the cash and its deposit in the bank.

According to the official, all eight men were known to Champat Rai and Anil Mishra and it is being ascertained how many were recommended by each.

Sources said there was over-reliance by the Trust on a battery of informal workers who had access to all parts of the complex, including the room where counting was done daily. These workers were volunteers who were paid monthly retainership and were assigned various duties, including for the counting of cash donations, sources said.

"The system was based more on trust and less on accountability," a source said. "Since the Trust felt they were offering their services round the clock without any remuneration, it was decided to engage those interested at a fixed monthly compensation of around Rs 20,000."

Following the FIR, sources said the informal staff may now be restricted to non-cash functions — prasad distribution, cooking, queue management, footwear and other facilities – while regular staff will be employed for more accountable functions, including cash counting. A specialised agency could also be engaged for cash handling, if need be, sources said.

More and more QR codes will be displayed in the complex to minimise cash contributions to an extent. Several other internal systems will also be audited and overhauled, sources said.

Anti-dumping probe

rapid expansion drive in the country's transmission network, which is expected to spur demand for CRGO steel.

A query emailed to JSW Group did not elicit a comment.

As on date, much of the domestic demand is met through imports. JSW JFE Electrical Steel faces stiff competition on the pricing front from producers in China, Japan and European Union.

The initiation of the probe comes soon after JSW JFE Electrical Steel became the sole producer of CRGO post the Rs 4,158-crore acquisition of Thyssenkrupp's Nashik plant in January last year. A safeguard duty investigation initiated earlier had excluded CRGO from its scope on grounds India does not produce this specialised steel.

Adverse impact on MSMEs

A Jaipur-based MSME said CRGO is a very important raw material for transformers and it comprises about 40-50% of the cost of transformers. If the cost goes up, it will eventually be passed to consumers, said Ajay Sanghi, Managing Director, Sri Krsna Sudarshan Urja. The company manufactures distribution transformers.

"We will represent our concerns in the ongoing anti-dumping duty investigation to the Directorate General of Trade Remedies," Sanghi told *The Indian Express*.

Another MSME federation head who did not wish to be named said CRGO is a key input item for small MSME transformer manufacturers. "JSW is the only beneficiary of the anti-dumping duty investigation in a sector dominated by MMSE," the federation official said.

"The domestic demand of CRGO is more than 4 lakh tonnes a year; the domestic production stands at 4,000-5,000 tonnes only. Now JSW has put up a plant with JFE Japan, estimating that by FY 2028, they will take the capacity to 3.5 lakh tonnes. They have PLI benefits, and this probe is an attempt to extract higher prices instead of controlling their own costs," the source claimed.

Impact on power tariff

CRGO is used in the core of transformers to enhance their magnetic properties. As per industry estimates, 98 per cent of all CRGO steel produced goes into the transformer business. Any price increase hence raises concerns about power infrastructure costs, which would ultimately reach consumers through tariffs.

Alekhya Datta, Fellow and Director, Electricity and Renewables Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), said CRGO typically accounts for around 15–20% of the bill of materials in standard transformers. "So a 10% rise in CRGO prices can raise transformer costs by roughly 1.5–3%, while a 20% rise can raise transformer costs by about 3–6%," he said.

The concern is larger here because India is in the middle of a major grid expansion plan over the next six years to 6.48 lakh circuit km of transmission network in 2032 from 4.91 lakh circuit km in 2024, and increase in capacity to 2,342 GVA from 1,290 GVA during the period.

He, however, said the tariff impact would be gradual rather than immediate as these capex are recovered over the asset life under the regulated tariff framework. "Therefore, higher CRGO prices would not immediately raise consumer tariffs in one billing cycle, but they can increase approved T&D capex and gradually feed into electricity tariffs over time," he said.

Alok Sahay, Secretary General, Indian Steel Association (ISA), which represents big steel companies, said that CRGO steel requires more investment than green field steel. "In India, for setting 1 million tonnes of green field steel, it requires a $1 billion investment. For CRGO steel, it is 7-10 times higher depending on technology," Sahay told The Indian Express. "Many of these projects also have foreign investors. If the government allows subsidised steel imports to continue unchecked, it could undermine investors' confidence, prompting overseas investors to reconsider or withdraw their investments in India," he said.

Procedural concerns

In its report announcing the initiation of the investigation, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies said JSW JFE Electrical Steel has provided prima facie evidence with respect to the injury suffered by the domestic industry due to the dumped imports. "There is evidence of price suppression and depression due to imports. The subject imports have had an adverse impact on the profitability parameters of the domestic industry," the DGTR said.

In its application, JSW JFE Electrical Steel said it "was not able to obtain information on comparable prices of the subject goods in Japan, Korea RP and Russia" and claimed that "China should be treated as a non-market economy". Experts said seeking anti-dumping on multiple countries simultaneously is unusual.

India's CRGO market is highly import-dependent. While the country's annual CRGO consumption is estimated at 400,000-450,000 tonnes, domestic production is currently estimated at only around 40,000-50,000 tonnes. Nearly 90% of India's requirements are imported, mainly from China, Japan, South Korea and Russia.

Hormuz

of the Supreme Leader and a number of Iranian officials and citizens during the recent war. He also announced that India would send a special delegation to attend the funeral ceremony of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution".

The phone conversation took place days after Pezeshkian invited Modi to the state funeral for Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who was killed in a US-Israeli air strike on Tehran on February 28. Khamenei's funeral proceedings will begin in Tehran on July 4, and he will be laid to rest in his home town of Mashhad on July 9.

Modi may be unable to attend the funeral since he is scheduled to leave on a three-nation visit around the same dates. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is likely to accompany the Prime Minister on the tour. The government, it is learnt, has chosen Bihar Governor Lt General Syed Ata Hasnain (retired) and Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita as leaders of the Indian delegation.

Following the phone conversation, Modi, in a post on X, said, "Spoke with the President of Iran, Dr Masoud Pezeshkian, on the recent developments in West Asia. Welcomed the progress made in the negotiations and expressed hope that continued efforts will lead to lasting peace in the region. Reiterated the importance of freedom of navigation in the Hormuz Strait for India and the World."

Following the Iran-US MoU, multiple India-bound vessels have successfully transited the Strait of Hormuz chokepoint. Over a dozen vessels sailing to India have successfully navigated the strait, including three India-flagged crude tankers and multiple LPG and bulk fertiliser carriers.

But 10-12 India-flagged vessels are still located within the Persian Gulf. Despite the lifting of the ban, shipping companies and seafarers are being instructed to maintain strict ship security procedures – the West Asia conflict severely disrupted India's energy imports and claimed the lives of several Indians in the region including seafarers.

According to a statement by the Prime Minister's Office, the Iranian President briefed the Prime Minister on the recent developments in West Asia and the way forward. Modi welcomed the understanding reached, and reiterated India's consistent position that all issues must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy, the statement said.

The Prime Minister, the PMO said, reiterated the need for continued efforts to ensure lasting peace and stability in the region, and for safeguarding freedom of navigation and commerce.

The Iranian readout said Pezeshkian "expressed appreciation for the constructive positions adopted by the Government of India and for Prime Minister Modi's personal role in supporting peace, stability, and regional cooperation". It quoted Pezeshkian saying "the international community should work to consolidate this process so that aggression and the use of force have no place in international relations".

Pezeshkian also spoke about the convergence of views between Tehran and Delhi on many regional and international issues, particularly within multilateral organisations and forums, it said.

Earlier, Modi had welcomed the understanding between the US and Iran, saying the conflict in West Asia "caused serious economic disruption across the world and led to loss of life in many countries". India, he said, hoped that the implementation of the understanding would help restore peace and stability in the region and ensure freedom of navigation and commerce.

Modi and Pezeshkian last spoke in March in the wake of escalating regional instability but Tehran and Delhi maintained regular channels of communication at various levels throughout the conflict.

Iran's Foreign Minister Syed Abbas Araghchi visited India in May for a meeting of BRICS foreign ministers.

Free Telegram Channel https://t.me/+2RvD_RGf9mljMzg1

Rainfall

It had said rainfall during this period was likely to be only 90 per cent of the long-period average. The prediction had assessed that the second half of the monsoon, the months of August and September, could be impacted by El Nino, but the first two months would be largely unaffected. The rainfall deficit in June could force the IMD to re-examine its assessment for the season.

On Tuesday, the IMD released its forecast only for the month of July. The updated seasonal forecast is released only at the end of July every year.

According to the IMD's latest forecast, while July -- the rainiest month of the monsoon season which accounts for 32 per cent of the seasonal rainfall -- is also predicted to see below-normal rainfall, it could be substantially better than June.

Interestingly, the IMD's forecast has only mentioned the upper limit of expected rainfall -- it has said rainfall in July was expected to be less than 94 per cent. The monthly forecast for July is being made for the first time. Earlier, only the prediction for June was made.

The monsoon made some good progress in the last few days of June. A week ago, the month of June was staring at the prospect of becoming the driest ever. June is normally expected to bring about 165.3 mm of rainfall. The driest June was in 2009, when it received just 87.6 mm rainfall. There were just four years, including 2009, when the month saw below-100 mm rainfall. This year has now become the fifth, ending up with 99.5 mm of rainfall.

The slight improvement in the last few days is expected to continue into July as well, the IMD said. The first week of July is likely to bring fairly widespread rains in most parts of the country, it said.

"Above-normal monthly maximum temperatures are most likely over most parts of the country, except a few isolated areas in west-central India which are likely to experience normal to below-normal maximum temperatures," it said.

As of now, weak El Nino conditions are prevailing in the Pacific Ocean, but these are likely to strengthen in July. This is expected to impact rainfall, as well as lead to higher temperatures.

Football

later held their nerve to win 3-2 on penalties. The last kick of the game, a cool calculated strike to the right of the goalkeeper, was by a Moroccan who learned the tricks of the trade in the country he had just eliminated. Ismael Saibari plays for PSV Eindhoven in the Netherlands.

In a matter of hours, two European giants, usually among the last to leave the World Cup, were on their flight home. The global football map was reshaping, and so was continental hierarchy.

There was barely an element of surprise in Morocco's triumph as they are ranked above the Netherlands. Germany's exit was a bigger shock. Though a shadow of their past selves, the four-time World Champions faced a team that had not featured in this competition since 2010, and there was a 22-place gap between the teams in the FIFA rankings.

Paraguay coach Gustafo Alfaro did not shy away from highlighting the contrast. "They graduate from top-tier academies. We come from the red land, playing barefoot on soil," he said after the upset of this World Cup.

This was why the hero of the day for Paraguay, goalkeeper Gill, was mobbed by teammates as he stood by the corner flag with his arms spread. All through the game, he had defied the Germans, looked every bit the man who held up a roof.

Two years ago, his wife had put out an emotional post that not many read: "When Lauti (their son) was born, we had nothing. Orlando sold his old club's clothes." The tweet sat unnoticed until his saves against Turkey in the group game a few days back. This was when the post got a second life.

When it mattered the most, Gill rose. Not once, but twice. Two stunning saves to deny Kai Havertz and Nick Woltemade. The second save, in particular, was the kind that goalkeepers spend careers chasing and rarely get more than once. Two saves from four German kicks, and the door was open.

Paraguay could not have been closer to the finish line when the timeless Manuel Neuer nearly made the story about himself. The 40-year-old legend, a World Cup winner in 2014, had come up with a vintage save on the fifth Paraguayan attempt to take the game to sudden death as the scores were tied after five penalties each.

Jonathan Tah, who had already had a perfectly good header chalked off by VAR in extra time, stepped up last and could have made himself the night's hero twice over, but he put the ball into the stand behind the goal. Jose Canale did not miss. Paraguay had beaten Germany at a World Cup, and the win belonged to Gill before it belonged to anyone else.

Before the shootout, Paraguay sat deep, soaked up wave after wave of sterile German pressure, and waited for the one moment the game was going to offer. It came on the counter in the 42nd minute. Neuer punched a corner kick, one he should have caught. Miguel Almiron, alive to the loose ball, passed inside to Matias Galarza, and then the ball reached Julio Enciso, a forward built for long-range strikes. Enciso arrived at the near post to bury the cross with a header. Paraguay needed one moment of carelessness, and Neuer gave it to them.

In the 54th minute, Havertz answered. The forward is not, by his own admission, a natural header of the ball, and yet his last five World Cup games keep finding a way to disagree with him. Florian Wirtz's cross was exact. Havertz let it arrive and turned it past Gill, who could do nothing about it. The game was tied 1-1.

There was drama in extra time. In the 119th minute, Tah rose to head in a corner from Nathaniel Brown, only for the goal to be ruled out, Waldemar Anton judged to have fouled Gill in the build-up. The monitor sat wedged into a technical area so narrow the referee had to ask both benches to physically move so he could reach it.

It was that kind of night, somewhere short of a classic. Two headers, the only goals from open play across two hours of football, and a shootout needed to find a winner. The goalkeeper who once sold his clothes to keep his family standing finally got his day in the sun.

Germany are out, the tournament's first big casualty, but they had lost their aura long ago. The exit was merely a reflection of the rot in their once clockwork system. Paraguay are through to the last 16 on the back of a goalkeeper nobody outside Asuncion could have named a month ago.

Trump

Trump's executive order directing US agencies not to recognize the citizenship of children born in the US if neither parent is an American citizen or legal permanent resident, also called a "green card" holder.

Conservative Chief Justice John Roberts, who authored the decision, said Trump's directive violates language in the US Constitution's 14th Amendment that guarantees citizenship to virtually anyone born in the US, with a few narrow exceptions. "Citizenship, then and now, was the right to have rights — to freely participate in our political community," he wrote, adding that the authors of the 14th Amendment extended that promise to every free-born person in the land. "We keep that promise today," he wrote.

Trump, who has repeatedly tested the limits of presidential power in domestic and foreign policy, issued the order last year on his first day back in office as part of a suite of policies to crack down on legal and illegal immigration. Critics have accused the Republican President of racial and religious discrimination in his approach to immigration.

Following Tuesday's ruling, Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform that it was "too bad for our country, but we can easily make it up in Congress through legislation, with the support of the President, that has now been determined during this process."

"No long and unwieldy Constitutional amendment is necessary! Congress should start today to work on ending expensive and unfair to our country, birthright citizenship. They will have my complete and total support!" Trump wrote.

The challengers said the Supreme Court already had settled the question of birthright citizenship in an 1898 case called *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, which recognized that the 14th Amendment grants citizenship by birth on US soil, including to the children of foreign nationals.

Roberts pointed to that 1898 ruling. "Not surprisingly, then, in the 128 years since, we have repeatedly understood the rule of Wong Kim Ark to guarantee citizenship to all children born in the United States and subject to its power," Roberts wrote. "We see no reason to depart from that view today."

Roberts said there was "scant evidence" to support the Trump administration's "dramatically revisionist view" of how to interpret the citizenship language of the 14th Amendment to limit birthright citizenship.

Conservative Justice Brett Kavanaugh agreed with the ruling to reject Trump's directive, but disagreed with the rationale. He said in a concurring opinion that the order contravenes a separate federal law codifying birthright citizenship rights but not the 14th Amendment itself.

During the arguments, US Solicitor General D John Sauer, representing the administration, said the promise of citizenship for virtually any baby born on US soil has spawned what he called a sprawling industry of "birth tourism."

REUTERS

Tamhane

creating this experience. In mentalism, I am not manipulating objects, such as cards or ropes, as done in magic but connecting in real time with people. Like every artform, it depends on the intent of the performer. There is nothing psychic or supernatural about it."

Tamhane has been conducting mentalism sessions for people from different walks of life in private homes for the last four years. His public mentalism shows have been only abroad, such as in Italy and France, as part of artist line-ups. "Nobody knew me there, which was liberating," says Tamhane.

Mentalism allows him to erase the traditional boundary with the audience, he says. "People enter as strangers and often leave feeling connected. Unlike conventional theatre, where there's a clear divide between performer and audience, here people become participants."

There is another thing that excites him about it. "Magic and cinema", Tamhane says, are both devoted to the specific emotion of "wonder". "Both are forms of illusion. In cinema, we're asking audiences to believe something they know isn't literally true. We build a suspension of disbelief in the service of a deeper truth. Magic does the same thing."

And more. "Cinema has a screen between the artist and the audience. In magic and mentalism, there's no medium. It happens live, in a shared space," he adds.

Tamhane first started holding private shows after the Covid pandemic. "I was quite drained after *The Disciple*. I had spent too much time isolated. This became a way of reconnecting with people... I would travel to magic conventions, gatherings where magicians exchange ideas, perform for one another, and discuss the craft deep into the night. I attended the Blackpool Magic Convention in the UK, as well as smaller, more intimate gatherings such as Troba'm in Spain."

Tamhane also credits magic with being "an art form that has protected my sanity, kept me curious, and connected me to an incredible global community".

Tamhane got associated with Cuarón as part of the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative during the filming of the latter's Oscar-winning *Roma* (2018). In 2020, Cuarón was an executive producer on Tamhane's second film, *The Disciple* which, like *Court*, received critical appreciation. Both premiered at the Venice International Film Festival.

Tamhane will hold his mentalism shows, each 70 minutes long, accommodating 15 attendees each, from July 3 to July 31. The tickets, priced at Rs 499 each, are already sold out.

The filmmaker says he hopes his shows help him read "the dreams, fears and absurdities of the time we live in". "We're living through a period of immense uncertainty. We don't know who will end the world first — the billionaires or the fascists," Tamhane says. Earlier, he has done mentalist shows for artists and people from the social sector, among others, usually in similar-sized groups of 12-15 each.

"I want my shows to be more than a display of skill. I want them to reflect on what it means to be human in the age of AI (Artificial Intelligence), existential dread, and increasingly fragile human connections," he says.

"I believe that the future is in the present and live events. There is a fatigue with the screen and consuming content."

ASSOCHAM®

Ideate · Innovate · Impact

INDIA & JAPAN: FOSTERING PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL PROGRESS

Sanae Takaichi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of Japan

Narendra Modi
Honb'le Prime Minister of India

Under dynamic leadership of PM Modi, **India–Japan** cooperation drives innovation, growth and trust reflecting transformative global partnerships together.

"Stronger industry collaboration will further elevate the India-Japan partnership by fostering deeper economic engagement, driving innovation, enabling resilient and sustainable growth, and advancing a shared vision for a prosperous and future-ready global landscape."

—Nirmal Kumar Minda
President ASSOCHAM and Chairman, Uno Minda Group

ASSOCHAM leadership stands committed to India-Japan partnership

Amitabh Chaudhry
Senior Vice President ASSOCHAM and Managing Director & CEO, Axis Bank

Sanjay Nayar
Immediate Past President ASSOCHAM and Founder & Chairman, Sorin Investment Fund

Sajjan Jindal
Past President, ASSOCHAM and Chairman, JSW Group

Vineet Agarwal
Past President, ASSOCHAM and Managing Director, Transport Corporation of India Limited

Sumant Sinha
Past President, ASSOCHAM and Founder, Chairman & CEO, ReNew

Saurabh Sanyal
Secretary General ASSOCHAM

Supporting Partners

UNO MINDA DRIVING THE NEW · AXIS BANK · JSW · ReNew · sorin · TCI LEADERS IN LOGISTICS · SRI CITY An Integrated Business City · SUMITOMO CHEMICAL INDIA LTD. · mikro driven by innovation. · steam house · smc moneywise. be wise.

www.assocham.org

EV POLICY 2.0 COMES INTO EFFECT TODAY

EV owners have to apply for subsidies personally in 30 days — govt readying portal

Gayathri Mani
New Delhi, June 30

TO AVAIL government incentives under the new EV Policy 2.0, vehicle owners must themselves submit their applications through a dedicated online portal — expected to be ready within a week — within 30 days of generation of the Registration Certificate (RC) after they buy electric vehicles. Unlike the previous policy, under which dealers assisted buyers in submitting applications seeking incentives at the time of buying vehicles, the new policy makes owners responsible for applying for subsidies personally.

The portal, which is being developed by the Transport department, is intended to ensure the smooth and hassle-free disbursal of subsidies. Dealers will be required to inform customers at the time of booking vehicles whether the EV model they are purchasing is eligible for government incentives.

The new policy, approved by the Delhi Cabinet on Monday, will come into effect from July 1 and remain in force until March 31, 2030. "Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu has approved the policy. The Transport department will be notified of the policy through a gazette notification with effect from Wednesday," said a senior official.

Once notified, the department will issue directions to vehicle dealers to explain the provisions related to incentives to customers and also inform them about the eligible EV models, the official added.

"The department is developing the EV portal, which is expected to be ready within a week. It will serve as the nodal platform for implementing the policy, processing subsidy applications and monitoring the implementation," the official said.

Buyers will be able to register on the portal and submit incentive claims online. The subsidies will be transferred directly to beneficiaries' Aadhaar-linked bank accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system, while claims will be processed through the Centre's Public Financial Management System — the digital platform used for payments issued by the government.

Under the previous EV policy introduced by the AAP government, dealers assisted buyers in filing subsidy applications and the incentive amount was credited via DBT to the beneficiary's bank account after processing.

Besides the portal, officials said the government is also developing an EV dashboard that will provide real-time information on charging infrastructure, including the location of charging stations, the number of charging points available, charging capacity, waiting time and battery-swapping facilities.

"Users will be able to check the availability of charging stations before travelling to a location, reducing waiting time," the official said.

Delhi currently has 5,883 EV charging stations, 8,912 charging points and 893 battery-swapping stations. The government plans to install around 7,000 additional charging stations by the end of this year. According to official estimates, Delhi overall requires around 36,150 charging stations.

Describing the new policy as a major step towards making Delhi pollution-free, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has said the policy had been prepared after extensive consultations with stakeholders.

"The policy goes beyond offering incentives and lays out a clear roadmap up to March 2030 for structural reforms in the transport sector, expansion of charging infrastructure, a stronger institutional framework and the phased electrification of different vehicle categories," she said on Tuesday.

• THE POLICY: 2020 vs 2026

Vision
2020: Aimed towards 25% EV share in new vehicle registrations by 2023
2026: Aims to make Delhi's transport system cleaner through registration of more EVs, better charging facilities, and institutional reforms

Duration
2020: 3-year policy framework
2026: Roadmap until March 2030

Approach
2020: Encouraged people to buy EVs mainly through incentives
2026: Uses both incentives and mandatory electrification timelines for complete transition in priority vehicle segments

Goods Vehicles
2020: Purchase incentive up to Rs 30,000 for the first 10,000 electric goods vehicles and exemption from no-entry timings on some roads
2026: Incentives up to Rs 1 lakh, scrapping benefits of Rs 50,000 for for N1 electric trucks; EV-only registration for N1 vehicles and no-entry exemption for the first 1,000 N2 electric trucks

3-wheelers
2020: Purchase incentive up to Rs 30,000 for e-autos
2026: Incentives up to Rs 50,000 and scrapping incentive of Rs 25,000; only e-autos can be registered from January 1, 2027

2-wheelers
2020: Purchase incentive up to Rs 30,000
2026: Purchase incentives up to Rs 30,000 and scrapping incentives of Rs 10,000; only electric two-wheelers can be newly registered from April 1, 2028

School Transport
2020: No deadline was set
2026: Phased electrification targets for school bus fleets up to 30% by 2030

Charging Infrastructure
2020: Focused on increasing charging stations
2026: Single-window system to manage charging infrastructure -- digital monitoring, grid planning and faster approvals

Battery Ecosystem
2020: Promoted battery recycling
2026: Introduces battery traceability, collection centres, recycling through public-private partnerships, and SOP-based battery management rules

Funding
2020: Through pollution cess, road tax and other levies
2026: Funding sources expanded by integrating PM E-DRIVE support, central schemes, budgetary allocations and ECC Fund

SOURCE: DELHI TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

BLOs at work on the first day of the SIR process, in New Delhi on Tuesday. PRAVEEN KHANNA

SIR OF ELECTORAL ROLLS BEGINS IN CAPITAL

Locked houses, mistaken for salespersons: BLOs distribute 1.68 lakh enumeration forms on Day 1

Devansh Mittal
New Delhi, June 30

FROM BEING mistaken for salespersons and facing angry residents to finding locked homes and families that had shifted, booth level officers (BLOs) hit the ground on the first day of Delhi's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls on Tuesday, going door-to-door to distribute enumeration forms.

"When I went to one house, the residents shouted at me saying they didn't want to fill any form. So, I shouted back," said Neha Rawat, a school teacher deployed as a BLO in West Delhi's Moti Nagar. "Then they told me that they thought I was a salesperson. But will you shout at someone who has been walking in the sun all day?" she told *The Indian Express*.

As per the Election Commission, 1.68 lakh enumeration forms were distributed and 7,605 forms were digitised on the first day of the exercise. More than 13,000 BLOs have been deployed across Delhi, with house-to-house visits scheduled to continue until July 29.

Rawat had carried 126 forms for distribution but could hand over only 92. "Some houses were locked, some were under repair, some residents had gone abroad on vacation, and in a few cases, the women in our records had got married and shifted from the premises," she said.

"I was in the field since morning until around 8 pm and have distributed about 100 forms," said 45-year-old Naresh, a primary school teacher on BLO duty in Dharampura Extension in Najafgarh.

While several BLOs spent the day visiting households, others used the first day to prepare for the nearly three-month-long exercise. Each BLO has been provided a register in which they will get signatures of every elector to whom they distribute the forms.

"I spent the entire day writing down names and making columns for all the electors to whom I will distribute forms tomorrow," said Ritu Maheshwari, a BLO in Old Delhi's Sitaram Bazar.

"I arranged my forms in the order in which I plan to visit households," said Kuljeet Kaur, a BLO in Moti Nagar.

As part of the SIR process, voters are required to fill the enumeration forms and return them to the BLOs. If a house is found locked during verification, BLOs will leave the forms at the premises and make at least three attempts to collect the filled form.

In Delhi, the draft electoral roll will be published on August 5, following which claims and objections will be invited until September 4. The final electoral roll is slated to be published on October 7.

Pure EVs over hybrids: Divergence of views in Govt led to change in draft plan

Gayathri Mani
New Delhi, June 30

THE TAX break that was planned for strong hybrid vehicles did not ultimately make it to Delhi's Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2026 because the government couldn't reach a consensus on the choice between prioritising hybrids and pure EVs, sources said.

The draft policy published by the government in April had proposed a 50% waiver on road tax and registration fees for new strong hybrids priced up to Rs 30 lakh ex-showroom.

The price that buyers pay for a vehicle (on-road price) is generally 10-20% higher than the ex-showroom price – the result of road tax, insurance, and some additional charges for registration and FASTag.

The proposed incentive for strong hybrids remained a major sticking point, with a clear divergence of opinion over exempting strong hybrids from road tax, until the EV policy was finally cleared by the Delhi Cabinet on Monday.

Sources said opinion was divided in the Delhi council of ministers. "After consulting several stakeholders and experts, the Transport Department wanted to keep the incentive to ensure that people at least switch to these vehicles which run on both battery and petrol," a senior source said.

"However, some sections in the government itself were against this, and were in favour of promoting only pure EVs instead."

This is the view that finally won the debate. While announcing the policy on Monday, the government said: "We decided to drop the incentive on strong hybrids as the [EV] policy is only about promoting pure EVs."

Hybrid cars – vehicles that are powered by both an internal combustion engine (usually petrol) and one or more electric motors – can be both 'strong' and 'mild' hybrids.

A strong or full hybrid vehicle combines a traditional internal combustion engine with a powerful electric motor and a larger battery. A mild hybrid has a smaller electric motor and battery and cannot run on electricity alone.

Officials said the financial incentives for strong hybrids were proposed after the government researched policies in other states, and considered the views of stakeholders. Several top institutes and consultants working to promote electric mobility, such as the IITs and the International Road Federation (IRF), had backed the government's plan to incentivise strong hybrids.

Auto industry data show that before strong hybrids were exempt from road tax in Uttar Pradesh in July 2024, an average of 538 such vehicles were registered in the state every month; this number increased by 175% on average after the incentives were introduced. Also, the state's monthly revenues under this head increased by 60% from an average Rs 29 crore per month to Rs 47 crore per month.

"In just one year, UP collected revenue of Rs 500 crore by incentivising strong hybrid vehicles," the official said.

The strongest argument for a pure EV push is tailpipe emissions at the point of use. Delhi's pollution crisis is acute and immediate — and an EV produces zero tailpipe emissions, while a strong hybrid still burns petrol a meaningful share of the time, reverting to the engine at higher speeds, under hard acceleration, or once the battery is depleted.

Delhi's inadequate EV-charging infrastructure — the city has fewer than 6,000 charging stations against a requirement of at least 30,000 — is often cited as the reason to have a strong hybrid 'bridge' in the transition.

Advance planning, infra upgrades helped Capital meet peak power demand

Express News Service
New Delhi, June 30

A DAY after Delhi met its highest-ever electricity demand of 8,748 MW, officials said on Tuesday that securing additional power supply through advance procurement and strengthening of key transmission infrastructure, including the replacement of ageing hardware, played a key role in the city meeting the record demand without breakdowns.

Officials said the peak power demand — logged at 3.17 pm on Monday — was met without encountering any major grid failure or supply disruption despite an ongoing heatwave.

They added that months of advance planning, including power-banking arrangements with other states, bilateral purchase agreements and green energy tie-ups, ensured adequate electricity was available during peak hours. Simultaneously, upgrades to transmission lines and the replacement of obsolete equipment improved the resilience of the Capital's power network.

Power Minister Ashish Sood said Delhi was prepared to meet any further rise in demand. "Yesterday, Delhi faced its toughest test yet. The power demand shattered all historic records, hitting a massive 8,748 MW at 3.17 pm. While the extreme heatwave pushed our infrastructure to its absolute limit, the grid held rock-solid. The lights stayed on, and homes stayed cool because we planned for this months in advance," he said.

Officials said the latest peak surpassed the previous record of 8,656 MW, recorded on June 19, 2024, demonstrating the strengthened transmission and distribution network ahead of this summer. They added that the government had secured additional power well before the onset of peak demand, while upgrades across the distribution system were aimed at reducing the risk of transformer failures and local outages.

HC cancels bail to Delhi school staffer in rape case: 'Child identified culprit'

Nirbhay Thakur
New Delhi, June 30

NOTING THAT a trial court had overlooked crucial facts while granting bail to a man, accused of sexually assaulting a minor girl in a West Delhi school, within a week of his arrest, the Delhi High Court Monday cancelled the bail.

"The impugned order (lower court order) has missed the crux of the issue... as to why a minor child... would make such a complaint and would not only identify the respondent as the offender but also point out the place of occurrence...," Justice Vinod Kumar said in his June 29 order. The HC said it was "too early" to release the accused while ignoring the victim's version, since the case was still under investigation.

"... The Additional Sessions Judge did not take into account a very important fact that in junior school, where the present incident took place, there were 10 staff members out of which only two officials were male i.e. one guard... and the respondent. Therefore, the child victim could not have made any mistake in identifying the culprit," the court said, ordering the accused to surrender on July 1.

"Learned Additional Sessions Judge missed a very important fact that the victim is barely three years old and such a small child cannot be equated with an adult victim, who can narrate the facts in proper sequence with accuracy of time..."

"A child of such a tender age may appear to be incoherent and sometimes even illogical, but that does not mean that what a child is saying is incorrect... the victim narrated the incident to her mother without naming the respondent. Thereafter, she not only identified the respondent but also identified the place where the incident took place," it added.

The alleged incident took place on April 30. On May 7, a sessions court had granted bail to the accused.

• A LOOK AT THE EVOLUTION OF ONE OF THE CAPITAL'S OLDEST AND MOST BELOVED CONFECTIONERIES

Before Connaught Place wakes up, Wenger's is already full: Iconic bakery turns 100

Anusree K C
New Delhi, June 30

IT'S 11 am on a Sunday. At the Connaught Place (CP) circle, the crowd is thin. The colonnaded white Georgian-style buildings have not come alive yet.

But Wenger's, tucked into a corner of Block A, is already bustling. The tray with the Shami Kababs is already empty — and it's been only 15 minutes since the store opened.

In its 100th year, the confectionery and bakery is busy as ever, drawing customers across generations.

Seated on a stool at the counter is the 82-year-old former manager, Charanjeet Singh, who retired in 2004 but still helps with the daily running of the place. "I came here as an air-conditioning engineer in 1965... I was 21 years old. But O P Tandon (the previous owner) sir decided to hire me as manager," he says.

The story of Wenger's did not begin at its current location.

Swiss couple Jeanne Seterchi Wenger and H C Wenger started a catering venture at Kashmere Gate and named it Wenger's. It moved to its present spot at CP in 1933. The space included a café called Rendezvous, a ballroom called La Mer, and a party shop called the Green Shop, spread across two storeys.

In 1945, the couple sold the bakery to Brij Mohan Tandon, who had been working as the general manager.

Wenger's bakery at CP; Charanjeet Singh. ABHINAV SAHA

"When I first arrived, there were four types of cake — Vanilla, Strawberry, Pineapple, and Chocolate," Charanjeet says. Now, there are dozens.

The savoury menu has expanded too. "We now have patties — once only mutton and vegetable, now expanded to include chicken, paneer and mushroom," he adds.

As tastes evolved, newer dishes like the Burger Pizza were added to the menu.

Yet, a handful of recipes have survived untouched. "The plain cake, also called the Madeira Cake, the plum cake, the shortbread biscuits, and lemon tart. These are some of the oldest recipes," Charanjeet says.

According to him, the current generation of owners — Aman and Atul Tandon, B M Tandon's grandsons — introduce new items carefully. Nothing goes on sale until the recipe is perfected.

The bestsellers have not changed much. Chicken Patty sells out fast. Among pastries, Black Forest and Pineapple remain favourites. The absolute king, Charanjeet says, is the Cream Roll.

Among cakes, the Fresh Fruit Cake has stood the test of time.

Over the years, Wenger's has drawn an unlikely mix of the famous and the ordinary.

"Madan Lal Khurana ji — former Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs of India — used to come. Even former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee *sahab* used to frequent the store, but that was before he became the PM. When Sajjan Kumar ji used to come, his four bodyguards would stand outside," says Charanjeet.

Kamleshwar Prasad, the current manager of Wenger's, says, "Even Shah Rukh Khan used to come here. It was during the time when his serial *Fauji* was on air."

For writer and literary historian Rakhshanda Jalil, the bakery is tied to a childhood memory: early evenings in her father's white Ambassador, walking the corridored hallways of CP with her siblings, and inevitably ending up at Wenger's.

Some customers also stop by on the way to the airport, before leaving the city. They take something with them: a cream roll in a paper bag, a fresh fruit cake in a box.

For younger visitors, the associations are different but the pull is just as real.

Nandini Chaubey (22), a Philosophy student, first visited Wenger's after an ankle surgery. Her family tried the blueberry cheesecake, burgers, onion rings, and chocolate croissants. They were hooked.

"Whenever I have relatives over or friends over, I go to Wenger's," she says.

"It feels like home."

ADVERTORIAL

LEGENDS IN

Healthcare

A Vascular Surgery Pioneer on Saving Lives One Artery at a Time

When the Body's Highways Break Down.

Dr. (SurgCmde) Bedi, Head of the Department, Institute of Vascular and Endovascular Sciences at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi, has spent over four decades navigating the body's most intricate road network - its arteries and veins. From learning a specialty he had never heard of while he was posted as a surgeon in the Andamans to building one of Southeast Asia's largest vascular surgery departments in New Delhi, his journey is as improbable as it is inspiring.

In a wide-ranging conversation, he talks about the silent epidemic of vascular disease sweeping India, the technology transforming survival odds, and why every diabetic in the country needs to look at their feet every single morning.

IVES
Institute of Vascular & Endovascular Sciences

You've described your entry into vascular surgery as more accident than ambition. How did that happen?

I became a Vascular Surgeon more by default than by design, I must say. I was in the armed forces, posted as a surgeon in Port Blair at the time, and I had to apply for a study leave - essentially for training in a super specialty. My first choice was Oncosurgery. I had trained in Bombay under a very renowned Oncosurgeon, and that was always the plan. I had to fill in a second choice, and I looked through the list and saw this subject called Vascular surgery. I had genuinely never heard of it. So I put it down, half assuming nobody would ever look at that second choice. As luck would have it, another senior colleague - for whom it was the last opportunity to become a super specialist -- was given the Oncosurgery slot.

When I was selected for vascular surgery, I was posted as a Surgeon in Naval Hospital, Port Blair with extremely limited resources, trying to make satellite calls just to find out what this specialty was even about. I went to Chennai first, but ran into the domicile system there.

Eventually I landed in Bombay Hospital, where a senior from the Armed forces was practicing as a Cardiothoracic vascular surgeon. That's where my journey started, in 1993. I was handed to perform more cardiac work initially. It was only when I finished my study leave and got posted to Army Hospital that I truly stepped into vascular surgery - performing procedures I had only read about in textbooks. I think it was sheer providence that I got selected for this branch.

What would you consider the most groundbreaking contribution of your career?

When I started, I had to improvise almost entirely. There were no seniors to watch, no centres nearby doing these procedures. I was reading a textbook and then walking into the operating theatre to do what I had read the night before. My first aortic aneurysm repair, my first carotid artery surgery for stroke prevention - these were not just difficult technically, they were performed in a vacuum, with no precedent around me and no one to guide me.

The real turning point came when I visited Germany in 1998. That trip opened my eyes to what endovascular surgery could be - the idea that instead of opening a patient up completely, you could work through small punctures and go inside the vessels themselves. When I came back and was posted at Army Hospital, I put up a proposal to set up a dedicated Vascular catheterisation lab exclusively for vascular surgery. At that point, no other centre in the country had one for this purpose. My commandant, a renowned cardiologist, heard me out and asked one pointed question: which other centre in the country has this? My heart sank. I said, none. And then he turned to the department and said, this boy is doing good work - give it to him.

That was the moment everything changed. We became one of the first centres in India to perform endovascular aneurysm repairs and peripheral angioplasties. We evolved from being surgeons to being endovascular surgeons. We suddenly had a surfeit of choices in managing patients far more effectively than ever before.

Every thirty seconds, somewhere in India, a leg is being amputated - primarily because of late presentation and lack of awareness.

India has made enormous strides in cardiac care, yet Vascular surgery remained in its shadow. Where does the country stand today?

The numbers have grown exponentially in the last decade. When I started, there were barely one or two centres doing vascular surgery in India. Today, there are approximately 700 vascular surgeons across the country. But the challenge isn't infrastructure alone - it's awareness. Indians, by nature, are accommodating. If someone has a heart problem, they seek help immediately because it feels like a matter of life and death. But with vascular conditions - say, a blockage in the leg - the patient will quietly reduce how much they walk. If they can't manage five kilometres, they'll manage four. Then three. Then five hundred metres.

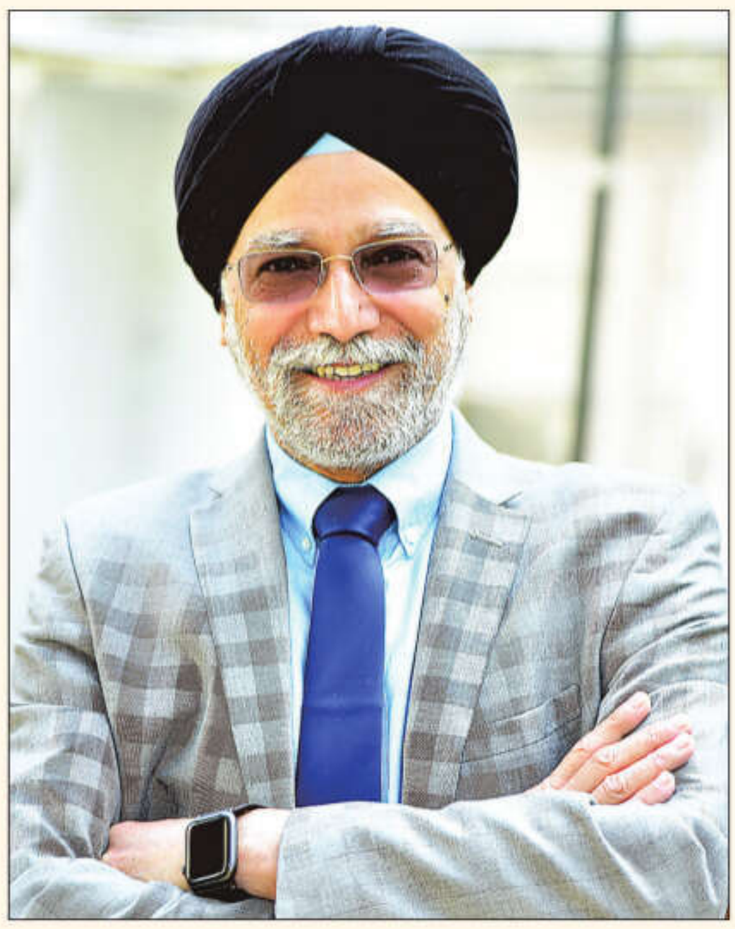
They will keep adjusting until they simply cannot anymore, often until gangrene has already set in. The statistics are stark. Every thirty seconds, somewhere in India, a leg is being amputated - primarily because of late presentation and lack of awareness. I have served as Secretary and President of the Vascular Society of India, and also as President ofthe World Federation of Vascular Societies. We have approached NGO's, and sought institutional support that but they said that peripheral arterial disease/gangrene was not on their priority list although Cancer related Anti-smoking campaign was. It is deeply frustrating, because this is a preventable crisis, causing loss of man hours along with loss of limbs.

My commandant asked which other centre in the country had this cath lab. I said: none. He looked around and said, 'This boy is doing good work. Give it to him.' That was my defining moment.

What are the warning signs that most Indians miss - and what is the real cost of that silence? Let me break it down by condition, because vascular disease isn't one thing. India is the diabetes capital of the world - we have somewhere between 70 and 80 million diabetics. Of those, approximately 15 percent have what we call a foot at risk. In rural India, where diabetes is as prevalent as in urban areas, many people still walk barefoot. The compounding problem is neuropathy - nerve damage caused by diabetes that removes sensation from the feet.

A stone, a thorn, a cut from a shaving blade while trimming nails - the patient feels nothing. The wound festers. By the time they notice something, there is infection, there is pus, and very often, the damage is severe. My advice is simple: every diabetic must inspect their feet every morning. It is said in South India that, do your Padukam Puja - worship your feet, because they are the ones keeping you going. Check for cracks, wounds, moisture. No bathroom surgery with blades. A former Prime Minister, a diabetic, would walk and his slippers would came off without him even noticing - that is what neuropathy does to a person. The second condition is carotid artery disease - blockages in the neck arteries supplying the brain.

The warning signs are sudden blackouts, brief episodes where a person loses vision or feels weak on one side and then recovers in a few seconds. People attribute it to fatigue or stress and carry on. But these are TIA's - transient ischaemic attacks - which are, in plain terms, reversible stroke. If ignored, the next episode can be a full stroke leading to permanent paralysis.



Dr. (SurgCmde) Varinder S Bedi *is Head of the Department, Institute of Vascular and Endovascular Sciences at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi. He is Past President of the Vascular Society of India and Past President of the World Federation of Vascular Surgeons.*

And then there's the aortic aneurysm - a bulging of the body's main artery. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had one. So did Albert Einstein. In many cases there are no symptoms at all until rupture, which is almost invariably fatal. If picked up during a routine ultrasound, it can be treated with minimally invasive procedures. I operated on a patient just yesterday - he had come in with hoarseness of voice for months. Physicians had been investigating possible cancer. A CT scan revealed a large saccular aneurysm in the chest. Through two small groin punctures, we placed a stent and restored circulation. Today he is back in the ward. Tomorrow he goes home.

Endovascular techniques, robotic surgery, hybrid procedures - how dramatically has the technology changed outcomes?

Dramatically is not a strong enough word. When we first started operating on aortic aneurysms, the surgical mortality was between 25 and 40 percent. One in three patients could die from the procedure itself. Without surgery, it was 100 percent mortality - the aneurysm would eventually rupture. Today, with endovascular repair, we have brought that mortality down to under one to two percent. That is the magnitude of what technology has done for this field. Robotic surgery was significant for a period, and we were among the early centres in India to use it.

But in many ways, endovascular surgery has superseded it for the conditions we treat most frequently. You are operating through the blood vessel itself - no major incisions, no prolonged recovery. The one challenge that remains is cost. An endovascular stent for an aortic aneurysm costs roughly four to five lakh rupees.

We call the calf muscles our second hearts. They are the ones that pump blood back to the lungs. When they stop working, blood pools - and clots form.

For a large proportion of patients who need this intervention, that is simply not accessible. We see patients at the OPD who need the procedure, are suitable for it, but cannot afford the device. That is where I think India needs to focus - on making these technologies available at an affordable price point. We have the ideas, we have the clinical expertise. What we need now is the connection with innovators and manufacturers who can develop these devices at Indian costs. With artificial intelligence entering medicine, I am genuinely optimistic that this bridge will be built.

Is there a case that has stayed with you over the years?

Several. But the one I think of often is my very first aortic aneurysm surgery. I was at Army-Hospital. A senior officer's father had been diagnosed with the condition. He came to me and said, I want you to operate. And I will be honest - I had sleepless nights before that surgery. Not because I didn't know what to do, but because of the pressure. This was a colleague's father. The weight of that trust is different from a stranger walking in off the street. The surgery went well.

We used to lose 25 to 40 percent of patients after aortic aneurysm surgery. Today, with endovascular repair, mortality is under one to two percent.

Everything was fine. And in that moment, I understood what this specialty was asking of me, and what it could give back. More recently, just before I retired from the armed forces, I had reviewed a senior Air Marshal - a senior officer who was involved in Kargil operations - who had an aortic aneurysm. At the time, it wasn't large enough to operate. But six months later, after I had already moved into civilian practice, he called me and said: Doc, nobody else will touch me. You have to do this. We operated using the endovascular approach and everything went well. And now, thirteen or fourteen years later, every year without fail, I receive a quiet message from him which says: Doc, I've had my evaluation done. I'm doing very well. That is what this work means.

Beyond the arteries - you also treat varicose veins and deep vein thrombosis. These seem more everyday, but the risks are serious.

Extremely serious, and enormously underestimated. Varicose veins are, in many ways, an occupational epidemic in India. Teachers, surgeons, nurses, retail workers - anyone who stands for prolonged periods is at risk. The legs become heavy, they swell, the veins become visibly enlarged and painful. We treat a large volume of these cases, all with minimally invasive techniques.

The actor TaapseePannu had varicose veins treated a few years ago and publicly spoke about her experience - that kind of visibility genuinely helps people understand that this is a real and treatable condition. Deep vein thrombosis, or DVT, is the more dangerous counterpart. You may have heard the term economy class syndrome - a well-known politician once famously wrote about traveling cattle class, and this is the medical reality behind that idea.

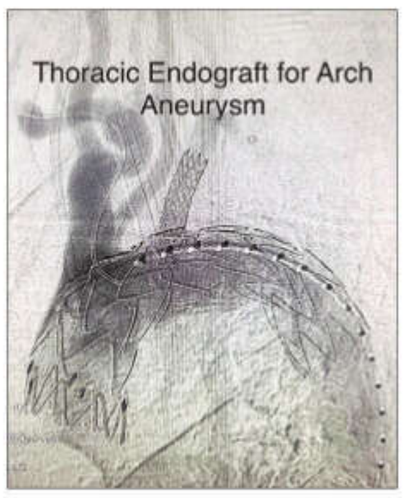
On a long-haul flight of fourteen to sixteen hours, you are seated in a cramped position, often dehydrated because you are avoiding the washroom, and perhaps drinking alcohol, which thickens the blood further. The calf muscles - which I think of as our second hearts, because they are what pump blood back up toward the lungs - are completely inactive. Blood pools. Clots form. The danger is what happens next. The clot can travel from the leg veins to the lungs, causing a pulmonary embolism. It blocks oxygenation completely. It can be instantly fatal, and it is often misdiagnosed as a heart attack. A prominent public figure's sudden death was reported to be from pulmonary embolism - this is not a rare event. A study done at PGI Chandigarh some years ago found that over 10 percent of patients who died in hospital had pulmonary embolism at autopsy.

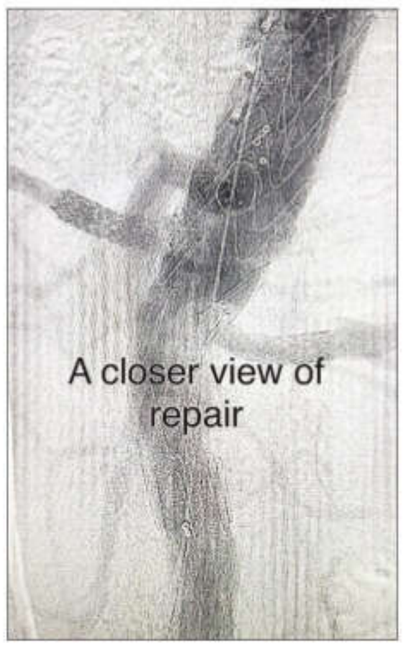
Prevention is not complicated: move your toes and feet regularly when seated for long periods, stay hydrated, and if you have had a recent surgery or are immobile, wear compression stockings and speak to your doctor. The impure blood, as I like to put it, should not be allowed to sit in your legs.

You have been at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital for fourteen years now. What has that institution meant to your work?

It has been transformative. When I joined, we had limited infrastructure and limited volumes. Today, our department is one of the largest vascular surgery centres in Southeast Asia. We have eight consultants, and we operate two hybrid catheterisation labs - the best of their kind in the country. One of those labs alone cost around twenty crore rupees. No other institution in India has two hybrid cath labs dedicated to vascular surgery. What strikes me most is the philosophy of the institution. When I proposed the equipment I needed, there was a cheaper alternative available at roughly one-third the cost.

Every morning we do our prayers, we offer something to God. Do the same for your feet. Inspect them. They are the ones keeping you going.





Nobody else will touch me. You have to do this." - A senior Air Marshal, calling Dr. Bedi after retirement. He operated. Thirteen years later, the patient still sends an annual update.

The Chairman, Trust & Board of Management simply said: Dr. Bedi, if this is what you need, you will get this and nothing else. In today's commercial healthcare environment, that level of commitment to clinical excellence is rare. The institution does not compromise on the tools its doctors need to deliver the best outcomes. We also have a robust training programme - one of the first centres in India to offer vascular surgery post-graduation. Five trainees join us every year.

They start at seven in the morning and finish when the work is done, which is usually ten or eleven at night. It is demanding. But every one of them has gone on to excellent placements. The work ethic you build here stays with you for life. And for the young doctors coming up now, that is my only message: work hard, invest the time, and the returns - both professional and personal - will be extraordinary.

CONCLUSION

A Career Built at the Intersection of Chance and Conviction

Dr. Bedi did not choose vascular surgery - vascular surgery chose him. What began as an accidental second preference on a government form has, over forty-plus years, become a vocation defined by firsts: the first dedicated vascular cath lab in the Indian armed forces, among the first endovascular aneurysm repairs in the country, and one of Southeast Asia's pre-eminent departments built from the ground up. But what animates him most is not the record - it's the patients. The Air Marshal who sends a quiet annual message. The patient rushed in with hoarseness who walked out two days later with his aorta repaired. For Dr. Bedi, vascular surgery has never been about the vessels. It has always been about the lives that run through them.

Woman sexually assaulted inside car, accused held: Police

Express News Service
New Delhi, June 30

A 24-YEAR-OLD woman was allegedly sexually assaulted inside a car on a deserted stretch in East Delhi on May 29, police said. According to the officers, the woman knew the accused, Vikas Kumar, who was arrested on Tuesday.

After the woman filed a complaint, the police registered an FIR on June 17 and arrested Kumar, who works as a cab driver for a ride-hailing app, officers said.

The woman told police that the accused called her on May 29 and asked her to join him for eating momos.

According to the complaint, after the duo left in the car from the woman's home, the accused said he needed to refuel the vehicle and asked her to accompany him. Instead of stopping at a station, the vehicle was allegedly driven onto a secluded road, as per the complaint.

In the car, the accused allegedly began making obscene remarks and demanded sexual favours. As per the complaint, when the woman resisted his advances, he allegedly inappropriately touched her. The woman also alleged that when she tried to exit the car, the accused allegedly restrained her, locked the door and continued to assault and harass her.

After allegedly mentally harassing her and molesting her, the accused drove her back home, police said. The woman reported the incident to her family and later filed a police complaint. She also submitted video evidence of the incident, officers said.

Following the complaint, police registered an FIR on June 17 under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The accused has been booked under Section 74 (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty); Section 75(2) (sexual harassment, demand for sexual favours, or showing pornography); Section 127(2) (wrongful confinement) and Section 351(2) & 351(3) (criminal intimidation) of the BNS.

MONTHS AFTER WORKERS' PROTEST IN MANESAR

Special police teams to monitor 'anti-social elements' in Gurgaon

Abhimanyu Hazarika
Gurgaon, June 30

SPECIAL TEAMS called 'Labour Liaison and Industrial Coordination Teams' (LLICT) will now be deployed across police stations in Gurgaon to keep a tab on "anti-social and external" elements around industrial areas, officers said on Tuesday.

The move comes nearly three months after the city saw massive protests in April in Manesar's Industrial Model Township (IMT). The investigation by the Manesar Crime Branch had revealed that most of the people who had been arrested were not labourers and allegedly infiltrated the strike to incite workers toward violence, officers had said at the time.

Hundreds of contractual workers from multiple manufacturing units had gone on strike demanding a wage hike to keep pace with inflation and better working conditions. The agitation had prompted authorities to impose prohibitory orders. The subsequent police crackdown resulted in the arrest of several protesters on charges of rioting and attempted murder, with some of them subsequently getting bail.

Manesar witnessed labour protests in April. FILE

With an aim to prevent similar escalation and ensure a swift and effective response to protests in future, Gurgaon Commissioner of Police Sibash Kabiraj has now ordered the deployment of one or two LLICT units per police station, depending on the area's industrial density, said officers.

Police spokesperson ASI Sandeep Kumar said, "The monitoring of anti-social elements is only one part... the overall move is not just for the protests but to ensure labourers' issues are addressed and they know their rights."

Senior police officers said that the move will contribute towards an investment-friendly environment in line with the city's industrial growth, and protect the interests of both industries and workers.

Each unit, Kumar said, will consist of four to five police personnel with "strong communication skills". "The LLICTs will maintain regular contact with the labour department, human resource officials, security heads, and trade unions at factories. Ensuring the safety of women employees is also a primary mandate," Kumar said.

He added, "The teams will conduct routine patrols in sensitive industrial pockets, monitor the movement of external or anti-social elements, and flag potential law-and-order issues to senior officers in real time. There will be special focus on industrial dispute prevention, women safety, and law and order. The teams will maintain constant surveillance over the activities of anti-social and external elements." Gurgaon has 46 stations, including four dedicated cyber police stations.

To build capacity, LLICT personnel will attend a mandatory one-day training session every month at the Old CP Office, according to officers. Subject experts will train the teams on labour laws, industrial dispute handling, negotiation skills, intelligence collection, crowd control, and crisis management.

The operations will be monitored through a strict daily reporting mechanism. "The teams will submit activity reports to their respective Station House Officers (SHOs) and Assistant Commissioners of Police (ACPs). The ACPs will forward weekly reviews to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), while the Joint Commissioner of Police will conduct a comprehensive monthly review," the spokesperson added.

Delhi sees crackdown — wrong side driving challans up by 98%

Express News Service
New Delhi, June 30

DELHI SAW a jump in prosecutions for wrong side driving by 98% in the first six months this year compared to the same period last year, according to official data, officers said on Tuesday. During a high-level review meeting, Lieutenant Governor (LG) TS Sandhu reviewed the figures and emphasised upon the need for sustained action against dangerous traffic violations, including riding two-wheelers without helmets.

According to data reviewed by the LG, challans issued for wrong side driving rose from 1,72,879 between January 1 and June 25, 2025, to 10,62,350 during the same period this year. Delhi Police registered 2,033 FIRs for wrong side driving between January 1 and June 25 this year, as per the data. Enforcement against unauthorised parking also recorded a substantial increase of 35%, with challans climbing from 7,78,258 last year to 10,62,350 this year during the same period.

LG Taranjit Sandhu at a review meeting Tuesday. X/@LTGOVDELHI

In the review meeting, attended by the Commissioner of Police, Special Commissioner (Traffic), Joint Commissioner (Traffic), and Deputy Commissioners of Police (Traffic), the LG assessed zone-wise enforcement performance across the city.

The Eastern Range recorded the most significant improvement, registering a 189% increase in wrong side driving challans — from 33,413 to 96,472 — along with a 103% rise in unauthorised parking prosecutions. The range also accounted for 397 FIRs related to wrong side driving during the first six months this year.

The Northern Range reported a 128% increase in wrong side driving challans and a 51.5% rise in unauthorised parking cases, while the Central Range witnessed an 81.5% increase in wrong side driving prosecutions and a 98% jump in unauthorised parking challans.

The New Delhi Range saw wrong side driving challans rise by 105%, followed by the Southern Range at 79% and the Western Range at 29%. Unauthorised parking prosecutions also increased across all ranges, though at varying rates.

The LG also reviewed anti-encroachment initiatives carried out jointly by Delhi Police, civic agencies, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), and Market Traders Associations (MTAs).

Wife plots to extort Rs 50L from bizman with help from US gangster, arrested

Express News Service
New Delhi, June 30

A 19-YEAR marriage unravelled into an alleged extortion conspiracy after a Delhi businessman accused of being targeted by the Jitender Gogi gang was found to have been allegedly set up by his own wife, police said on Monday.

The Special Cell on Monday said it arrested the businessman's wife, Sapna Jain, who has been accused of plotting to extort Rs 50 lakh from her husband with the help of a US-based gangster allegedly linked to the notorious Gogi gang. Her alleged accomplice, Rajat, 29, a resident of Sonipat, Haryana, and a friend of her elder sister, was also arrested in the case.

Police said the case came to light after the businessman, who runs a wholesale business in East Delhi's Laxmi Nagar, began receiving threatening calls and messages from an international number on June 14. The caller identified himself as a member of the Gogi gang and demanded Rs 50 lakh, warning that the businessman and his family would be killed if the money was not paid. To make the threats more convincing, police said the extortionists allegedly sent photographs and locations of the victim's residence and business premises.

An FIR was registered at Laxmi Nagar police station on June 18 before the investigation was transferred to the New Delhi Range of the Special Cell.

DCP (Special Cell) Praveen Kumar Tripathi said a team led by Inspectors Sanjay Kumar Gupta and Pankaj Chauhan, under the supervision of ACP Vivek Tyagi, combined technical surveillance with human intelligence to trace the operation.

Police said their investigation led them to Rajat. During his questioning, police said it was found that he was allegedly in contact with several members of the Gogi gang, including jailed gangster Rohit Moi, and had links with another gang associate based in the US.

Rajat was arrested on June 25. According to the officer, analysis of his mobile phone revealed "incriminating" chats showing that he was coordinating with the US-based extortionist and maintaining regular contact with the victim's wife and her sister.

Officers, however, said the investigation uncovered a domestic motive behind the extortion plot. The businessman and Sapna were married in 2007 and have two teenage children, but long-standing family disputes had strained their relationship.

Sapna allegedly believed her mother-in-law always sided with her husband during family disagreements.

Police claimed Sapna asked Rajat to first extort money from her husband. Once the extortion succeeded, police said, the plan allegedly involved eliminating her mother-in-law and physically assaulting the businessman. She allegedly supplied Rajat with detailed information about her husband's daily movements to facilitate the conspiracy, officers said.

Woman, pet dog found dead; husband critical after consuming poison

Express News Service
New Delhi, June 30

A 55-YEAR-OLD woman died and her husband is critical after the couple allegedly attempted suicide by consuming pesticide at their home in South West Delhi's Indira Park area, police said on Tuesday. Their pet dog was also found dead at the house. Police said that the dog is suspected to have been injected with the same poisonous substance.

Dwarka Deputy Superintendent of Police Kushal Pal Singh said Bindapur police received a call around 2.49 am on Tuesday.

When a team of officers reached the house, they found the couple unconscious and rushed them to the nearby DDG Hospital, where doctors declared Jaspreet Kaur dead. Her husband, Richpal Singh (56) remains hospitalised in a semi-conscious and critical condition.

Investigators are questioning family members to learn more about the possible reasons that may have pushed the couple to take the extreme step.

Richpal told police that the couple had consumed pesticide on Monday around 11.30 am. Initial probe indicates depression may have been a factor, officers said The neighbours said Richpal earlier used to teach children, then he opened an eatery. But when he could not manage enough earnings to run the house, he started working as an e-taxi bike driver. Some neighbours also said that Richpal used to run a homeopathy clinic from this house.

• Skywatch

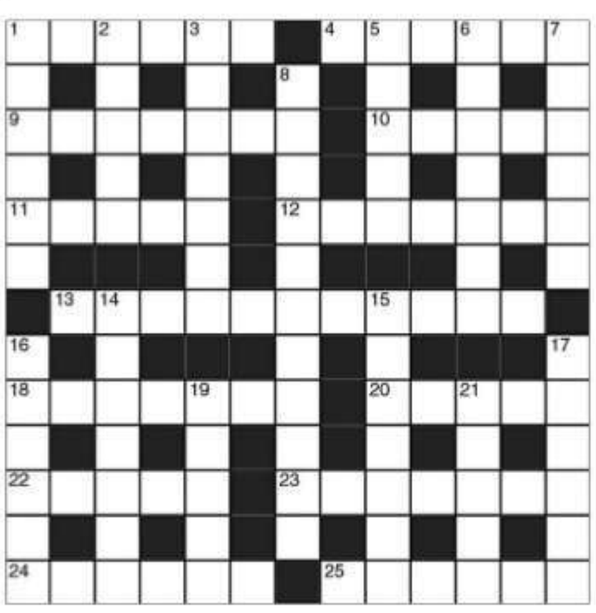
Forecast: July 1, 2026
Very light to light rain likely
MAX: 38-40
2.6°C above normal
MIN: 27-29
0.9°C below normal

• AQI Tracker

Anand Vihar	Poor AQI: 272
Alipur	Poor AQI: 205
Aya Nagar	Moderate AQI: 168
Najafgarh	Moderate AQI: 178

- Good (0-50)
- Satisfactory (51-100)
- Moderate (101-200)
- Poor (201-300)
- Very Poor (301-400)
- Severe (401-500)

• CROSSWORD 6029



ACROSS
1 Puts pressure on the men who sail in a ship (6)
4 Catch in Antwerp on the loose without wife (6)
9 Cry when people came to meet (5-2)
10 It's crucial to return at 6.50 at the outside (5)
11 Idly involved with a girl (5)
12 Caterer gets involved in a domestic row (7)
13 Helpful intervention brings nice places to work (4,7)
18 I sing about one Italian drink (7)
20 Hard-hearted king whose widow was merry (5)
22 Row about the right judge perhaps (5)
23 Greek letter varies in slope (7)
24 Two may dance together (6)
25 Revised point I'd put to Edward (6)

DOWN
1 Pay to stay (6)
2 Managed to get straight in line (5)
3 Irregular road with room for improvement (7)
5 In no circumstance is king to be taken up to flat (5)
6 Desert nation's competition (3,4)
7 Friend to hire mattress (6)
8 Labour exchanges? (4,7)
14 A belief that it's nothing to hold arms (7)
15 The sick get accustomed to being maltreated (3-4)
16 One with a nervous habit of being sour (6)
17 Eccentric dancer stretched his neck (6)
19 Smashing man or woman (5)
21 Sloth can be the ruination of a composer (5)

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 6028 **ACROSS:** 1 Replace, 5 Lagos, 8 An eye for an eye, 9 Tacit, 10 Sea room, 11 Louvre, 12 Coheir, 15 Siamese, 17 Elbow, 19 Raise the stake, 20 Synod, 21 Weekday **DOWN:** 1 Roast, 2 Preoccupation, 3 Abettor, 4 Egoism, 5 Llama, 6 Goes overboard, 7 Steamer, 11 Lustres, 13 Oversee, 14 Nephew, 16 Emend, 18 Weedy

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective circles below. Select the letters in the shaded circles and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

A man's feet should be planted in his ____, but his eyes should survey the __ - George Santayana (7,..,5)

EGORR
DEICNU
AFLOT
AIMDWY

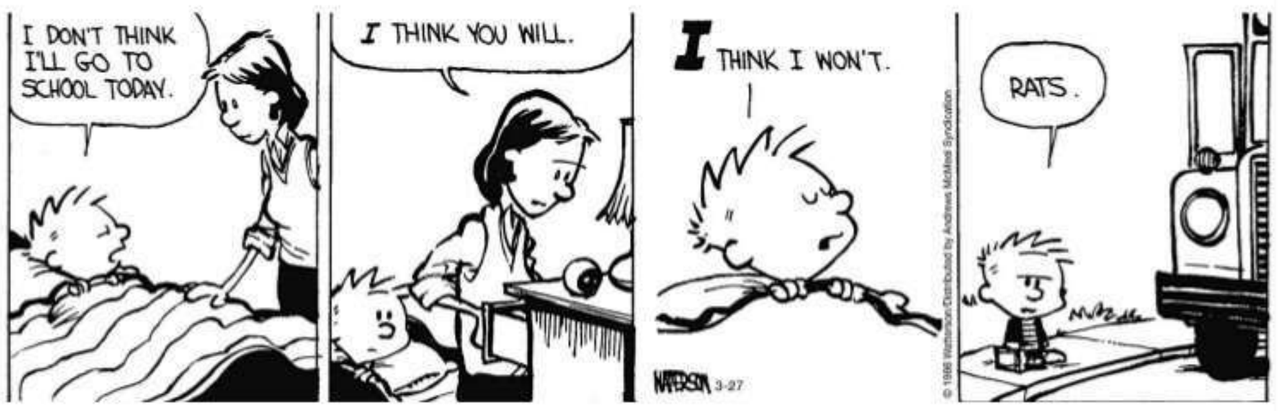
SOLUTIONS: Roger, Float/Aloft, Induce, Midway
ANSWER: A man's feet should be planted in his **country**, but his eyes should survey the **world** - George Santayana

• OVER THE HEDGE

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS

• CALVIN & HOBBES

BY BILL WATTERSON



• MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

SUDOKU 6366

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

		7			6			
		2		5			1	3
					2	9	7	
7					4		5	
	2	1				3	9	
	5		8					4
	1	5	4					
6	4			9		1		
			5			6		

SOLUTION SUDOKU 6365

9	5	4	6	3	2	1	8	7
3	6	7	5	1	8	2	4	9
2	1	8	7	4	9	6	5	3
6	3	5	8	7	1	4	9	2
4	7	2	9	6	3	5	1	8
1	8	9	4	2	5	7	3	6
7	2	3	1	9	4	8	6	5
8	9	1	2	5	6	3	7	4
5	4	6	3	8	7	9	2	1

• ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20): Communications with friends and members of groups are lively today. You have lots of mental energy when it comes to talking to others. This means you'll be persuasive. Stay flexible, plans might change. Tonight: Be friendly.

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21): You can express yourself in a direct manner today. This makes you appear confident. Nevertheless, double-check financial matters, especially later in the day, because something unexpected might catch you off guard. Tonight: You're admired.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21): You have strong opinions, especially when discussing controversial ideas related to politics, religion or racial issues. Today includes sudden impulses and spontaneous activities, take a breath and think before you speak. Tonight: Explore and learn.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23): Issues related to shared property, taxes, debt or inheritances might arise today. Something unexpected might occur that affects your own wealth and assets. Tonight: Check your finances.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23): Your best choice today is to be easygoing and friendly with others. Be accommodating and helpful. Just accept this. In two weeks, you will have the edge! But not today. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23): You're keen to work and get organised today. You might be making to-do lists and thinking about ways to improve your health. Something unexpected might catch you off guard at work. Be vigilant about your pet today. Tonight: Work to get better organised.

LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23): Be open to all kinds of possibilities today, because unexpected social invitations might come your way. You might become more deeply involved in the arts — actively or through appreciation. Parents should be extra vigilant with their kids. Tonight: Enjoy socialising.

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23): Family discussions will be direct and to the point today because someone wants to make issues very clear. Your home routine will be interrupted. Small appliances might break down. Someone might appear at your door. Tonight: Relax at home.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22): You're convincing when talking today because you say what you mean and mean what you say. This is a mildly accident-prone day for you. Your daily routine might suddenly change. Pay attention to everything you say and do. Tonight: Conversations.

CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20): Keep an eye on your money and possessions today because something unexpected could impact them. You might find or lose money. Definitely protect what you own against loss, theft or damage. Tonight: Check your belongings.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19): Today the Moon is in your sign, which is invigorating. Plus, it gives you a slight bit of good luck. That's why this is an excellent day to negotiate for something on your own behalf. Try it. Tonight: You win.

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20): This is a solid week for you because you're able to establish a nice balance between work and play. Today you probably feel a bit restless. You have that feeling you're waiting for the other shoe to drop. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

Gen Dwivedi signs off as Army Chief, says wars will be more theatre-oriented in future

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, June 30

OUTGOING ARMY Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday said that wars will be more joint, integrated and theatre-oriented in future, and therefore, the armed forces' direction is clear "to see together, take decisions together and take actions together".

Gen Dwivedi, who retired on Tuesday, was accorded a guard of honour as part of a ceremonial farewell held on the lawns of the South Block.

Meanwhile, General Dhiraj Seth, an accomplished military officer with the rare distinction of heading two operational Army commands along the western front, took charge as the new Chief of the Army Staff on Tuesday.

During his remarks to the media on the sidelines of the farewell event, General Dwivedi said, "Today, as I complete my tenure as the Chief of the Army Staff, I feel a sense of deep gratitude, pride and satisfaction."

Outgoing Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi receives the Guard of Honour during his farewell ceremony in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Gen Dwivedi had taken over as the 30th Chief of the Army Staff in June 2024.

"The journey from Sainik School till now has been incredible. To serve the Indian Army for over four decades has been the greatest fortune in my life," he said.

The Indian Army draws its strength "not from one individual, but from its soldiers, commanders, veterans, families and the unshakeable faith of the country's citizens", the outgoing Army chief said.

Before the farewell ceremony, the Army chief visited the National War Memorial where he laid a wreath to honour the country's bravehearts.

In a statement, the defence ministry said, 'Op Sindoor' was a "defining moment of his tenure, reflecting the Army's preparedness, precision and calibrated response in the emerging security environment". He accorded high priority to operational readiness across all theatres.

"Under his leadership, the Indian Army maintained a robust and vigilant posture along the northern borders under 'Op Snow Leopard' and discharged its responsibilities on the western front with resolve, restraint and professionalism," it said.

Earlier in the day, Gen Dwivedi told reporters that in the past two years, the Indian Army has maintained its operational readiness in a progressive manner on all fronts.

Later, he passed on the ceremonial baton to Gen Seth. "He (Gen Seth) is an experienced soldier, and an able leader. I am fully confident that under his leadership, the Indian Army... will reach greater heights," Gen Dwivedi said.

Calcutta HC seeks report on steps taken to prevent attacks on political leaders

Tanusree Bose
Kolkata, June 30

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Tuesday directed the state government to file a comprehensive report regarding the steps taken to prevent the alleged attacks on political leaders and workers and directed police officers to register FIRs in all instances of eggs being hurled at Opposition leaders.

The HC also directed the police to follow the applicable guidelines and take necessary steps in the event of any untoward incident.

The bench of Acting Chief Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty and Justice Partha Sarathi Sen issued the directions while hearing a PIL regarding alleged assaults on TMC MPs, MLAs, councillors and workers after the Assembly elections.

The HC also directed the state government to submit an affidavit before it on July 20 stating the steps it has taken and the number of FIRs registered in connection with egg pelting.

> **"It is not just a matter of taking action, but also of making the common people aware. Everyone's human rights must be ensured."**
> CALCUTTA HIGH COURT

Senior Advocate Kalyan Banerjee, appearing in support of the PIL, pressed for interim directions, contending that attacks on political workers had become a "recurring phenomenon".

Additional Advocate General Rajdeep Majumdar, appearing for the state, argued, "...Where complaints are reported... the police are taking action. An FIR will be filed and an investigation will be conducted. Action is being taken against the accused. Two weeks should be given. The state will inform what action the police are taking."

Banerjee further alleged, "The police are...encouraging mob lynching. A state minister is asking to throw eggs. Bulldozers are being driven in the presence of MLAs...They are being paraded around in shorts and with a rope around their waist. What does the court think, is there rule of law in the state? Immediate interim orders should be passed..." Majumdar said, "Until a complaint is filed, it is not possible for the police to take any action..."

Acting Chief Justice Chakraborty observed, "We will give directions to the state. But it is not possible to give interim directions at this time."

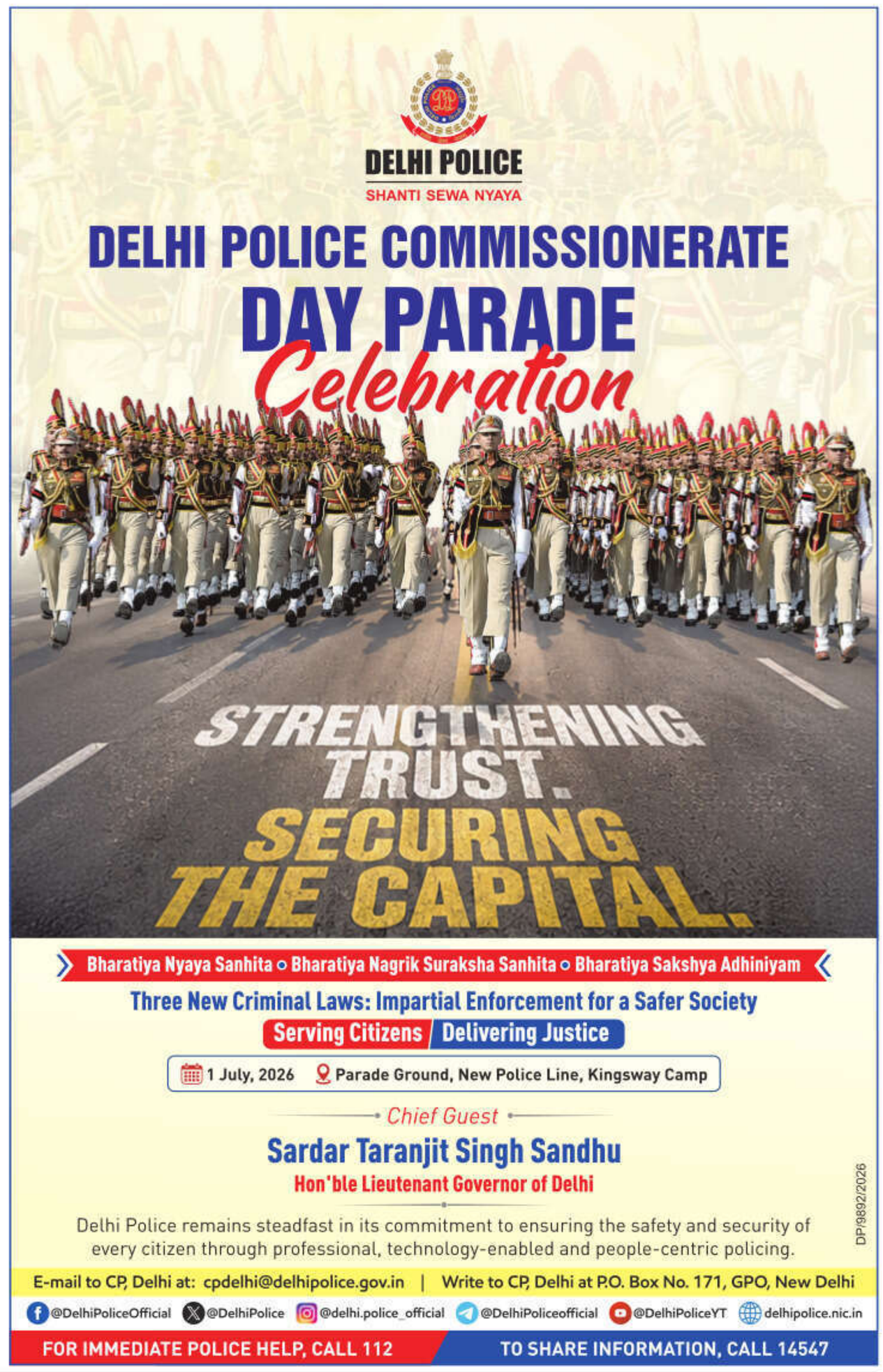
"...We will instruct the Police Commissioner to issue guidelines... so that the police take action accordingly," he added. "It is not just a matter of taking action, but also of making the common people aware. Everyone's human rights must be ensured," the bench said. (WITH PTI INPUTS)

3 years after Ram Navami violence, NIA arrests TMC councillor

Kolkata: Three years after clashes in Hooghly district of West Bengal during Ram Navami, the NIA on Tuesday arrested local TMC councillor Shakir Ali in connection with the violence in Rishra.

A team of NIA officials reached the Serampore residence of Ali on Tuesday and detained him. The NIA, later, arrested him, citing "discrepancies" in his statements. "Shakir Ali has been arrested in connection with the investigation into the 2023 Rishra Ram Navami violence case. He will be produced before the court. We are examining the role of all individuals connected to the conspiracy behind the violence," an NIA official said.

Meanwhile, police registered an FIR against his wife and former TMC MP Aparupa Poddar for pushing a woman constable during the detention of Ali. ENS



ADVERTORIAL

NATIONAL DOCTORS' DAY

Understanding Cardiac Electrophysiology: When the Heart's Wiring Matters

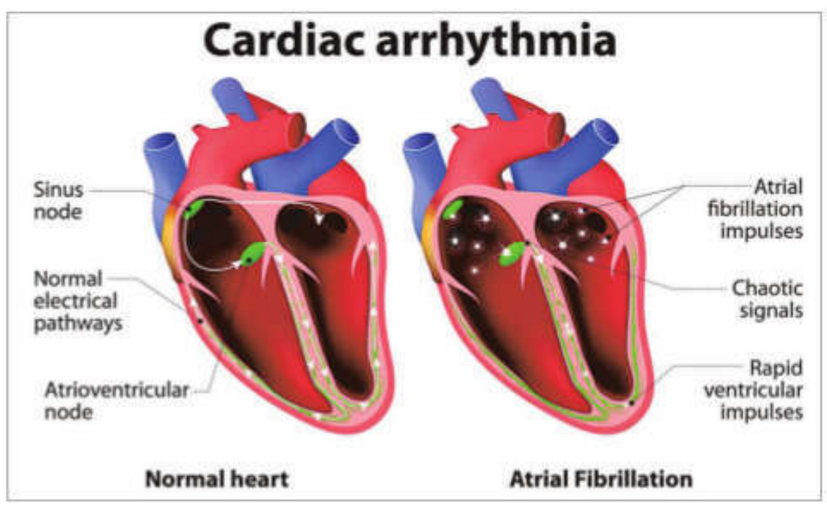
*In a field where women remain vastly underrepresented, **Dr. Aparna Jaswal** has not just found her place — she has defined it. As the Director of Cardiac Pacing and Electrophysiology at Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, Okhla, New Delhi, and the institute's primary female electrophysiologist, she brings over 19 years of specialized experience in diagnosing and treating heart rhythm disorders. Her journey through one of cardiology's most technically demanding subspecialties is as much a story of quiet determination as it is of clinical excellence. In a wide-ranging conversation, she talks about what drew her to electrophysiology, the evolving landscape of cardiac care in India, and what she wishes more people understood about their hearts.*

THE heart is widely recognised as the body's pump, but every heartbeat depends on a highly coordinated electrical system. Without this system, the heart would not beat in a regular and efficient manner. Cardiac electrophysiology is the branch of medicine that studies the heart's electrical activity, helping diagnose and treat rhythm disorders that can significantly affect health and quality of life. Each heartbeat begins with a small electrical impulse generated by specialised cells in the sinoatrial (SA) node, often referred to as the heart's natural pacemaker. This impulse travels through defined pathways across the atria, passes through the atrioventricular (AV) node, and spreads into the ventricles. The sequence ensures that the upper chambers contract before the lower chambers, allowing blood to be pumped efficiently throughout the body. When this electrical system functions normally, the heartbeat remains steady and reliable. However, extra signals, blocked pathways, or chaotic electrical activity can disrupt the rhythm, resulting in abnormal heartbeats known as arrhythmias.

Arrhythmias can range from harmless irregularities to serious conditions with life-threatening consequences. Symptoms may include palpitations, dizziness, breathlessness, chest discomfort, or fainting, while more severe cases can increase the risk of stroke or sudden cardiac arrest. Understanding why these rhythm disturbances occur and how they can be corrected is the central focus of cardiac electrophysiology. The field combines principles of physiology, engineering, and clinical medicine, and specialists known as electrophysiologists undergo advanced training to diagnose and manage these disorders. Their work involves studying the heart's electrical pathways in great detail and using sophisticated technologies to identify the source of abnormal rhythms.

Diagnosis often begins with an electrocardiogram (ECG), which records the heart's electrical activity from the body surface. While many rhythm disorders can be identified through a standard ECG, some arrhythmias occur intermittently and may not appear during a brief recording. In such cases, longer-term monitoring through wearable devices or implantable recorders may be necessary. When symptoms persist or a more precise diagnosis is required, patients may undergo an electrophysiology (EP) study. During this procedure, thin catheters are guided through blood vessels into the heart to record electrical signals and deliver controlled impulses. By mapping the heart's electrical activity from within, physicians can pinpoint the origin of abnormal rhythms and understand the pathways responsible for them.

These procedures are performed in specialised EP laboratories equipped with advanced imaging systems, three-dimensional mapping platforms, and sophisticated monitoring technology. Precision is critical, as even a few millimetres can influence treatment outcomes. One of the most important advances in modern cardiology is catheter ablation. Once an abnormal electrical focus or pathway is identified, targeted energy - most commonly radiofrequency energy - is delivered through the catheter to create a small controlled scar that blocks the faulty signal. For many patients, this provides a long-term or even curative solution to recurrent arrhythmias. Patients with slow heart rhythms may benefit from implantable pacemakers, which help maintain a stable heartbeat, while those at risk of life-threatening ventricular arrhythmias may require implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs) that continuously monitor the heart and deliver life-saving therapy when necessary. These innovations represent decades of progress in biomedical engineering and clinical research.



Beyond the technology lies a powerful human story. Arrhythmias affect much more than the heart itself. Many patients live with constant uncertainty, never knowing when symptoms might occur. A sudden racing heartbeat during a meeting, breathlessness while climbing stairs, or fear of fainting while driving can make everyday activities stressful and unpredictable. This emotional burden is often underestimated. People may begin avoiding travel, exercise, or social gatherings because of their symptoms. Sleep may be disrupted, confidence may decline, and work performance may suffer. Over time, fear of the next episode can become as limiting as the condition itself. Effective electrophysiological treatment can therefore be transformative. Patients frequently report feeling that they have "got their life back," returning to work with confidence, resuming physical activity, and regaining trust in their bodies.

Research consistently shows that timely diagnosis and appropriate management of arrhythmias improve quality of life and reduce complications. In conditions such as atrial fibrillation, treatment can reduce symptoms, lower the risk of stroke, and decrease hospitalisations. In ventricular tachycardia, advanced EP-guided therapies can reduce recurrent shocks and improve survival. Cardiac electrophysiology also plays a crucial preventive role. Not every rhythm disorder requires immediate intervention, but careful evaluation helps distinguish harmless variations from potentially serious conditions. This distinction prevents unnecessary treatment while ensuring that dangerous problems are not overlooked.

The field continues to evolve rapidly. Advances in mapping systems, imaging integration, catheter design, and energy delivery have made procedures safer, more precise, and more effective. Increasingly, treatment strategies are being tailored to individual patients, recognising that arrhythmias can behave differently from one person to another. Despite these advances, public awareness of cardiac electrophysiology remains limited. Many people dismiss palpitations as stress or anxiety without seeking medical advice, while others live with symptoms for years unaware that effective - and sometimes curative - treatments are available. Cardiac electrophysiology is, in essence, the science of the heart's wiring. It reflects a simple but vital truth: a strong pump depends on a stable electrical signal. When that signal falters, modern medicine can often restore rhythm with remarkable precision. Within every healthy heartbeat lies a complex electrical symphony, and cardiac electrophysiology ensures that when this symphony falls out of tune, there is a path back to harmony.

Issued in public interest by Dr. Aparna Jaswal

ADVERTORIAL

THANK YOU DOCTORS

A Special Health Initiative amplified by THE INDIAN EXPRESS

"Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?"

HAPPY DOCTORS' DAY

CARDIOLOGIST

Dr. Anupam Goel
Health comes before everything else and you are the one who makes all of us healthy. Heartfully we thank you.

Dr. Gajinder Kumar Goyal
Behind every recovery is a Doctor's commitment, skill, and compassion. We celebrate you today.

Dr. Himanshu Jindal
By gifting health to your patients, you gift smiles and happiness to their lives. Salute to Doctors like you.

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Nayak
A great Doctor treat the person not just the disease

Dr. Rajat Mohan
Doctors are not only professio-nals they are caregivers

Dr. Neeraj Aggarwal
A Doctor's service leaves a lasting impact

ENDOCRINOLOGIST

Dr. Sandeep Kharb
Amidst the uncertainty of illness, doctors provide a steady hand of care, compassion, and expertise.
"Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Himanshu Sharma
Doctors are not just professionals; they are advocates for healing, justice, and dignity for all. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Ajay Ajmani
In the relentless pursuit of healing, doctors often sacri-fice their own well-being for the sake of others. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Tarun Verma
Every day, doctors walk a tightrope between hope and despair, navigating the delicate balance between life and death. "Happy Doctors' day"

GASTROENTEROLOGIST

Dr. Harender Singh
Keep your body moving so that your mind keeps working without any hiccups.

Dr. Ashok Goyal
As we know, the liver is our metabolic powerhouse, and our lifestyle plays a very important role in keeping it healthy. Eat healthy, live healthy.

Dr Ankita Narula
A healthy gut is the foundation of over-all health; eat wisely, stay active, and seek timely care for dige-stive symptoms.

HEMATOLOGIST

Dr. Manas Kalra
Every day brings a new opportunity to focus on healing, growth, and resilience.

Dr. Akash Khandelwal
The purpose of medicine extends beyond treat-ment it includes education, support, and guidance.

Dr. Rohan Halder
The most valuable investment you can make is in your own health.

Dr. Swapnil Tripathi
Healthcare achie-ves its greatest success not when disease is treated, but when it is prevented through awareness, early action, and healthy living.

Dr. Divya Doval
On Doctor's Day, I encourage every-one to make their health a priority, because a healthier future starts with today's choices.

Dr. Ashwini Goel
A truly amazing warrior like you is hard to find, impossible to forget.

Dr. D K Aggarwal
Dear Doctor, your dedication and compassion make a difference every day. Happy Doctor's Day!

Dr. Manoj Arora
Lets not forget to pay homage to the people who served in our toughest times. It behooves us not to forget.

Dr. Nimish Gupta
Excellence in medicine begins with dedication and thrives through compassion. Thank you for exempli-fying both.

Dr. Roshan Dikshit
The future of healthcare lies not only in treatment but also in education and prevention.

Dr. Rajat Jain
Your determin-ation is one of the most important ingredients in achieving better health.

NEPHROLOGIST

Dr. Ajay Kher
Dear Doctors, you are an inspiration. Thank you for your tireless efforts and commitment to care!

Dr. Anindya Biswas
May all your days be as wonderful as the lives you have touched. Happy Doctor's Day!

Dr. Gaurav Sagar
We thank you for your empathy, dedication, and hard work in improving countless lives. Happy Doctor's Day!

Dr. Kundan Ganesh Wadhai
A salute to you for your dedication, compassion, and heroic service to humanity. Happy Doctor's Day!

Dr. Rahul Grover
I express my gratitude to you for always being there for us, for serving us with happiness and for treating our problems. Happy Doctor's Day to you.

Dr. Rajesh Goel
Deep bows to healthcare professionals changing lives and inspiring hope. We see you. We love you.

Dr. Ravi Bansal
Your expertise saves lives, but your kindness touches hearts. Thank you for all that you do.

Dr. Sanjeev Saxena
Doctors are the hope for a healthier future. Thank you for your invaluable service to society.

Dr. Vaibhav Tiwari
A big thank you to all Doctors for your selfless service and unwavering commi-tment to improving lives. Happy Doctor's Day!

Dr. Sanjeev Jasuja
This Doctor's Day, my advice is simple: don't take your health for granted.

NEUROLOGIST

Dr. Rahul Jain
On Doctor's Day, we honour and appreci-ate doctors for their unwavering commit-ment, selfless service, and relentless efforts in safe guarding heal-th and well-being.

NEUROSURGEON

Dr. Nagesh Chandra
Happy Doctor's Day to the superheroes who don't wear caps but save lives every day. Your dedication and sacrifice are truly admirable.

Dr. Rohit Bansil
On this Doctor's Day, we express our deepest gratitude to the caring and dedicated doctors who make a difference in countless lives.

PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGIST

Dr. Aman Eliwadi
Happy Doctor's Day to the doctors who bring hope, healing, and comfort to their patients! Your comp-assion knows no boundaries.

Dr. Apurva Tomar
Happy Doctor's Day to the brilliant minds who heal with their knowledge, care with their hearts and touch lives with their compassion.

PSYCHIATRIST

Dr. Lokesh Singh Shekhawat
Happy Doctor's Day to the brilliant minds who heal with their knowledge, care with their hearts and touch lives with their compassion.

ONCOLOGIST

Dr. Harsh Dua
Healing often begins when we choose hope over fear.

Dr. Praveen Kumar Bansal
Health is a lifelong journey of choices, discipline, and consistency.

Dr. Puneet Gupta
Strong families are built on healthy indivi-duals. One must invest in prevent-ion, fitness & regular heath checks.

Dr. Vibhor Sharma
Every healthy habit you adopt is a gift to your future self. Small steps can create lifelong benefits.

ADVERTORIAL

Dr. Mohit Agarwal
Every interaction with a patient is an opportunity to make a positive difference.

Dr. Mukesh Patekar
Medical science advances every day, but preven-tion remains the most powerful tool in healthcare.

Dr. Manish Sharma
Hope is a powerful force in healing. Never lose sight of brighter days ahead.

Dr. Siddharth Sahai
Even the smallest improvement is worth celebrating because it reflects progress.

Dr. Chinkal Panihar
Every step you take toward a healthier lifestyle is a step away from preven-table disease.

Dr. Raja Chhabra
Your health choices today shapes your tomorrow. This Doctor's Day, I enco-urage everyone to invest in prevention, fitness, and regular health check-ups.

RHEUMATOLOGIST

Dr. Sanjiv Kapoor
Rheumatology is patience, science, and heart. On Doctors' Day, I celebrate every small victory with you: each step easier, each morning less stiff.
Thank you.

Dr. Danveer Bhadu
We an Rheumatolo-gist don't just Treat patient we Restore confidance independ-ence and the courage to keep going " heal-ing pain Restoring motion Rebuilding Lives That's Rheuma-tology

Dr. Vishal Kaura Aggarwal
Authentic evidence based education for Early Arthritis diagno-sis and management must reach our soci-ety to secure a health-ier and brig-hter future of our country

Dr. Ashish Sharma
Timely & Regular treatment of arthrit Reduces cost of Treatment 4 pill burden 4 improves outcomes long term.

Dr. Swetal Chouhan
Grateful for the trust every day patient ful in me.

Dr. Mayank Goyal
Autoimmune diseas-es may be longterm, but so is our comm-itment towards our patients. On Doctor's Day, we honor trust, science, and the sha-red journey toward better health! Reme-mber we are always there with you!

Dr. Neha Agrawal
As a rheumatologist, I help you move throu-gh life with less pain. On Doctors' Day, I'm grateful for your trust, resilience, and the privilege of restoring your comfort.

Dr. John Kumar Das
Happy Doctors' Day to my fellow healthc-are professionals. Co-mpassion, knowled-ge, and commitment remain our greatest medicines in helping patients reclaim heal-thier, happier lives.

Dr. Anju Singh
Your dedication case and service waste the world healthies

PULMOMOLOGIST

Dr. Sai Kiran Chaudhuri
Doctors are the bridge between illness and recovery

Dr. Prashant Kakkar
Thank you for trusting me with your care. Your hope and strength make being a doctor meaningful. Happy Doctor's Day

Dr. Shailendra Pratap Singh
On Doctor's Day, I want to thank my patients.Your trust and courage inspire my journey every day. Together we heal.

Dr. Samir Khanna
Every patient inter-action reminds us of the privilege and responsibility that comes with helping individuals make informed healthcare decisions daily.

DIABETOLOGIST

Dr. Anirbhan Biswas
In the face of adversity, doctors stand as beacons of hope, resilience, and unwavering dedication to their patients. "Happy Doctors' day".

Dr. K K Goyal
Doctors are not just healers; they are agents of change, advocates for justice, and champ-ions of compa-ssion. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Pradeep Garg
Doctors don't just prescribe medica-tions; they provide care, comfort, and support to those in need.
"Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Amit Kumar Sharma
Behind the scenes, doctors navigate the intricate web of medi-cal science, human emotions, and ethical dilemmas. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Kamal Mavi
Behind every medical breakthrough is a doctor who dares to push the boundaries of knowledge, inno-vation, and compass-ion. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Rajiv Lochan
Doctors are not just professionals; they are companions on life's journey, offer-ing care, comfort, and empathy along the way. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Rakesh Sharma
Behind every white coat is a story of sacrifice, dedication, and compassion. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Inder Kasturia
Behind the calm demeanor of a doctor lies a heart that feels deeply, empathizes profoundly, and cares endles-sly. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Pankaj Aneja
To heal, to comfort, and to care the timeless promise of the medical profession.

Dr. A.S Ghai
Doctors are not just healers; they are advocates for justice, equity, and access to quality healthcare for all.
"Happy Doctors' day"

CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN

Dr. Neeraj Sharma
Doctors don't just treat illnesses; they provide solace, suppo-rt, and guidance in times of uncertainty and fear. "Happy Doctors' day"

GYNECOLOGIST

Dr. Nishtha Gupta
Heavy menstrual ble-eding is not some-thing women should simply tolerate. Persi-stent excessive bleed-ing deserves attent-ion and timely evalu-ation to protect over-all well-being.

Dr. Pooja Goel
Improving awareness of fibroids contributes to healthier women, stronger families, and communities that be-tter support women's healthcare needs.

Dr. Preeti Nainani
Fibroids can impact physical comfort, em-otional well-being, da-ily activities, and prod-uctivity. Addressing symptoms early helps women maintain a better quality of life.

DERMATOLOGIST

Dr. Sanjiv Kandhari
Life has not been int-erested in the hands of doctor lightly I always remember this and thank my patients for my learning from them.

Dr. V P Kaushik
Mental relaxation, good nutrition, and healthy lifestyle habi-ts are essential for healthy skin. Balanc-ed wellness supports better skin health and overall well-being.

Dr. Mukesh Manjhi
Avoid using over-the-counter steroid crea-ms on your face. Consult a dermatolo-gist for proper diagn-osis and safe treat-ment to prevent long term skin damage.

Dr. Neeraj Kumar Gupta
"Happy Doctor's Day to the reallife heroes who heal, care, and inspire."

ORTHOPAEDICIAN

Dr. Harsh Piplani
On this Doctor's Day, your health is your responsibility, and your doctor is your guide.

UROLOGIST

Dr. Ansuman Agarwal
The strongest foundation for succ-ess, happiness, and productivity is good health. Protect it with the same dedi-cation given to other priorities.

Dr. Rishi Raj Vohra
The greatest achiev-ement in healthcare is helping individu-als lead active, fulfil-ling lives while maintaining phy-sical, emotional, and mental wellbeing throughout life.

Dr. Ashu Arora
In the relentless pursuit of healing, doctors confront the complexities of illness, suffering, and human resilien-ce with courage and compassion. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. B N Singh
Behind every medical decision is a doctor who grapples with uncertainty, complexity, and the weight of responsibility. "Happ-y Doctors' day"

Dr. Yuthika Malhotra Arora
Doctors are not just professionals; they are allies, advocates, and companions on the journey to health and heal-ing. "Happy Doctors' day"

Dr. Aditya Jayaraman
Doctors don't just treat symptoms; they listen, empathize, and offer support to those in need. "Happy Doctors' day"

● WEB EXCLUSIVE
'Hind Rajab, and the rupture between action and conscience'
— By Rajni Bakshi
Log on to www.indianexpress.com

● WORDLY WISE
We grew up learning to cheer on the underdog because we see ourselves in them.
— Shane Koyczan

The Indian EXPRESS
~ FOUNDED BY ~
RAMNATH GOENKA
IN 1932
BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Road ahead is electric, but it isn't easy

THE DELHI government's decision to make electric mobility the default choice for significant sections of its transport system could be a watershed in the environmental governance of a city that has been dogged by persistent pollution problems. Most EV policies in the country have primarily relied on subsidies, tax concessions and awareness campaigns. Delhi's new framework does not totally discard the path of persuasion and affirms a phased approach to the transition. But significantly, it introduces clear deadlines. From April 2028, electric vehicles will be the only option for residents seeking to purchase a new two-wheeler. Commercial three-wheelers will undergo a mandatory transition beginning January 1 next year. Urban transport worldwide is moving towards electrification, and cities that prepare early are likely to enjoy competitive advantages, especially in investment. The Delhi government's decision to establish firm timelines, therefore, demonstrates a welcome willingness to move beyond incrementalism.

While studies may differ on the exact pollution burden imposed by vehicles, there is near unanimity that tailpipe emissions are among the major reasons for Delhi's poor air quality. The policy's immediate focus on two-wheelers is salient given that these vehicles comprise two-thirds of the capital's vehicle fleet. At the same time, the policy also uses incentives to nudge four-wheeler users to give up fossil-fuel-driven vehicles. Given that EVs currently comprise about 15 per cent of the total vehicles registered in the capital, the Delhi government's push for a greener fleet by 2030 might appear ambitious. But the city is among the fastest-growing EV markets in the country. According to the research and advocacy group, Envirocatalysts, Delhi saw record growth in electric vehicle adoption during January-May — e-bike registrations increased 70 per cent compared to the same period last year, while those of private e-cars went up by 95 per cent.

If implemented well, the capital's EV policy could offer pointers to green mobility in the country. It will face challenges. An EV-dominated fleet will require an adequate charging infrastructure. The transition will also be confronted with the limitations of India's battery supply chain, especially its dependence on imported lithium cells and critical minerals. Geopolitical uncertainties, fluctuating commodity prices and concentration of mineral processing capacities in a few countries could expose manufacturers to supply disruptions. The transition in Delhi will require making economic adjustments, adapting to logistical challenges, and enhancing technological capabilities. The national capital's endeavour will be closely watched.

New FCRA rules shrink space for civic action

THE FOREIGN Contribution Regulation (Amendment) Rules, 2026 mark a troubling expansion of executive control over civil society by deepening a regulatory framework that has steadily transformed the FCRA from a law governing foreign funding into an instrument for supervising and constraining the functioning of voluntary organisations. The rules require NGOs to classify their activities under narrowly defined categories, specify geographical areas of operation, submit more granular disclosures, and face stricter compliance obligations. They also expand oversight of organisations engaged in activities with religious dimensions, with the government citing concerns over the misuse of foreign funds and unlawful conversions. Transparency in the use of foreign contributions is necessary to address large-scale violations and infractions. But a compliance regime that increasingly allows the executive to shape the scope and character of an organisation's work reinforces a governance model that treats independent civic action as a source of potential risk rather than a democratic asset.

The FCRA was originally enacted in 1976, during the Emergency, to prevent foreign intervention in India's political processes. It was substantially revised in 2010, introducing stricter registration and reporting requirements, and amended again, most consequentially, in 2020, prohibiting the onward transfer of foreign contributions to partner organisations and capping administrative expenses at 20 per cent of foreign funding, among other changes. Each successive amendment has increased compliance burdens while widening executive discretion over who may receive foreign funds and on what terms. The cumulative effect has been considerable. As of March 2026, nearly 20,000 organisations had lost their FCRA licences in the last 12 years.

Whether in education, healthcare, environmental conservation, legal aid or advocacy for vulnerable communities, civil society organisations fill gaps that governments cannot or do not. A regulatory framework that demands ever greater disclosures while expanding official discretion risks shrinking the space in which such organisations can function with confidence. It reflects a troubling assumption that the state alone should determine the boundaries of legitimate public engagement — the new rules, for instance, demand disclosure of social media accounts and all publications by key functionaries. Instances of misuse undoubtedly warrant investigation and punishment. They cannot, however, justify subjecting every organisation to expanding layers of surveillance and procedural control.

At World Cup, a power shift in football

IN A space of five hours, across Boston and Monterrey, two European giants were sent packing in the Round of 32 by two earnest challengers. Four-time champions Germany and three-time finalists Netherlands were shown the door by Paraguay and Morocco.

German captain Joshua Kimmich admitted that when he was growing up, "it always seemed to be semis or finals for Germany". But this World Cup, the edifice of a football powerhouse always in control crumbled. That Manuel Neuer was forced to take goalkeeping responsibilities at 40, a dozen years after winning the World Cup in 2014, points to a paucity of talent. The young attack of Havertz, Sane, Wirtz and Musiala flopped — Bundesliga isn't offering any better. The Netherlands were a far cry from Cruyff's total football — their attacking talent was wasted by a conservative manager, Roeland Koeman.

The story from the WC knockouts is that the 48-team format gives genuinely improving teams like Morocco the space to advance. Europe, with its cash-rich legacy leagues, seems to have helped — perhaps inadvertently — footballers from around the world by giving them a platform. On a manic Monday night, some of its national teams failed to step up.

The Indo-Pacific is here to stay, with or without Washington

RAJA MANDALA

BY C RAJA MOHAN

JAPANESE PRIME Minister Sanae Takaichi's visit to India this week highlights one important fact — the Indo-Pacific as a geopolitical construct will live on. Whatever Washington's reasons are for restoring the name Pacific Command, the logic of the Indo-Pacific will continue to drive key regional actors like India and Japan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit later this month to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand will reinforce the proposition. In sum, the Indo-Pacific will remain a critical theatre of India's national economic and security strategy.

It was the Trump administration that officially adopted the Indo-Pacific lexicon in 2017, during its first term. At the time, many in India's strategic community viewed the concept with deep suspicion. Was Washington trying to lure India into an anti-China alliance? Was this another attempt to compromise India's strategic autonomy? Today, the anxiety has simply reversed. If Washington no longer emphasises the Indo-Pacific, does it mean America is abandoning Asia? Is it preparing to build a condominium with China?

Both reactions overestimate Washington's power to define India's strategic environment. What they reveal is a self-generated anxiety in Indian strategic discourse that swings wildly between concerns about American "entrapment" and fears of American "abandonment".

The Indo-Pacific construct, when it emerged in the early 2000s, reflected the changing distribution of economic and military power in Asia driven by China's rise and assertion. What Americans call that reality matters less than the fact that Beijing's neighbours have no option but to deal with it — with or without American support.

In any case, the Indo-Pacific was not an American invention. Its modern political articulation came from Japan. In August 2007, during his historic address to the Indian Parliament, the late Shinzo Abe spoke of the "Confluence of the Two Seas". His argument was both simple and profound: The destinies of the Indian and Pacific Oceans had become inseparable, and the democracies along their littorals needed to work together to preserve an open regional order.

For Abe, this was not diplomatic rhetoric. It reflected Japan's assessment that China's rise had fundamentally altered Asia's strategic balance. The old Cold War alliance system centred exclusively on northeast Asia would no longer suffice. Japan needed stronger partnerships with India, Australia, Southeast Asia and Europe while reinforcing its alliance with the United States. The Indo-Pacific became the organising principle for that broader strategy.

Nearly two decades later, Prime Minister Takaichi has become the principal custodian of Abe's vision. Rather than retreating in the face of Washington's change of emphasis, Tokyo has doubled down. Speaking at Vietnam National University in Hanoi in May, Takaichi unveiled an updated "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" strategy, reaffirming the concept's validity despite shifts in American policy. Her updated framework places new emphasis on resilient supply chains, critical minerals, economic security, maritime cooperation and stronger partnerships across the region.

> Delhi need not become captive to American enthusiasm or indifference. The Indo-Pacific ultimately rests not on terminology but on Asian geography and Asian power politics

Japan's credibility rests not merely on its diplomacy but on the transformation underway at home. Under Takaichi, Tokyo has accelerated the most ambitious expansion of Japanese defence capabilities since World War II. Defence spending crossed the 2 per cent of GDP threshold ahead of schedule. Long-range strike capabilities — including Tomahawk cruise missiles and extended-range indigenous missiles — are being deployed. Japan is reorganising its maritime forces, expanding its space capabilities, strengthening defence-industrial cooperation with partners, and building new security networks with Australia, South Korea, the Philippines and India. Tokyo's message is clear: Preserving a stable Indo-Pacific requires Japan to become a stronger strategic actor in its own right, not merely a dependent ally of the US.

The outcomes from Takaichi's visit will reflect that strategy. Tokyo and Delhi are preparing a joint declaration on economic security that, according to Japanese officials, will register their shared opposition to economic coercion. The two sides are expected to identify priority sectors, from semiconductors and critical minerals to clean energy, and to commit to coordinating their response when coercion is used.

Ironically, perhaps the strongest validation of the Indo-Pacific idea comes from China itself. Beijing dismisses the Indo-Pacific as an artificial construct. Yet, its own policies increasingly integrate the two oceans into a single strategic theatre. Over the past two decades, China's dependence on Middle Eastern energy and African resources has steadily grown.

Beijing has built overland economic corridors linking western China to the Indian Ocean, established its first overseas military base in Djibouti, maintained a continuous naval presence across the Indian Ocean and developed an expanding network of dual-use commercial facilities stretching from Southeast Asia to the east coast of Africa. Chinese strategy increasingly treats the Indian and Pacific Oceans as one connected maritime space — which is precisely the logic underlying the Indo-Pacific concept.

India recognised this transformation nearly a decade ago when it formally embraced the Indo-Pacific as the widening arena of its strategic interests. There is little reason to abandon that framework simply because Washington has altered its vocabulary.

Delhi need not become captive to American enthusiasm or American indifference.

The Indo-Pacific ultimately rests not on American terminology but on Asian geography and Asian power politics. As China expands simultaneously into the Pacific and the Indian Ocean, and as Japan emerges as an increasingly capable strategic actor, the integration of the two oceans will only deepen.

The Indo-Pacific, then, is a structural reality of Asian politics, not a shifting American narrative. India should focus on building its own capabilities and deepening partnerships with like-minded Indo-Pacific countries to strengthen the regional balance of power.

The writer is contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express. *He is also associated with the Motwani-Jadeja Institute of American Studies, Jindal Global University and the Council on Strategic and Defense Research, Delhi*

Free Whatsapp Channel https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F

Free Telegram Channel https://t.me/+2RvD_RGf9mljMzg1

Culinary underdog, cultural hero — in eggs, Bengalis trust

AAKASH JOSHI

KI KHELE?", Dida would ask — as so many grandmothers did around the country and the world — across innumerable Sundays when I was five, six, seven years old. I had just returned after a "day spend" at one of my North Indian friends' homes.

"Rajma."

"*Aar*?" The follow-up question was tinged with shock and disdain.

"*Bhaat*," I would say, and then add, somewhat defensively, "raita *aar* achar *o chhilo*". ("Not just rice and rajma, there was raita and pickle as well.)

"*Robbar din e bari te deke ontoto deem er dalna to dite parto*. ("They invited you home, on a Sunday at that... they should have given you egg curry at least.")

"Egg curry at least" is a refrain across homes in East India. Like the humble and ubiquitous potato, it has been the staple of our homes and diets, of our culture, memories and the small things that make up childhoods. And our biryani. A boiled egg (and/or potato), mashed into rice, with a bit of mustard oil or ghee remains for us the simplest and most delightful of delicacies.

When guests arrive unannounced, or when the *cha-ta* and *adda* spill over into dinner and drinks, the egg curry comes to the rescue and completes the table — humbly, without the pretentiousness and fanfare of a *nemontonno* (literally, "invitation", but the word expands to mean the fare served to those invited). Long before I knew of politics, I knew of "emergency curry", which was whipped up so often at our home at an hour's notice.

Then there are the specialist variations, and the greatest Michelin-Star chef has nothing on Dida when it comes to omelette au curry or a well-made deem er devil. In fact, it's not chicken eggs alone that are consumed, and many an urban, *probashi*, deracinated Bengali has been told of the unparalleled flavour of *haash er deem* (duck eggs).

We did not know about protein intakes and the value of eggs for our growing bodies as we grew to love that simplest of ingredients that straddles the line between the oh-so-Indian categories of "pure veg" and "non-veg". The recently elected Suvendu Adhikari government in West Bengal, though, doesn't have that excuse. And that's only part of the reason that the move to remove eggs from mid-day meals for children in government schools came as a surprise — though, after some backlash, funds may be provided for schools that choose to, to purchase eggs.

In fact, like me, Dida, and so many others, the good people who form the state ministry likely enjoyed many a roadside omelette, a comforting egg curry at home and perhaps even a boiled egg with chopped onions and green chillies, which is the perfect accompaniment to an evening drink.

As the West Bengal government chooses to cease serving eggs from the state's mid-day meal, perhaps a story about my deceased grandmother's long-deceased maternal uncle can provide food for thought.

In the mid 1950s, Dida was young, and India was younger. She was studying in Calcutta, her "intermediate" or higher secondary education, and lived in a girls' hostel. When she met him on a weekend, her Boro Mama asked her that all-too-familiar question: "*Ki khele*?" It turned out that the hostel mess had served egg curry, and the ration for each ward was a mere half-egg. Boro Mama was, to say the least, unimpressed. Just half an egg for growing girls? A travesty.

The next weekend, a man arrived at the hostel, carrying a large *jhuri*, or basket with about 80 eggs. Two each, for 40 girls, and a note instructing the warden to ensure that everyone got their fair share.

Dida always narrated that incident with pride, her uncle always the knight in shining armour. Soon after, she stopped studying and was married at an age most of us would now consider late adolescence. Her life was not an easy one. But she could always think back to that time, when someone put her and her compatriots first.

A middle-class Bengali man did for his niece what a government does not want to do for the children under its care.

P.S. — Dida enjoyed, and I still do, a hearty plate of rajma-chawal. Just not for guests on a Sunday lunch.

> As the West Bengal government chooses to cease serving eggs from the state's midday meal, perhaps a story about my deceased grandmother's long-deceased maternal uncle can provide food for thought

The writer is deputy associate editor, The Indian Express. *aakash.joshi@expressindia.com*

Anxious about tax returns? The system is hearing you out

RAJITHA CHANDRASEKAR

FEW COMMUNICATIONS can make otherwise calm, law-abiding people suddenly more alert than a message from the tax department. Even those who have filed carefully, disclosed honestly and preserved every document experience a brief internal pause. Did I miss something? What is interesting is that most people's relationship with the tax department is not defined by investigation or enforcement. It is defined largely by anticipation. Why does taxation provoke this reaction? Part of the answer, perhaps, lies in the nature of taxation itself. Taxes require people to disclose aspects of their lives they otherwise keep private: Income, savings, investments, transactions. For a brief period each year, ordinary citizens are also required to engage with a world of disclosures, classifications and calculations that is not part of their everyday lives.

Money is rarely experienced as mere arithmetic. It carries effort, ambition, security, responsibility, and sometimes anxiety. Financial scrutiny, therefore, feels different from most other administrative interactions. In a sense, filing a return is an act of self-certification. The taxpayer is not merely reporting numbers but affirming that those numbers accurately reflect a part of their financial life. That carries a psychological weight of its own.

Unlike many other obligations, tax compliance does not end emotionally the moment a return is filed. It lingers quietly through periods of waiting, checking and hope that every figure aligns exactly as it should. The feeling is not always one of fear. It is often closer to the experience of remembering an examination answer after the paper has already been submitted. You are reasonably confident you have done everything correctly. And yet, for a few moments, your mind begins reviewing the details, searching for something it may have overlooked. At its core, the psychology of tax compliance is often driven less by fear of having done something wrong than by uncertainty about whether one has done everything right.

Recognising this helps because the way taxpayers feel about the system influences how they engage with it. A process that appears straightforward to administrators may not always feel so to those navigating it. This recognition has shaped the evolution of tax administration. Increasingly, the focus is not merely on addressing issues after they arise, but also on helping taxpayers get things right in the first place. Pre-filled information, advance reporting of transactions, timely reminders and opportunities to review and correct information all reflect this understanding.

As another tax filing season approaches, millions of taxpayers will once again log in, review information, verify figures and submit their returns. Some of that familiar anticipation may remain. But if the process is becoming more transparent, predictable and easier to navigate, that is not by accident. Making compliance less burdensome is one of the quieter goals of modern tax administration. That begins with understanding how taxpayers experience the process. Tax filing season is the time of year when that understanding matters most.

> The psychology of tax compliance is often driven less by fear of having done something wrong than by uncertainty about whether one has done everything right

The writer is commissioner of Income Tax and official spokesperson, Central Board of Direct Taxes, New Delhi

40 YEARS AGO

July 1, 1986

INDIAN EXPRESS

Basic pay to range from 750 to 9,000 | Number of scales reduced to 36 | Rs 1,200 or extra burden on Govt

Pay panel bonanza for staff

Price hike compensation rationalised

Mizoram accord signed

THE CENTRE and the chief of the Mizo National Front, Laldenga, signed a memorandum of settlement, bringing to an end 20 years of insurgency in the strategic border territory. The memorandum was signed by Laldenga on behalf of the MNF, and the Union home secretary, R D Pradhan, and the chief secretary to the Mizoram government, Lalkhama, on behalf of the government.

Barnala ministry averts crisis

A MASSIVE crisis in the ruling Akali Dal (L) in Punjab in the wake of the ministry expansion was averted at midnight following the withdrawal of resignations by four ministers. The high drama began with a joint statement by four ministers, "We are ready for any sacrifice to keep the party united."

38 killed in Sri Lanka violence

THIRTY-EIGHT people, including 20 from the security forces, were killed in Sri Lanka during the last 24 hours. Over 20 persons were killed in intermittent clashes between two Tamil militant groups, PLOTE and TELO, reports from Jaffna said.

Pay panel bonanza for staff

A DRASTIC reduction in the number of pay scales from 153 to 36, a new scheme for compensation against price rise and a hike in the quantum of house rent allowance will cost an additional Rs 1,280 crore per annum, as per the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission, presented to the government. The lowest basic pay in government has been recommended at Rs 750 per month for an unskilled worker and the highest at Rs 9,000 a month. A pay range has been recommended for the three service chiefs and the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

● **WHAT THE OTHERS SAY**
Burnham's radical localism alone won't fix the UK economy.
— Financial Times

READ. THINK. SHARE.
Scan the QR code to explore curated editorials and opinions from leading voices

A question in wake of Great Nicobar project: Is what can be justified also just?

JAY MAZOOMDAAR

ILLUSTRATION: C R SASIKUMAR

LOST IN the debate surrounding the Great Nicobar Island project is a fundamental question: Is what can be justified necessarily just?

A short Bengali poem by the late Binoy Majumdar can be paraphrased thus: "When some explorers 'discovered' an island, they found people already living there. If the island was 'undiscovered', how could it be inhabited? And if people were already living there, how could the explorers 'discover' it?"

Perhaps the maverick mathematician-poet was examining the colonial Doctrine of Discovery — the idea that the first European nation to "discover" a territory in the Americas acquired exclusive rights over it. Around the same time, British colonists in Australia treated hundreds of Aboriginal nations as inhabitants of *terra nullius* — nobody's land.

In India, Lord Dalhousie's Waste Land Rules enabled the takeover of vast tracts of "unproductive" forests and commons beginning in the 1850s. The Land Acquisition Act, 1894 made the government's decision the final word for a public purpose, pushing railways, mines and plantations across forested tribal regions, such as Chota Nagpur, Santhal Parganas and the Central Provinces.

Few would dispute that each of these policies was profoundly unjust and immoral, if not outright criminal, by today's ethical and legal standards. Even fewer would argue that the world is worse off because of the railways, industries and cities that emerged from those interventions. But that is no reason to repeat them. More than a century after the colonial framing of "public purpose", no claim of public, strategic or national interest can be exempt from the burden of justification today. Especially when a mega project is envisaged in a rainforest island that is home to several endemic wild species and to the world's only population of fewer than 300 indigenous Shompen people.

The Rs 90,000-crore Great Nicobar Island project, spanning 166 sq km at the southernmost tip of the archipelago, includes an international container transshipment port, an integrated township, a civil-military airport, a power plant and luxury tourism facilities.Many have demonstrated otherwise but, for a moment, let us accept that the defence installation's location is non-negotiable, that the transshipment port can be financially viable, that the sprawling township is necessary, that the geological risks are manageable, and that the project's strategic importance is paramount.

But even if every justification is taken at face value, none answers the more important question: Is the project just? By its own submission, the plan requires 73 sq km of tribal reserve areas. On its balance sheet, the project has provided for adding 77 sq km of peripheral land to make up for the loss. The indigenous people are not to be dispossessed, merely displaced.

In 1823, the US Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall weighed in on indigenous rights: "The rights of the original inhabitants were, in no instance, entirely disregarded; but were necessarily diminished."

> The doctrine of public trust demands the state to hold vital natural resources — like air, water, forests, coasts — in trust for the benefit of the public, not only of the present generation but of those yet to come

Shifting them from parts of their ancestral home will unsettle the Shompen and the Great Nicobarese, the other indigenous tribe inhabiting the coastal areas of the island. Neither have consented to the plan. The very assertion that these people can be pushed around at will disregards their traditional land use practices. The proposed arrangement echoes an unsettling past: "Is it supposed that the wandering savage has a stronger attachment to his home than the settled, civilised Christian?... Doubtless it will be painful to leave the graves of their fathers; but what do they more than our ancestors did or than our children are now doing?"

That was US President Andrew Jackson's message to the Congress in 1830. Two centuries have passed since. Today, ancestral rights of indigenous groups to their ancestral land are well established. The UN acknowledges that respecting their self-determination and traditional territories is essential to prevent exploitation and displacement. We do not need to look far to know what risks our civilisation poses to the indigenous people. Contact with outsiders has historically exposed these isolated communities not only to unfamiliar diseases — such as measles, tuberculosis, syphilis and respiratory infections — but also to substance abuse, social disruption, economic dependency and sexual exploitation.

Since the arrival of British settlers in the 1850s, the Great Andamanese population fell from an estimated 3,500-6,000 to fewer than 650 in just five decades. Today, less than a hundred survive on Strait Island. A similar fate befell the Onge on Little Andaman. The hunter-gatherers could not adjust to forced settlement and many died of alcoholism, depression and suicide. The Jarawa resisted outside contact for much longer. But the world entered their home through the Andaman Trunk Road that cut through the heart of the Jarawa Reserve in the 1990s. Today, the Jarawa face the same pitfalls of disease and alcoholism, with their women falling victim to trafficking and abuse. Knowing this history, can we still justify exposing the Shompen to the same risks? Or are we, in our ambition to build our own "Hong Kong" at their home, echoing an anachronistic entitlement that every corner of the land must be put to productive use on our terms?

"Our manifest destiny is to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions," wrote American political columnist John O'Sullivan in support of annexing indigenous land in 1845. Nearly two centuries should have been time enough to leave behind such impulses. The doctrine of public trust demands that the state hold vital natural resources — like air, water, forests, coasts — in trust for the benefit of the public, not only of the present generation but of those yet to come. That intergenerational promise must extend to our past — or what survives of it, not because of us but despite us. We are duty-bound to protect their right to simply exist where they are, as they are.

Indeed, public interest may sometimes justify imposing the cost of a larger good on a few. But not when those few are the very last survivors of our war on old ways of life.

The writer is associate editor, The Indian Express.
jay.mazoomdar@expressindia.com

Free Whatsapp Channel https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F

Free Telegram Channel https://t.me/+2RvD_RGf9mljMzg1

From IPOs to iPhones, don't ignore fault lines in economy

ISHAN BAKSHI

AT THE moment, it seems as if India's economic troubles have eased. Crude prices have moderated, foreign investments are trickling in, markets have stabilised and the pressure on the rupee has subsided. But it would be a mistake to ignore the pain points. From recent IPO announcements to trade data, from iPhone sales to cash transfers — all point towards the infirmities and the structural fault lines in the economy.

Over the past few days, two mega IPOs have been announced — Reliance Jio and NSE. Both these companies are in the services sector. This is not exceptional. Seven of the 10 largest recent IPOs have been from firms in financial, retail or other services segments. These include LIC, Paytm, Tata Capital, Zomato and Vishal Mega Mart. The exceptions, engaged in manufacturing, are Hyundai and LG Electronics. Notably, both are foreign firms. This isn't an encouraging trend. But one that is reinforced by FDI data.

In 2025-26, the sectors that attracted the largest share of FDI equity inflows were services, computer software and hardware, trading and construction. The few manufacturing segments that did receive sizeable flows were non-conventional energy and automobiles. All this suggests that not only are more firms in the services sector raising larger amounts from the domestic markets, but foreign investment is also flowing more to these segments. In the trade data as well, the divergence is deepening.

Manufacturing exports are struggling. Between 2021-22 and 2025-26, goods exports grew by under 5 per cent. Total growth, not per annum. With imports galloping by 26.5 per cent, the merchandise trade deficit has widened from $191 billion to $333 billion over the period. Excluding oil, the deficit works out to $213 billion. China accounts for half of this, despite continuing policy ambiguity over the trade and investment relationship with Beijing.

Services exports have fared much better and now account for almost half of the country's trade. In fact, if you exclude oil, the services trade surplus offsets the goods deficit. But IT exports are now at risk with rapid advancements in AI. Some have argued that when the AI cycle shifts from development to deployment, there will be opportunities for Indian firms. But will that really be the case?

ILLUSTRATION: TANUSHRI MITRA

Nervous fund managers and investors are pointing to Anthropic's numbers for clues on how this may unfold. In the April-June quarter, its revenues, which are more skewed towards enterprise customers, are expected to touch $10.9 billion. Its annualised revenue (run rate) has been estimated to exceed $45 billion this year. This is stunning growth. Add to this the numbers for OpenAI and Gemini, and, as some have argued, the large-scale deployment of AI is already underway. It is, therefore, reasonable for investors to ask: To what extent will Indian IT firms be needed for implementation and operational support? And if more of the AI space is cornered by global capability centres, as a few believe, will Indian investors not even get to partake in this round of wealth creation?

With high-skilled IT services under pressure, a financial sector with limited capacity to create low- and medium-skilled jobs and manufacturing struggling to gain traction, the one area where jobs are being created is low-end services. Delivery riders for Zepto, which has just filed its papers for an IPO, have gone up from 49,278 in 2024 to 2.21 lakh in 2026 — more than a fourfold increase. Zomato and Blinkit have almost doubled to 10 lakh riders in two years. Swiggy now has 6.1 lakh riders, while Uber, at 14 lakh active drivers, outstrips Indian Railways. The gig economy is emerging as an urban employment sink.

This lack of more productive job opportunities sits alongside the dramatic explosion of incomes/wealth at the very top. There are several markers of this deepening fault line and its implications for consumption. A case in point is Apple's India revenues outstripping those of HUL according to Kotak Mutual Fund. Fortune remains at the top of the pyramid.

The political response has been to pivot even more aggressively towards populist schemes. In 2025-26, 12 states were estimated to spend Rs 1.68 lakh crore on cash transfers, which works out to 0.5 per cent of GDP as per PRS Legislative Research. This is in line with total spending on R&D that is pegged at 0.6-0.7 per cent of GDP. This is hardly laying the foundations for sustainable long-term growth.

The writer is associate editor, The Indian Express.
ishan.bakshi@expressindia.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Uniting strangers

THIS PIECE captures something true about football fandom beyond one's own country ('Iran's World Cup exit is no ordinary heartbreak', *IE*, June 30). Supporting a team with which you have no national affiliation still feels deeply personal once you have followed its journey. Basak's point that heartbreak is proportional to hope rang true. Such writing reminds us why the World Cup unites strangers across borders in shared disappointment and joy. A heartfelt read.

Prajesh Paramasivan, Neelambur

Heat emergency

EUROPE'S RED alerts and 40-degree days show that climate risk has moved from distant headlines to daily life ('Overheated Europe, underprepared world', *IE*, June 30). Schools closed, transport systems failed, and people drowned while seeking relief in rivers, proving that infrastructure built to retain winter warmth now endangers residents. Municipalities are debating greener urban design, but adaptation alone will not keep pace with a continent warming faster than any other.

K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

EUROPE, WHICH projects itself as a champion of environmental protection, is witnessing unprecedented heatwaves, with record-breaking temperatures, collapsing ecosystems, and mounting health emergencies exposing populations and infrastructure that were never designed to cope with such extremes ('Overheated Europe, underprepared world', *IE*, June 30). This raises a critical question: Has Europe matched its ambitious climate commitments with equally ambitious implementation? Political disagreements, energy security concerns, economic pressures, and uneven progress are among the obstacles that have slowed its transition. While investments in emergency response systems remain indispensable, adaptation costs will continue to rise beyond sustainable limits unless they are accompanied by robust mitigation efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Vaibhav Goyal, Chandigarh

Before AI window closes, build sovereign compute

AMITABH KANT

WE ARE in the midst of a civilisational transition. The last of this magnitude was the Industrial Revolution, which took two centuries to play out. This one will take two decades. According to the Stanford AI Index, the cost of querying a model at GPT-3.5 level performance fell from $20 per million tokens in November 2022 to just $0.07 by October 2024. Generative AI has reached 53 per cent population adoption in only three years, faster than the PC and the internet at comparable stages of their lifecycles. India contributes a vast share of the world's digital exhaust, linguistic diversity and human context to global AI systems, yet the frontier model layer remains heavily concentrated elsewhere, like the US. Yet India has four advantages few countries can match.

First, talent. India ranks first globally in AI skill penetration at 2.8 times the global average, ahead of both the US and Germany, and its AI talent concentration has risen sharply over the past decade. India is no longer simply exporting engineers to the world. It is increasingly absorbing talent domestically as global capability centres, start-ups and major firms build AI teams inside the country.

Second, regulation. While many jurisdictions are moving toward heavy *ex ante* controls, we have chosen feather-touch regulation. The RBI Regulatory Sandbox, the IFSCA innovation frameworks, and the IndiaAI Mission's guidelines are all designed for the same objective: Build first. Govern what emerges.

> Winners are usually those who build durable ecosystems at the moment when technology becomes broadly usable. India still has that window, but it will not stay open forever

Third, infrastructure. India is seeing a major build-out of the physical foundations of the AI economy in the form of data centres, semiconductors, cloud capacity and high-performance computing. In data centres alone, nearly $70 billion of investment is already underway, with an additional $90 billion in announced projects. The total committed investment from the private sector has crossed $160 billion.

Fourth, energy. Data centres require reliable, round-the-clock power, making energy policy central to AI competitiveness. India added 55.3 GW of non-fossil capacity in 2025–26, taking non-fossil installed capacity to 283.46 GW by March 2026. Data centres can also be the anchor demand for renewable energy, storage and grid modernisation.

Today, no country controls the entire AI value chain. Advanced lithography comes from the Netherlands. Key chip fabrication is concentrated in Taiwan and South Korea. In several domains, India is indispensable because of its scale, linguistic diversity and lived complexity. The idea that one nation will monopolise AI is false. What will matter instead is which countries become indispensable nodes in a deeply interdependent system.

Aadhaar, UPI, Account Aggregator, and ONDC have shown that India can build interoperable, population-scale digital rails and then let private innovation flourish on top. The next logical step is to apply the same philosophy to AI through shared sovereign compute, high-quality public datasets, multilingual models and open infrastructure on which start-ups and researchers can compete.

An AI system that works only in English, only in metros and only for formally documented consumers is not an Indian AI system. India's opportunity lies in building models that work in Tamil and Marathi, Bengali and Bhojpuri; for farmers as much as for financial analysts; for primary health centres as much as for global corporations.

First movers do not always win. ARPANET laid the foundations of the internet (1969), but Tim Berners-Lee and CERN made it world-accessible through the World Wide Web (1989); Clive Sinclair built the first mass-market home computer (1980), but IBM, Apple and Microsoft defined the personal computing era. Winners are usually those who build durable ecosystems at the moment when technology becomes broadly usable. India still has that window, but it will not stay open forever. It must build sovereign compute, widen access to intelligence, align AI with clean energy, and design for the bottom of the pyramid rather than the top.

The writer is chancellor of NIIT University, chairman, Fairfax Centre for Free Enterprise, former G20 sherpa, India, and former CEO, NITI Aayog

For Palestine's children, a coalition of conscience

C UDAY BHASKAR

THE REPORT released on June 23 by the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Palestine, chaired by former Justice Srinivasan Muralidhar, is a searing document that demands immediate global attention and sustained action. Moving past standard diplomatic hand-wringing, it delivers a definitive judicial conclusion: Israeli security forces have systematically and deliberately targeted Palestinian children.

The statistics are horrifying — more than 20,000 children killed and 44,000 injured between October 2023 and October 2025. Documenting precision quadcopter and sniper attacks resulting in single gunshot wounds to the heads and necks of minors, alongside the destruction of 97 per cent of Gaza's schools, its orphanages and vital neonatal infrastructure, the Commission reaches a chilling evidence-based determination. This is not "collateral damage"; it is a deliberate campaign to dismantle the demographic vitality, reproductive continuity, and very future of the Palestinian people.

In normal times, faced with such irrefutable evidence, international institutions would have responded, and global consciousness would have been outraged. However, these are blighted times, and pursuing justice through the UN Security Council is a political dead end. Decades of West Asian diplomatic history guarantee that the US will use its veto power to shield Israel from meaningful accountability. Therefore, the international community must pivot directly to the international courts to pursue individual accountability for crimes against humanity. How effective this will be remains moot, but for a world order that is ostensibly committed to the rule of law, at the very least, the judicial process will have been triggered.

Geopolitically, it is highly unlikely that governments like India's will take an unambiguous public stance due to complex strategic alignments. Yet, geopolitical paralysis cannot be allowed to dictate human conscience. Where states choose silence, civil society must speak and act.

There is a deep, historical well of empathy for the Palestinian cause across South Asia, particularly within India — though it currently remains subdued. Can this collective conscience spearhead a global, civil society-led intervention to provide succour and medical care? Crucially, this coalition should align with and amplify the courageous dissenting voices rising within Israel.

> Justice Muralidhar's report delivers a definitive conclusion: Israeli security forces have systematically and deliberately targeted Palestinian children

By joining hands with international partners and internal critics of the occupation, an inclusive global effort can be envisioned. This initiative should begin modestly but precisely: Finding resources and organising volunteers who can safely enter Palestine to review the current status of these children and evaluate their immediate medical and psychological needs.

As a grandparent, I am aware of how much care and attention children require even at the best of times. To comprehend the trauma of three- or four-year-old kids bombed out of their homes, stripped of their families and subjected to mass trauma is nearly impossible. Civil society must build a global network of solidarity that refuses to abandon these children.

The report indicts the Benjamin Netanyahu government for acts that stain the conscience of humanity. It is a cruel irony that a state born from the Holocaust, the Jewish people's deepest wound, now stands accused of inflicting similar diabolical devastation on children.

To its credit, South Africa, which instituted proceedings against Israel before the International Court of Justice in December 2023, has requested access to the Muralidhar report. Hopefully, other nations will support Pretoria when the Palestine report is presented to the UNGA later this year.

The writer is director, Society for Policy Studies, New Delhi

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

Poll Priority

BJP GENERAL secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh is likely to accompany president Nitin Nabin on a visit to Uttar Pradesh in the first week of July. This will be Nabin's first trip to UP after organisational ranks in the state were overhauled last week. Some insiders link the trip to election preparations in the poll-bound state, while others say Santhosh's presence underlines a crucial development — the final vetting of "loyal hands" from the state for the BJP's national hierarchy.

Notable Departure

THE RASHTRIYA Lok Dal's reconstituted 19-member parliamentary board has an interesting hierarchy. The board, reconstituted on Tuesday and tasked with scrutinising ticket aspirants and recommending candidates, will be headed by former Rajya Sabha MP K C Tyagi, the veteran JD(U) leader who joined the RLD barely three months ago. Party president and Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary, meanwhile, figures as just another member of the board. Generally, the parliamentary board is chaired by the party president, making the RLD's arrangement a notable departure. Besides organisational functionaries and old party hands, the board also includes representatives from different sections and a few eminent citizens.

Pancake Comparison

UNION MINISTER Ashwini Vaishnaw found an unusual way to explain the complexity of a multilayer printed circuit board (PCB) while speaking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony for a PCB manufacturing unit in Uttar Pradesh recently. Highlighting India's push to reduce dependence on China in the sector, Vaishnaw likened a 20-layer PCB to "a 20-storey building compressed into the size of a roti or a pancake", and a 14-layer PCB to "a 14-storey building compressed into the size of a papad". The comparison left the audience amused, with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who shared the dais, breaking into laughter.

Venugopal seeks privilege proceedings against Rajnath

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader K C Venugopal on Tuesday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla demanding that privilege proceedings be initiated against Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for "misleading" Parliament by claiming that no Indian soldier was martyred post the Pahalgam terror attack last year.

In his letter to the Speaker, Venugopal said that on July 28, 2025, during discussions on the terrorist attack in Pahalgam and the Operation Sindoor that followed, Rajnath Singh said that no harm was caused to the Indian soldiers. Venugopal said that later a statement was issued that said six armed forces personnel had died during Operation Sindoor. "The aforesaid position clearly indicates that the minister of defence stating on the floor of the House that there had been no casualties during Operation Sindoor was clearly misleading and incorrect," he said in his letter. **ENS**

ENSURING EASE OF DOING BUSINESS & EASE OF LIVING

PM takes stock of progress in deregulation, reforms

Express News Service
New Delhi, June 30

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday held an interaction with all Central Secretaries on deregulation and other reforms which his government has been pushing for achieving ease-of-doing-business and ease-of-living, sources told *The Indian Express*.

It is learnt that the interaction began at 4.30 pm at Seva Teerth – the new executive enclave that houses the Prime Minister's Office – and went on for nearly four hours.

According to sources, the interaction focused on two key themes – 'Deregulation and other reforms for Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living' and 'Promoting Atmanirbharta' (self-reliance).

During the interaction, the secretaries outlined the major steps being taken by their ministries and departments in these two areas. The top bureaucrats highlighted ongoing efforts to translate the Prime Minister's vision into actionable outcomes, while also discussing sector-specific challenges and outlining their future strategies to enhance governance and service delivery.

During a meeting with Central Secretaries, Modi is learnt to have highlighted the importance of adopting a 'whole of govt' approach

The Prime Minister is learnt to have highlighted the importance of adopting a whole-of-government approach and breaking departmental silos. He is also learnt to have asked the secretaries to focus on the tangible impact of schemes on the lives of people.

This was Modi's second interaction with secretaries in less than two months. On May 21, the Prime Minister chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers, which was attended by all secretaries at the Centre.

It is learnt that secretaries were given three minutes each to speak. They were said to have been asked to elaborate on what they have done and what they can do further for implementation of the deregulation and reforms agenda – for ensuring ease-of-doing-business and ease-of-living.

The NDA government has been pushing deregulation and reforms both at the Centre as well as at the states. High-level committees have been entrusted to push deregulation and reforms. One of these committees is chaired by former Cabinet Secretary and NITI Aayog member Rajiv Gauba. The High-Level Committee on Non-Financial Regulatory Reforms (HLC-NFRR) under Gauba was constituted by the Cabinet Secretariat on August 19, 2025. It was mandated to review existing non-financial sector regulations, certifications, licences and permissions with the objective of developing a modern, flexible, people-friendly and trust-based regulatory framework suited to the needs of the 21st century. The Gauba committee has been sharing its recommendations with the concerned departments.

The second panel, Task Force on Compliance Reduction and Deregulation, is led by Bihar cadre IAS officer KK Pathak, who is currently posted as Special Secretary at the Cabinet Secretariat. This committee was also constituted last year. To push deregulation at the state level, the Cabinet Secretariat has also assigned some states to selected secretaries.

E-OCI CARD ALSO INTRODUCED

'Will strengthen govt capacity to monitor foreign donation in real time': Shah launches FCRA 2.0

Express News Service
New Delhi, June 30

IN A move aimed at strengthening the "government's capacity to monitor foreign donations in real time", Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the FCRA 2.0 portal on Tuesday. He also launched the electronic Overseas Citizen of India (e-OCI) card, saying it will bring "great convenience" to more than 50 lakh OCI cardholders.

Shah said the two digital platforms would reduce paperwork, improve citizen services and strengthen oversight of foreign contributions and OCI-related processes.

At the launch event held in New Delhi, Shah said the two platforms would make governance more efficient and transparent, while also addressing long-pending difficulties faced by stakeholders, especially organisations dealing with foreign contributions under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). "Both these initiatives started today will enhance facilities for citizens and, in particular, will resolve the difficulties faced by those receiving donations through the FCRA portal," he said.

Home Minister Amit Shah with Home Secretary Govind Mohan at the launch of the FCRA 2.0 Portal in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Free Telegram Channel https://t.me/+2RvD_RGf9mljMzg1

Shah said the revamped FCRA system would simplify compliance procedures for registered organisations and strengthen the government's capacity to monitor foreign donations in real time. "Prior to 2014, the FCRA system was entangled in files and procedures and was beyond proper oversight, which is critical for both national security and development. After the (NDA) government was formed, the system was strengthened. The renewal of the FCRA portal today will greatly enhance ease of operations for organisations," he added.

Shah claimed that due to the FCRA law, monitoring on foreign contributions "coming with wrong intentions" will increase.

On e-OCI card, he said, "...it will bring great convenience to more than 50 lakh OCI cardholders. After 20 years, when a new passport is issued, there will be no need to re-issue the OCI booklet..."

Free Whatsapp Channel https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F

India committed to safe, orderly & legal migration: Jaishankar

Divya A
New Delhi, June 30

NOTING THAT the movement of skilled talent across borders has emerged as a critical driver of the modern global economy, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday underscored India's commitment to "safe, orderly, and legal migration".

He was addressing the first Human Resource Mobility Forum in New Delhi organised by the Ministry of External Affairs. Jaishankar said India has signed 28 Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements with 26 countries, including recent pacts with nations like Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Jaishankar also noted that as countries face ageing populations and declining workforces, the "silver economy" of caregiving and healthcare as well as the "tech economy" will increasingly depend on mobile human resources.

Speaking at the forum, the minister noted that unregulated movement often fuels criminal networks, human trafficking, and "bad business" that puts vulnerable citizens at risk. "Equally important is the collective responsibility of nations to combat illegal migration, exploitative practices, fraudulent intermediaries, and human trafficking. These challenges compromise the credibility of legal mobility ecosystems and can place vulnerable individuals at risk," he said. "We recognise the need for bilateral collaborations in ensuring safe, orderly and legal migration," he added.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the Human Resource Mobility Forum, in New Delhi. PTI

MLC polls loss: BJP expels Karnataka spokesperson

Express News Service
Bengaluru, June 30

A DAY after being expelled from the BJP for six years, the party's former spokesperson in Karnataka, M G Mahesh, said he was "shocked" at the disciplinary committee's decision as he had only spoken "in the party's interest".

Mahesh's expulsion followed an internal meeting where he blamed the Karnataka BJP leadership for mismanagement during the recent MLC elections.

On June 19, a day after the elections were held, a BJP meeting was held virtually. "...I shared public opinion related to the recent MLC elections and cross-voting. The sole intention was to address the ongoing problems within the party... I am shocked that I have been expelled for speaking in the interest of the party," Mahesh said.

EXPRESS special

'Not a political person... rarely stepped out': Who is Jahangir Khan's wife Sarika

Tanusree Bose
Kolkata, June 30

LITTLE SYMBOLISES the change in fortunes of Trinamool Congress strongman Jahangir Khan, since the West Bengal Assembly election results, as the arrest of his wife Sarika Bibi.

In Falta where the couple live, the neighbours say 37-year-old Sarika, who has studied till middle school, was rarely seen in public, despite Khan's hold in the area. Now, Sarika is under arrest, for allegedly leading a mob that stormed the Falta Police Station on June 17 to try and free Khan.

Among the more than 25 people arrested in the case, Sarika was booked on charges of criminal conspiracy, rioting, promoting enmity, and assault on public servants, apart from under the Arms Act and Explosives Act.

Police said close to 400 supporters of Khan had tried to make their way into the police station, pushing back against the forces, including Central, deployed to stop them. They said the investigation was trying to determine how so many people had gathered at the spot, who was behind the assembly, and if the mob had been paid for the protest.

The Khan home in Falta, which also housed the local TMC office, was once a hub of political activity in West Bengal. Falta falls in the Diamond Harbour parliamentary constituency of the united TMC's No. 2 Abhishek Banerjee, and Khan was seen as his right-hand man. During the Assembly elections, he made national headlines when he took on a police officer deployed for the polls, describing himself as "Pushpa", the character from the hit film by the same name who didn't bow before anyone.

Sarika is under arrest for allegedly leading a mob that stormed the Falta Police Station on June 17 to try and free Khan

The under-construction building, towering above the houses next door, is now deserted, a pink-and-white checked cloth hanging on a line the only spot of colour against grey, unpainted walls. The windows are unfinished, with just the frames and grilles fixed.

Shutters are down at the office, and TMC flags torn. A black Mahindra Scorpio stands unused, its windows and windscreens smashed, as a group of CRPF men keep a lazy watch in the sultry heat.

Neighbours are reluctant to talk to outsiders, only venturing after much persuasion that Khan and Sarika have not been to the house since he suddenly dropped out of the repoll for the Falta Assembly seat, held on May 21. It was the only Assembly constituency to see a re-election after the polls, and Khan's move left the TMC without a candidate and gave the BJP an easy win.

Neighbours say the couple left in the dead of the night, without a trace. They have two school-going children, who stay in a hostel in North Bengal.

On June 9, Khan resurfaced in Falta. He made an appearance twice, both times in police custody, with officials making him parade the neighbourhood with his hands folded in an apology.

Party insiders say it was Khan's "humiliation" that triggered Sarika to join the protests against his arrest on June 17. Before that, Sarika moved the Calcutta High Court over police parading her husband in half-pants, with a rope tied around him, calling it a severe violation of his human rights and his dignity.

Neighbours say that even if Sarika did join the mob at the police station on June 17, it is hard for them to believe she led it.

Police filed a case on the incident at the police station and, on June 21, Sarika was tracked to an acquaintance's house in Julpia area of Bishnupur, and arrested. She is in police custody.

Says Nasreen Bibi: "She hardly stepped outside the house before. As their new house was being built, they had moved into a small one, but we never even heard her voice." Another neighbour, who runs a shop, says: "She was not a political person, neither did we ever see her much. She would not even attend her husband's political meetings or campaign for him."

Nadeem Mulla, among the few willing to come on record, calls the couple "very good" people. "They did a lot of development of this place. They have just been made political scapegoats."

Scoffing at this, local BJP leader Nilotpal Haldar says Khan dominated Falta by fear and accuses him of "atrocities". "My own gold shop was looted in 2021, my daughter stopped going to school out of fear. People in Bengal voted to end such atrocities."

DMK, AAP among 23 INDIA bloc parties writing to CJI on SIR

Asad Rehman
New Delhi, June 30

TWENTY-THREE OPPOSITION parties on Tuesday sent a joint letter to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant seeking the judiciary's intervention in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, "biased conduct" of elections by the Election Commission of India (ECI), and "manipulation" of the results among other poll-related issues.

According to sources, the signatories include political parties such as the Congress, the Trinamool Congress (TMC), and the Samajwadi Party, along with the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) — which had skipped the recent INDIA bloc meeting. The four-page letter highlighted the SIR process across the country, and its alleged misuse by the ECI to favour the ruling BJP, sources said.

"We have appealed to the Judiciary to intervene because when all fails, Indian democracy looks at the Judiciary. Our letter includes specific examples from different states on how the SIR was being misused. While the larger theme is SIR, we have mentioned other election-related malpractices too, as well as examples from different states," a source said.

Congress MP Jairam Ramesh said that the INDIA Janbandhan meeting on June 8 was attended by 21 political parties and an Independent member, during which a decision was taken to send a joint letter to the CJI regarding the SIR process of the ECI and other election-related issues.

"In accordance with this, a joint letter signed by 23 political parties and one Independent has been sent today to the Hon'ble Chief Justice," he wrote on X, adding that the Opposition parties remain firmly "committed to SURE — Solidarity (Unity), Unity (Oneness), and Resistance (Resistance)".

During a meeting of the INDIA bloc earlier this month, five major decisions were taken by the Opposition bloc, including writing to the CJI on the issue. Other key decisions included the ongoing demand for Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation, and to hold another INDIA bloc meeting in Hyderabad within the next two months.

Sachin Ahir (left) with Eknath Shinde in Mumbai on Tuesday. AKASH PATIL

In latest blow to Sena (UBT), Aaditya aide Ahir switches sides

Vallabh Ozarkar
Mumbai, June 30

BARELY EIGHT days after six Shiv Sena (UBT) Lok Sabha MPs quit the party and joined the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, the Uddhav Thackeray camp on Tuesday suffered another setback after party MLC Sachin Ahir filed nomination for the Maharashtra Legislative Council Deputy Chairman's post as the Mahayuti candidate.

While Ahir said that he has not quit any party, Shinde welcomed him to Shiv Sena and stated that no there was contradiction in Ahir contesting on behalf of his party.

The election will be held on Wednesday, though Mahayuti is expected to win comfortably given its numerical strength in the House.

Ahir, considered close to Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray and among the party's key faces in Mumbai, filed the nomination in the presence of CM Devendra Fadnavis, Dy CMs Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar among others.

The development comes days after six Sena (UBT) MPs quit the Uddhav Thackeray-led party and joined the ruling Shiv Sena under what party leaders described as "Operation Tiger", taking the Shinde-led Sena's strength in Lok Sabha from seven MPs to thirteen.

Ahir, a former NCP leader who joined the undivided Shiv Sena in July 2019, had played a key role in helping Aaditya Thackeray consolidate the Worli constituency before his electoral debut that year.

Two weeks to go for polls in multi-crore dairy co-op, Gujarat Congress moves 11 candidates to 'safer place'

Kamal Saiyed
Surat, June 30

TWO WEEKS before the elections for the Surat-Tapi District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd, the Congress-backed Pashu Palak Heet Rakshak Samithi (PPHRS) on Tuesday moved 11 of its candidates to a "safer place" outside Gujarat.

According to its annual report for 2024-25, the dairy's total trade turnover for that fiscal was Rs 6,276 crore.

Congress leaders said the move was taken to shield the 11 individuals from "pressure tactics" of the BJP, whose candidates are contesting under the banner of Sahkar Panel. They alleged that the proposer of a Samithi candidate had been missing since Sunday.

The co-operative is popularly known as Sumul Dairy.

Even as the BJP has already won five seats on the dairy's board of directors uncontested, the party faces challenges on the remaining 11 poll-bound seats. Also, some of its members, who were denied a mandate earlier, will be fighting for membership with the support of the Congress-backed group.

Sumul Dairy, comprising 1,039 primary milk producer co-operative societies, is run by a board of 19 members, 16 of whom are elected

The elections are scheduled for July 15.

Sumul Dairy, which comprises 1,039 primary milk producer co-operative societies, is run by a board of 19 members, 16 of whom are elected. The other three are ex-officio members from the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, the National Dairy Development Board, and the district registrar's office.

After Monday — the first day of form withdrawal — 40 candidates were left in the fray for the 11 seats, sources told *The Indian Express*. They said while the elections were initially due in 2025, they could not be held then due to the local body polls and the SIR. "This led to a delay... So, a custodian was placed in charge," said Pathak. At least three PPHRS picks are those who were denied a mandate to contest the polls.

Congress Legislature Party leader Tushar Chaudhary said, "By giving a mandate, directors are bound in advance to work at the behest of the party and are given free rein that leads to corruption... Keeping the PPHRS's interests in mind, we have moved them (the Samithi's candidates) to a safer place. We will give (the BJP) a tough fight on the remaining 11 seats."

For awarding life term in lynching case, MP judge faces threats

Express News Service
Bhopal, June 30

POLICE HAVE enhanced the security of a sessions judge in Madhya Pradesh, who recently convicted seven men in the 2022 Seoni Malwa lynching case, after she faced a barrage of threats and abuse on social media.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Tabassum Khan, posted in Narmadapuram district, on June 12 sentenced seven men to life imprisonment for the lynching of truck driver Sheikh Lala Nazir Ahmed, who was beaten to death in August 2022 on suspicion of cow smuggling.

In the days following the judgment, multiple posts surfaced targeting the judge over her religious identity, drawing criticism from public figures, who expressed concern over attempts to communalise a judicial verdict. Following complaints of the online campaign, police also registered an FIR against unidentified persons.

Rs 504-CR IDFC FIRST BANK FRAUD

CBI nabs Haryana IAS officer on day of superannuation

Third bureaucrat to be arrested in embezzlement case

Express News Service
Chandigarh, June 30

Pradeep Kumar

THE CBI arrested IAS officer Pradeep Kumar, on the day of his superannuation, and two former bank officials in connection with the alleged misappropriation of Rs 504 crore belonging to eight Haryana government departments maintained at IDFC First Bank and AU Small Finance Bank, officials on Tuesday said.

Kumar, a 2011 batch HCS officer who was later promoted to the IAS, was posted as Member Secretary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) when the alleged misappropriation of funds took place at IDFC Bank's Sector 32 branch in Chandigarh causing a net loss of Rs 169 crore to the government, the CBI said in a statement. He had been on the run and had also filed an application for anticipatory bail in a Panchkula court that was scheduled to come up for hearing on July 2.

Kumar is the third bureaucrat — after IAS officers Ram Kumar Singh and Pankaj Agarwal — to be arrested by the CBI in connection with the case.

The Haryana government on April 8 had suspended Kumar and another HCS-promotee IAS officer RK Singh for their alleged role in the multi-crore scam.

The CBI, in a statement, said that the investigation revealed that Kumar, as Member Secretary, HSPCB, had a direct nexus with the fraud. "He himself handled the entire investment related work at his level. Funds for fixed deposits were sent to IDFC First Bank far in excess of the prescribed limits. For creating fixed deposits, the funds of HSPCB were first transferred into an account opened at IDFC First Bank, Sector 32 Branch, Chandigarh," the agency said.

The CBI said surprisingly, there is no record which the department could produce with regard to opening of account. "The conspiracy was so deep that the account got opened without any approvals and funds were transferred into the account in the name of creating fixed deposits. The investigation conducted so far has revealed that no fixed deposits were created in this bank."

Instead, the agency alleged, fraudulent debit transactions were carried out from this account, resulting in the misappropriation of funds and causing a net loss of approximately Rs 169 crore to the state government. "This represents the single-largest financial loss suffered by any of the affected government departments of Haryana in the overall scam (of Rs 504 crore)," it said.

The CBI statement further said that was not joining the investigation despite repeated efforts. "He was arrested after the CBI successfully traced his whereabouts," it said.

Earlier in the day, CBI said it has accused Shamim Dar, then area head of IDFC First Bank, and Charanjeet Singh Randhawa, then branch manager of AU Small Finance Bank's Mohali branch.

Former editor's passport renewal process begins

Express News Service
Kolkata, June 30

R Rajagopal was the editor of *The Telegraph* newspaper

A DAY after the Kolkata Police promised a swift resolution, the passport renewal process of former editor of *The Telegraph*, R Rajagopal has been initiated, sources said, adding that the District Control Security Cell (DCSC), Kolkata, has submitted a positive verification report to the Regional Passport Office (RPO), clearing the hurdles that had stalled his passport application for months.

According to the official status of his passport application, "Police report has been submitted by the DCSC Office, and action for passport printing is initiated, to be followed by lamination, signing, quality check and dispatch."

The senior journalist's passport renewal had been stuck in limbo since April, following the deletion of his name from the electoral rolls in West Bengal during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voters' list.

In a note on social media, Rajagopal had said that he missed his daughter's wedding in the United States because he did not possess an active passport. "I think, in the first week of April, a police official called me from the Ballygunge police station and summoned me for police verification. He told me to carry my documents. When I asked which document, he told me, 'Voter ID card.' Then I told him, 'But my name has been deleted from the electoral roll on March 27,'" Rajagopal had said.

Efforts to renew his passport since then have been unsuccessful, and he had received an appointment to appear before the RPO on July 17.

Cops suspended as man 'dragged out of police car', stabbed in brawl

Shubham Tigga
Ranchi, June 30

FOUR POLICE personnel, including the officer-in-charge of Bistupur police station, were suspended Tuesday, and a political storm erupted after a man succumbed to injuries after an attack outside a bar in Jamshedpur. The victim and his friend were allegedly dragged out of a police vehicle and stabbed.

The incident, which police said stemmed from an altercation that escalated under the influence of alcohol, has triggered demands for stricter action against both the accused and the cops present at the spot.

The deceased was identified as Himanshu Singh. An FIR was lodged by his father, Arvind.

The SP said police intervened in the altercation and detained some of the people in a patrol vehicle, but after more people arrived, the victims were allegedly dragged out of the PCR vehicle and assaulted.

After 24-hour 'house arrest' in UP, Cong leaders visit Ram Temple

Maulshree Seth
Lucknow, June 30

A NINE-MEMBER Congress delegation, which had announced its visit to Ayodhya to offer prayers at the Ram Temple on Tuesday, alleged that its leaders were detained at their hotels and guesthouses by the Uttar Pradesh administration.

Late in the night, the Congress delegation was allowed to offer prayers at Hanumangarhi and the Ram Temple under police escort, said party leaders.

"The BJP government is trying to hide something by first preventing our leaders from offering prayers and later permitting darshan under heavy security. What was the rationale behind it," asked state Congress media department chairman and former minister C P Rai.

Earlier in the day, state Congress chief Ajay Rai alleged he was picked up from his hotel and shifted to the Acharya Narendra Dev University guest house, where he claimed he had been placed under house arrest.

"I had reached Ayodhya a day earlier because we anticipated that something like this could happen. Despite that, we have been stopped from offering prayers," Rai told *The Indian Express* over the phone.

Questioning the government's action, Rai alleged the BJP government was being selective in allowing devotees access to the temple. "How can the government be selective with devotees? Just a few days ago, they facilitated VIP darshan for Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal, while our delegation was denied darshan. They not only indulge in donation theft but have also made darshan a selective affair," Rai said.

"I will go on a hunger strike if required, but I won't leave Ayodhya without offering prayers. We wanted to pray before Ram and Lord Hanuman for the way Ayodhya has been defamed because of the greed of some people from the RSS and BJP, but we have been denied prayers before Ram. We will not budge from Ayodhya until we offer the prayers," he told *The Indian Express* over the phone.

The delegation, led by Rai, included Amethi MP K L Sharma, three other MPs, an MLA, the state Congress chief and former MLC Deepak Singh, among other senior leaders. The visit had been announced amid the ongoing political controversy over alleged irregularities in donations at the Ram Temple, with the party maintaining that it was going to Ayodhya to offer prayers like any other devotee.

Party leaders had maintained the visit was purely religious and that they intended to offer prayers at the Ram Temple like any ordinary devotee. Amid this, UP CM Yogi Adityanath Tuesday hit out at the Congress, saying those who doubted the very existence of Lord Ram before 2017 are today throwing tantrums to visit Ayodhya.

Meanwhile, in New Delhi, the Congress accused PM Modi, Adityanath, and the BJP-RSS machinery of protecting those involved in the alleged theft in the Ram Temple funds.

Manipur protest: Kuki-Zo groups head to buffer zone

Express News Service
Guwahati, June 30

TENSION FLARED up in Manipur's Kangpokpi district Tuesday after Kuki-Zo protesters staged a demonstration at the border between Kangpokpi and Imphal West districts, demanding the restoration of the supply of essential commodities along National Highway-2 into Kangpokpi.

This comes amid a month-and-half long 'economic blockade' called by Naga groups, blocking the entry of goods and supplies into Kuki-Zo areas, as tensions escalated between the two communities.

Kangpokpi, a Kuki-Zo majority district, is the worst affected as both major routes through which goods enter the district have been blocked by Naga groups in Senapati district and the state capital, as reported earlier by *The Indian Express*.

On Tuesday, the protesters marched towards the 'buffer zone' — between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo inhabited areas, which have largely been heavily manned by security forces through the course of the conflict between the two communities since May 2023 — beyond Gamgiphai in Kangpokpi district, where they alleged that the goods were being blockaded.

Security forces deployed at the 'buffer zone' stopped the procession from advancing, leading to a brief face-off with the demonstrators. As tensions escalated, security personnel used tear gas shells to disperse the crowd and prevent them from crossing the 'buffer zone'.

Tuesday's protest had been called by the Committee on Tribal Unity — a Kuki-Zo organisation in Kangpokpi — after issuing a 48-hour "ultimatum" to the government to restore the movement of goods here.

Law ministry: AG never told SC ethanol an 'ongoing experiment'

ENS & PTI
New Delhi, June 30

THE UNION Law Ministry on Tuesday termed as "completely false" reports that the Attorney General of India, R Venkataramani, told the Supreme Court that the "government's 20% Ethanol Blended Petrol (E20) programme is 'still an ongoing experiment' and that 'the impact of the policy would become clearer by next year'."

A Press Information Bureau statement said the office of the AG "has noticed certain media reports...incorrectly reported the submissions made by" the AG in the matter of appeals filed by Oil Marketing Companies regarding ethanol allocation.

It said, "These reports are completely false and do not reflect anything even close to the actual submissions made before the Hon'ble Court."

According to the statement, "during the hearing", the AG "submitted that similar writ petitions involving identical issues concerning allocation of ethanol to Dedicated Ethanol Plants are presently pending before different High Courts" and that "Transfer Petitions are being filed for transfer of such matters to the Hon'ble Supreme Court so that common questions of interpretation of law arising from the same contractual framework may be considered together to avoid parallel proceedings and the possibility of conflicting decisions, if at all." The AG further said, the statement noted, that "this step is also likely to enable expeditious resolution of the litigation, so that supplies of ethanol to OMCs to maintain 20% blending with petrol throughout the year is not impacted, under the Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme, which is a national programme."

The statement said that considering the submission, the SC directed that status quo may be maintained in respect of the ethanol allocation for the current Ethanol Supply Year (2025-26). The statement further said "at no stage was any submission made that the Government's Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme or the E20 blending programme is an 'experiment'." It is clarified in explicit terms that any suggestion that the Government described the E20 programme before the Hon'ble Supreme Court as an "experiment" is incorrect and does not represent the submissions made on behalf of the Union of India."

Earlier in the day, a PTI report said that during the hearing of a plea filed by an oil company, the AG had submitted before the Court that ethanol blending was still an ongoing experiment.

LOHAGAD FORT MURDER

Ketan suspected Siya's affair, told family: Probe

Sushant Kulkarni
Pune, June 30

JUST FOUR days before Ketan Agarwal was allegedly pushed off a cliff at Lohagad Fort by his fiancée, Siya Goyal, and her lover, Chetan Chaudhari, Ketan had expressed concern to his father about Siya, saying that her phone was constantly busy, she kept mentioning a friend named Chetan, and that he suspected she was having an affair, the police investigation has revealed.

The police said this was not the first time Ketan, 26, voiced such concerns to his family.

Siya, 20, and Chetan, 22, were arrested on June 23 in the case.

The police said Siya and Ketan got engaged in February and were to get married later this year. However, Siya, who had been in a relationship with Chetan since October last year, did not want to marry Ketan.

"Our investigation suggests that after returning from the Lohagad visit with Siya on June 14, Ketan asked his father whether all the details about Siya had been properly verified. He told his father that Siya's phone was constantly busy and that she kept mentioning a friend named Chetan. Ketan told his father that he suspected that Siya was having an affair. After Ketan voiced his concern, his family convinced him his doubts were misplaced, as Siya's family was known and distantly related to them," said an officer.

The officer said Ketan had shared such concerns many times after meeting Siya. "He had told his father that when he did not go to Lohagad Fort on June 4, Siya had cried a lot and had created a scene. After their Bali trip had to be cancelled, Ketan told his father that Siya had been quarrelling with him for the previous month. All these times, the family members tried to convince Ketan citing Siya's age and family link."

Cricketer refutes assault charges by house help

Devendra Pandey
Mumbai, June 30

PUNJAB KINGS cricketer Shashank Singh has denied all allegations after an FIR was lodged at Ratibad police station in Bhopal against him and his family over claims of assault by a domestic help. He has called the accusations false and malicious.

The complaint was filed by Vipendra Singh Tomar on June 29, who alleged he was assaulted, abused and had his phone taken away by Shashank, his father — retired Special DGP Shailesh Singh – and their driver Mishra.

Shashank, however, rejected the allegations, saying he was allegedly caught stealing at their residence. "We removed Vipendra after he was caught stealing in our home. The morning when he came for work on June 28, it seemed he was drunk... When he was caught stealing, Vipendra pleaded with us to let him... We decided not to report to the police."

Last Sudan shipment was in Jan, says official of US-sanctioned firm

Ankita Deshkar
Nagpur, June 30

SBL ENERGY Ltd, the Indian explosives manufacturer recently sanctioned by the US over alleged supplies linked to the civil war in Sudan, dispatched its last shipment to Sudan on January 27 this year, nearly six months before the sanctions were imposed, an official said on condition of anonymity. The company was also preparing to begin exporting to the US but a deadly factory blast in March disrupted the plans, the paper has learnt.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* on condition of anonymity, a senior company official said SBL Energy had not exported any material to Sudan after the January shipment.

The official claimed that the company had made around 10-11 shipments to Sudan since it first began exporting to the country in 2022, while clarifying that these referred to the number of shipments made and not individual containers. After the initial consignment in 2022, there was a gap of nearly two years before exports resumed, with the final shipment leaving for Sudan in January this year.

Last week, the US sanctioned SBL Energy Ltd and its CEO Alok Choudhari, alleging the company supplied explosives to the Sudanese Army through Target Multi Activities Co Ltd (TMAC), thereby intensifying the conflict.

However, the official maintained that SBL was not the principal supplier of TMAC, claiming the Sudanese firm sourced explosives from over eight suppliers, including those based in South Africa and Colombia, all of which have now been sanctioned. The official claimed both TMAC and SBL were sanctioned on June 26, adding that SBL faced "secondary sanctions". The official said TMAC was not a sanctioned entity while SBL was supplying material to it.

The official said the products supplied to TMAC were "100 per cent industrial-grade mining explosives" intended exclusively for civilian mining operations.

भारतीय वायु सेना/INDIAN AIR FORCE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT OF PART TIME LADY MEDICAL OFFICER (LMU) AT FAMILY WELFARE CENTRE, MARUT CAMP, RACE COURSE, NEW DELHI FOR THE PERIOD OF 03 YEARS

1. Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station New Delhi, Race Course, New Delhi -110003 invites application for appointment of part time Lady Medical Officer (LMO) for the service as per give below:

1.1	Service	Part Time Lady Medical Officer (LMO)
1.2	Essential Qualification	MBBS
1.3	Desirable	Trained in Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) and tubectomy operation with one year experience
1.4	Honorarium	Rs. 28,000/- per month (Fixed)
1.5	Hours of Work	0830 hrs to 1230 hrs daily on all working days
1.6	Place of Work	Family Welfare Centre, Marut Camp. Race Course, New Delhi-03

2. Applicants are required to come personally for interview along with all the original documents for verification of educational qualification, experience certificate and identity etc. The date of interview will not be postponed due to absence of any applicant.
3. Interested persons fulfilling the qualification may forward their application on plain paper along with photocopy of qualification, experience certificate, bio-data, and two recent passport size photographs. Application in a sealed cover to be sent by hand /registered post to **"Senior Medical Officer (SMO), Station Medicare Centre (SMC) Air Force Station, Race Course, New Delhi-110003)"** within fifteen days of publication of advertisement. Applications received after due date & time will not be considered. Please, super scribe **'Part Time Lady Medical officer (LMO)'** as appropriate on the sealed cover to avoid rejection of application.

CBC-10802/11/0006/2627

भारतीय वायु सेना

INDIAN AIR FORCE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT OF PART TIME SWEEPER AT FAMILY WELFARE CENTRE, MARUT CAMP, RACE COURSE, NEW DELHI FOR THE PERIOD OF 2 YEARS

1. Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station New Delhi, Race Course, New Delhi-110003 invites application for appointment of part time sweeper for the service as per give below:

S No	Service/ Post	No of Posts	Qualification	Place of work	Working Hours	Payment	Age limit Minimum
1.1	Part-time Sweeper	01	10th Pass	Family Welfare Centre, Marut Camp. Race Course, New Delhi-03	Six days a week (Mon-Sat) for 04 Hours from 08.30 hrs-12.30 hrs	₹. 9000/- per month (fixed)	18 yrs

2. Applicants are required to come personally for interview along with all the original documents for verification of educational qualification, experience certificate, address and age. The date of interview will not be postponed due to absence of any applicant.
3. Interested persons to forward their application on plain paper along with photocopy of qualification experience certificate, bio-data, contact number, two recent passport size photographs Application in sealed cover must be sent by registered post to "Senior Medical Officer (SMO), Station Medican Centre (SMC) Air Force Station, Race Course, New Delhi-110003)" within fifteen days of publication of advertisement. Applications received after due date & time will not be considered Please, super scrib Part Time Sweeper' as appropriate on the sealed cover to avoid rejection of application

CBC- 10802/11/0007/2627

VACANCY NOTICE

HIGH COURT OF DELHI

DELHI HIGHER JUDICIAL SERVICE EXAMINATION-2026

Online Applications are invited from eligible candidates for Delhi Higher Judicial Service Examination-2026 under 25% direct recruitment quota.

Number of Vacancies	GEN	SC	ST	TOTAL	Pay Scale
	17	05	05	27	(J-5) Rs. 144840-194660

For eligibility criteria and other details, please refer to detailed advertisement on the website of High Court of Delhi i.e. **www.delhihighcourt.nic.in** from 01.07.2026 onwards.

Registration of Online Applications

Starting Date & Time: 01.07.2026 (1000 Hours)
Closing Date & Time: 15.07.2026 (1730 Hours)

All further notifications, corrigendum etc. related to this advertisement, if any, will be published ONLY on the official website of Delhi High Court.

Sd/-
(Arun Bhardwaj)
Registrar General

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER (REVENUE) (PM-UDAY CELL)
5, SHAM NATH MARG, DELHI-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

1. It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that, under the PM-UDAY Scheme (Pradhan Mantri Unauthorised Colonies Awas Adhikar Yojana), the Revenue Department, Government of NCT of Delhi, has been pleased to prescribe a cut-off date for the filing of applications for grant of Conveyance Deed (CD) /Authorization Slip (AS), as detailed below.
2. The Cut-off Date for filing of applications for Conveyance Deed (CD)/Authorization Slip (AS) under the PM-UDAY Scheme is hereby fixed as 31.10.2026.
3. On the expiry of the cut-off date in force, no Conveyance Deed (CD)/Authorization Slip (AS) shall be granted in respect of applications received thereafter.
4. All eligible residents of unauthorised colonies in Delhi are accordingly advised to submit their applications for Conveyance Deed (CD) / Authorization Slip (AS) on the PM-UDAY portal well within the cut-off date in force, so as to avail the benefits of the Scheme and to avoid hardship.
5. For any assistance, applicants may contact the PM-UDAY Cell located in the concerned District Magistrate Office of their respective District. Details of contact numbers for each district are as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of District	Phone No. of the Nodal Officer
1	Central North	8587972047
2	South East	7982789976
3	Outer North	9213191112
4	South West	9971426104
5	Central	9971684611
6	North West	9999465464
7	West	8570981223
8	North	8860320636
9	East	9650162402
10	North East	9810446860
11	Southa	9873987343

This issues with the prior approval of the Competent Authority.

Sd/-
SDM (PM-UDAY/HQ)
Revenue Department

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0124/26-27

Year after UMEED, waqf database shows 11% applications rejected, a third from UP

Govt attributes rejection percentage to quality of land records, difference in volume of waqf properties, awareness

Asad Rehman
New Delhi, June 30

A YEAR after the Centre launched a portal to create a digital inventory of geo-tagged waqf properties across the country, there's a question mark on the fate of 88,571 such properties whose details for registration have been rejected after scrutiny. These account for just 11% of the total 7,95,784 waqf properties sought to be registered.

Data available on the UMEED portal — the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development platform — show that a total of 5,87,804 properties or 74% of the total were approved for inclusion. The registration process is yet to be completed.

Uttar Pradesh with 31,783 rejections accounts for almost 36% of the waqf properties nationwide that failed to find space on the UMEED portal. West Bengal with rejection of 14,134 waqf property applications accounts for 16% of the total rejections, and Rajasthan with 12,080 accounts for over 13% of total rejections. Following the non-inclusion of 88,571 properties, officials of waqf boards in several states told *The Indian Express* that they have "no idea" what will happen to the properties rejected by the portal.

States that witnessed the maximum rejection of their Waqf property applications included Rajasthan (37%), Tamil Nadu (26%), Uttar Pradesh (22.23%). In absolute terms, a total of 7,95,784 waqf properties were sought to be included on the portal — 160,857 properties from Uttar Pradesh alone (20.1%) and another 1,34,545 (16.9%) from West Bengal. In Uttar Pradesh, which has two separate waqf boards for Shia and Sunni communities, 29,724 of the 1.52 lakh Sunni waqf property applications were rejected. Of the 8,171 Shia waqf property applications, 2,059 were rejected. In neighbouring Uttarakhand, 455 of the 2,468 property applications were rejected.

The Centre launched the UMEED portal on June 6, 2025, to create a digital inventory after geo-tagging all waqf properties. Details of all registered waqf properties across India were to be mandatorily uploaded within six months. On December 5 last year, when the six-month deadline for inclusion in the portal ran out, Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that there would be no penalty for those who had failed to register properties on the portal, and that they could approach the waqf tribunals in the states for an extension. Subsequently, state waqf tribunals granted extensions to upload the details. The extended deadline has already passed in some states, while it will run out in the coming days in other states.

The process for getting a waqf property registered on the portal has three layers – initiation by maker (mutawalli or caretaker of a waqf property), a check by the "checker" (a designated district-level official or state waqf board official), and approval by the "approver" (senior waqf board officials in the state).

In Uttar Pradesh, which has two separate waqf boards for Shia and Sunni communities, the Sunni Waqf Board saw 29,724 out of 1.52 lakh applications for properties being rejected. The Shia Waqf Board saw rejection of 2,059 properties out of 8,171 applications. Uttar Pradesh Shia Waqf Board chairman Ali Zaidi said: "As per the Waqf Act, there was no provision regarding the roadmap on what will happen to properties rejected (for inclusion) on the portal. We have received no information from the government on this."

A mutawalli in Delhi, who manages a property which has been rejected, said: "The property has not been registered, and no explanation has been provided. Even the status of registration remains unknown to us. The website does not display whether the application is under process, has been registered, or has been rejected." He said they were planning to move court because "our properties were already registered as waqf properties".

CEOs of some waqf boards said they have written to the Centre, seeking more time to complete the process on the portal. "We wrote to the Ministry in June seeking an extension, but have received no reply," one of the CEOs said.

Officials in the Ministry of Minority Affairs attribute the range in rejection percentage to several reasons — quality of land records, awareness and difference in volume of waqf properties in different states. "The first step has to be taken by mutawallis. Some states have better literacy rates, so their mutawallis are more aware. They started the process on time and hence, the states have done better. Southern states have better legacy data for land records, so they have done well," a senior officer in the Ministry said.

• WAQF APPLICATIONS ON UMEED PORTAL

7,95,784 initiated — **88,571** rejected in total

States with highest rejections

State	Applications	Rejected	Share in total rejections
UP (Shia & Sunni)	1,60,857	31,783	35.88%
West Bengal	1,34,545	14,134	15.95%
Rajasthan	32,055	12,080	13.63%
Telangana	63,952	5,572	6.29%
Kerala	80,351	5,492	6.83%

Free Whatsapp Channel https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F
Free Telegram Channel https://t.me/+2RvD_RGf9mljMzg1

• BRIEFLY

Firefighters try to douse the fire in Haldia on Tuesday. PTI

WEST BENGAL

1 killed, over 20 injured as naphtha pipeline catches fire in Haldia

ONE WOMAN died and more than 20 others injured after a major fire broke out in a naphtha-carrying pipeline of Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd (HPL) in West Bengal's Purba Medinipur district early Tuesday, police said. The fire continued to burn in a small section of a naphtha-carrying pipeline even after 15 hours. Thirty eight-year-old Manu Bibi has succumbed to her burn injuries at a city hospital, police said. Four of the injured were "very critical", an officer said. Firefighting operations are on, police said. The blaze has also damaged overhead railway equipment near the site, disrupting train services. PTI

7 die in lightning strikes across Jharkhand

AT LEAST seven persons, including two women and an eight-year-old girl, died in lightning strikes across Jharkhand, police said Tuesday. The deaths were reported from Ranchi, Bokaro, Deoghar, Dumka, Hazaribag, Latehar and Palamu districts since Monday. The deceased were identified as Bhagirath Mahto (26) from Ranchi, Alok Kumar Turi (Bokaro), Raju Yadav (Palamu), Shobha Devi (Hazaribag), Tejni Devi (Latehar), Moni Besra (Dumka), and an eight-year-old girl (Deoghar), police said. PTI

Assam: Man held with 37 kg smuggled gold

AN ALLEGED international gold smuggling network has been busted in Guwahati by the Assam Police, and a man was arrested with over 37 kg of gold worth Rs 54 crore, officers said Tuesday. Probe has also revealed international gold smuggling links to the Middle East and Myanmar, with domestic connections to Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Bengaluru. Thirteen gms of silver flakes, four cellphones and Rs 3,755 cash were also seized. The accused, from Maharashtra, had no legal documents for the consignment. ENS

11-yr-old boy dies after tree falls on school van amid rain in Mumbai

Nayonika Bose & Pratip Acharya
Mumbai, June 30

AS HEAVY rain continued to lash Mumbai Tuesday, a large peepal tree fell on a school van carrying 12 children home in Chembur, killing Vihaan Srivastava (11) as well as injuring at least four other students in one of the city's worst rain-related tragedies this monsoon.

The accident took place around 2.50 pm in Subhash Nagar near Heritage Pride building, police said. The van had left the school with 18 students. By the time it reached Subhash Nagar, six children had been dropped, leaving 12 inside when the tree came crashing down.

Residents rushed to the spot after hearing a loud crash followed by cries from inside the vehicle. "Initially, it felt like something had happened in the nearby building where construction work was underway. But soon we started hearing loud cries and screams of children. When we looked out, we saw a huge commotion and rushed to the accident site," said Rashi Shah, a Subhash Nagar resident.

The injured have been identified as Yuvaan Gelani (10), Ganiv Singh (12), Monika Sahni (4) and Krisha Rai (10), among others. Deputy Commissioner of Police Samir Shaikh said an accidental death report has been lodged, however, no FIR has been registered so far.

The fallen tree blocked traffic for hours as teams from BMC's tree department and Mumbai Fire Brigade cleared the debris. An official from the civic tree department said the tree appeared to have collapsed as its roots had weakened over time. "The tree was very old and its root were completely weakened."

Vihaan Srivastava lost his life after a tree fell on the school van (left) in Mumbai on Tuesday. AMIT CHAKRAVARTY

EXPRESS special

A TN dept escaped new govt churn, ammonia leak deaths could change that

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, June 30

THE TAMIL Nadu State Commission for Women has ordered an inquiry into the ammonia gas leak at a seafood processing unit in Tiruvallur that claimed 16 lives, most of them women migrant workers, even as the tragedy has renewed scrutiny of the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health, the department responsible for enforcing safety norms in factories handling hazardous chemicals. This is possibly the only department left untouched after the new regime came to power, while almost all other departments saw widespread transfers of department heads (HODs).

Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports, the Commission has directed the Tiruvallur District Collector to submit a detailed report within four weeks. Its intervention has widened the focus from the immediate failure inside St Peter & Paul Sea Food Export Private Ltd to the larger question of how a unit housing migrant women workers near ammonia-based refrigeration machinery was allowed to operate, and whether Tamil Nadu's industrial safety enforcement system failed to detect or act on risks before they turned fatal.

In its communication dated June 25, the Commission noted that the victims were predominantly women migrant workers from Odisha and other states, who were not only employed at the factory but were also residing in accommodation provided within the premises. It asked the district administration to examine whether the factory possessed the required licences and approvals to handle ammonia, and whether it complied with labour safety, occupational health and statutory regulations. The Commission has also sought an inquiry into whether workers were compelled to stay inside the factory premises, whether key laws were violated, and whether there was any intimidation by the management.

The leak occurred on June 21 at the factory in Kannigaipair village near Periyapalayam. Around 80 workers were on the ground floor sorting, cleaning and packaging seafood products, while nearly 60 women workers were asleep on the first floor after completing their shifts. The same floor housed machinery and refrigeration equipment that used ammonia.

Workers said an ammonia pipeline ruptured after pressure built up in the system. Within minutes, toxic gas spread through the first floor. Women woke up gasping for breath, their eyes and throats burning. According to an internal report submitted before the government, women sleeping near the machinery were exposed before anyone realised the scale of the leak and that the air on the first floor was so toxic that rescuers themselves struggled to breathe. When the rescue attempts started, witness accounts said it was impossible to enter the building because the gas concentration was very high.

Meanwhile, the disaster has brought DISH under sharper scrutiny. A senior government secretary told *The Indian Express* that the department has long remained an exception to administrative reshuffles. "After the present government assumed office, transfers were carried out across departments and at multiple levels to dismantle entrenched networks. But the Factory Department was largely untouched. Officers continued in the same positions, dealing with the same employers and industrial establishments for years," the official said.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

The ammonia gas leak at a seafood processing unit in Tiruvallur had killed 16 people, most of them women migrant workers. PTI FILE

4-yr-old falls into 220-ft borewell in Haryana village; rescue underway

Express News Service
Chandigarh, June 30

MULTIPLE AGENCIES launched a joint operation to rescue a four-year-old boy who fell into a 220-feet deep open borewell in a village in Haryana's Ambala Tuesday, officials said. A camera had been lowered into the approximately 9-inch wide borewell to monitor the child even as NDRF, SDRF and Army personnel made multiple efforts throughout the day to pull him out using a rope.

The rescue teams were considering drilling a new borewell parallel to the existing one to reach the child, Nirvair Singh. According to the rescue teams, a high-speed drilling machine can bore up to 200 feet in 2–3 hours. As per officials, the incident took place around 7 am when Nirvair from Dhanaura village had gone to the fields with his father to deliver food to his grandfather. While playing, the child slipped and fell into the open borewell.

While rescue officials were yet to confirm the exact depth at which Nirvair is trapped, Deputy Commissioner Ajay Singh Tomar, who reached the spot, said the child is believed to be stuck about 220 feet inside the borewell. Tomar said on getting the information, NDRF and SDRF teams rushed to the and launched rescue operations.

"The Army's heavy machinery is also on the way. Every effort is being made to rescue the child safely," Tomar said. "An attempt is being made to pull out the child through a rope. The problem rescuers are facing is that there is a leakage of water in the borewell, which is affecting the visibility." When asked about the condition of the child, the DC said he could not comment on it at this point. He said he will be able to give more information after the child is taken out of the well.

The DC further said that orders have been issued to the police to take action as per rules against those responsible for leaving the borewell open in the field. "That person is liable to face action for this negligent act. A piece of tile, a brick, concrete slab, or even a jute bag could have been enough to cover the borewell."

'End hostility': 100 prominent citizens from India, Pak write to Modi, Sharif

Express News Service
New Delhi, June 30

URGING THE Prime Ministers of both nations to take meaningful and sustained steps towards restoring peace, normalcy, dialogue and cooperation, a group of over 100 prominent citizens from India and Pakistan on Tuesday called for an end to continued hostility, which, they said, is depriving millions of young people of both sides of opportunities, prosperity and a secure future.

Issued by the 'Centre for Peace and Progress', an open letter by 117 signatories, including political figures from India and Pakistan, made suggestions ranging from immediate diplomatic measures to the resumption of a structured dialogue, the reconnection of people-to-people links, and promotion of religious and cultural access.

National Conference chief Dr Farooq Abdullah, separatist leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, former TMC minister Humayun Kabir were on the list of 61 signatories on the letter from India. On Pakistan's side, former Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri, diplomat Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, National Assembly member Isphanyar Bhandara were among the 56 signatories.

"Decades of estrangement has hindered our collective potential and imposed significant social, economic and human costs...," the letter stated.

The group asked PM Narendra Modi and his Pakistan counterpart Shehbaz Sharif to consider confidence-building measures in this regard such as restoring full diplomatic ties and reinstating High Commissioners in New Delhi and Islamabad in addition to resuming normal visa services for citizens of both nations.

"...We respectfully request you to listen to the aspirations of common people and choose engagement over isolation, dialogue over hostility and cooperation over confrontation. The future of South Asia should be shaped not by division and conflict, but by peace, prosperity and shared progress," it read.

Stricter security, accommodation ready for 55,000 pilgrims ahead of Amarnath Yatra

Arun Sharma
Jammu, June 30

WITH STRICTER security measures in place for the Amarnath Yatra this year, pilgrims entering Jammu and Kashmir will, for the first time, be taken from Lakhanpur in Kathua district to the Bhagwati Nagar base camp under a security cover.

"Only pilgrims reaching Lakhanpur between 6 am and 8 am will be escorted to Jammu under security cover," IGP (Jammu Zone) Bhim Sen Tuti said. Those arriving after 8 am "will have to halt there for security reasons". He said the move was aimed at making security for the yatra "even stronger than before".

From Lakhanpur, the entry point to J&K from the Punjab side, pilgrims have been directed to travel only on Jammu-Srinagar highway (NH-44), he said, adding their movement to Kashmir via alternate routes like Udhampur-Dhar road or Mughal road would not be permitted due to security reasons. However, mini-convoys of pilgrims will operate between Udhampur and Banihal under a fixed schedule.

The yatra comes over a year after Operation Sindoor, in which Indian defence forces attacked terror camps across the LoC after militants attacked tourists in Pahalgam on April 22 last year; 25 tourists and a local man were killed in the attack. Sources said there have been reports of infiltration bids from across the border this year. There have also been encounters between security forces and militants in Kathua district last year.

Officials said the administration has also made elaborate arrangements for secure accommodation for around 55,000 pilgrims between Lakhanpur and Banihal in Ramban district. "Comprehensive arrangements have been made for pilgrims arriving in the Jammu division, including facilities for accommodation, food and sanitation so that none faces inconvenience," said Jammu Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar.

Pilgrims queue up to register for the Yatra, in Jammu on Tuesday. PTI

Jamir Nazir's 'AI-suspected' story wins 2026 Commonwealth Short Story Prize

Aishwarya Khosla
New Delhi, June 30

FOR OVER six weeks, "Did AI write this?" trailed three of the five regional winners of the 2026 Commonwealth Short Story Prize. Now Trinidadian writer Jamir Nazir, 61, whose story *The Serpent in the Grove* was accused of AI-plagiarism, has been named the prize's 2026 overall winner, taking home £5,000 (Rs 6,23,500).

The announcement comes after the Commonwealth Foundation cleared three regional winners accused of submitting AI-generated work of wrongdoing after an internal review. On June 22, the Foundation said it was "satisfied that AI was not used to write the winning stories" and would proceed with the regional winners as selected.

Nazir has denied the allegations on *LinkedIn*, according to *trinidadexpress.com*, though the post was no longer visible at the time of filing. He told *The Observer* that a chronic health condition makes "sustained desk-bound writing" difficult, so he writes almost entirely via speech-to-text on his Android phone, followed by light keyboard editing.

The episode has triggered a wider reckoning, over what counts as quality postcolonial literature, and whether an institution like the Commonwealth Prize still fits the moment.

Keeping a 14-year tradition, British literary magazine Granta published the five 2026 regional winners, all finalists for the overall prize, on May 12. *The Serpent in the Grove* was Nazir's winning entry for the Caribbean region; judge Sharma Taylor had praised its "polished and confident" prose and a "melodic voice" that "lingers long after the final line".

Sixty one-year-old Jamir Nazir takes home Rs 6,23,500 for the story *The Serpent in the Grove*. COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION CREATIVES

The backlash was immediate. Readers flagged what they called markers of AI-generated prose, and AI-detection tool Pangram, which claims an overall false-positive rate near 1 in 10,000, dropping to about 0.01% for creative writing, rated the story "100% AI generated".

Social media users then ran the other four regional winners through the same tool: it flagged John Edward DeMicoli's *The Bastion's Shadow* (Malta) as 100% AI-generated, and Indian-origin writer Sharon Aruparayil's *Mehendi Nights* as partially machine-generated, a claim Aruparayil categorically denied in an email interview with *indianexpress.com*. In the scandal's aftermath, Granta announced it would no longer publish the prize's regional winners.

POSTCARDS FROM 5 CITIES — A YEAR BEFORE ELECTIONS

What UP Wants

In the second term of the Yogi Adityanath government and a year before the state heads into an election, UP's political landscape is marked by restlessness around jobs, paper leaks and dissent. Vandita Mishra travels to UP to find a government that is relying on its record on law and order, and an Opposition struggling to frame the challenge

(Clockwise from top) At a protest organised by the Cockroach Janata Party in Lucknow on June 12; Akhilesh Yadav and Rahul Gandhi, INDIA bloc allies and probable partners in UP; students at a coaching centre in Lucknow. PHOTOS BY VISHAL SRIVASTAV

If it could happen in NEET... Frissons of anxiety ripple through coaching centres and hang in airless rooms that young men and women from rural areas take on rent in cramped neighbourhoods in UP's cities. He or she could stay here for years, preparing for one exam after another, one exam along with another. The probability of failure is high, you must have a Plan B. After all, you are navigating, with few safety nets or none, an examination system notorious for the syndrome that afflicts it — papers that leak, results that are cancelled or delayed interminably.

These are stories of staggering odds — nearly 48 lakh candidates appeared most recently for about 60,000 constable posts in UP. They are freeze-frames of tenuous footholds. In a narrow room she shares with another young woman in Lucknow's Aliganj, Dally Maurya, 27, who completed an Economics Masters from BHU in 2022, is studying for the UPSC, her third attempt is next year. "My home environment in Jaunpur is not conducive to study. Loud music is played in temples and marriages, the nearby railway station is noisy. Around my house, there are no trees."

Her parents have been supportive, says Dally, but "I am scared they will marry me off if I still don't make it". For her housemate, Riddhima, the greatest fear is "being unemployed... staying at home... doing kitchen stuff". For young men in the same situation, the nightmare is being called back home to work on the farm or in the business run by the family.

These young men and women are cramped by parents who are often struggling to make ends meet. They are denied agency at every step, from interfering landlords/landladies to paternalistic mentorship. "When we see students are raising questions, we tell them, don't ask what is fair or unfair, don't be distracted," says Pawan Kumar Verma, associate centre head of Lucknow's Vidyapeeth Coaching.

Students who take exams while being enrolled in colleges and universities must contend with controlling administrators armed with the latest technologies. In Varanasi's Kashi Vidyapeeth, director of the journalism school, Nagendra Kumar Singh, keeps an eye on all 12 classrooms on a CCTV panel in his office, simultaneously. "To prevent exam *gadbad* (trouble)... Girls versus boys... To protect property... Maintain discipline," says Singh.

> **Should the government not be spending on education and health, instead of spending crores on building the world's tallest *shivling* in Varanasi?"**
> **KRISHNA,** JEE ASPIRANT, KANPUR

In June, UP Governor Anandiben Patel underlined the default position of distrust vis-à-vis students. She directed state universities and higher educational institutions to establish "anti-radicalisation units" to curb forced religious conversions on campuses.

When they vote in the 2027 elections, some of them for the first time, these students will be weighed down by pressures and circumstances. At the same time, in the aftermath of the NEET retest, it is among the young that you will also hear the most artless, the most direct questioning.

In Lucknow's Eco Garden, on a hot June afternoon of protest against exam leaks, Mahima, who belongs to Mirzapur and has been preparing for exams in Lucknow since 2021, says she is not swayed by talk of the Yogi government's law and order successes. "That is basic, that is our right... *Aap ehsaan kar rahe ho* (are you doing me a favour)?"

In Kanpur's coaching hub in Kakadeo locality, Krishna, preparing for JEE, asks: "Should the government not be spending on education and health, instead of spending crores on building the world's tallest *shivling* in Varanasi? Some cars in this city have "Bajrang Dal" emblazoned on them, some flaunt BJP flags. Isn't it wrong that they are not stopped by the traffic police?"

"What about Manipur? If I look at the BJP's performance on law and order, will I look only at UP?", asks Sejal in Vinayak City Centre Mall in Allahabad.

'Why can't SP say sabka saath?'

A straw poll in a roomful of students at a coaching centre in Allahabad shows that an overwhelming majority feels that UP needs a change of government, for reasons ranging from a broken education system to lack of jobs and besieged freedom of speech — but only a minuscule minority sees Akhilesh Yadav as the alternative.

So where will discontented first-time voters go, if not to the principal Opposition party?

In that question lies an answer — in UP, among large sections of the young, and also among the old, the figure of Akhilesh is still trapped in the past. Over nine years out of power, he seems unable to shake off the image of a leader who presided over lawlessness and lack of safety for women when in government, and showed undue favours to Yadavs and Muslims.

Not just in coaching centres, but also in tea shops, malls and slum clusters, many also ask why, despite *mehengai, berozgari, bhrashtachar* (price rise, joblessness, corruption) and paper leaks, Akhilesh has not taken people's issues to the street.

SP leaders offer explanations for the visible dwindling of "*aandolan*" politics in the party that Netaji built. Because now, they say, the government cracks down on protest, slaps cases against SP workers, places leaders under house arrest on pretexts that are flimsy. Because the people themselves have changed. Given the BJP's whirring propaganda machine, doing the *chakka jam-halla bol* politics that defined an earlier SP would only revive its image in the public mind of being a "*goonda raj*" party.

"Earlier, protest was taken seriously. Today the *mahaul, logon ki mansikta,* media *ka rukh* (climate, people's mindset, media's tilt) are different. There is agitational politics at the district level, the media doesn't cover it. But the SP has alternative strategies," says SP spokesperson Udaiveer Singh.

To counter charges that the SP is a Muslim-Yadav party, the SP holds "PDA *sammelans*" and does "PDA audit". The audit highlights the alleged marginalisation of backward castes, Scheduled Castes and minorities at different levels of the power structures in UP.

PDA stands for *Pichhda* (backward caste), Dalit (Scheduled Caste) and *Alpsankhyak* (minority) — A is also for *agda* (forward caste) and *aadhi aabadi* (women), says the SP.

In Varanasi, Surendra Singh Patel, former minister in the SP government, says: "We have learnt from the 2024 LS result". There are many readings of the BJP's setback and the SP's good showing in 2024 — the SP attributes both to its own astute ticket distribution, across castes. "In 2027, though there will be Yadav claimants for a ticket in every constituency, few will get it", says Patel.

On the ground, however, the SP's attempts to give the "A" of the PDA multiple meanings and its claims of a ticket distribution more encompassing mostly hit a disbelief.

"The SP rainbow doesn't show anymore in its top leadership," says Zafar Bakht, who runs coaching centres in Allahabad. "Earlier, if a Janeshwar Mishra was unhappy, Mulayam Singh Yadav would go to his house to pacify him." In Kanpur, A K Verma, Director, Centre for the Study of Society and Politics, says: "Akhilesh still plays exclusionary politics. Why PDA? Why not say *sabka saath...?*"

Squeezed on the UP ground, the SP is casting a wider net through social media. By the "Vision India" programme, held in cities across the country, it is trying to build a national profile for its chief. "Akhilesh *bhaiya* Modi *se lad rahe hain*," says Udaiveer Singh. "Only those regional parties that also have a national agenda will survive," says Surendra Patel in Varanasi.

In Allahabad, where student politics, banished from the campus, has now shifted to the "delegacy", the urban slum-like localities where students who don't find place in hostels stay in rented accommodations, Samajwadi Chhatra Sabha leaders still plunge into street agitations — and pay for it.

"All of us have cases against us, one of us has 39," says Priyanshu Vidrohi. "On June 12, we wanted to go to join the student protests in Eco Garden (in Lucknow), but we were detained at Prayag Junction, like *aparadhi* (criminals)," says Ashutosh Maurya. "The cases are all for political protest, there was no violence. We treat them like medals," says Anurag Yadav.

There is a visible gap between the SP leadership and its student wing — the Samajwadi Chhatra Sabha seems less inhibited in taking its politics to the street.

> ***Among the people, Rahul is mentioned in ways that show that, perhaps more than Akhilesh, he is shaking off a past image as "pappu" or political dilettante, or as someone who doesn't have the required CV***

Rahul visible, Congress missing

Another gap may be brewing — between Akhilesh and Rahul Gandhi, INDIA bloc allies, and probable partners, again, in UP.

Among the people, Rahul is mentioned in ways that show that, perhaps more than Akhilesh, he is shaking off a past image as "*pappu*" or political dilettante, or as someone who doesn't have the required CV. The two Bharat Jodo Yatras have contributed to changing perceptions. Now, many say, "he raises people's issues", and "he is educated". Or that "he looks the government in the eye when he speaks".

But Rahul's party is still not visible on the ground in UP. Congress leaders sound wearied by their party's long sleep. Or, they speak as if they have left it to the people to take the fight to the BJP. In Allahabad, veteran Congress leader Anugrah Narayan Singh talks about "vote *dakaiti* (robbery)" and "*tantra ka durupyog* (BJP's misuse of state machinery)" and recalls the Emergency. "When the election came, it was *logon ka aakrosh* ... (the people rose)," he says.

Ahead of an uphill battle, Rahul's talk of the caste census has sent many of the party's upper caste leaders into a sulk. The UP Pradesh Congress Committee, dissolved a year ago, has still not been re-constituted.

In a crucial state, with polls only months away, it is left to the "*nirvartaman*" or outgoing committee members to supervise political activity — or not. "If you work well, you should be rewarded, but here, *baitha diya jaata hai* (you are made to back down)," says one Congress leader in Allahabad.

"The SP still has committed workers. Akhilesh is walking behind his own *karyakarta*, while Rahul Gandhi walks ahead of his," says Anshu Malviya, poet and activist.

Between dead ends & deep ends

In a Muslim *mohalla* in Gorakhpur, there is talk of a fear that has settled in, become "*andruni*". "There has been a lot of development in this city, but we only want that our *masjid*s are not touched, *mahfouz rahein* (we want safety)." "*Lagta hai raaste band ho rahe hain* (it's as if we confront dead ends)," says Uzair.

"We used to play cricket near the Gorakhnath *mandir*, not anymore. *Maan lijiye koi baat ho jaati hai* (what if something happens)...," says Anas. The fear persists, they say, even though Muslims also come to seek resolution of disputes in the *durbar* (people's court) held in the Gorakhnath *mandir* complex, and get treated in its *chikitsalaya* (dispensary).

Ahmad *bhai*, in a *bunkar basti* (weavers' cluster) in Varanasi that is being emptied out because of distress migration, says that it has been five years, or maybe six, since he has gone to the Ganga *ghat*, only a couple of kilometres away, in the morning. "Earlier I would go regularly to bathe in summer, and with the children on Sundays. Banaras *ki masti khatam ho rahi hai* (the city is losing its playfulness)".

In Lucknow's Lulu mall, Abbas Mehdi says "We want *sukoon* (tranquility)... Akhilesh will have to change perceptions on the Hindu-Muslim issue but I don't see him on the street. What kind of law and order is it, anyway, that even Akhilesh does not feel safe to step out?"

Akhilesh is an embattled figure in the Muslim neighbourhood — if Hindu voters accuse him of favouritism to Muslims (and Yadavs), he also draws reproach for not speaking up on issues that are "Muslim".

In a cloth showroom in Kanpur, once the "Manchester of the East", Anas says, "We are now untouchables, Akhilesh will lose votes if he talks about us. But he should find the language to talk to Hindus. The majority community will have to think about what kind of a country they want their children to grow up in".

Strong arm of government

In its 10th year in power, law and order continues to be touted as the Yogi administration's biggest success story in UP.

A senior police official tells a story of improving systems and statistics: To take just one, the emergency response time of UP Police at 6 minutes and 48 seconds is the best in the country. Chief Minister Yogi holds a meeting, from 9 pm to 10.30 pm, to review law and order, every night.

In official police-speak, the term "zero tolerance" finds many a mention, as do "toolkit", "anti-national", "eco-system", "conspiracy". UP's history is invoked — the SP's alleged laxity on law and order and the flourishing of mafias on its watch is cited. But these terms are also a part of the larger culture of distrust that has become entrenched in the time of BJP. In UP, they are used to justify police encounters, bulldozer action against alleged criminals, state repressiveness vis-à-vis civil society protest or Opposition activity or the minority community.

> **There has been development, but we only want safety. *Lagta hai raaste band ho rahe hain* (it's as if we confront dead ends)."**
> **UZAIR,** RESIDENT OF GORAKHPUR

> **2024 (when BJP tally took a hit) was a speedbreaker... the vehicle jumped while you were on the phone."**
> **DHARMENDRA SINGH,** RESIDENT OF VARANASI

The police official cites the "broken windows theory" in criminology, which says that to prevent a perceived descent into major lawlessness, conspicuous crackdowns on low-level acts of disorder are needed. The heavy swoop-down on minor crime is a signalling device and, by all accounts, the UP Police sees itself as a prime instrument of political messaging — a "right-wing eco-system" is watching, and goalposts are set by the BJP's "priorities".

In Varanasi, BJP MLC Dharmendra Singh spells out a need not to let down the guard: "2024 (when the BJP tally was dented in UP) was a speedbreaker, it's like the vehicle jumped while you were on the phone, talking." The imperative was, it still is, he says, greater "*anushasan* (discipline)". Because "There is a threat to *sanskriti, parampara, sanskar* (culture, tradition, values)..."

"If you don't sleep at your door with weapons...", he says, dangers will persist in UP. He doesn't mean that literally, but the choice of word and image is telling.

@ieExplained
#ExpressExplained
If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to
explained@indianexpress.com

• DIPLOMACY

Partners in tech, trade: India-Japan ties amid global disruptions

Divya A
New Delhi, June 30

JAPANESE PRIME Minister Sanae Takaichi lands in India on Wednesday on her first visit. It is focused on boosting trade, investment and strategic cooperation between the two partners, said the Japanese foreign ministry.

The agenda

During her three-day visit, Takaichi will participate in the 16th edition of the India-Japan Annual Summit, a mechanism established in 2006 under which the prime ministers of the two countries meet annually, and alternate as hosts. The summit follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Tokyo in August 2025 for the 15th edition, during which the two countries reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation across strategic, economic, technological and security domains.

Takaichi is accompanied by a large business delegation, with executives from both countries set to attend business events with both leaders. Japan is among India's largest investors, backing major infrastructure projects, and has increased investments in Indian companies, including a recent $1.6 billion deal for a 20% stake in Yes Bank.

Around 1,400 Japanese companies operate in India, nearly half of them in the manufacturing sector. Bilateral trade reached $27.5 billion in 2025-26, with Japanese investment in India going up to $3.2 billion between April and December 2025. Modi and Takaichi had met earlier this month on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France and discussed enhancing economic cooperation with a focus on trade and investment.

Modi and Takaichi on the sidelines of the G7 summit

Areas of collaboration

The relationship was launched as a Global Partnership in 2000, upgraded to a Strategic and Global Partnership in 2006, and elevated to a Special Strategic and Global Partnership in 2014 during the Summit between PM Modi and former prime minister Shinzo Abe.

Both countries are important for each other. India-Japan relations provide a strategic and economic counterweight to China's growing dominance in the region. The leaders will also discuss security cooperation and efforts to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific. India and Japan are members of the Quad grouping alongside the US and Australia, and have expanded defence and strategic collaboration in recent years.

As the world battles issues such as supply chain disruptions and shortage of critical minerals, economic security and technology have also emerged as key pillars of the relationship. Both countries have signed agreements in the fields of minerals and semiconductor supply chains, and enhanced their cooperation in artificial intelligence.

Regional affinities: A unique feature

India-Japan ties are based on cooperation across eight key pillars — economy, economic security, mobility, environment, technology and innovation, healthcare, people-to-people exchanges, and state-prefecture engagement.

Japan is the only country with which India has a dedicated institutional mechanism for the development of the North-East via the India-Japan Act East Forum. India and Japan have partnered on connectivity and development in Northeast India, including projects in infrastructure, agriculture, tourism and skills. In fact, Guwahati was also considered as a possible venue for the visit, but was later ruled out owing to "logistical issues".

COUNTERWEIGHT TO CHINA

- India-Japan relations provide a strategic and economic counterweight to China's growing dominance in the region.
- Modi and Takaichi will likely discuss security cooperation and efforts to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific.

• POLITICS

The Akal Takht's lasting hold on Punjab's politics

Few institutions have shaped Sikh life as profoundly as the Akal Takht. Its social and moral sanctions can be politically devastating in Punjab

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA

THE AKAL Takht has given the Aam Aadmi Party-led Punjab government a month to remove certain "objectionable" clauses in its anti-sacrilege law. This came after 86 Sikh legislators, including ministers, appeared before it on Monday in response to its summons.

The Takht said that while sacrilege must be punished, the Jagat Jyot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026, passed on April 29, had gone too far in defining religious vocabulary, custodial roles and registry mechanisms — matters which, it argued, fall within the ambit of Sikh institutions such as the Takhts and Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC).

The Takht's summons to the Sikh MLAs and Cabinet ministers came two weeks after it declared Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann "*panth virodhi*" (opposed to the *panth*), and issued an edict calling for his boycott over an objectionable video.

Few institutions have shaped Sikh religious and political life as profoundly as the Akal Takht. Its authority remains deeply embedded in the Sikh psyche. While some view it with cynicism because of perceived politicisation through the SGPC, many Sikhs regard it as the essential guardian of *maryada* (the panthic code of conduct) and an important check on politicians.

Free Whatsapp Channel https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F

The golden-domed Akal Takht stands to the left of the Harmandir Sahib, or Golden Temple. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

What is the Akal Takht?

The Akal Takht, meaning "throne of the timeless one", is the highest temporal (worldly) seat of the Sikhs. It's located opposite the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple).

It was founded by Guru Hargobind, the sixth Guru, between 1606 and 1609, shortly after the Mughals executed his father, Guru Arjan Dev. Guru Hargobind deliberately built it on a platform higher than typical Mughal thrones as a symbol of defiance and sovereignty. He wore two swords: *miri* (worldly power) and *piri* (spiritual authority), signifying that worldly affairs must be guided by spiritual consciousness.

The Jathedar (head) of the Akal Takht is widely regarded as the highest temporal religious authority in Sikhism. The Jathedar can summon any Sikh, regardless of rank or position, and issue edicts (*hukamnamas*).

While this authority is not backed by the police or courts, it enjoys deep moral and traditional acceptance within the Sikh community. Over the centuries, kings and chief ministers have submitted themselves to its edicts, often a public reprimand for straying from panthic principles.

What role did it play before 1947?

Before Independence, the Akal Takht was the political and decision-making heart of the Sikh community during turbulent times. It was here that Guru Hargobind issued the first directive for Sikhs to arm themselves and resist Mughal oppression.

In the 18th century, during the Misl period, it became the venue for the Sarbat Khalsa, community gatherings, often convened on occasions such as Diwali and Vaisakhi, where resolutions on resisting Mughal and Afghan invaders or other administrative matters were passed.

Even Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the most powerful Sikh ruler who presided over a largely secular empire, subjected himself to the edicts of the Akal Takht. The then Jathedar, Akali Phula Singh (a Nihang warrior), summoned him over his marriage to Moran, a Muslim dancer, and Ranjit Singh appeared and accepted the punishment.

The British attempted to control Sikh shrines by appointing loyalist *sarbrahs* (managers). The Gurdwara Reform Movement of the 1920s, however, wrested control from them. This led to the formation of the SGPC on December 12, 1920, with its inaugural meeting held at the Akal Takht Sahib. Two days later, the Shiromani Akali Dal was formed as the SGPC's political arm.

Political costs

Political leaders usually feel that submitting to the Takht's edicts carries fewer political costs than defying them.

•

When CM Surjit Singh Barnala defied its directives on Operation Black Thunder, he was excommunicated. His government later collapsed, leading to President's Rule.

How did the Akal Takht, and Akali Dal, influence Punjab politics after Independence?

Since Independence, the Akal Takht has frequently exercised its religious and moral authority in matters of secular politics. The Akal Takht Jathedar is traditionally appointed by the SGPC, many of whose members are from the Akali Dal, explaining the party's influence in panthic affairs.

The Akali Dal has often used the Akal Takht as the launch pad for major political agitations. It was from here that Akali leaders Master Tara Singh and Sant Fateh Singh spearheaded the Punjabi Suba movement, demanding a separate Punjabi-speaking state. When the agitation resumed in 1960, Sant Fateh Singh made the Akal Takht his headquarters. On one occasion, the Akal Takht Jathedar intervened directly, censuring both leaders for failing to honour their pledges to fast unto death until the demand for a separate state was met.

During the Emergency in July 1975, the Akali Dal launched the Democracy Bachao Morcha (Save Democracy Movement) from the Akal Takht. Volunteers offered *ardas* (prayers) daily before courting arrest and receiving *saropas* (robes of honour). Over 40,000 Akali workers were estimated to have participated in the 19-month agitation.

In 1982, the Akali Dal, led by Harchand Singh Longowal, launched the Dharam Yudh Morcha from the Akal Takht, demanding greater autonomy for Punjab in line with the Anandpur Sahib Resolution. Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who joined the Morcha, later operated from the Akal Takht complex, though he was never its Jathedar.

There have also been instances where Akal Takht edicts were alleged to have favoured particular factions within the Akali Dal. In 1986-87, for instance, the Takht excommunicated then Akali chief minister Surjit Singh Barnala for ordering police action inside the Golden Temple complex during Operation Black Thunder to remove militants from the Golden Temple. This bolstered the Parkash Singh Badal faction.

In 2004, the Akal Takht issued a *hukamnama* declaring Sehajdhari Sikhs (who trim their hair, unlike Amritdhari Sikhs) ineligible to vote in SGPC elections. Political observers say the decision benefited the Shiromani Akali Dal by reshaping the SGPC electorate.

The Akal Takht has also summoned political leaders across party lines to account for their actions. It summoned then President Giani Zail Singh for his role during Operation Blue Star and Union Minister Buta Singh for his role in the government-sponsored reconstruction of the Akal Takht following the operation. Both eventually appeared before the Takht and performed the prescribed atonement.

In 2024, it declared SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal tankhaiya (guilty of religious misconduct) over the handling of sacrilege incidents and other decisions during the SAD-BJP government (2007–17), including matters related to Dera Sacha Sauda. It ordered a public apology and sewa (service), and also revoked the "Panth Rattan Fakhr-e-Quam" title of his father, five-time chief minister Parkash Badal.

On June 15, it declared Punjab Chief Minister Mann "Guru-dokhi" (betrayer of the Guru) and "Panth-virodhi" (enemy of the Panth) over a controversial video.

What 'punishments' does it give?

The Akal Takht does not impose legal fines or jail terms. Instead, it declares individuals *tankhaiya* and assigns tankhah (atonement) through sewa such as cleaning shoes, utensils or toilets at the Golden Temple, often while wearing a placard of repentance and making a public apology.

The Takht can order excommunication, impose a social or religious boycott, and revoke titles and honours. These are moral and social sanctions, but they can be politically devastating in Punjab.

• POLICY

Can SIR lead to denial of services? The case of journalist Rajagopal

Damini Nath
New Delhi, June 30

KERALA CHIEF Minister V D Satheesan and the Editors Guild of India highlighted the case of R Rajagopal, former editor of The Telegraph, allegedly not being able to renew his passport this week. This came after his name was deleted from the West Bengal electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) earlier this year.

The new BJP government in Bengal had announced in May that the people deleted from the rolls during the SIR would not be able to avail welfare schemes. These developments may signal consequences for the lakhs of electors whose names were deleted in the SIR, even as their appeals are pending before Supreme Court-appointed tribunals.

What is Rajagopal's case?

The former editor, originally from Kerala and a resident of Kolkata for 30 years, says he applied for passport renewal in February. Meanwhile, he was among the 27 lakh Bengal electors whose names were deleted following an unprecedented adjudication process ordered by the Supreme Court after the Election Commission flagged him for having a "logical discrepancy" in his documents. He found his name deleted in a supplementary list published on March 27, leaving him unable to cast his vote in the West Bengal election in April.

With the police verification for his passport renewal pending, he says he was called by the police to the Security Control Organisation office on May 20, where he was told that police clearance could only be given when his name was restored on the electoral roll. Rajagopal told *The Indian Express* Tuesday that he had not received any information on the status of his appeal pending before the tribunal, however, he was asked by the passport authorities on Tuesday to seek another police verification.

What does the law say?

Defending the SIR in the Supreme Court last year, the EC had said the exercise was a revision of the electoral rolls, not a determination of citizenship.

In its judgment upholding the EC's right to conduct the SIR in May, the Supreme Court said that while the EC had the right to determine citizenship of electors, it was limited in nature. "The consequence of such a determination is correspondingly limited. It affects the individual's entitlement to be included in the electoral roll, and thereby their right to participate in the electoral process. It does not, however, operate to divest the individual of claims of citizenship, nor does it foreclose a determination of that question by the Competent Authority under the Citizenship Act," the judgment says.

The EC's own instructions accompanying its June 24, 2025 SIR order makes it clear that the Electoral Registration Officers are to refer the cases of suspected foreign nationals to the competent authority. It is for the Home Ministry to make a determination.

SIR and welfare

- Non-renewal of passport may be one of the many consequences for lakhs of electors whose names were deleted in the SIR, and whose appeals are pending.
- The new BJP government in Bengal had announced in May that the people deleted from the rolls during the SIR would not be able to avail welfare schemes.

Why then are deleted electors facing denial of basic services?

Even as their appeals remain pending before the tribunals, deleted electors in Bengal will not be given rations and access to other government welfare schemes under instructions of the Suvendu Adhikari government. While there is no direct link between the electoral roll and government schemes and services, the EC-issued voter card is one of the most widely-used forms of ID submitted as proof. The Bengal Food and Supplies Department in June ordered a verification of Public Distribution System beneficiaries to remove those "ineligible" based on the SIR deletions.

For passport renewal, it is not mandatory to have a Voter ID, but it can be provided as a proof during the verification. During the police verification, the applicant can provide the Aadhaar, PAN card or Voter ID as an identity proof.

The Editors Guild of India said: "...Mr. Rajagopal's plight highlights the misery that millions of Indians are being put through due to the Special Intensive Revision..."

On Monday, the Kerala CM wrote to Adhikari: "I understand that the adverse report is based on the deletion of his name from the electoral roll under the SIR. While the electoral issue is being dealt with through an appropriate appeal process, I am informed that the police report has had the effect of delaying the renewal process of his passport. I would like to request your good self to kindly look into the matter with urgency."

Free Telegram Channel https://t.me/+2RvD_RGf9mljMzg1

• DIPLOMACY

The signal to Dhaka in picking BJP leader, with cabinet rank status, as envoy

EXPERT EXPLAINS

VEENA SIKRI

FORMER HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA TO BANGLADESH

INDIA HAS sent former Union minister and BJP leader Dinesh Trivedi as its High Commissioner to Bangladesh, marking the first time in the NDA government's 12-year tenure that a political leader has been appointed an envoy. Trivedi has also been given the rank of a Union cabinet minister.

Veena Sikri, former High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, spoke to **Yashee** about the the significance of the move.

How common is it for ambassadors to be given cabinet rank status and what does that signal?

Dinesh Trivedi is a political appointee, which means someone who is not a career diplomat [an Indian Foreign Service officer] being chosen for the envoy position. Along with that, he has also been given cabinet rank status, an important distinction.

There have been a number of political appointee envoys, though fewer under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The present ambassador to the USA, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, was till recently foreign secretary, but was sent as ambassador to the USA after retirement, so that is considered a political appointee. There is former Army chief General Dalbir Singh Suhag, who was appointed High Commissioner of India to Seychelles in 2019.

However, cabinet rank is very rare. Under PM Modi, this is the first time that a cabinet rank has been given to a political appointee, though there have been cabinet rank ambassadors in Congress governments.

Soon after Independence, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was an ambassador with cabinet rank. In subsequent years, TN Kaul was given cabinet rank when he went as ambassador to Moscow. Dr Karan Singh was given cabinet rank when he went as ambassador to USA, and D P Dhar was given cabinet rank when he went a second time as ambassador to Moscow.

Dinesh Trivedi presents his credentials to Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin on June 25. X/@IHCDHAKA

The purpose of giving cabinet rank is twofold. First, it indicates a direct line to the Prime Minister. As a member of the Union cabinet, you will have direct access to the Prime Minister, and not have to go through the hierarchy of foreign secretary or foreign minister.

Second, the indication is to the country where the ambassador is accredited. In this case, the signal is very clear to Dhaka that this person is held in very high political esteem by the Prime Minister of India. His functioning in that country will be of a very special kind, meeting only cabinet rank ministers or the Prime Minister of the country, and any message the High Commissioner conveys would be known to be coming straight from the Prime Minister of India. It gives a special status, and it is expected that Bangladesh would accept and recognise that.

Does this elevation have practical implications or is it more symbolic? How would a cabinet minister ambassador be treated differently from a regular ambassador?

The special status would be in terms of protocol. When that person is arriving at the airport or travelling within the country, they must have special status like the country would give to its own cabinet ministers.

Ambassadors in any country are given security and care, but when you have a person with cabinet rank, you will give a higher status in terms of security and in terms of arranging meetings, just like for a cabinet minister of your own country.

India-Bangladesh ties have been in a state of flux for some time; what do you make of India's decision to send a politician rather than a career diplomat to Dhaka at this point?

It signifies priority to India's 'Neighbourhood First' foreign policy. For Prime Minister Modi to give cabinet rank to the High Commissioner to Bangladesh indicates a high level of importance attached to this policy. He would like to make sure that the government of Bangladesh, led by Tarique Rahman, would also recognise the signal and respond likewise in terms of giving the highest importance to policy towards India.

India-Bangladesh relations have been going through a very difficult time primarily since August 2024, when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was ousted in a coup. After the interim regime under Muhammad Yunus came to power, our government expressed interest in continuing the relationship, but this was not reciprocated. Under his 18-month interim regime, Yunus changed the earlier project decisions, policy decisions, and special decisions in favour of India.

The expectation has been that Rahman would look at restoring the earlier positive and dynamic trade, investment, and project development relations, but so far, there has been no indication of that. Rather, his visit to China and the joint statement issued raises many more questions.

• RESULTS

ROUND OF 32

Norway 2-1 Ivory Coast
Dallas Stadium

Germany 1 (3)-1 (4) Paraguay
(AET:1-1, decided by penalties)
Boston Stadium

Netherlands 1 (2)-1 (3) Morocco
(AET:1-1, decided by penalties)
Monterrey Stadium

• MATCH SCHEDULE

ROUND OF 32

Mexico vs Ecuador
Mexico City, **6.30 am** (Wednesday)

England vs DR Congo
Atlanta, **9.30 pm** (Wednesday)

Belgium vs Senegal
Seattle, **1.30 am** (Thursday)

USA vs Bosnia and Herzegovina
San Francisco, **5.30 am** (Thursday)

ZEE5 OTT & UNITE8 CHANNELS

Paraguay players celebrating their win over Germany. AP

Paraguay prez declares national holiday after win

PARAGUAY PRESIDENT Santiago Pena declared a national holiday for Tuesday to celebrate the country's victory over Germany that sent them into the round of 16. The South American side stunned four-time world champions Germany 4-3 on penalties after the teams were tied 1-1 following extra time, pulling off one of the biggest upsets in World Cup history. "Today, an entire country celebrates," Pena posted on X along with a picture of himself signing the decree. The text of the decree said that the victory went far beyond sport and justified a nationwide celebration. REUTERS

Extreme heat expected in US, Canada this week

EXTREME HEAT will greet fans and players this week as an imposing "heat dome" settles over the central and eastern United States - plus parts of Canada - as the knockout rounds progress. The phenomenon known as a "heat dome" - a large area of high pressure that traps heat and humidity - could lead to dangerously high temperatures, with heat indices set to hit 105 to 115 degrees °F in parts of the Midwest and East Coast, according to the U.S. National Weather Service. Those conditions are set to extend through the 4th of July holiday weekend in the U.S., with matches from Toronto to Kansas City to East Rutherford, New Jersey and Philadelphia all feeling the heat. REUTERS

EXPRESS exclusive

Congo fan who stands still: Inspired by ex-PM, 'want to give boost'

Nitin Sharma
Chandigarh, June 30

LAST WEEK, when the Democratic Republic of Congo played Colombia in a Group K match at Estadio Akron in Guadalajara, Mexico, in the stands on a small makeshift podium stood motionless a lean man; right hand raised, wearing a red slim-fit blazer, yellow shirt, tie and blue pants — the colours of the national flag.

Congo fan Michel Kuka Mboladinga drew attention for his pose, a tribute to Congo's first democratically elected Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba, who was assassinated in 1961.

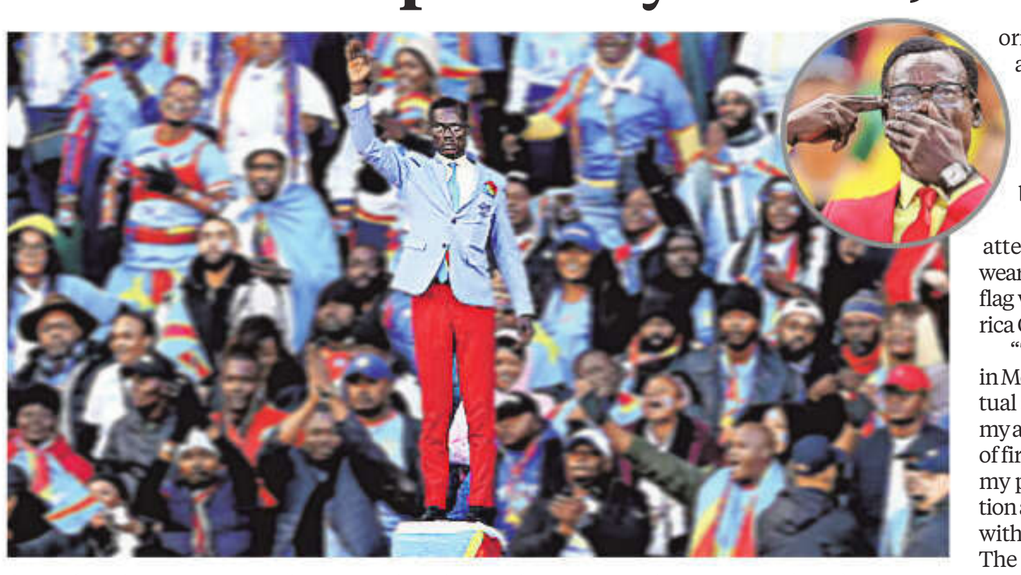
Forty-nine-year-old Mboladinga, whose nickname is 'Lumumba Vea' — meaning 'Lumumba Lives' — travelled as an official member of the Congo delegation for the FIFA World Cup at the insistence of current President Félix Tshisekedi. However, after watching two games in Mexico, even as Congo progressed to the knockouts for the first time, his journey hit a roadblock when he was denied a US visa.

Plans to be at the Round of 16 game against England in Atlanta hang in the balance.

"Inspired by the need to give a patriotic boost to our "Leopards" team, I wanted to embody the figure of Lumumba in the stands. It started at local matches. I read extensively about his struggle. His speeches on dignity inspired me to adopt his fitted jacket, glasses, and hairstyle to create a powerful impact," Mboladinga told *The Indian Express* from Mexico.

Lumumba, Mboladinga said, drew inspiration from Indian leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. "There were ties between Patrice Lumumba and Nehru and Gandhi."

With erstwhile Belgian Congo under Belgian rule until 1960, Lumumba, co-founder of Mouvement National Congolais (MNC), became the first democratically elected Prime Minister. This was following successful talks with Belgium. However, after a coup, he was captured and killed soon after.



Congo fan Michel Kuka Mboladinga's pose is a tribute to former PM Patrice Lumumba. (Inset) Mboladinga protests the lack of support despite the humanitarian crisis back home. REUTERS

A year after Lumumba was assassinated, civil rights activist Malcolm X called him 'the greatest black man who ever walked the African continent'. Mboladinga shares the sentiment. He has read books written by Lumumba and listened to his speeches.

"His speech at the Palace of the Nation in Léopoldville (currently Kinshasa) on June 30, 1960, where he said that the history of Congo will not be written in Brussels or Paris, but here, at home, is an inspiration. That remained in my mind from my early years," Mboladinga said.

As for the status of his US visa. "The Congo ambassador to the USA has written to the authorities," Mboladinga's manager Hugues Basanga told this paper.

Mboladinga prepares beforehand to stand still for 90 minutes of a football game.

The first time Mboladinga attended DR Congo matches wearing the colours of the Congo flag was last year during the Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco.

"The Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco was an intense spiritual experience. Standing with my arm raised amidst the cheers of fired-up fans made me forget my physical fatigue. The emotion and the sense of connection with the people were absolute. The first match was physically grueling — lasting the full 90 minutes was tough. I prepare with stretching and have developed intense mental focus," Mboladinga said.

Animator and star

He works as an animator with local football club AS Vita back home but has become a well-known figure. In January, Mboladinga was given an SUV by President Tshisekedi. He is also on social media campaigns for a Chinese phone maker and a French telecommunications company. Life has changed for the better.

"My family was worried about the fatigue, but now they are my biggest supporters and lift me in prayer. I started as a cheerleader for the AS Vita, an experience that shaped me. Balancing club duties with traveling for the Leopards (Congo) requires discipline and work-life balance, but the national cause comes first," says the fan.

With Congo seeing rising cases of Ebola, Mboladinga was placed in quarantine after he arrived in Mexico and missed the country's opening match against Portugal in Houston.

"The matches are intense. During the Ebola quarantines, I thought of our brothers in the East and reflected on the resilience of our people. Football unites us, and restores hope. My message to the world: Congo is standing tall," Mboladinga said.

ATLAS LIONS ROAR

The borrowed sons of Morocco who broke Netherlands' hearts

A defender France never called up, and a midfielder schooled in Dutch football combined to send Holland home

Sriram Veera
Mumbai, June 30

ISSA DIOP spent years waiting for a country that would finally call him. Ismael Saibari built his career inside the country he had just helped eliminate. On Monday night in Monterrey, those two men were the difference.

Morocco beat the Netherlands 3-2 on penalties, after a 1-1 draw through 120 minutes, to reach the World Cup round of 16 for the second tournament running. They will face Canada on July 4.

Diop had never scored for Morocco before. Born in Toulouse to a Senegalese father and a Moroccan mother, he came through France's youth ranks and kept hoping his country would eventually call him up. It never did. He made his Morocco debut in March, four years into a Premier League career that had taken him from West Ham to Fulham, the decision landing in the middle of a real dispute between the two countries of his parents' birth over a stripped Africa Cup of Nations title.

In the 91st minute, playing for Morocco, a country he'd waited years to choose, and two minutes from elimination, he rose above Virgil van Dijk at a corner and powered a header past Bart Verbruggen that the goalkeeper never got close to. It was the first international goal of his career.

The Netherlands had led since the 72nd minute, when Cody Gakpo scored after Crysencio Summerville's run dragged the Moroccan defence apart. Gakpo had returned to the squad two days after he and his partner announced the loss of their unborn son, due in October. He stayed with the team rather than withdraw. He dropped to his knees after the goal, head in his hands, and his teammates left the bench as one to reach him.

None of it had been easy to get to. Saibari's boot caught Jan Paul Van Hecke flush on the head as the two went up for a corner, the contact accidental but the consequence immediate. Van Hecke turned on him at once, a hand at Saibari's throat, the referee wading in before it went further. No card for either man.

Morocco had the better of it either side of that. Hakimi, winning his 100th cap, whipped in a corner that El Aynaoui met on the run, only for Verbruggen to tip it over.

Micky Van de Ven made the tackle of the match on Hakimi just past the hour, a clean strip that even Hakimi seemed to acknowledge with a nod rather than an appeal. Then Gakpo's goal, and for nineteen minutes it looked enough.

Diop's header changed that. Chemsdine Talbi, on for Bilal El Khannouss with the clock running down, swung in the corner that Diop met with everything he had. Six minutes into extra time, Soufiane Rahimi nearly won it outright, getting a clean strike away. Verbruggen spread himself across the goal and somehow got enough on it to keep the score level.

The shootout had everything the match itself had been missing. Koopmeiners opened it for the Netherlands. El Aynaoui put Morocco's first attempt against the bar. Kluivert struck the post for the Dutch. Rahimi's penalty trickled in off Verbruggen's own heel after the goalkeeper had got a hand to it and let it squirm loose.

Ismael Saibari scored the winning spot-kick against The Netherlands. AP

Distraught Dutch players after the loss against Morocco. AP

Weghorst scored to make it 2-1, Talbi levelled it at 2-2. Timber shot wide for the Dutch. Hakimi against the post for Morocco. Yassine Bounou heroically turned away Summerville's effort.

Saibari, last man up, sent Verbruggen the wrong way.

There was a particular irony in who took the winning kick. Saibari was born in Spain, raised partly in Belgium, and built his career at PSV Eindhoven, in the Netherlands, the country he had just helped eliminate. As a teenager he turned down an approach from Belgium's senior team before the 2022 World Cup, telling their manager he had already made his choice. His heart, he said, was with Morocco.

Spilling blood

He spilled blood too, when a nasty head wound at the end of extra-time led to a gruesome gushing of red blobs falling onto his crisp white jersey.

A support staff would patch him up on the sideline, wipe off the trickle and hand him a new shirt.

There wasn't a second thought of stopping. As a child, doctors had warned his parents that a condition in his legs and feet might stop him walking properly, let alone playing football for a living.

His family's road ran from Ksar El Kebir in northern Morocco to Spain to Belgium to the Dutch league he now plays in, the same league that produced the goalkeeper he beat from twelve yards. Morocco's players didn't so much celebrate as collapse. Several dropped to the turf in sajda, foreheads pressed to the grass. Saibari pulled his own shirt off. The broadcast lingered on it, the travelling support in green and red living the same release at once.

It is the first time in the country's history Morocco have reached the World Cup's knockout rounds in consecutive tournaments, this nucleus largely the one that became the first African side ever to reach a semi-final, in Qatar four years ago. Bounou, the goalkeeper from that run and this one, had said before the tournament that the heart of the team was unchanged. Monterrey was the proof he was right.

Gakpo's goal will be remembered for what it carried more than what it won. Diop's header, and Saibari's penalty, will be remembered for keeping a story going that Morocco have been writing since 2022.

Haaland winner puts Norway in last 16

Shuvaditya Bose
New Delhi, June 30

IT HAD been 28 years since Norway last played a FIFA World Cup knockout game, but it was well worth the wait for the Nordic country when they beat a valiant Ivory Coast 2-1 with a late goal from, who else, Erling Haaland.

The match seemed to be progressing towards extra time when the Manchester City phenom found the net with a rather fortuitous finish past goalkeeper Yahia Fofana after a square pass from Patrick Berg.

The Scandinavians were set on their way by Antonio Nusa with a sumptuous curling strike in the first half, before Amad Diallo put the cat among the pigeons with an equally eye-catching equaliser with a little over a quarter of an hour of normal time left.

Tranquility reigned supreme in Dallas for 37 minutes. Perhaps unexpectedly so, given Norway's reputation as one of the tournament's most prolific attacking forces. Ståle Solbakken's side had plundered 37 goals in eight qualifying matches before adding another eight in the group stage. Leading the line for the team was Haaland, who had scored 20 of those 45 goals, and required only 43 minutes to become his nation's leading goal-scorer at the World Cup.

What was overlooked in the build-up to the Round of 32 game, however, was Ivory Coast's defensive prowess. Emerse Faé's side had not conceded a goal across 10 qualifying matches and showed little inclination to surrender that record here. The plan seemed to be working. Haaland had one touch in the first 20 minutes, and Norway had only a half-attempt in the first 37.

That was until Nusa took matters into his own hands. Three orange shirts marked the winger when he received a pass from captain Martin Odegaard down the right flank. The goal arrived exactly three seconds later, following a sequence of vents: sending Nicolas Pepe the wrong way with a magician's deception, opening his body with a gymnast's flexibility, and curling a shot between Franck Kessie and Fofana with an archer's accuracy.

Erling Haaland celebrates after scoring the winner against Ivory Coast. AP

With their fort breached, Ivory Coast had only one option in the second half — to throw the kitchen sink. They did so, and then threw some more. Nine attempts in the second half, as opposed to five in the first. Eventually, in the 74th minute, their persistence was rewarded.

Diallo glided beyond David Møller Wolfe and Sander Berge as though neither existed before steering an immaculate finish beyond Ørjan Nyland. At 1-1, momentum had swung decisively in favour of the African side. The game seemed destined for extra time, when Ivory Coast learned why Haaland is inexorable. Oscar Bobb sliced through Faé's prized defence with a perfectly weighted pass into Berg. The midfielder's task was simple: return the ball into the danger area with complete faith that Haaland would occupy the space. He did, as he so often does.

The chaos engineered by Nusa and Haaland had broken through the proud defensive wall of the Ivorians, not once but twice. When asked why he loves chaos, Nusa once replied: "Because my idol Neymar creates chaos on the pitch with his dribbling, just like me." Haaland has offered his own variation on the theme: "I enjoy the chaos around me." Brazil await.

• WAR, PEACE AND FOOTBALL

Bosnia's golden lily blooms again as Srebrenica's son Bajraktarevic faces USA

Shivani Naik
Mumbai, June 30

ESMIR BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, born and raised in Appleton, Wisconsin, became a Bosnian sensation when he scored the winning penalty in qualification against Italy.

His assists from the left have lit up their World Cup, and his reputation for nutmegging opponents precedes him. The American-raised family never forgot their roots.

Several of Esmir's relatives were killed in the Srebrenica genocide of 1995, years before he was born. His parents, Elmir and Emina, fled first to Switzerland as refugees, before settling in Appleton in 2001. "My parents lost a good part of their family," Esmir told *The Blazing Musket*.

"It's a tragedy and something I will never forget. Srebrenica is something I will never forget. It's a part of me and who I am."

Choosing to represent Bosnia wasn't a difficult choice for the 21-year-old.

While ethnic tensions between Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats have never fully stopped bubbling, Bosnia's Round of 32 clash against the USA brings them face to face with a historic liberator with whom things have recently gone sour.

The Guardian reported that two flags are being waved in Sarajevo this World Cup summer. One is the national flag adopted in 1998, foisted by the international forces, led by the US, who intervened to end an ethnic-cleansing campaign that killed close to 100,000 people across the Bosnian War, its worst single atrocity the Srebrenica genocide of July 1995, in which more than 8,000 Bosniak men and boys were killed in a matter of days.

That official flag, blue and yellow diagonals with white stars, is accepted in gratitude by Bosniaks of all heritage, because the violence stopped.

Bosnia's Esmir Bajraktarevic's parents fled first to Switzerland as refugees before settling in Appleton in USA. AP

Several of Esmir's relatives were killed in the Srebrenica genocide of 1995, years before he was born.

The other flag carries golden lilies on a blue shield against white, and as *The Guardian* put it, has a far deeper history, steeped in centuries of complexity.

This resurgent ethno-identity flag is popular among the youth and is waved with a flourish at public screenings across Bosnia. The golden lily was the symbol of the medieval Kotromanić Bosnian kingdom, a shared, non-religious heritage chosen as the national flag in 1992. After independence it came to be associated with the resistance troops of the mainly Muslim Bosnian army, fighting off attacks from its neighbours, the paper reported.

While the official flag is embraced as settled history, the golden lily is reappearing as an assertion of Bosniak identity.

Fresh aggravation

It doesn't help that the US has caused fresh aggravation among Bosniaks lately. The Trump administration lifted sanctions on Milorad Dodik, the former Republika Srpska leader long pushing for secession, last October, and Dodik has since pushed harder for self-determination and Republika Srpska's exit from the Dayton framework, drawing close to Moscow in the process.

On the field, the much-admired but ageing Bosnian squad won't start favourites against the USMNT, but Esmir Bajraktarević, known to his old New England Revolution teammates as "Milwaukee Messi," will roam the left with his nutmeg.

Swiatek survives wobble, beats Townsend in three sets

Iga Swiatek. AP

Reuters
London, June 30

DEFENDING CHAMPION Iga Swiatek overcame a serious second-set wobble to reach the second round at Wimbledon on Tuesday, beating powerful American Taylor Townsend 6-1 2-6 6-3. Swiatek, 25, a former world number one with six Grand Slam titles under her belt, looked to be cruising when she broke nervy 30-year-old Townsend's serve twice in the first set and took it with a stylish forehand winner.

But it was the third seed's turn to suffer nerves in the second set. She sprayed groundstrokes long and wide as her forehand consistency deserted her and the 79th-ranked Townsend capitalised, breaking serve twice and capturing the set with an exquisite backhand drop volley and an ace.

Concern showed on the faces of Swiatek's father and sister watching from the royal box. The talented Pole has struggled with consistency since her 2025 triumph over Amanda Anisimova in the Wimbledon final, going out in the quarter-finals of the U.S. and Australian Opens and the fourth round at Roland Garros - a tournament she has won four times.

Things did not look good for her in the first game of the third set where she lost serving rhythm, producing three double faults in a marathon game that lasted 21 minutes and included 10 deuces. But she stuck it out and won.

SELECAO STAY ON

Martinelli wins it for Brazil, and his father

Joao Martinelli lost his shot to a family ice lolly shop. On Monday, his son scored the goal of his life

EXPRESS AT WORLD CUP

Sandip G
Boston, June 30

Gabriel Martinelli scored in the fifth minute of stoppage time. AP

SWEAT DRIPPING on his brow, Gabriel Martinelli struggled for words. He would look straight into the presenter's eyes, then turn away and let his eyes wander, before finding his parents in the stands beside him, waving at him. And then the words flowed.

"I don't have words to describe the happiness in my heart. Seeing all the Brazilian fans, my mum, my dad in the stands... I think the penny will only drop in the days ahead," he said. A question later, he went and embraced his father near the tunnel. He was living his father's dream as much as his own.

Joao Martinelli had been a midfielder himself, playing for a local club in Guarulhos, close to the Sao Paulo airport. But his parents couldn't afford to put him in an academy, and when he told them he wanted to play football, they sent him to work at the family's ice lolly shop instead. His dream lay shattered there, even though he kept playing football in whatever free time he had for his club. So he made himself a different promise: he would make his son a footballer.

"My father always dreamed of having a footballer son. I was born when he was already 40, and this desire of his was still stronger than ever," Martinelli told Arsenal's website.

His father would buy him all sorts of balls, to get him accustomed to the sport, and hung a massive poster of Ronaldo, the original, in his bedroom.

He even took him to an exhibition game where Ronaldo turned up. "My dad always used to tell me that he was the greatest player ever. But when I saw him playing, I wasn't too sure about that! Just kidding, he was way past his prime then," he says.

When other parents were searching for schools to put their children in, he was busy shortlisting the football academy he would join. "I think the first sentence I understood in my life was the one he always repeated: 'When you turn six, I'm going to take you to a test.' I had no idea what a test was, much less when I was six," he said.

He took him to a ground in the neighbourhood and told him he was preparing him for the test, showing him how to catch the ball, how to protect it, insisting he kick hard with his left leg too.

He was serious about it, but soon Gabriel understood that football was the most fun thing to do in life, he recollected in a first person account for Arsenal's website.

Three years later, he understood what his father meant by the test. He appeared for trials with Brazilian giants Corinthians, passed, and spent four years of his youth career there. Then he moved to Ituano, a fallen club that last won the league in 1947. It was closer to home, and his father thought logging game time for a smaller club would serve him better than warming the bench at a heavyweight. He'd also get used to playing in different positions. Besides, his father thought, he might as well learn them all.

Years later, that Ituano experience proved useful. At Arsenal, Mikel Arteta has deployed him across the frontline and attacking midfield: winger, inverted winger, false nine, No 10. The role Ancelotti gave him as a substitute in the 65th minute against Japan was still different again: the focal point of the attack, bearing down on defenders to open space for the more dynamic trio of Vinicius Junior, Endrick and Rayan.

He is not a prototypical Brazilian winger built for reels. He is a system-centric safety valve.

But he was unfazed. "At Arsenal, I don't play in that position, but I can do it. The coach has talked to me about it. I'm happy to help the team, whether that's on the left or more in midfield," he said.

Then the chance came, and he scored the goal of his lifetime. Though an idol of Ronaldo's, he can be scattergun with his shots, his modest tally of 41 goals from 191 Arsenal appearances attesting to that.

Arteta has said: "He scores very important goals. I adore Gabriel: his attitude, his commitment, his positivity, what he's willing to do for the team." Like the goal against a stubborn Athletic Bilbao in the Champions League.

Arsenal's staff swear by his ethics, save one indulgence. Perhaps. "Sometimes we eat something that's not healthy. I eat ice cream. I love it, I could eat it all day. My favourite flavours are vanilla and chocolate," he told *Goal.com*.

Ancelotti himself might have sent a box of ice creams up to his room on Monday, to celebrate the night he and his father had always dreamt of.

After debacle in Ireland, Varun brings X-factor, control to India

Venkata Krishna B
Chennai, June 30

THE BATTING unit's failure may have been the prime reason for India's shock 0-2 defeat to Ireland, but skipper Shreyas Iyer would be somewhat relieved to find some bowling reinforcement in the familiar form of Varun Chakaravarthy ahead of the first of five T20Is against England starting Wednesday at Chester-le-Street.

Back in 2024 when Shreyas led Kolkata Knight Riders to the IPL title, it was Varun who was his go-to-man with the ball even ahead of Sunil Narine. As his captaincy tenure with India began with two losses at Belfast last week, Shreyas found himself short of answers in the middle overs, when the hosts repeatedly ran away with the game.

With India's white-ball priorities pointing towards next year's 50-over World Cup in southern Africa, they may have to play T20s without their ultimate X-factor Jasprit Bumrah. He was the cheat code for Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav to dial at the first sign of concern.

But Shreyas's predecessors had also been fortunate in another aspect – the presence of X-factors in the spin department with Varun and Kuldeep Yadav often pairing a formidable pair.

While the left-arm wrist spinner was sparsely used because of team combination factors, the absence of both was felt in Ireland. Washington Sundar was trusted for just one over and since the start of this year, he has bowled his full quota only twice – against South Africa and the Netherlands at the T20 World Cup. One has to go back to Pallekele in 2024 to find another instance of Washington finishing his quota. If one takes those three games out, he has sent down 10.2 overs in 10 matches. The tall off-spinner has seven wickets, but in a format where match-ups dictate the minds of captains, he has been used sparingly.

Varun Chakaravarthy has been retained as India's x-factor bowling option. CREIMAS/BCCI

That India chose to drop Kuldeep at the start of a new T20I cycle wasn't a surprise. The left-arm wrist-spinner didn't make life easy for himself in the IPL, and despite Varun having a lean patch during the T20 World Cup, in terms of economy rate, India have chosen to retain him as the lone X-factor bowling option.

It is a new role for him, where for the first time, batsmen will come prepared to play him out safely with minimal risk as against taking him on. Play him safe and England's explosive batting unit can feast on the rest in mostly batting-friendly conditions. Given how batsmen from both the sides thrive on flat decks, chances of any sporting surface rolled out seem remote with high totals expected across all five venues, which have short boundaries.

After playing the IPL with a fractured toe towards the end, the 34-year-old Varun took a short break, travelling to Sri Lanka with a couple of his teammates from Tamil Nadu. Since his return, he has been training extensively at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE), trying to get his rhythm back. When batsmen were taking him apart in the T20 World Cup, there were concerns if his mystery had been decoded and whether he had to go back to side-spin. But the time off has allowed introspection and unlike 2021, he hasn't found reasons to change and neither has there been self-doubt.

"Honestly, he was not worried like last time," Varun's mentor AC Pratheepan, with whom he has been training, tells The Indian Express. "The data also showed he was bowling in the right areas - 4-6m length - and if the batsmen were still hitting him, you got to give it to them. Of course, it doesn't mean all was well, but it didn't need substantial changes. Just getting back to basics and rhythm was the priority. Since he was at CoE, he had a good volume of bowling, which is good because that's how you get rhythm."

The rhythm that Pratheepan refers to covers all bases in Varun's bowling – run-up, release, trajectory, point of release. Before the spinner left for England, they had a session just to check if Varun ticked all the boxes.

"For us, rhythm means hitting the right lengths organically without worrying about release point, arm speed, angle etc. When you are in rhythm, all of it will happen organically. So that was the focus. It started first by bowling just at the stumps and then at the batsmen. Spot-bowling alone isn't enough. You need to challenge yourself to see where you stand," Pratheepan says.

A fit and firing Varun will be a welcome addition for Shreyas in the middle overs. Against Ireland, after Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana provided breakthroughs in the Powerplay, India were flat with Axar Patel not able to extract much. In case, India are wary of playing Varun immediately, the other option is leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi, who has evolved a lot in the format. Despite pressing hard for a spot in the T20 World Cup squad, he missed out narrowly, and then had a mixed IPL with Rajasthan Royals. But, there is enough for India to invest in him. With his quick arm speed and ability to skid the ball, Bishnoi has the ability to take the pitch out of the equation.

In a series played on flat batting decks, it will all come down to which attack can keep it simple and effective.

ADVERTORIAL

Happy National Doctors' Day

From the Diary of a Gynaecologist: Beyond the White Coat - The Human Side of Healing

*"Medicine cures diseases, but doctors cure patients." - **Carl Jung***

Every year, Doctors' Day celebrates a profession founded on knowledge, responsibility, and service. Yet behind every white coat is a human being-someone who listens, reassures, comforts, and walks alongside patients during some of the most momentous minutes of their lives.

As I reflect on more than three decades in this field, I realise that what I cherish most is not the number of surgeries or deliveries I have performed or the countless patients I have treated, but the relationships I have built, the lives I have touched, and the memories that remain imprinted in my heart and also in my patients' hearts. Being a gynaecologist has never been merely a profession; it has been an honour, a responsibility, and a deeply fulfilling calling.

A Journey Through Every Stage of Life : One of the greatest privileges of being a gynaecologist is the opportunity to care for women through every stage of life-from adolescence and menstrual health to fertility, pregnancy, childbirth, menopause, and beyond. Every patient brings a unique problem. For some, it is the anxiety of irregular menstrual cycles, and for others, it is the hope of starting a family or dealing with life's changing phases. Over the years, I have come to realise that we, as gynaecologists, become trusted companions, guiding women through both the medical and emotional milestones. Among the most rewarding moments in my career have been observing lives transformed: the joy of a couple after successful fertility treatment, the overwhelming happiness of the baby's first cry, or the relief of a patient returning to a healthy, active life after surgery. These moments reaffirm why so many of us chose this profession. I write this note today to share a simple yet profound thought: "beyond the white coat lies the human side of healing." The memories recorded in my diary are not merely of clinical cases-they are those of courage, resilience, trust, and hope. If I have been able to make even a small difference in improving women's health and enhancing their quality of life, I consider my career truly worthwhile. As a gynaecologist I have also been involved in educating women, empowering them to make informed decisions, and creating an environment where they feel safe discussing concerns that are often deeply personal and sensitive. Every experience reinforces the same enduring truth: medicine is not simply about treating disease-it is about caring for the person behind the diagnosis.

"Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity."* - **Hippocrates ##*

The Surgical Revolution: From Large Incisions to Smaller Possibilities.

The practice of surgery has undergone a remarkable revolution over the past few decades. As a laparoscopic and robotic gynaecological surgeon, I have had the privilege of witnessing this evolution firsthand. The era of large incisions, prolonged hospital stays, significant postoperative pain, and lengthy recovery has steadily given way to minimally invasive techniques that offer smaller scars, less discomfort, shorter hospitalisation, and a faster return to normal life. In gynaecology, laparoscopy-and more recently robotic surgery-has transformed the management of conditions such as fibroids, ovarian cysts, endometriosis, and infertility-related disorders, enabling us to perform increasingly complex procedures with greater precision and improving the patient's experience. My own fascination with minimally invasive surgery began during my residency after vividly remembering watching patients recover after laparoscopic surgery. Their return to normal activities far sooner than would have been possible after open surgery left a lasting impression on me. That experience strengthened my conviction that this represented the future of surgery and inspired me to devote my career to this field. Even today, every successful operation reminds me that while technology provides increasingly sophisticated tools, it is ultimately the surgeon's judgement, experience, and compassion that determine the outcome.

Dr Bandana Sodhi, *MD, DNB*
DIRECTOR (Obst & Gyn)
Adv Gyn Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgeon
Fortis La Femme, GK 2
Former faculty with AFMC, Pune & Army Hospital(R & R)

Artificial Intelligence and Medicine: Partners, Not Replacements

Healthcare stands at the dawn of an exciting new era. Artificial intelligence, advanced imaging, robotic surgery, and digital health technologies are changing the way we diagnose, treat, and monitor disease. And they are enabling doctors to deliver care that is precise, personalised, and efficient.

Yet, for all its astonishing potential, technology can never replace the essence of medicine-human connection.

Artificial intelligence can process vast amounts of information within seconds, identify patterns, and support clinical decision-making. But it cannot recognise the anxiety reflected in a patient's eyes while waiting for a diagnosis, or offer the reassurance that comes from a compassionate conversation.

The future of healthcare will not be defined by a choice between technology and humanity. In fact it will be shaped by their partnership-where technological innovation enhances clinical expertise while kindness remains the cornerstone of patient care.

The Art of Listening: A Skill Beyond Medical Knowledge

One of the most valuable lessons I learnt as a young doctor was perhaps the simplest: the importance of listening.

Today, medical information is readily available, and patients often arrive well-informed. But information alone rarely provides comfort. Patients seek understanding, clarity, guidance, and someone who will patiently listen to their concerns before offering advice.

Throughout my career, I have believed that a compassionate conversation, a reassuring word, and the willingness to listen without interruption are often as important as any prescription or procedure. It builds trust, strengthens the doctor-patient relationship, and often provides comfort even in the most challenging circumstances.

Celebrating the Spirit of Medicine

Doctors' Day is more than a celebration of a profession; it is a celebration of the trust that society places in those entrusted with the care of human life.

Every consultation, every diagnosis, every operation, and every reassuring conversation carries with it an immense responsibility. As doctors, we are privileged to share some of the most important moments in our patients' lives-the joy of new beginnings, the anxiety of uncertainty, the courage to face illness, and the hope of recovery.

Today's doctor stands at the intersection of science and compassion, embracing innovation while remaining steered by the timeless values of empathy, integrity, and honesty.

As I look back on more than thirty years in medicine, I do so with gratitude. I have been fortunate to witness the astonishing evolution of medical science-from conventional surgery to laparoscopy, robotics, and now artificial intelligence. Yet despite all this one truth has remained constant: patients always remember how we made them feel. The commitment to care for another human being with utmost compassion.

"Every diagnosis is guided by science, but every recovery is strengthened by compassion."

Ultimately, the greatest achievement of a doctor is not simply adding years to life, but adding life to those years.

I would like to conclude with a timeless quote that beautifully captures the essence of our profession, regardless of speciality:

"To cure sometimes, to relieve often, to comfort always." - Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau.

And finally, a thought that reflects what every doctor strives to exemplify:

"Behind every healing hand is a heart dedicated to hope, care, and humanity."

On this Doctors' Day, I extend my best wishes to all my fraternity of doctors. May we continue to heal with knowledge and care with compassion-always remembering that beyond every white coat lies a human heart dedicated to making a difference!

Issued in public interest by Dr. Bandana Sodhi

Vol XCIV- 200 Regd.No. DL-21046/03-05 R.N.I. No.506/1957. Printed and Published by Ramesh Chander Malhotra on behalf of The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed at The Indian Express (P) Limited Press, A-8, Sector-7, Noida - 201301 and Published at The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9 & 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002. Editorial office: The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9 & 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: 0120-6651500. Advertising office: The Indian Express (P) Ltd.,Express Building, B1/B, Ramnath Goenka Marg, Sector 10, Noida-201301. Phone: 0120-6651291. Chairman of the Board: Viveck Goenka, Chief Editor: Raj Kamal Jha, Editor: Unni Rajen Shanker, Editor (Delhi):Monojit Majumdar** **Responsible for selection of News under the PRP Act. Copyright: The Indian Express (P) Limited. All rights reserved.Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited. The Indian Express®

AGGREGATE GNPA RATIO OF 46 BANKS MAY EDGE UP TO 1.9%, SAYS RBI'S FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT

Geopolitical fragmentation & AI posing risk to economy: RBI Guv

Banks' asset quality improved in March 2026, with the gross NPA ratio declining to a multi-decadal low of 1.8%

George Mathew
Mumbai, June 30

RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Tuesday said the global economy and the financial system are being reshaped by two profound forces— growing geopolitical fragmentation and technological disruption brought about by rapid advances in artificial intelligence (AI). The near-term outlook remains uncertain amidst the rapidly evolving global environment, he said.

The risk of adverse external shocks has increased, with geopolitical conflicts and fragmentation emerging as key challenges for policymakers, Malhotra said in the Financial Stability Report released by the RBI. The RBI's FSR said asset quality of banks improved further in March 2026, with the gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio declining to a multi-decadal low level of 1.8%. The improvement in asset quality was broad-based across bank groups.

However, it said the aggregate GNPA ratio of 46 banks may edge up from 1.8% in March 2026 to 1.9% by March 2028 under the baseline scenario. It may rise to 3.8% and 4.1% under adverse scenarios.

"The Indian economy and the financial system have demonstrated remarkable resilience despite facing external shocks of significant magnitude," he said, adding that strong growth, low inflation, healthy balance sheets of financial and nonfinancial firms, and ample buffers have helped preserve macro-financial stability. "Nevertheless, we remain alert to evolving external and domestic risks and are committed to further strengthening the guardrails that protect our economy and financial system from potential shocks," he said.

Banks, NBFCs remain sound

He said the FSR reaffirms the strength of the domestic financial system. "Banks and non-banking financial institutions remain sound, supported by strong capital and liquidity positions, healthy profitability, low levels of non-performing assets, and robust credit growth. Stress tests indicate that the financial institutions are well-positioned to withstand adverse shocks," he said.

Malhotra said the global financial stability risks remain elevated. "Inflationary pressures may require major advanced economy central banks to maintain a hawkish policy stance, potentially tightening global financial conditions," he said. Meanwhile, vulnerabilities associated with high public debt, bond market fragilities, stretched asset valuations, and the growing footprint of leveraged non-bank financial intermediaries could amplify the impact of future shocks, Malhotra said. Despite ongoing conflicts and persistent supply chain disruptions, the global economy has remained resilient—buoyed partly by optimism around potential AI-driven productivity gains, Malhotra said. He said financial markets, notwithstanding the volatility posed by global uncertainties, have been functioning in an orderly manner.

"Taken together, the financial system remains a key source of strength and support for the real economy and India's growth momentum," he said. "We recognise that maintaining public confidence in the financial system requires more than prudential soundness," he said. Policies that promote fair conduct and improve customer experience are equally important.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

'We remain alert to evolving external and domestic risks', says RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra. REUTERS

Free Telegram Channel https://t.me/+2RvD_RGf9mljMzg1

RBI flags risks from elevated AI valuations

Mumbai: The central bank has cautioned that a sharp correction in global equity markets, particularly if driven by a reassessment of corporate earnings growth and elevated valuations in AI-related stocks, could spill over to other markets.

AI-related investments are now permeating into other segments of capital markets, including bond markets, the RBI said in its FSR. Many markets, including South Korea, Taiwan and Japan, recently witnessed a boom and high volatility in AI-related stocks. Concentration remains elevated with a small group of firms involved in AI-related technologies increasingly driving stock market performance in economies that are leading AI adoption or participating in its supply chain, the report said. The recent outperformance of some emerging markets has been largely driven by AI-linked firms rather than broad-based strength. "Both remain sources of financial fragility as sell-offs in these firms could cause broader market declines in the US, and cause spillovers to other markets through wealth effects," the RBI said. ENS

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

AMID WORRIES DUE TO DEFICIENT RAINFALL

Building water buffers a top priority, says FinMin report

Siddharth Upasani
New Delhi, June 30

FLAGGING INDIA'S vulnerability to water shortages, the Ministry of Finance on Tuesday said building water buffers may be "at the top of the list" for policymakers.

Meanwhile, the de-escalation of the West Asia conflict and lower crude oil and fertiliser prices has eased some of the pressures on the government's finances, "allowing fiscal consolidation to proceed".

"...the weak progress of the southwest monsoon has weighed on kharif sowing, and the monsoon rainfall deficit is a concern. Among the many things India needs to build buffers for in the coming years, water may be at the top of the list," the finance ministry said in its Monthly Economic Review report for June.

As on June 26, the total area sown under kharif crops was 22.7% lower than the corresponding period last year, with kharif foodgrain sowing lower by 21.1%. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that this year's monsoon will be 10% lower than the Long Period Average (LPA), with a 43% probability of below-normal rainfall over the Monsoon Core Zone, which covers a large part of India's rainfed agricultural regions.

On Tuesday, data from IMD showed monsoon in June was 39.8% lower than normal at 99.5 mm, making it the fifth-driest June in 125 years. In July, the weather department expects rains to be below normal. Meanwhile, data from the Central Water Commission shows that as of June 25, storage in India's key reservoirs was 26% of total capacity, down from 36% last year. However, the finance ministry took comfort in reservoir storage levels being 5.7% above normal, which it said provides a "safe buffer for irrigation". According to the finance ministry, the West Asia conflict highlighted the need for a national policy on buffer stocks for a variety of critical raw materials and inputs. Now, water has become one of them, with rainfall patterns becoming increasingly unpredictable.

"Among other things, water conservation, including recycling, utilisation of budgetary allocations for Jal Jeevan Mission, may now be at the top of the policy priority list," the ministry's report said. For 2025-26, the Centre's budget estimate for the Jal Jeevan Mission was Rs 67,000 crore. However, this was cut to just Rs 17,000 crore in the revised estimate. In 2026-27, the government expects to spend Rs 67,670 crore on the scheme.

The finance ministry added the war and the sub-par rains "also underscore the need to reorient India's agricultural pricing policies to incentivise the cultivation of climate-resilient crops and dis-incentivise water intensive ones".

"The steady stream of destabilising events and developments globally and climatically is a reminder of the challenges likely to arise in the coming years and the need for policy to stay a step ahead of them," it further said.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Free Whatsapp Channel https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F

• DRY SPELL

THE WEATHERMAN on Tuesday said the monsoon in June was 39.8% lower than normal at 99.5 mm, making it the fifth-driest June in 125 years

IN JULY the weather department expects rains to be below normal

AS OF June 25, storage in India's key reservoirs was 26% of total capacity, down from 36% reported last year

BUT THE reservoir storage levels were 5.7% above normal, which the finance ministry said provides a "safe buffer for irrigation"

• BRIEFLY

Govt increases windfall tax on petrol exports

New Delhi: The government on Tuesday hiked the windfall gains tax on petrol exports, while lowering the levy on diesel and ATF, for the fortnight beginning July 1. The rate of special additional excise duty (SAED) on the export of diesel will be Rs 8.5 per litre, down from the current Rs 14/litre. SAED on export of ATF will be Rs 7.5/litre, lower than Rs 12.5/litre at present. However, the duty on exports of petrol has been hiked to Rs 4/litre. PTI

Mfg growth in Q1 may have slowed: FICCI survey

New Delhi: India's manufacturing growth is expected to moderate in the first quarter of the current fiscal compared to the previous quarter due to the West Asia crisis, according to a FICCI Survey released on Tuesday. The FICCI Manufacturing Survey reflects cautious sentiment for production in the quarter ended June. PTI

40 petrochemical products get duty waiver

New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday extended nil customs duty on the import of 40 critical petrochemical products by 15 days till July 15 to ensure continuity of supply stability. The waiver on provided on April 2 was a "temporary and targeted relief", and was set to lapse on June 30. The April 2 exemption was provided to ensure sufficient availability of petrochemicals in the domestic market. PTI

CBDT chair's tenure extended by six months

New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday extended the tenure of CBDT Chairman Ravi Agrawal by six months, till December 2026. The extended tenure officer was set to come to an end on Tuesday (June 30). An order issued by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) said it has approved "reappointment" of Agrawal as Chairman, CBDT on a contract basis for a period of six months. PTI

April-May fiscal deficit at 9.6% of FY27 aim

New Delhi: The Centre's fiscal deficit widened sharply year-on-year in the first two months of 2026-27, reflecting higher spending and weaker tax receipts. However, public-finance experts said the fiscal position is likely to improve over the rest of the year as crude oil prices ease and non-tax revenues remain robust.

According to Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data, the fiscal deficit stood at Rs 1.6 lakh crore during April-May, accounting for 9.6% of the Budget Estimate (BE) for FY27, compared with 0.8% of the respective target in the year-ago period.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said the fiscal expansion was driven by an 18% rise in total expenditure and a 1-2% contraction in both net tax receipts and non-tax revenues during the two months.

Gross tax revenues grew a modest 1.8% on-year, weighed down by a sharp 20% decline in excise duty after the reduction in duties on petrol and diesel. GST collections also contracted marginally due to higher IGST outflows, although central GST collections expanded a healthy 22.8%. FE

Semicon Mission 2.0: FinMin panel clears Rs 1.25 lakh crore

New Delhi: The government's semiconductor ambitions are set for a major expansion, with the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) under the finance ministry clearing a proposal for a Rs 1.25 lakh crore outlay under India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0, significantly higher than the Rs 76,000 crore allocated under the first phase of the programme.

Officials in the ministry of electronics and information technology said discussions are still underway with the finance ministry on the final outlay and subsidy structure. The proposal will be placed before the Union Cabinet once those are finalised. The higher allocation underscores the government's intent to move beyond attracting a handful of fabrication and packaging units to building a broader semiconductor ecosystem spanning chip design, materials, equipment, packaging and talent development. The proposed outlay is about 64% higher than the Rs 76,000 crore approved for ISM 1.0. FE

• MARKETS

Sensex	NIFTY	Gold ▼	US Dollar ▲
76,478.67	23,865.75	₹1,41,286	₹94.67
-249.70	-80.50		
-0.33%	-0.34%		
		Silver ▲	**Oil ▲**
		₹2,25,425	$70.36

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER INDIA BULLION AND JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION GOLD PER 10G, SILVER PER 1 KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF JUNE 29, 2026

Swiss giant MSC Group picks up 49% stake in Vizhinjam port

George Mathew
Mumbai, June 30

THE WORLD'S largest shipping and logistics company, Geneva-based Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) Group, has acquired a 49% stake in Adani Vizhinjam Port Pvt Ltd (AVPPL) for $1.397 billion (over Rs 13,000 crore).

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) and MSC Group's terminal arm, Terminal Investment Ltd (TiL) on Tuesday announced a definitive agreement which represents the single largest foreign private investment in Indian port infrastructure.

TiL is one of the world's largest container terminal operators and part of the MSC Group. It comprises a portfolio of more than 100 container terminals across five continents and a throughput of over 70 million TEUs per annum.

TiL will invest $1.397 billion, equivalent to its proportionate 49% share of $2.85 billion, APSEZ said in a statement.

"The partnership enhances volume visibility and accelerates ramp-up at Vizhinjam port, supported by incremental cargo volumes. This marks the third major collaboration between APSEZ and MSC following joint ventures at ports in Mundra (container terminal No. 3) and Ennore," it said.

"Vizhinjam port has emerged as a premier transshipment hub and ramped up at an unprecedented pace, becoming the first Indian port to earn the unique distinction of crossing 2 million TEUs within 18 months of operations," said Ashwani Gupta, Whole-time Director and Chief Executive Officer, APSEZ.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

2 insurance licences approved since FDI cap removal: IRDAI

Akash Mandal
Mumbai, June 30

FOREIGN INTEREST has notably picked up since the Centre raised the FDI cap in the sector to 100%, said Ajay Seth, the chief of the country's insurance regulator, which he said has already approved two applications by global players for picking up significant stakes in Indian general insurance companies.

"We have already given 2 licenses to general insurance. One was approved yesterday," the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) chairman said Tuesday.

Seth, however, did not divulge the identities of these two entities.

"A lot more interest is coming on the general insurance side," he added, speaking at an Insurance Awareness Committee event in Mumbai.

This is because growth in the general insurance sector has far outpaced that seen in the life insurance sector, Seth said. He said that the life insurance sector also has the potential to grow at the same pace as the general insurance segment if the demand in the segment is tapped. "For some of the foreign promoters seeking to get into 100% ownership, few conversations are happening. And one application has been approved already, and another one is with us at this point. Not 100%, but going up to a fairly large number, with the intent to maybe go the full way at some point of time," Seth said. Alongside these, the regulator has also very recently received an application for a life insurance entity.

"That was a very welcome development, because a large foreign insurer coming and taking a big position shows that not only us, but even foreign investors and promoters feel that there is potential in the sector," Seth said.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced relaxation of the foreign direct investment limit in the insurance sector to 100% from 74% during the Union Budget 2026-27 in February.

Seth also said that the initial products under the Bima Sugam initiative are expected to be launched by September.

"It is behind schedule, but I do expect that by September end, the initial products should be available. The key products that are being prioritised are motor, health, and term insurance," said Seth.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

SBI
Information Security Department, State Bank of India,
Global IT-Centre, Sec-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai-400 614

Corrigendum - 6

Ref: SBI/GITC/ISD/2026-27/SOC/1442 Dated: 06.04.2026

State Bank of India (SBI) has issued Request for Proposal (RFP) for Setting up Cyber Defence Centre. For details, please visit 'Procurement News' at https://sbi.bank.in and e-tender portal (https://etender.sbi/SBI). Eligible bidders, based on the criteria in the RFP notice, may obtain the full RFP upon payment of the tender fees up to 03:00 PM on 10.07.2026. Corrigendum-6 of the RFP may be downloaded from e-tender portal (https://etender.sbi/SBI).

Last date and time for Bid submission: Up to 05.00 P.M on 14.07.2026

Place: Navi Mumbai
Date: 01.07.2026

Dy. General Manager (SOC)
Information Security Department

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

34001/417/2627

File No-B-I-Home-17/2026 Lr. No.- 22230 Bhubaneswar, the 23rd June, 2026

Invitation for Bids
Bid Identification No. CE-Bldg-II-18/2026-27

1 The Chief Engineer, Buildings-II (I/c), Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the works, (1)"Construction of Court Building at Nimapara" & (2) "Construction of 36 Nos. of E-Type staff Qrs. (Block-I (S + 3) and Block-II (S + 2)) at Sonepur" as detailed below.

2	Nature of work	:	Building Works
3	No. of work	:	02 Nos.
4	Bid Cost.	:	₹10,000/-
5	Class of Contractor	:	'A'/ Special
6	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	From dt.09.07.2026 to 17.00 Hours of dt.24.07.2026.
7	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt.27.07.2026 at 11:30AM.

8 The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar

OIPR- 34001/34117/1/26-27/0036

KALYANA KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
STORES & PURCHASE DEPARTMENT, CENTRAL OFFICES,
Sarige Sadana, Main Road, Kalaburagi-585 102.
Mobile No. 77606 86172 (COSP), 77609 92029 (S.O).

No. KKRTC/CO/COSP/04/2026-27 Dated:29.06.2026

TENDER INVITING NOTICE (THROUGH KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

Tenders through KPP portal (pre-qualification & commercial) are invited for supply of following items / services.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Tender Nomenclature	Est. Value (Rs.)	Last date for submission of tender
01	KKRTC/2026-27/ SE8781	Engaging an agency for providing Technical Assistants on contract basis to divisions of KKRTC	9.52 Crore	08.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs
02	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0219	Supply of Cold Applied Self Adhesive Polymer Bituminous Composite membrane with aluminum foil at the top	0.16 crore	01.08.2026 at 15.00 hrs
03	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0220	Supply of Pop Revits (multi grip)	0.57 Core	01.08.2026 at 15.00 hrs
04	KKRTC/2025-26/ IND0192/CALL-3	Supply of thin walled bearings	0.70 Crore	16.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs
05	KKRTC/2024-25/ IND0101/CALL-6	Supply of Piston Assembly & Ring Sets	0.89 Crore	16.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs

All the details of Tender, Registration, Tender form documents etc. are available at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Mail to cospnekrtc@gmail.com or support@eprochelpdesk.com for further information if required. Further, any addendum /corrigendum related to changes in terms and conditions of tender, specification and calendar of events etc. will be uploaded only through KPP portal.

Sd/- Controller of Stores and Purchases
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/Kalaburagi/273/KSMC&A/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
COIMBATORE CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE CIRCLE

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. 1 / 2026-27 / HDO, Dated 29.06.2026

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Item Rate tender through online** will be received up to **05.08.2026, 10.30 Hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Coimbatore Circle for **Railway Works Programme - 2019-20** pertaining to **Coimbatore (H) C&M Division 2- 1 Work.**

Details of work, approximate value of work, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details will be available in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** from **04.06.2026.** If any Changes / Corrections are made in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H),
C&M, Coimbatore Circle.

DIPR /2159 / TENDER / 2026

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Open E-Tender Notice

e-tender Notice No. 23 of 2026-27 (Open)-Engg/DDU

On line (through e-tendering) for the following works are invited by DRM/Engg/DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings:-

Tender No. 11-DDU- SR DEN-I-26-27, (i) Name of work with its location : Repairs of staff quarters at Bikramganj, Piro, Garahani and Garhnokha under ADEN/XBKJ., **(ii) Advertised Value :** ₹ 58,08,824.30, **(iii) Earnest Money :** ₹ 1,16,200.00, **Tender No. 12-DDU- SR DEN-I-26-27, (i) Name of work with its location :** Proposal for repairing, water way cleaning, dressing, grouting etc. of major and minor bridges in ARA-SSM section under ADEN/XBKJ., **(ii) Advertised Value :** ₹ 87,31,893.85, **(iii) Earnest Money :** ₹ 1,74,600.00. **Tender No. 13-DDU- SR DEN-I-26-27, (i) Name of work with its location :** Proposal for Dewatering of seepage and rainwater from limited height subway for two years in GAQ-SSG section under ADEN/2/DDU, **(ii) Advertised Value :** ₹ 56,96,640.20, **(iii) Earnest Money :** ₹ 1,13,900.00.

● Closing Date & time for submission of e-tender : 21.07.2026, Up-to 12:00 hrs., ● Website particulars of e-tendering : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Divisional Railway Manager
East Central Railway, DDU

PR/0475/DDU/ENGG/T/26-27/48

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Zone-2, Special Division,
2nd Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block, Rajajinagara, Bengaluru-560010.

No: EE/SD/TEND/10/2026-27 **Date: 30-06-2026**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)

(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Special Division, Zone-2, BWCC, Bengaluru invites Bids from reputed Service Provider for the Service detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing / Outsourcing Graduate / Diploma Engineers for Bengaluru West City Corporation. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 2,78,51,505/- (Inclusive Service Charge), EMD Amount (in Rs.): 4,40,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 01-07-2026. 2)** Date and Time for Pre Bid Meeting on **04-07-2026 at 3.00 PM. 3)** Last Date and Time for Uploading Tenders in KPP Portal: **10-07-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **13-07-2026 at 4.30 PM. 5)** Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid: **14-07-2026 at 4.30 PM (if possible).** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Special Division, Zoen-2, BWCC.

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN

OFFICE OF THE Superintending Engineer

Watershed Development and Soil Conservation, District Pali

S. No.F31/TENDER/26-27/890-894 **Date-19-06-2026**

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No-PALI/04/2026-27

Bids for the execution of "Construction of various watershed development structures under PMKSY2.0 Projects of estimated value as mentioned below are invited from interested bidders up to 02.07.2026, 06.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**) of the state, and **www.watershed.rajasthan.gov.in** departmental website.

S.N	DIST	UBN.NO	Scheme	COST IN LACS
1	PALI	WSC2627WSOB00781	MJSA2.3	492.40

MOB NO 87642 05308

DIPR/C...../2026 **Sd/-**
Superintending Engineer

बाल ग्राम राई सोनीपत

क्र.सं.	लड़की का नाम	आयु	शैक्षणिक योग्यता	शारीरिक अवस्था	अन्य
1	कु. नाजमा	16/07/2004	बी.ए.	सामान्य	पूर्ण अनाथ

एक लड़की हेतु स्वस्थ, सुंदर, नौकरी या व्यवसाय वाले पढ़े-लिखे लड़के चाहिए। आवेदन में अपना पूरा नाम, पूरा पता, जन्मतिथि, मोबाइल न., पढाई, नौकरी या व्यवसाय की जानकारी, परिवार की पूर्ण जानकारी अवश्य लिखें। आवेदन विज्ञापन के 15 दिन के अंदर-अंदर निम्हस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में जमा करवाए। शादी के लिए साक्षात्कार की तिथि आवेदकों को दूरभाष पर दे दी जाएगी ।

आवेदन हेतू सम्पर्क सूत्र :-
ग्राम सर्योजक, बाल ग्राम राई
नजदीक मोतीलाल नेहरु स्पोर्ट्स स्कूल
बीसवां मील, राई सोनीपत
दूरभाष न. 0130-2366239
मो.न. 9050382141

Sd/-
Distt. Programme Officer
Women & Child Development
Sonipat

No. 46665/HRY

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

For and on behalf of President of Republic of India. Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Construction-II) North Western Railway, Jaipur issues following corrigendum in EPC Tender No, EL-C-EPC-TRD-JP-T01-25-26 "Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 132KV/2X25KV Traction Sub Stations (Scott Connected Transformer) with associated Switching Posts for 2 x 25 KV AT feeding system & SCADA in Jaipur -Sawaimadhopu section of Jaipur Division of North Western Railway." **Published details:-** Date of opening of EPC tender 30.10.2026, **Corrigendum details:-** Date of opening of EPC tender to be read as13.08.2026, **Published details:-** 2nd pre-bid conference date published 12.08.2026, **Corrigendum details:-** 2nd pre-bid conference date to be read as NA, All other terms and conditions will remain same.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Construction-II, Jaipur

931-DO/26

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Open E-tender on single bid system through E-Tender Notice No.: M/DSL/IZN/TC/OT/119 are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS, Loco Shed, North Eastern Railway, Izatnagar for and on behalf of President of India for the following work:-

Sl.No.-01,Name of work: Management of SLAM System at Loco Shed, Izzatnagar for a period of 2 years. Estimated Value of work (Rs.): ₹ 56,48,284.94 (Incl. all taxes), Earnest Money/Bid Security (in Rs.): ₹ 1,13,000/-, Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.): 0.00 (Zero), Period of work: 02 Years.

• Date and time for closing of E-tender: 20-07-2026 at 15:00 Hrs.,

• Tenderer may submits their E-tenders on line upto 15:00 hrs. on 20-07-2026.

• Please go to the Indian railway website ***www.ireps.gov.in*** to see the complete details and upload/submit the E-tender.

Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer/TRS, Loco Shed, Izatnagar

CPRO/Vidyut-83

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

E- Works Tender Notice No. 07 - TMC-IOH- 2026-27 Dated 29 .06.2026

On behalf of the President of India, Dy.CE/TMC, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur invites the following Works Tender : IOH / Annual & Major repair of track machines at ZTMD/GKC, STMD/DLR and during break down at site under the jurisdiction of N.E Railway for 24 months from the date of issue of letter of acceptance. **S.N.-1.,** Open tender No./ due on : 07 - TMC-IOH- 2026- 27 due on 21.07.2026, Description of Work : IOH / Annual & Major repair of track machines at ZTMD/GKC, STMD/DLR and during break down at site under the jurisdiction of N.E Railway for 24 months from the date of issue of letter of acceptance, as per attached Schedule and Additional Special Terms & Condition of contract. Quantity Required : As per attached Schedule, Place of work : At working site of Track Machines in N.E Railway or ZTMD/GKC or, STMD/DLR, Work Completion Period : 24 months, Estimated Tender Value (Rs.) : Rs 1,39,59,187.07, Earnest Money (Rs.) : Rs. 2,79,200.00, **Note:- 1.** The complete information along with tender document of above E-Procurement Tender is available in website on **http://ireps.gov.in** up to 15.00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. **2.** Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, venders are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III Digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. **3.** Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight way ignored and shall not be considered. **4.** Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. **5.** Earnest Money should be deposited through online. **6.** Tenderers quoting financial conditions deviating from tender condition stipulated in tender document are required to quantify its implications in financial term duly enclosing the calculation sheet supporting with authentic document, so that the impact of such financial condition on the offer may be worked out to decide inter-se-position of offers. In case tenderer quotes such financial condition without quantifying its financial implications, such tenders/ offers shall be summarily rejected, for which Railway Administration shall not entertain any correspondence. **7.** Tenderers are requested to read complete tender document carefully. **8.** In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. **1.** Executive Engineer/TMC - 9794840222, 2. SSE(TMC)/HQ-9794840293.

Executive Engineer/TMC, Gorakhpur

CPRO/W- 208

"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (G) East Central Railway, Samastipur for and on behalf of the **President of Union of India** invites Tender from competent and experienced Contractors having valid Electrical Contractor's license, technical expertise, financial solvency through E-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railway for execution of the following works. **Tender No. & Date :** EL-G-SPJ-11-ET-26-27 (Open) **(1) Name of Work with its Location :** Modification & Augmentation of power supply system at Central, DRM office, RPF, Gandak, Rusera Ghat & Hasanpur Road power House under jurisdiction of SSE(Elect.)/OD/SPJ. **(2) Advertised Value :** Rs. 70,39,511.53/- (Rupees Seventy lakh thirty nine thousand five hundred eleven and fifty three paisa only.) **(3) Earnest money/Bid Security :** Rs. 1,40,800/-Cost of tender document.-0 (Nil) **(4) Validity of Offer (Days) :** 90 days **(5) Date & Time for Closing & Opening of Tender :** Date of Closing of E-Tender at 12:00 hours on 17.07.2026., Date of Opening of E-Tender from 12:30 hours on 17.07.2026. **(6) Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office : Website-www.ireps.gov.in** D.R.M (Elect.) Office/Samastipur **NOTE:-**Any other modification/ information related to the above said tender will be uploaded on the Website instead of publish in newspaper.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)
E.C. Railway, Samastipur

PR/0477/SPJ/ELECT/T/26-27/40

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

OPEN TENDER, Batch no. 06/2026, Dtd. : 29.06.2026

E-Tender notice for supply of materials "Participation in through" Web portal of IREPS - **www.ireps.gov.in.** Offers are invited for supply of the following materials. The closing time for the tender is at 14.00 Hrs.

Sl.No. : 01, **Tender no. : 37265261, Short description of item :** Supply, installation and commissioning of IOT based water level indicator system for coaches with underslung water tanks as per RDSO specification number IS/RDSO-CG/0002:2025 or latest., **Quantity :** 170 Nos., **Publishing date & time :** 26.06.26, 16:08:21, **Tender closing dt. & time :** 31.07.26, 14:00

Dy. Chief Materials Manager
CRW/HRT

PR/0473/CRWHRT/Material/T/26-27/32

"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.

बिहार सरकार

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग
कार्यालय:-वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी, पटना पार्क प्रमंडल, पटना

Rajdhani Vatika (Eco Park) 800001, Near Old Secretariat, Gate no.-2, Off Mall Road, Patna
(Ph. No. 0612-2233991, Email address: parkdivisionpatna@gmail.com)

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

(Through e-Procurement mode only over (https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

e-Tender Notice No-07/2026-27

Separate/Online Bids are invited from registered Indian Suppliers (Manufacturers/ Authorised Distributors/Dealers/Suppliers) for supply of the Civil construction materials like different types of GI Chain Link Fabric Fencing Tata Brand Only in different Park under Patna Park Division, Patna.

SL No.	Scope of work	Cost of tender document (In Rupees) (Online Mode) (Non-Refundable)	Tender processing Fee (Non-Refundable) (in Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rupees) Online mode	Period of supply
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	GI Chain Link Fabric Fencing Tata Brand Only	Rs. 2,000.00	As per eproc fees	Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rs. One lakh rupees)	One year from the date of order

Tender Schedule/Programme:

Sl. No.	Activity	Date/Time : Duration
1	Name and address of the advertiser	Divisional Forest Officer, Patna Park Division, Patna Rajdhani Vatika (Eco Park) 800001, Near Old Secretariat, Gate no.-2, Off Mall Road, Patna Email address: parkdivisionpatna@gmail.com
2	Issue date of tender invitation notice	30.06.2026
3	Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents	From 07.07.2026 to 13.07.2026 (Upto 5:00 P.M.) **(https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)**
4	Date/Time for Submission/ Uploading of offer/Bid	Till 14.07.2026 up to 5.00 P.M. **(https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)**
5	Date & time for Opening of Technical Bid.	15.07.2026 at 11.00 A.M. (In the office of Divisional Forest Officer, Panta Park Division, Patna).
6	Financial Bid Opening Date and Time	Date will be announced after evaluation of technical bid

Detailed description of the terms and conditions as well as tender form for submission of tender can be downloaded from https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in

Corrigendum/Attendum, if any, will be published after on the departmental website **https://state.bihar.gov.in/forest/** and e-procurement Portal Bihar.

For further details please visit website **state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

Divisional Forest Officer,
Patna Park Division, Patna

PR- 006736 (Forest) 2026-27

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM)

Govt. of Bihar

Youth, Employment and Skill Development Department
A-Wing, 5th Floor, Niyojan Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-800001
Email: biharskilldevelopmentmission@gmail.com **Website:** www.biharskilldevelopmentmission.in

Section – I Notice Inviting Request for Proposal

RFP No: BSDM/Prachar Prasar (RFP) 145/2026

The Secretary, Youth, Employment and Skill Development Department, Government of Bihar cum CEO, Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM), invites proposals under a Two-Bid System for Selection of Agency for the Launch and Production of Official Podcast of Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM).

Kindly note that the selection of agencies under this RFP will not guarantee allocation of work and BSDM will assume no liability or cost towards it. BSDM makes no commitments, expresses or implied that this process will result in a business transaction between anyone.

Document Fee and Tender Processing Fee: All bidders must pay a non-refundable Document Fee of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) and Tender Processing Fee of Rs. 590.00 (Five Hundred Ninety only) through e-payment mode (i.e., NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card) on E-Proc Portal.

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): An EMD of Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand only) **shall be paid through e-payment mode only** on E-Proc Portal prior to the last date/time for submission/ uploading of the Bid, failing which the bid shall be rejected. The EMD shall be non-interest bearing and refundable. If the selected bidder fails to submit the requisite performance security or to execute the agreement, this EMD will be forfeited.

The Proposal has to be submitted through online mode on https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and can be searched by clicking the Tab "Tender" on home page of above website and then going to Latest Tender by searching Department Name as "Youth, Employment and Skill Development Department, Govt. of Bihar".

The application procedure, eligibility criteria, evaluation methodology, terms and conditions and the scope of work are detailed in this RFP which can be seen or downloaded from the "e-Procurement Portal https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and departmental **website:** http://www.biharskilldevelopmentmission.in The RFP will be available to download from the above websites from **Date 25.06.2026.**The **pre-bid meeting** will be held on **03:00 PM of Date-02.07.2026 (physically).** The last date for uploading of proposal/bid will be **Date-22.07.2026 up to 15.00 Hrs.** Technical Bid will be opened on or after **Date 24.07.2026 post 16:00 Hrs. The Evaluation of proposals will be made as per criteria laid down in RFP.** Please refer RFP document for complete details.

This tender is issued in accordance with:

- Bihar Financial Rules, 2005 (as amended up to 2024)
- Applicable State Purchase Preference Policy (Amended till 2024)
- IT Act 2000 (for e-procurement validity)

BSDM reserves the right to issue addendum/corrigendum/modification or to amend any or all conditions of this RFP Document or to accept or reject any or all proposal(s) or to cancel the whole of this RFP at any stage without assigning any reason thereof and no applicants/bidders shall have any cause of action or claim against the BSDM for the same.

Mission Director
Bihar Skill Development Mission,
Youth, Employment and Skill Development Dep.

PR- 006642 (Youth) 2026-27

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

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED

19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI-600 008.
CIN U74999TN1971SGC005967

(ONLINE ONLY)

Tender Notice NIT.No.03/CD/T.No.03/2026-27 **Dt.30.06.2026**

For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, tenders are invited under **"Two Cover System"** through online only for the following work from **qualified Bidders** having experience in similar nature of works as mentioned under. Tenders will be received upto **15.30 Hrs** (as per server system clock) on **03.08.2026** and the same will be opened at **15.30 Hrs** (as per server system clock) on **04.08.2026.**

Name of Work	Approx. value of work	EMD
Formation of Internal Roads including Construction of RCC Drain, Culverts and Providing street lights at SIPCOT Industrial Park, Gangaikondan, Phase-II.	**Rs. 12149.00 Lakhs** (including GST @18%)	**Rs.60,85,000/-***
* EMD shall be paid through **eBG** only (as per the list of banks attached in the Annexure-III)		
The tender schedule can be downloaded at free of cost from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in**		

DIPR / 2170 / TENDER / 2026 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Government of Tamilnadu — ELCOT

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED

9th Floor, Sigapi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
https://elcot.tn.gov.in |+91 44 2855 1234| itparks@elcot.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No. ELCOT - ITP - 2026 - 0001

ELCOT invites bidders for "E- Tender cum e-Auction for allotment of fully developed non-SEZ plots located at ELCOT IT Parks of Hosur and Madurai - II on 99 years lease and Tirunelveli on 75 years lease" (2nd call). For complete details, please visit www.tntenders.gov.in. Pre-bid meeting: **08.07.2026,** 11:00 AM at ELCOT HO, Egmore. Last date for submission of e-bids: **01.08.2026, 3 PM.** For queries: itparks@elcot.in

General Manager
(IT Parks & Projects)

DIPR / 2172 / TENDER / 2026

बिहार सरकार

जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
तिरहुत नहर प्रमंडल,चकिया

अल्प कालीन पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या – 01/ 2026-27
(केवल ई-टेन्डर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाईट https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर
पत्रांक–414

1.कार्य का विवरण –

युप सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख रू0 में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रू0 में) (ऑन लाईन अथवा फिजिकल / मैनुअल मोड में भुगतेय)	परिमाण –विपत्र का मूल्य (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) (रूपया) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में भुगतेय रू0 में)	बेलटॉन को देय बिड प्रोसेसिंग की (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में भुगतेय रू0 में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
01	तिरहुत नहर प्रमंडल,चकिया के अंतर्गत केसरिया वितरणी के कि0 मी0 0.00 से 22.25 तक जंगल सफाई एवं कि0 मी0 2.13 से 20.73 कि0 मी0 तक संरचना मरम्मति कार्य,सिसवा –पटना उप वितरणी के 0.304 कि0 मी0 से 2.439 कि0 मी0 तक संरचना मरम्मति कार्य,भगवतिया उप वितरणी के 0.5 कि0 मी0 से 1.52 कि0 मी0 तक संरचना मरम्मति कार्य,बंगरा लघु नहर के 0.914 कि0 मी0 से 2.43 कि0 मी0 तक संरचना मरमति कार्य,पिपरा वितरणी कि0 मी0 1.00 से 14.00 कि0 मी0 तक संरचना मरम्मति एवं कि0 मी0 0.00 से 11.070 तक जंगल सफाई कार्य,प्रहरीनाथ उपवितरणी के कि0 मी0 2.736 से 9.728 तक संरचना मरम्मति एवं कि0 मी0 0.00 से 5.378 तक जंगल सफाई कार्य,सागर उपवितरणी के कि0 मी0 0.00 से 3.730 तक जंगल सफाई एवं कि0 मी0 1.520 पर संरचना मरम्मति कार्य,बुमरी लघु नहर के कि0 मी0 0.00 से 2.185 तक जंगल सफाई एवं कि0 मी0 0.3 से 2.85 तक तटबंध मरम्मति कार्य,चिंतामनपुर उपवितरणी के कि0 मी0 0.0 से 4.870 तक जंगल सफाई एवं कि0 मी0 0.76 से 3.65 तक संरचना मरम्मति कार्य,चकिया उप वितरणी के कि0 मी0 0.00 से 4.482 तक जंगल सफाई कार्य	162.84	325680.00	10000.00	3540.00	5 माह

2. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि : दिनांक: 24.06.2026
3. निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक: 13.07.2026 10:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न से दिनांक–16.07.2026 के 03:00 बजे अपराहन तक की अवधि (सिर्फ वेबसाईट https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
4. तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक : 17.07.2026 समय 03:30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाईट https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
5. वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी (सिर्फ वेबसाईट https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
6. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : सिर्फ वेबसाईट https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर
7. निविदा की वैधता अवधि (निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि से) : 120 दिन
8. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियंता, तिरहुत नहर प्रमंडल चकिया

विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाईट https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in एवं वेबसाईट https://wrd.fmiscwrdbihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है ।

विस्तृत जानकारी **state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

PR- 006714 (W R D) 2026-27

कार्यपालक अभियंता
तिरहुत नहर प्रमंडल, चकिया

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

S. R. N o.	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 SCHOOL SHIKSHA PARIYOJNA PARISAD	CONSTRUCTION OF 4 ACRS, BOYS AND GIRLS TOILET, BOUNDARY WALL IN GPS BADHOI DISTRICT REWARI. (UNDER DEE). ONLYFOR SOCITIES(1ST TIME INVITATION) TIME LIMIT : 9 MONTHS' + 7 WORKS	25.06.2026 06.07.2026	5,91,83,842/-	www.hssip.in	9462239081 civilbranchssyk@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in **No. 46676/HRY**

उ0प्र0 अग्निशमन तथा आपात सेवा मुख्यालय, लखनऊ।

प्रथम/द्वितीय तल, चतुर्थ टावर, सिग्नेचर बिल्डिंग पुलिस मुख्यालय, लखनऊ
Email- fshqup@gmail.com

पत्रसंख्याः एफ0एस0 (टी) - 272-2025 (15वें वित्त आयोग) **दिनांकः जून, 27,2026**

निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश अग्निशमन तथा आपात सेवा हेतु 08 अदद Fire Blanket क्रय/निर्माण किये जाने हेतु जेम पोर्टल पर जेम कस्टम बिड संख्या- GEM/2026/B/7711708 दिनांक 26.06.2026 को कस्टम बिड की गयी। जिसका विवरण निम्नवत् है:-

BID DETAILS	
जेम कस्टम बिड संख्या	GEM/2026/B/7711708
दिनांक	26.06.2026
बिड बंद होने की तारीख/समय	13.07.2026 16:00:00
बिड खुलने होने की तारीख/समय	13.07.2026 16:30:00
बिड पेशकश वैधता (बंद होने की तारीख से)	180(DAYS)
प्री-बिड मीटिंग तारीख/समय	03.07.2026 15:00:00 FSHQ, LKO

उत्तर प्रदेश अग्निशमन तथा आपात सेवा हेतु 08 अदद Fire Blanket क्रय/निर्माण किये जाने हेतु जेम पोर्टल पर जेम कस्टम बिड संख्या- GEM/2026/B/7711708 दिनांक 26.06.2026 में उल्लखित एंव जेम पोर्टल पर उल्लखित क्रय संबंधित समस्त नियम व शर्तों के साथ ही ऑनलाइन प्रतिभाग करने का कष्ट करें।

(सुभाष कुमार)
मुख्य अग्निशमन अधिकारी/
नोडल अधिकारी (परचेज),
अग्निशमन तथा आपात सेवा,
मुख्यालय, उ0प्र0, लखनऊ ।

UPID-253163 Date 29/06/2026
www.upidadv.gov.in

Aligarh Municipal Corporation

E-Procurement Tender Notice

NIT No: 1359/NV/NNA/2026-27 **Date: 30-06-2026**

Aligarh Nagar Nigam invites percentage-rate bids on **http://etender.up.nic.in** from eligible bidders for the following package under the CMGRID Scheme.

Sl. No.	Nagar Nigam	Package No.	Included Roads	Road Length (Km)	Estimated Cost Excluding GST (Rs. Lakh) Construction	Maintenance For 5 Years	Total Estimated Cost of Work Excluding GST (Rs. In Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in Lakh)	Duration of Construction Work (in Months)	Tender Fee Including GST
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	ALIGARH	ALG/C MG-2	Leftover Work In Ward No 08, 15, 26, 69- Goolar Road From G.T. Road, Shanshah Hotal Puliya to Delhi Gate Chauraha.	2.08	765.18	19.27	784.45	90.12	3 Month	41300.00
2			Leftover Work In Ward No 11, 15, 34 Khair Road, From Hira Nagar Puliya To Nada Pul Chauraha.	2.56	2292.96	34.30	2327.26			
3			Leftover Work In Ward No 54, 31, 30 I.T.I Road From near Jail pul Bijlighar to Barola Pul.	1.78	576.47	11.10	587.57			
4			Leftover Work In Ward No 10, 37, 60. 68, 87 -Railway Road From G.T Road, Mahraja Palace to Abdul karim Chauraha, Khatikan Chauraha via Jama Masjid	1.68	797.54	8.92	806.46			

Sr No	Event	Date & Time
13	Availability of tender documents on e- tendering portal	From 02/07/2026, 12:00PM
14	Pre-Bid meeting Date & Venue	06/07/2026, 15:00 PM at 3rd floor URIDA, Sector-7, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow -226010
15	Last date of Submission of e-Bids on E- tender Portal	08/07/2026, 17:00 PM
16	Date of Opening of tender	09/07/2026, 11:00 AM

- The Employer has the right to issue addendum /corrigendum as per ITB clause-10 on-line which will not be published in any newspaper. All prospective bidders are advised to keep regular watch and visit e-tender portal regularly.
- For further details please log on to **https://etender.up.nic.in** and download the bid document.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
Municipal Corporation Aligarh

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I , Nitesh Kumar S/o Naresh Kumar R/o 169-170 UGF , DDA Park , Pkt - 15 , Sector - 24 , Rohini , Delhi have changed my name to Nitesh Bansal permanently. 0040863272-1

I,SATISH SOLANKY,S/O-SHIV RAJ SOLANKY,R/0-5045/1,SANT NAGAR,KAROL-BAGH DIST-CENTRAL,DELHI-110005.Have changed my name,from SATISH SOLANKI TO SATISH SOLANKY for all Future purpose. 0040863378-11

I,Mohammad Rihan,S/o Yunus,R/o-710A,Gali No.-9,Rajiv Gandhi Nagar,New Mustafabad,Delhi-110094,have changed my name,from Mohammad Rihan to Mohd Rihan,for all future,purposes. 0040863370-3

I, Raunak Kumar s/o Sanjay r/o 231, Gali-1, Jai Vihar, F2-Block, Baprola, Delhi-110043 have changed my name to RAUNAK GUPTA. 0040863271-2

I,SATYA PRAKASH,S/O-RATIRAM SEHRAWAT,R/O-H.NO-2156,SECTOR-65,BALLABGARH,FARIDABAD,HARYANA PIN:121004,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SATYA PRAKASH SEHRAWAT,FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040863371-8

I Vipin S/O Bhagwan Singh R/O H3/172,Vikas Puri,NewDelhi-110018 Have Changed my Name ro Vipin Lohia. 0040863378-2

I, Vimal Prakash, S/o-Jagat Singh, R/o: B-702, The Gulistan CGHS, Plot-1B, Sector-13, Dwarka, New Delhi 110078, Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name from Mansi to Mansi Patwal. 0071044971-1

I,Jyoti Nagpal W/o Mohit Juneja R/o H.No- 21,Block 15,Subhash Nagar Delhi 110027 have changed my name to Jyoti Juneja. 0040863392-2

I, Kavita W/o Parmod Kumar R/o RZ-7, Najafgarh, Roshan Garden, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Kavita Devi in my minor daughter Prachi aged 17 years 12th class Educational documents. The actual name of mine is Kavita, respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0071044931-1

I Lalit Bansal S/o Kailash Chand R/o 24/48, FF,West Patel Nagar Delhi-8,have Changed my name to Lalit Kumar 0040863371-1

I Satya Kumari W/o Upendra Singh R/o Babhan Barehta, Kargahar, Rohtas, Bihar-821107, have changed my name to Sandhya Devi 0071044597-1

I Sami Ullah s/o Peer Khan r/o 606, 1st Floor, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Samiullah KHAN. 0040863314-1

I, Vishal Shrivastav S/o Brajesh Shrivastava R/o Dhobai, Bah, Agra, U.P.-283104, have changed my name to Vishal for all future purposes. 0040863340-1

I Raj Kumar Chouhan,s/o Ballu Ram,T-154 Nizamuddin West Basti, Delhi, 110013, Changed my name to Raj Kumar 0040863370-5

I, Mohit Kumar Arora, S/o. Late R.K. Arora, R/o A-109, Sector-36, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. have changed my name from Mohit Kumar Arora to Mohit Arora for all future purposes. 0040863263-1

I,BAVNEET KAUR GULATI,D/o-Jatinder Pal Singh Gulati,W/o-Mandeep Singh Chadha R/o,I-144,Ashok-Vihar, Phase-1,New Delhi-110052,have changed my Name to BAVNEET KAUR CHADHA,permanently 0040863371-10

I, Farhat Naaz W/o Mohd Akram Chaudhary R/o 336, Masuri, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Farhat Naz. 0071045000-1

I,PREM KUMAR MADAN,S/O-LILA DHAR MADAN,R/O-HNO.118,PP-BLOCK MAURYA-ENCLAVE PITAMPURA SHALIMAR BAGH DELHI-110088.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PREM KUMAR MADAAN. 0040863378-4

I,No-4845010N,Unit 528 ASC BN, Fakkeerayya Boodihalmath, R/O-164 Nekar Street Kunkur, District- Dharwad Karnataka-581212.In my service records name of my spouse has been wrongly mentioned as Parvati F.B instead of Parvathi Boodihalmath void affidavit dated 29-06-06 before public notary Kupwara. 0020515838-1

I,Neelam Sharma,W/o Late Sh. Pradeep Sharma,R/o C-85,Rama Park,Uttam Nagar,Delhi,have changed my name to Neelam Rani,for all purposes. 0040863392-4

I, Tishu Kumar S/o Pankaj Kumar Singh R/o House no. 19, Road No. 5, Dheeraj nagar, Shiv Shakti Enclave Titu Colony, Faridabad -121003, have changed my name to Atharv Singh 0071045004-1

I,Shahjad Ansari S/O Mohd Sabbir,R/o H NO-502, B-Block,Gali No-08,Shri Ram-Colony,Delhi-110094,Have Changed My Name To SHAHZAD ALI. Permanently. 0040863364-4

I,RENSHU D/O Rajesh Singh R/O G-172/A, Lal Kuan, Badarpur, Delhi-110044,have changed my name to RENSHU SINGH. 0040863364-1

I,Reena W/o Rajesh Kumar Goyal,R/o-H.No.206,3rd-floor,Tarun Enclave, Pitampura,Delhi,have changed my name to Reena Goyal. 0040863266-1

I,Usman S/o-Jameer Ahmed,R/o H.No.-436,Pocket-A,Sector-21,Industrial Complex Dundahera,Gurugram (Haryana)-122016, have changed my name to Usman Khan. 0040863371-3

I, KUSHALPAL , S/O HARDAN SINGH R/O 47 GHANSHYAM PATTI NEAR INDIAN BANK KARNAWAL MEERUT UTTAR PRADESH - 250344 have changed my name KUSHALPAL SINGH for all future purposes 0071044942-1

I,Sajal Pratima Verma,W/O Rajesh Verma,R/O House No 713,Sector-31, Faridabad,Haryana-121008,Have changed my name to Sajal Pratima for all future purposes. 0040863392-7

I, (Avneet Basra) S/O (Gurvinder Singh) born on (09-07-1998) residing at (WZ15A/3A Vishnu Garden Navyug Block New Delhi - 110018), have changed my name to (Avneet Singh) vide affidavit dated (26-6-2026) at (Delhi) 0040863128-1

I,ANISHA KHATUN W/O MOHD HANIF,R/O JHUGGI NO.7 MAIN-DURGA CHOWK KALANDAR-COLONY BHALSWA DAIRY,DELHI-110042.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANEESHA KHATOON. 0040863370-7

I,Dinesh Kumar S/o Inder Singh R/o House No.1156,Uttam Vihar,Rohtak,Haryana-124001, have changed my daughter's name from Tanvi to Tanvi Nandal. 0040863371-12

I,Ashu Verma,W/o Anuj Dagar R/o,Flat-No.314, Plot-No.8, Chandanwari-Apartment, Sector-10,Dwarka, Delhi-110075,have changed my-name to Ashi Dagar for all-purposes. 0040863378-6

I, Deepti Alias Deepti Jain W/o Akash Jain R/o E1-1903, Radicon Vedantam, Gaur City-1, Near Exotica Dreamville, Noida Extension West, Noida, G.B. Nagar, U.P-201301 Have changed my name from Deepti Alias Deepti Jain To Deepti Gupta. Hencefort I would be known by the name of Deepti Gupta for all future purposes. 0071044991-1

I,JALISH ALI,Son of/Daughter of/wife of,ABDUL HAMID,R/o-H.NO-D-153,GALI NO-7,D-BLOCK,DAYALPUR,MUSTAFABAD, NORTH EAST,DELHI-110094,have changed my name to JALISH ANSARI,for all purposes. 0040863406-1

I,Ayesha w/o Mohd Yusuf,R/o F75,West Jawahar Park Gali No.10, Laxmi Nagar,Delhi-110092,have changed my name to AISHA SIDDIQUA permanently. 0130066357-1

I, Sabanam W/o Gulzar Ali R/o-99, Maharajpur-1, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Shabnam. 0071044961-1

I,Kavita Singh Kundu,W/o-Sundeep Singh Kundu,R/o-F-7/22,Sector-15,Rohini, North-West Delhi-110089,declare that Kavita & Kavita Singh Kundu are one and the same-person. 0040863371-5

I, DEEPTI GULATI , W/O ANIL KUMAR R/O Flat No-624, Vasundhra CHS, Thakur Village, Mumbai, Kandivali East, Mumbai Suburban Maharashtra - 400101 , have changed my name Deepti Sahni for all future purposes 0071044944-1

I, Gaurav Kumar S/o Rajkishor R/o-112, Model Town, New Arya Nagar, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Gaurav Kashyap. 0071044962-1

I,hitherto known as Kaushalya Kaur alias Kaushlya Kaur,wife of,Hakam Singh,residing at,1807,Gali.No.9,Govind Puri Extn.,Kalkaji,New Delhi-110019,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kaushalya Kaur. 0040863392-10

I, Anushka Queenie Saxena D/o Anil Kumar Saxena R/o F-1, F Block, Type V, Hudcoplace, Andrews Ganj, New Delhi-110049, have changed my name to Anushka Saxena. 0071044915-1

I,PRATIBHA,W/O-KISHOR KUMAR BAGCHI,R/O HNO.80,GALI NO.1 NOBLE-ENCLAVE SECTOR-22,MOLAHERA(65) PALAM-ROAD GURGAON HARYANA-122015.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRATIBHA RANI. 0040863370-9

I,Shambhavi,D/o Sanjeev Singh,R/o C-603,Doctor Park,GH-5,Sector-5,Vasundhara,Ghaziabad,U.P-201012,have changed,my name,from Shambhavi to Shambhavi Singh.Henceforth I,would be known by,the name,of Shambhavi Singh for,all future,purposes. 0040863372-2

I,MEENAKSHI SOLANKY,W/O-SATISH SOLANKY,R/0-5045/1,SANT NAGAR. KAROL-BAGH,DIST-CENTRAL DELHI-110005.Have changed my name,from. MEENAKSHI SOLANKI TO MEENAKSHI SOLANKY,for All future purpose. 0040863378-10

I, Kashish s/o Sushil Kumar Sapra, R/o 5/38, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Kashish Sapra. 0040863364-2

I,AYESHA,D/O-MOHD YUSUF,R/o-H NO-166,GALI NO.8,BHAGIRATHI-VIHAR PHASE-2,MUSTAFABAD,NORTH EAST,DELHI-110094 have changed my name to AYESHA PARVEEN for all purposes. 0040863406-3

I,Mohammad Farooq S/o Riazuddin,R/o T-289, Ahata Kidara,Idgah Road,Delhi Sadar Bazar,Delhi-110006 have changed my father name to RIYAZUDDIN. 0040863370-2

I, Shashi Chawla s/o Surender Chawla r/o 2/215, Subhash Nagar, Delhi-110027 have changed my name to SHASHI PAL CHAWLA. 0040863271-1

I Kulangara Veettil Majeed,S/o-Kulangara Veettil Muhammed,R/o Marakkarakath,House Paravanna,PO-III/57A,Malappuram,Kerala-676502,have changed my name to Abdul Majeed,for all purposes. 0040863371-7

I, Mukit S/o Mustkim R/o C861 Shaheed Nagar, Chikamberpur, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Mohd Mukit. 0071044956-1

I,ARUSHI CHOUDHARY D/o Ranjit Choudhary R/o-D-1/103-104, 3rd Floor Sector-11,Rohini North West Delhi-110085,have changed my name to AARUSHI CHOUDHARY 0040863378-1

I, Mohammad Vasim S/o Ikabal R/o-339, Mohalla Vyapariyan, Muradnagar, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Mohd Vasim. 0071044967-1

I, Rijavan S/o Gajoodeen R/o-918, Maharajpur-2, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Rijavan Khan. 0071044960-1

I,ANOOP MADAN,S/O-PREM SHANKER,R/O-H.NO-58 3rd-FLOOR, SECTOR-10 BLOCK-I,Sector-7,FARIDABAD-121006 Haryana,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANOOP SHANKER MADAN,FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040863392-1

I, Adamya Agrawal S/o Ashok Kumar Agrawal R/o 236 B, Ground Floor Orchid Island Near Artemis Hospital Sector 51 South city -II Gurgaon Haryana - 122018, I have changed the name of my minor daughter Khushi Shaiphali Agrawal to Khushi Agrawal aged 3 years. 0071044926-1

I,SONI PARAN KIMAM THUDIL JOHN,S/O-KARTHIKAPALL MATHEW JOHN,R/O A-4 IST-FLOOR DREAMLAND-APARTMENT UPKAR-COLONY,BURARI,DELHI-110084. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SONY P JOHN. 0040863370-11

I ANUBHA REJI, Wife of Reji Cyriac, D/o of Mr. V.K. Thomas Resident of Opp. Subhash Builders, Khasara No. 827/1, H.No. 6, Block-B, UGF, Baba Colony, Burari, Delhi 110 0084, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have changed my name from Anubha Thomas to Anubha Reji for all future private/Government Records. I will be known as Anubha Reji and Anubha Reji and Anubha Thomas both are the same and one person. 0040863276-1

I, Mohammad Zishan S/o Talib R/o-61, Dhobiyo Wala Mohalla, Bahrampur Badhli, Kithore, Garhmukteshwar have changed my name to Mohd Zishan. 0071044957-1

I,SATISH SOLANKY,S/O-SHIV RAJ SOLANKY.R/0-5045/1,SANT NAGAR,KAROL-BAGH DIST-CENTRAL DELHI-110005.Have Changed my Daughter name,from KAVYA SOLANKI TO KAVYA SOLANKY,for all future purpose. 0040863378-12

I,GOPAL DAS ARORA,S/O-HARI CHAND ARORA,R/O-1/9315-C-2 U/G/F,GALI.NO-1,PRATA P PURA WEST ROHTASH-NAGAR SHAHDARA,DELHI-110032,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GOPAL DASS ARORA. 0040863370-4

I, Saanvi Krishnan (Father's name RamakrishnanKrishnan) R/o B-44, Second Floor, GulmoharPark, New Delhi 110049 have changed my nameto Savitr Sriniv Krishnan for all purposes as peraffidavit dated June 24,2026 notarised by AdvocateSanjay Kumar Singh, New Delhi (Regn number51053). 0040863259-1

I,Ashish Kumar Vinod Kumar Sharma,S/O-Vinod Kumar Sharma,R/O-Flat.No.-996,First-Floor,Pocket-B and C,Sector-A,Vasant-Kunj,delhi-110070,have changed my name to Ashish Sharma,for all,purposes. 0040863371-9

I,Ankita W/o Bal Krishan Verma,R/o Flat No.G-2,Plot No.643,Shalimar Garden Extension-1,Sahibabad,Ghaziabad have changed my name to Ankita Singh. 0040863378-3

I, Hemlata Mishra W/o Sh. Hemant Kumar Mishra R/O Flat No.0502, 5th Floor, Tower-1, RPS Savana, Sector-88,Faridabad Haryana-121002 have changed my name from Hemlata to Hemlata Mishra for all future purposes 0071044975-1

I,MAMTA,D/O GANGA PRASHAD,W/O-MANEESH SHARMA,R/O H.NO -150 SECTOR-10B VASUNDHRA.GHAZIABAD UTTAR PRADESH - 201012.have changed my name to MAMTA SHARMA 0040863364-6

I,AKANSHA GULATI W/O-AMAN CHAUDHARY R/o C-55,Gali.No-3, Mahendru Enclave,Adarsh Nagar,Delhi-110033,have changed my name to AKANSHA CHAUDHARY. 0040863364-8

I,Nitika,D/o Late Sh.Pradeep Sharma,R/o D-901,Chitrakoot Apartment,Plot No-9,sector-22,Dwarka,Delhi,have changed my name to Nitika Sharma,for all purposes. 0040863392-3

I, Divyanshu S/o Ombir Singh R/o 215 A, Gali No.-13, 55 Foota Road, BhagwatiGarden Extn. Dwarka More, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059, have changedmy name to Divyanshu Singh. 0071045002-1

I Shaurya Sharma son of Naresh Kumar Sharma resident of D 712 Braj Ganga Residency Civil lines Mathura had changed my name from Shaurya Sharma to Shaurya Kaushik for all purposes and records. 0050292252-1

I, TARUN BALA W/o SANCHIT KHANNA, R/o 318, Hissar Road, Near P.N. Bank, Mixi Factory Street, Durga Nagar, Ambala City, Barara, Ambala, Haryana-134003, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as TANU KHANNA. 0071044934-1

I,Pawan Kumar,S/o Gopi Kishan R/o 134, NEAR KRISHNA MANDIR, BHIMSI PATTI,BAHORA KALAN,GURGAON (HARYANA)-122413,have changed my name to Pawan. 0040863371-2

I, PUJA , W/O NEERAJ BANSAL R/O 1620/1 OPP HDFC BANK NEAR TELEPHONE EXE, MAIN NAJAFGARH PAPRAVAT SOUTH WEST DELHI - 110043 have changed my name POOJA BANSAL for all future purposes 0071044939-1

I,Aaditya Verma,S/O-Rajesh Verma,R/O House No.713,Sector-31,Faridabad Haryana 121003,Have changed my name to Aditya Verma for all future purposes. 0040863392-6

I,KUM. GEETA CHAUHAN W/O-DEEPAK KUMAR R/O-273A MIG FLATS METRO APARTMENT JAHANGIRPURI DELHI-110033.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GEETA. 0040863370-6

I, Bani Chadha D/o Sh. Jasmeet Singh residing atHouse no. 24, Road Number 29, Punjabi Bagh Ext., PunjabiBagh West, Delhi-110026 have changed my name fromBani Chadha to Baani Chaadhaa for all purposes in futureand both are same person. 0040863262-1

I,Shikha Tayal,D/o Anand Parkash Tayal W/o Vikas Garg,R/o House-No.152-153, 3rd-Floor,Pocket D-12,Sector-8,Rohini,Delhi have changed my name to Shikha Garg. 0040863371-11

I,Ritu W/o Karnel Singh R/o 280, 2nd-Floor, Sunlight Colony-1, Ashram, South-Delhi, Delhi-110014, have changed my-name to Aaba. 0040863378-5

I, Shaista Ali / Shahista Ali W/O, Liyaqat Ali R/o 16 Bada Mohalla Devli Road Khanpur New Delhi -110062 have changed my name to Shahista for all purposes 0040863300-1

I,SANDEEP KUMAR S/o SHOBH RAJ,R/o B-17/8-9,Krishna Nagar,Shahdara, Delhi-110051,have changed my name from SANDEEP KUMAR to SANDEEP KUMAR MENDIRATTA permanently. 0040863392-5

I, SANGEETA RANI W/o Satish Garg R/o V-150, Sector-12 , Noida , Gautam Buddha Nagar U.P.-201301 , have changed my name to SANGEETA GARG for all future purposes. 0040863369-1

I,Anil Aggarwal,S/o Anand Kumar Aggarwal R/o-Flat.No.502,5th-floor,Empire-Tower, Block-4,Omaxe north avenue,sector-15,Bahadurgarh,Haryana,have changed my name to Anil Kumar Aggarwal. 0040863266-2

I,Himanshu,S/o-Madan Kumar,R/o-H.No.196,Shastri Nagar,Line Par,B.garh(Jhajjar)Haryana-124507,declare my parents names wrongly-recorded as MADAN & KAMINI instead of MADAN KUMAR & KAMINI DEVI in my-DOB & 10th-certificate. 0040863371-4

I, SARLA , W/O KUSHALPAL SINGH R/O 47 GHANSHYAM PATTI NEAR INDIAN BANK KARNAWAL MEERUT UTTAR PRADESH - 250344 have changed my name SARLA SINGH for all future purposes 0071044943-1

I, Sumit Kumar s/o-Bijender and F/o-Unnati, R/o-Hut-5, T-Huts, Near Katra Nihal Singh, Madipur, New Delhi-63, also known as Sumit. Both are one and the same person. 0040863327-1

I,KISHOR KUMAR,S/O-SAMORENDRA BAGCHI,R/O-HNO.80 GALI NO.1 NOBLE-ENCLAVE SECTOR-22 MOLAHERA(65) PALAM-ROAD GURGAON HARYANA-122015.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KISHOR KUMAR BAGCHI. 0040863370-8

I, Suraji dabral W/o Jagat Dabral R/o H.no C-276, New Ashok Nagar, East Delhi-110096 Have changed my name to Surjeet Dabral for all future purposes 0071044936-1

I,Mussarat,W/o-Mohd Yusuf,R/o-H.No.166,Gali.No.8,A-Block,Phase-2, Bhagirathi-Vihar,Delhi-110094,declare that Mussarat and Musarrat Jahan are same-person and change my name to Musharat Begum,for all,purposes. 0040863406-4

I,Islamuddin, S/o Late Musab Ali,R/o,H.No.K-411,Dakshinpuri, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar,New Delhi-110062 have updated/corrected name of mine and my fatherfrom Eslamuddin S/o Late Mushab Ali to Islamuddin,S/o-Late Musab Ali for all future purposes. 0040863392-8

I Sonali Suchismita Pattanayak W/o Surjeet Parida R/o B-1002, Kenwood Tower, Charmwood Village, Surajkund Road Faridabad -121009, I have changed the name of my minor daughter Shanvika Parida Alias Shaivi Parida to Shaivi Parida aged 1 years. 0071044913-1

I,Ashima Khurana W/O Rajat Khanna R/O B-183 First Floor,Ashok Vihar, Phase-1,Delhi-110052,after marriage I have changed my name to Ashima Khanna. 0040863372-1

I,ASHOK RANI KATARIA,W/o,Mr. Sham Sunder,R/o,WZ-H-66,Sant-Nagar, Near Montu-Shah,ND-110018,do hereby declare-that ASHOK RANI,A RANI and ASHOK RANI KATARIA are one and the same-person.These three names refer to me and me only.I hereby declare-that ASHOK RANI KATARIA is my-final and official-name,for all-purposes. 0040863378-7

I, Mohd Akram & Mohd Akram Chaudhry S/o Yameen Chaudhary R/o 336, Masuri, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Mohd Akram Chaudhary. 0071044997-1

I,SHAHEEN,Son of/Daughter of/wife of,ARSHAD ALI,R/o-H NO-D-153,GALI.NO-7,D-BLOCK,DAYALPUR,MUSTAFABAD, NORTH EAST,DELHI-110094 have changed my name to SHAHIN BEGUM for all purposes. 0040863406-2

I,MAHRAN MUKHTAR S/o Mukhtar Ahmed, R/o 8884, Naya Mohalla, Pulbangash, Delhi-110006,have changed my name to MEHRAN. 0040863370-1

I, Roopesh S/O, Kamal Kishore R/o 674 Baba Farid Puri West Patel Nagar New Delhi -110008 have changed my name to Roopesh Gautam for all purposes 0040863268-1

I,Pooja Anand,D/o Jagdish Rai Sethi,R/o-H-94/5 Third Floor,Shivaji-Park, Punjabi-Bagh,New-Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Pooja Sethi for all purposes. 0040863371-6

I, Naeem Ahamad S/o Naseem Ahamad R/o C485, Top Floor, Shaheed Nagar, Chikamberpur, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Naem. 0071044952-1

I, Arpita Jugender Nathan W/O Noel Mandeep R/O. Flat No-27010, Tower-B, 14th Avenue Gaur City-2, Greater Noida West, Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh-201008 has changed my name from ARPITA JUGENDER NATHAN to ARPITA NOEL for all future Purposes. 0071044964-1

I,Suhani Agarwal, D/o Ankur Gupta, R/o Dell B- 704,HRC Professional Hub 1/2,Vaibhav Khand,Indirapuram,Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014,have changed my name from Suhani Gupta to Suhani Agarwal. 0040863392-12

I Arman S/o Enush Khan, R/o B-2/478, JJ. Colony Raghubir Nagar, Tagore Garden,West Delhi-110027, that name of mine has been wrongly written as Arman Khan inmy 12th class Educational Documents. My atchul name is Arman. 0071044918-1

I,KRITEEKA GANGAHAR,W/O AMIT MEDIRATTA,R/O KOTHI NO.G PLOTNO.21 RAJPUR-ROAD JAIN-MANDIR CIVIL-LINES DELHI-110054.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KRITEEKA MEDIRATTA. 0040863370-10

I hitherto known as JAGGO alias JAGVATI Wife of BRAHM CHAND residing at House No.145,Brahampur, Bhopura,Sahibabad, Ghaziabad,Uttar Pradesh-201005,Have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jagvati. 0040863372-3

I,Kali Charan S/o-Ramji Lal Rathore,R/o Address-G-27/200 First Floor Sector -3 Rohini Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Kali Charan Rathore. 0040863364-10

I MAINI W/O DILAWAR R/O VILLAGE NIZAMPUR PO-TAURU DIST-MEWAT HARYANA-122105 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MAINU 0040863364-3

I,Ateesh Vyas R/o B-10 G.F,Suncity,Near Golf Course Road,Sector 54,Gurgaon,Haryana-122011,have changed my minor daughter name Aarana to Aarna Vyas. 0040863364-5

I,LALIT KUMAR HANDA,S/O-CHUNNI LAL HANDA,R/O-3A/78 WEA KAROL,BAGH,DELHI-110005,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO LALIT HANDA 0040863364-7

I,hitherto known as Aradhana,D/O-Mohan Singh kandari,C-16B.K.Dutt-colony, JORBAGH,Lodhi-Road,Central,Delhi Delhi-110003,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Aradhana Kandari. 0040863364-9

I, A BAEL RAJ BENNY,s/o AARON BENNY, R/o 19-B/1, ANGEL APPATMENT MEHRAULI GADAI PUR, South DELHI-110030, have changed my name to ABEL RAJ BENNY. 0040863406-5

LOST & FOUND

I,Himanshu Sharma,S/o Pawan Kumar Sharma R/o GF 20 VardanApartment Abhay Khand-3 Indirapuram Shipra Sun City have Lost myUttar Pradesh Awas Vikash Parishad Vasundhara Ghaziabad AllotmentLetter in the name of Manoj Kumar having Challan No.23893 Date-11.3.2016 of my Property Flat No.07/B-26/202 First Floor Sec-7.FinderContact above address. 0040863267-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all concerned that my client **Mrs. Roshni** W/o Daya Chand R/o House No. 75/162, Nehru Enclave, Alipur, Delhi-110036 has ended/severed all concerns and relations with her daughter namely **Jyoti W/o Sohan Gupta** and her Husband namely **Sohan Gupta** both R/o Pipe Line Cake Factory, Alipur, Delhi-110036, who are residing separately. My client hereby disowned/ debarred/ousted them from all her movable and immovable properties and my client shall not be responsible for any acts, deeds and omissions of the aforesaid persons in any manner in future and if, anybody deals with them, he/ she/ they may do so at their own costs, risks and consequences.

Sd/-
ASLAM SHAH
Advocate
Ch. No. 711, Lawyer's Chamber Block, Rohini Court Complex, Delhi-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the general public that my client **Mr. Ramesh Chander Khera,** S/o. Late Shri Ram Lal Khera, R/o. F-81, Main Road, Jagatpuri, Delhi 110051 has severed all his relations with his son **Mr. Bhavit Khera**, S/o. Shri Ramesh Chander Khera and daughter in law **Ms. Heena Khera,** W/o. Mr. Bhavit Khera and their son **Master Lavyansh Khera** for all intents and purposes from the date of publication. My aforesaid client also debar his above named son, daughter in law and grandson from all moveable and immovable properties as they are out of control of my client. As such, my client is not interested to have any relations with his above son, daughter in law and grandson. Whoever deals with them shall be doing so at his/her/ their own risk, costs and consequences and my aforesaid client shall not be responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Sd/-
KRISHAN KUMAR (Advocate)
Ch. No. 157, Block-I, Delhi High Court New Delhi-110003

PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MY CLIENT SMT. AMARJEET KAUR W/O LATE SH. TIRLOCHAN SINGH R/O FLAT NO. 203, DHUDIAL APARTMENTS, MADHUBAN CHOWK, PITAM PURA, DELHI-110034, HEREBY SEVERE ALL HER RELATIONSHIP WITH HER SON MR. SANDEEP SINGH & HIS WIFE DAMANDEEP KAUR & HIS CHILDREN SUKHMAN SINGH & GURMAN SINGH (MINOR) AND DEBARRED THEM FROM ALL HER MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES OWNED OR TO BE ACQUIRED BECAUSE OF THEIR MIS-BEHAVIOR, MIS-CONDUCT AND THEY BEING DISOBEDIENT TO MY CLIENT WHO IS A SENIOR CITIZEN & A SINGLE PARENT. THEY ALWAYS ABUSE AND NEGLECT MY CLIENT. HENCEFORTH MY CLIENT HAS SEVERED ALL HER RELATIONS WITH THEM. ANY PERSON DEALING AND HAVING RELATION WITH THEM IN ANY MANNER SHALL BE DOING AT HIS/HER/THEIR OWN RISKS, COSTS, CONSEQUENCES & MY CLIENTS SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF THEIR ACT EITHER CRIMINAL OR CIVIL.

SACHIN KUMAR (ADVOCATE)
ENRL NO.D/2092/08 | M. 9711895709

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Shri Ashok Kumar** S/o Shri Bhoop Singh and **Smt. Kamlesh Kumari** W/o Shri Ashok Kumar R/o WZ-2, Punjabi Garden, East Punjabi Bagh, Delhi-110026, have severed all their relations with his younger son, **Shri Vikas Kumar** and disowned him from all their movable and immovable properties henceforth. My clients shall have no concern with him. Any person, institution, establishment or authority dealing with **Shri Vikas Kumar** may do so at their own risk, cost and consequence and my clients shall not be bound by or liable for any of his act, transaction or obligation.

Sd/-
Jagdish Singh Rajput
Advocate
Ch.No.375, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MY CLIENT, SMT. SUMITA DUA W/O SH. SUNIL KUMAR DUA R/O FLAT NO. 47, SWARN APARTMENTS, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034 IS THE OWNER OF FLAT BEARING NO. 47, SITUATED AT DAKSHINI DELHI CGHS LTD., PITAMPURA, DELHI AND SHE HAS LOST/MISPLACED ORIGINAL RECEIPTS OF RS.100, SHARE CERTIFICATE AND PAYMENT RECEIPTS OF COST OF FLAT ISSUED BY THE SAID SOCIETY IN THE NAME OF ORIGINAL ALLOTTEE SH. GYAN CHAND MONGA AGAINST MEMBERSHIP NO. 273 & SHE HAS LODGED AN FIR/MCR VIDE LR NO. 154903/2023 DATED 15.03.2023, AT POLICE STATION, CRIME BRANCH, DELHI. IF ANY BODY FINDS THE SAID DOCUMENT, PLEASE INFORM HER AT THE ABOVESAID ADDRESS OR PH. NO. 9560424293. IF ANY OTHER CLAIMENT HAS ANY RIGHT IN THE AFORESAID PROPERTY, FILE AN FIR & GIVE INTIMATION TO HE/SHE SHOULD PRESIDENT/SECRETARY OF THE SAID SOCIETY WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE OF THIS NOTICE.

SACHIN KUMAR (ADVOCATE)
ENRL NO.D/2092/08 | M. 9711895709

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the general public information that my Client Laxman Das, S/o Late Kundal Lal, R/o H.No. 66, Sunlight Colony 1, Near Ashram, New Delhi-110014, have disowned, debarred and broken down all relationship from his daughter namely Ms. Charu Chawla, D/o Laxman Das, from his all movable and Immovable properties either self acquired or ancestral situated all over India, with immediate effect. She has no claim whatsoever in his assets. My Client will not be responsible in future for her acts which will be done by her. General public dealing with her shall do so at their own risk.

Sd/-
ABHISHEK
Advocate
Enrol. No. D/4543/2018
363, Gulmohar Residency, Ashoka enclave part 3, sector 35, Faridabad, Haryana 121013

"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.

Call or WhatsApp 9717006820 to advertise on classified page

The Indian EXPRESS — JOURNALISM OF COURAGE —

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rajesh Rai S/o Shakti Narayan Rai R/o E-211, Shakurpur, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 193/2020 U/S 188 IPC, PS Shahbad Dairy , Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Rajesh Rai** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Rajesh Rai** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rajesh Rai** of **FIR No. 193/2020 U/S 188 IPC, PS Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **06.08.2026**

By Order,
Sh. Sarthak Panwar
Judicial Magistrate First Class- 05
North Distict, Court No. 114, 1st Floor
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/8770/ON/2026(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rjaj, S/o**: Abbas, **R/o:** H.No 179, Jasola Village, Sarita Vihar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 420/2023 U/s 411/34 IPC, P.S.: Sun Light Colony, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rjaj** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rjaj** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Rjaj** accused of offence in case **FIR No. 420/2023 U/s 411/34 IPC, P.S.: Sun Light Colony, Delhi** and is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **02.09.2026**.

By Order
Sh. Divyam Lila
Judicial Magistrate First Class-07
Room No. 508, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

DP/8713/SE/2026 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT

See Section 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Devesh, S/o: Dinesh Kumar, R/o: Flat No. 1638, Sector-29, Rohini, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 450/2023, U/s: 380/411 IPC, Police Station Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Devesh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Devesh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Devesh** of **Police Station Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **10.08.2026.**

By Order
Ms. Bharti Beniwal
LD. JMFC-05, North,
1st Floor, Room No. 114
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/8774/ON/2026

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION VIJAYPUR

ABBREVIATED NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 29 of 2026-27 **Dated. 29-06-2026**

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated cost of Work (in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time allowed for completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Const. of drain at Dhatti Mata Mandir Hatli, Rajinderpura Bagoona, Vijaypur	15.28	600	2% of Adv.Cost	02 months	"A, B, &C"
2	Balance work, Retaining Wall / Edge wall and other allied works N/H/O Mohd. Aslam S/o Late Abdul Karim to Grave Yard R/o Bagla Morh Khu Talab Vijaypur.	15.85	600	2% of Adv.Cost	02 months	"A, B, &C"

Position of AAA :- Under process
Position of T.S :- Under process
Project Authority :- Under Permanent Restoration Saving Plan.
Note:- "The proposal for according Administrative Approval and Technical Sanction of the works is under process. Considering the urgent nature of the works, the tenders have been invited. However, the bids/tenders shall be opened only after the formal approval is accorded by the competent authority."

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	29-06-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 29-06-2026 to 20-07-2026
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	03-07-2026 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vijaypur
4	Bid submission Start Date	29-06-2026 at 1800 Hrs
5	Bid Submission End Date	20-07-2026 upto 1700 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	21-07-2026 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vijaypur
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

The tender is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in all other terms & conditions can be seen on the above website.

Sd/-
No. PWD/V/2070-76 **Executive Engineer,**
Dt. 29-06-2026 **PWD (R&B) Division, Vijaypur**
DIP NO. DIP/J-4705/26 DATE: 30.06.2026

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

संख्या: सी–45/1/Tender/GMU/A Catg/2026
दिनांक 24.06.2026

निविदा संशोधन सूचना संख्या–1

जयपुर मंडल के ए श्रेणी के रेलवे स्टेशनों पर जीएमयू खानपान इकाइयों के आवंटन के सम्बन्ध में निविदा सूचना सम संख्यक दिनांक 27.05.2026 जारी की गई थी। उक्त निविदा में गांधीनगर रेलवे स्टेशन के प्लेटफॉर्म संख्या 1 पर खानपान इकाई संख्या A–40 हेतु आमंत्रित निविदा को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त (cancel) किया जाता है।

शेष खानपान इकाइयों हेतु आमंत्रित निविदा यथावत रहेगी। संशोधन से सम्बन्धित अधिक जानकारी रेलवे की वेबसाईट **https://www.ireps.gov.in** से अथवा वाणिज्य शाखा, मण्डल रेल प्रबंधक कार्यालय, पावर हाउस रोड, जयपुर मे व्यक्तिगत रूप से सम्पर्क कर प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

वरिष्ठ मंडल वाणिज्य प्रबन्धक, जयपुर
934-DO/26

कार्यालय आयुक्त, नगर पालिक निगम, ग्वालियर

क्र. 145/25/2/10/एस.बी.एम./2026-27/856 ग्वालियर, दिनांक 25/06/2026
जनसंपर्क RO क्रमांक 465 **निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना** दिनांक : 29/06/2026

नगर पालिका निगम ग्वालियर की ओर से निकाय सीमा अंतर्गत निम्न कार्य की निविदा आमंत्रित की जा रही है, विवरण निम्नानुसार है:-

ठेका विवरण	टेण्डर क्र.	टेण्डर क्रय करने की तिथि	टेण्डर डालने की अंतिम तिथि	टेण्डर राशि
(2) Two-year operation and maintenance of five (5) FCTS Mentioned in RFP with desing, manufacture, supply, installation and commissioning of automation of all FCTS Weighbridge panel for data collection, updating and as per RFP	2026_UAD_517757_1	26.06.2026	27.07.2026	3,84,88,188/-

उपरोक्त निविदाओं की विस्तृत जानकारी **www.mptenders.gov.in** वेबसाइट पर प्रदर्शित की गई है।
सहायक यंत्री, एस.बी.एम., नगर निगम, ग्वालियर

NPCL — Noida Power Company Limited

NOIDA POWER COMPANY LIMITED
Electric Sub Station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida-201310
(CIN: U31200UP1992PLC014506)

TENDER NOTICE **Date: 01-07-2026**

E Tender (Commercial & Technical) are invited for following job from all interested bidders:

NIT No.	Tender Description	EMD ₹	Start & Due Date & Time of Submission
NPCL/FY26-27/PTR/013	SITC of 12.5 MVA & 16 MVA Power Transformer Gr.Noida	15.00 Lacs	01.07.2026 & 22.07.2026 (up to 15:00 hours)
NPCL/FY26-27/AIS/014	SITC of 11kV & 33kV AIS Panel Board	4.50 Lacs	
NPCL/FY26-27/ GIS/015	SITC of 33kV GIS Panel Board	1.50 Lacs	

Cost of Individual Tender Document (Incl. GST) Rs 1,180/-.
For other tender details and further amendment/corrigendum,please visit our website:
www.noidapower.com-->Procurement-->Tenders
DGM (CMM)

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

BORDER SECURITY FORCE

CONSTABLE SUPHISH MOMIN 92 BN BSF 20.06.1946 – 01.07.1992

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Suphish Momin on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal bullet injuries while fighting militants in Srinagar area, J&K and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

CONSTABLE MURLIDHARAN NAIR, PPMG 172 BN BSF 05.04.1970 – 01.07.1993

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Murlidharan Nair on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal bullet injuries during a counter terror operation in Baba Rishi Shrine area, Sopore, J&K. He fought bravely and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. His sacrifice and gallant action have been aptly recognized by GOI by awarding him with PPMG (Posthumously).

CONSTABLE SUNIL KUMAR 84 BN BSF 10.01.1971 – 01.07.1996

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Sunil Kumar on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained grievous injuries in an IED blast triggered by militants in Srinagar area, J&K and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

CONSTABLE RAMDIN KACHHI, PPMG 96 BN BSF 10.02.1972 – 28.06.1999

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Ramdin Kachhi, PPMG on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained grievous bullet injuries while fighting militants in area of Sarotha, Rajouri (Jammu). He fought bravely and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. His sacrifice and gallant action have been aptly recognized by GOI by awarding him with PPMG (Posthumously).

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

Veer Balidani Constable Prabhu Narayan Singh 44 Bn 07-06-1950 To 01-07-1975

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable Prabhu Narayan Singh of 44 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating extremists during an operation in Bihar on 1 July 1975. He was posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

Veer Balidani Constable K. Chandran 28 Bn 10-10-1955 To 01-07-1979

Veer Balidani Constable K. Sashidharan 28 Bn 28-06-1951 To 01-07-1979

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable K. Chandran and Constable K. Sashidharan of 28 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating insurgents in Mizoram on 1 July 1979. #CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.

Veer Balidani Head Constable Yoginder Pal Singh 36 Bn

Veer Balidani Constable M. K. Dey 36 Bn

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Head Constable Yoginder Pal Singh and Constable M. K. Dey of 36 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely countering an ambush by insurgents in Nungama, Manipur on 1 July 1997. #CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.

Veer Balidani Constable Choudhary Vinod Bhai 68 Bn 08-08-1976 To 01-07-2004

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable Choudhary Vinod Bhai of 68 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating insurgents during an attack by latter on his road opening patrol in West Tripura on 1 July 2004. For his conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty, he was posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

Veer Balidani Head Constable Tirth Raj Mishra 14 Bn 06-09-1967 To 01-07-2004

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Head Constable Tirth Raj Mishra of 14 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating insurgents during a road opening patrol in Churachandpur, Manipur on 1 July 2004. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

Veer Balidani Head Constable Deep Chand Verma 179 Bn 10-11-1981 To 01-07-2020

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Head Constable Deep Chand Verma of 179 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice after being grievously injured while bravely combating terrorists during an anti-terrorist operation in Sopore, Jammu & Kashmir on 1 July 2020. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which are NPA (Non-performing Asset) or margin breach account/s or any account/s falling into the loan recall clause as specified in the **terms & condition** of the Loan. The Auction would be held as per the schedule provided below:

District auction date : 29/07/2026 **Online auction date : 31/07/2026**

Base Branch - Aasandh - Contact : 9996599565, District - karnal - Contact : 7015335053, FEDGL04270006529, 006545, 006592, 006593, 006630, 006642, 006657, 006658, 006672, 006676, 006682, 006701, 006710, 006726, FEDBD04270000528, 000537, 000538, 000539, 000540 Base Branch - Badshahpur - Contact : 8923209767, District - Gurgaon Dayananad Colony - Contact : 8506916000, FEDGL05560000826, 000827, 000876, 000878, 000913, 000942, FEDBD05560000126 Base Branch - Bahadurgarh - Contact : 9999575662, District - Bahadurgarh - Contact : 9999575662, FEDGL05390001150, 001187, 001211, 001235 Base Branch - Bhiwani - Contact : 7988365902, District - Bhiwani - Contact : 7988365902, FEDGL05370001989, 002000, 002010, 002011, 002016, 002017, 002018, 002131, 002132 Base Branch - Faridabad NIT 2 - Contact : 9671552505, District - Faridabad Sec 3 - Contact : 8743841101, FEDGL03500006199, 006243, 006245, 006246, 006247, 006253, 006255, 006268, 006269, 006271, 006272, 006280, 006290, 006296, 006297, 006298, 006299, 006301, 006303, 006304, 006322, 006329, 006330, 006341, 006349, 006361, 006363, 006382, 006440, FEDBD03500000836, 000846, 000847, 000848, 000849, 000851, 000852, 000856, 000858 Base Branch - Faridabad Sec 3 - Contact : 8743841101, District - Faridabad Sec 3 - Contact : 8743841101, FEDGL03720009210, 009211, 009248, 009269, 009298, 009299, 009302, 009304, 009306, 009323, 009324, 009335, 009353, 009355, 009364, 009366, 009399, 009409, 009411, 009412, 009415, 009422, 009423, 009424, 009425, 009426, 009427, 009428, 009429, 009430, 009437, 009442, 009446, 009465, 009467, 009470, 009496, 009517, 009518, 009522, 009525, 009551, 009555, 009558, FEDBD03720000515, 000519 Base Branch - Faridabad Sector - 34 - Contact : 7042070079, District - Faridabad Sec 3 - Contact : 8743841101, FEDGL06010000340, FEDBD06010000027, 000028, 000030 Base Branch - Gurgaon Dayananad Colony - Contact : 8506916000, District - Gurgaon Dayananad Colony - Contact : 8506916000, FEDGL03950003838, 003845, 003846, 003847, 003853, 003854, 003855, 003865, 003867, 003868, 003869, 003887, FEDBD03950000274, 000287 Base Branch - Hansi - Contact : 9991102608, District - Hisar - Contact : 7206366639, FEDGL06020000638, 000663, 000710, FEDBD06020000066 Base Branch - HISAR - Contact : 7206366639, District - Hisar - Contact : 7206366639, FEDGL05320002237, 002341, 002362, 002392, 002460, FEDBD05320000081, 000082 Base Branch - HODAL - Contact : 7015584233, District - Palwal - Contact : 9813879553, FEDGL05590001682, 001705, 001714, 001715, 001723, 001724, 001728, 001735, 001736, 001744, 001746, 001762, 001777, 001807, FEDBD05590000053, 000054 Base Branch - Jagadhri - Contact : 8529967897, District - Jagadhri - Contact : 8529967897, FEDGL04840004775, 004818, 004819, 004844, 004855, 004877, 004878, 004879, 004884, 004899, 004952, FEDBD04840000302, 000305, 000306, 000315 Base Branch - Jind - Haryana - Contact : 8607867675, District - Jind - Contact : 8607867675, FEDGL05270002319, 002392, FEDBD05270000039 Base Branch - Kaithal - Contact : 9896044641, District - Kaithal - Contact : 9896044641, FEDGL05380001162, 001170, 001171, 001182, 001196, 001200, 001206, 001234, 001246 Base Branch - Karnal - Contact : 7015335053, District - karnal - Contact : 7015335053, FEDGL04110005765, 005788, 005789, 005851, 005880, 005914, 005937, 005970, FEDBD04110000638, 000656, 000660, 000668 Base Branch - Kurukshetra - Contact : 9991430163, District - Kurukshetra - Contact : 9991430163, FEDGL05720000350, 000357, FEDBD05720000054 Base Branch - MANDI DABWALI - Contact : 9541281412, District - MANDI DABWALI - Contact : 9541281412, FEDBD06910000016, 000017, 000018, 000019 Base Branch - Nissing - Contact : 9813491300, District - Karnal - Contact : 7015335053, FEDGL04650004286, 004300, 004306, 004332, 004351, 004353, 004365, 004419, FEDBD04650000596 Base Branch - Palwal - Contact : 9813879553, District - Palwal - Contact : 9813879553, FEDGL04880009711, 009750, 009752, 009754, 009759, 009800, 009821, 009845, 009869, 009870, 009876, 009877, 009897, 009898, 009899, 009900, 009901, 009930, 009954, 009974, 009985, 010022, 010034, 010073, 010094, FEDBD04880000453, 000469 Base Branch - Panipat - Contact : 9034629873, District - Panipat - Contact : 9034629873, FEDGL04280005614, 005623, 005625, 005628, 005690 Base Branch - Safidon - Contact : 9050570203, District - Jind - Contact : 8607867675, FEDGL06100000415, 000445, 000446, 000448, 000460, 000482 Base Branch - Sonipat - Contact : 8571983442, District - Sonipat - Contact : 8571983442, FEDGL05440001320, 001333, 001346, FEDBD05440000106, 000107, 000122 Base Branch - Agra - Delhi - Contact : 8218994554, District - Agra - Contact : FEDGL04390006209, 006213, 006267, 006271, 006299, 006320, 006327, 006340, 006342, 006348, 006350, 006386, FEDBD04390000191, 000195, 000196, 000199 Base Branch - Aligarh - Contact : 9012308870, District - Aligarh - Contact : FEDGL04690009249, 009256, 009328, 009329, 009337, 009349, 009353, 009356, 009371, 009378, 009396, 009410, 009412, 009414, 009418, 009419, 009420, 009421, 009422, 009423, 009424, 009426, 009431, 009447, 009449, 009450, 009451, 009459, 009462, 009465, 009467, 009487, 009517, 009518, 009524, 009526, 009527, 009529, 009538, 009539, 009548, 009550, 009552, 009553, 009554, 009555, 009556, 009562, 009563, 009566, 009591 Base Branch - Azam Garh - Contact : 9839678580, District - Azam Garh - Contact : FEDGL06340000219, 000230, 000238, 000255, FEDBD06340000017 Base Branch - Bhangel - Contact : 9555984246, District - BHANGEL - Contact : FEDGL01170011765, 011828, 011855, 011857, 011862, 011863, 011864, 011879, 011880, 011919, 011964, 011992, 011997, FEDDS01170000013, FEDBD01170000055, 000056 Base Branch - Bulandshahar - Contact : 9559160828, District - Bulandshahar - Contact : FEDGL05170005086, 005124, 005133, 005135, 005170, 005172, 005173, 005187, 005198, 005200, 005208, 005212, 005240, 005244, 005252, 005272, 005273, 005274, 005284, 005285, 005289, 005290, 005291 Base Branch - Dadri - Contact : 9654380697, District - BHANGEL - Contact : FEDGL05100007220, 007342, 007361, 007384, 007385, 007386, 007397, 007398, 007400, 007434, 007487, 007489, 007490, 007521, 007526, 007548, 007554, FEDBD05100000347, 000353, 000369 Base Branch - FIROZABAD - Contact : 9557666613, District - FIROZABAD - Contact : FEDGL05760001051 Base Branch - Ghaziabad GT Road - Contact : 7351714849, District - Ghaziabad GT Road - Contact : FEDGL03470008007, 008037, 008038, 008051, 008074, 008077, 008080, 008110, 008112, 008113, 008114, 008123, 008143, 008151, 008153, 008200, FEDBD03470000692, 000708, 000719, 000727 Base Branch - Ghaziabad RDC - Contact : 9927527854, District - Ghaziabad GT Road - Contact : FEDGL05350001369, 001401, 001422, 001425, 001445, 001477, FEDBD05350000045 Base Branch - Kanpur - Contact : 8932043719, District - Kanpur - Contact : FEDGL06220000288, 000289, 000290, 000307, 000308, 000310, 000319, 000326, 000343, 000345, FEDBD06220000006 Base Branch - Lucknow Rajajipuram - Contact : 9024416162, District - Lucknow Rajajipuram - Contact : FEDGL05880000324, 000343, 000352, 000355, 000378, 000408, 000409, FEDBD05880000043, 000048, 000049, 000051 Base Branch - Mathura - Delhi - Contact : 7037819412, District - Mathura - Contact : FEDGL04380011692, 011726, 011727, 011728, 011729, 011730, 011734, 011746, 011834, 011845, 011850, 011851, 011852, 011860, 011886, 011899, 011901, 011914, 011916, 011918, 011919, 011923, 011932, 011936, 011937, 011938, 011940, 011944, 011945, 011946, 011954, 011955, 011959, 011963, 011974, 011977, 011982, 011988, 011998, 012028, 012029, 012060, 012068, 012071, 012093, 012096, 012103, 012141, 012142, 012147, FEDBD04380000867, 000886 Base Branch - MEERUT - Contact : 7017554255, District - MEERUT - Contact : FEDGL05000004647 Base Branch - Murad Nagar - Contact : 8851733736, District - Ghaziabad GT Road - Contact : FEDGL06310000227, 000269, 000271, 000276, 000277, 000293, 000311, FEDBD06310000035, 000042, 000047 Base Branch - Noida Hosiyarpur - Contact : 9958525538, District - BHANGEL - Contact : FEDGL04520006675, 006707, 006736, 006772, 006793, 006794, 006810, 006811, 006817, 006819, 006821, 006822, 006843, 006853, 006863, 006866, 006867, 006887, 006893, 006901, 006904, 006911, 006915, 006917, 006918, 006941, 006959, 006968, 006973, 006981, 006992, FEDBD04520000631, 000635, 000636, 000640, 000642, 000645, 000647, 000648, 000655 Base Branch - PILKHUWA - Contact : 7678616042, District - PILKHUWA - Contact : FEDGL06850000170, 000175, 000223, 000245, FEDBD06850000031 Base Branch - PRATAP GARH - Contact : 9793866760, District - PRATAP GARH - Contact : FEDGL06610000184, 000236 Base Branch - PRAYAGRAJ - Contact : 9643889630, District - PRAYAGRAJ - Contact : FEDGL06660000124, 000144, 000156, 000163, 000171, 000174, 000182, 000184, 000187, 000189, 000190, 000191, 000192, 000196, 000199, 000201, 000203, 000205, 000206, 000209, 000210, 000211, 000212, 000215, 000218, 000223, 000239, 000244, 000245, 000270, FEDBD06660000083, 000084, 000089, 000090, 000093, 000095, 000096, 000098, 000100, 000103, 000112, 000114, 000115 Base Branch - RAEBARELI - Contact : 9839906887, District - RAEBARELI - Contact : FEDGL06890000013 Base Branch - Shalimar Garden - Contact : 9354703536, District - Ghaziabad GT Road - Contact : FEDGL05630001223, 001237, 001240, 001241, 001242, 001262, 001265, 001266, 001276, 001277, 001278, 001279 Base Branch - SULTANPUR - Contact : 9532598045, District - SULTANPUR - Contact : FEDGL07120000015, 000064, 000067, FEDBD07120000010, 000011, 000014 Base Branch - VARANASI - Contact : 6392406496, District - VARANASI - Contact : FEDGL06750000098, 000119, 000121, 000122, FEDBD06750000042, 000043, 000044, 000045, 000046, 000047, 000048, 000049, 000053 Base Branch - Vijay Nagar Ghaziabad - Contact : 8178609427, District - Ghaziabad GT Road - Contact : FEDGL04080009059, 009108, 009109, 009110, 009111, 009112, 009120, 009145, 009164, 009189, 009223, 009236, 009237, 009248, 009296, FEDBD04080000723 Base Branch - Adarsh Nagar - Contact : 9582229557, District - Adarsh Nagar - Contact : FEDGL04480004743, 004744, 004758, 004804, 004805, 004806, 004807, 004808, 004809, 004810, 004813, 004814, 004827, 004830, 004831, 004832, 004833, 004844, 004850, 004851, 004852, 004853, 004854, 004856, 004857, 004858, 004859, 004860, 004862, 004863, 004875, 004884, 004952, 004954, 004963, 004964, 004965, 004966, 004976, 004981, 004988, 004994, 000848, 000849, 000878, 000905, 000906, 000909 Base Branch - Balinagar - Contact : 8826627381, District - Patel Nagar - Contact : FEDGL05130002609, 002610, 002611, 002618, 002649, 002650, 000283, 000289, 000299, 000302, 000303, 000306 Base Branch - Bardarpur - Contact : 9716913319, District - Khirki Village - Contact : FEDGL01090014667, 014668, 014732, 014816, 014827, 014849, 014858, 014863, 014909, 014951, 000980, 000981, 000982, 000993, 001015 Base Branch - Bhajanpura - Contact : 9540482802, District - Vishwas Nagar - Contact : FEDDS03450000244, 010898, 011010, 011093, 011102, 011104, 011106, 011133, 011134, 011135, 011165, 011171, 000543, 000558, 000570 Base Branch - Bhogal - Contact : 9015435154, District - Khirki Village - Contact : FEDDS04000000031, 005010, 005014, 005025, 005037, 005052, 005053, 005055, 005056, 005058, 005082, 005090, 005097, 005106, 005116, 005122, 005154, 005178, 005187, 005192, 005195, 005199, 000243, 000253, 000258, 000260 Base Branch - BudhVihar - Contact : 9818181650, District - Rohini Sector 16 - Contact : FEDGL03440020405, 020532, 020548, 020549, 020701, 020834, 020839, 020843, 020855, 020912, 020922, 020925, 020928, 020941, 020968, 020972, 020975, 020991, 021033, 021035, 021043, 021129, 021182, 021229, 021257, 021258, 021259, 021264, 021271 Base Branch - Burari - Contact : 9718070826, District - Adarsh Nagar - Contact : FEDGL05980000258, 000259, 000260, 000069, 000072, 000078, 000082, 000083, 000089, 000090, 000091, 000092 Base Branch - Chanderlok - Contact : 9953244095, District - Vishwas Nagar - Contact : FEDDS03460000427, 011835, 011863, 011883, 011890, 011908, 011911, 011936, 011937, 011955, 011958, 011960, 012003, 012005, 012006, 012017, 012021, 012036, 012037, 012091, 012100, 012120, 012121, 000975, 000977, 000981, 001005 Base Branch - Delhi Shayam Nagar - Contact : 9654194985, District - Delhi Shayam Nagar - Contact : FEDGL03880009946, 009965, 009967, 009973, 009975, 010000, 010038, 010039, 010053, 010054, 010055, 010056, 010108, 010110, 010114, 010129, 010132, 010137, 010149, 010150, 010154, 010165, 010190, 010192, 010200, 010201, 010202, 010203, 010204, 010205, 010224, 010234, 000699, 000700, 000711, 000712, 000713, 000715, 000716, 000724, 000728, 000729, 000733, 000738, 000739, 000740, 000741, 000742 Base Branch - Deoli - DELHI - Contact : 8512807540, District - Khirki Village - Contact : FEDGL04990008087, 008089, 008106, 008107, 008131, 008183, 000597, 000598, 000609 Base Branch - Dilshad Garden - Contact : 8126716060, District - Vishwas Nagar - Contact : FEDDS00820000088, 012847, 012891, 012916, 012928, 012929, 012940, 012959, 012961, 012962, 012998, 013055, 013056, 013061, 013085, 013089, 013090, 013091, 000632, 000633, 000634, 000635, 000642, 000645, 000647, 000648 Base Branch - Dwarka Mor - Contact : 8527739164, District - Dwarka Mor - Contact : FEDGL03540017789, 017870, 017873, 017876, 017880, 017886, 017887, 017889, 017903, 017921, 017983, 017987, 017988, 017992, 017999, 018036, 018037, 018061, 018076, 018086, 018089, 018090, 018096, 018097, 018127, 018152, 018154, 018163, 001082, 001097, 001120 Base Branch - Geeta Colony - DELHI - Contact : 9971702021, District - Vishwas Nagar - Contact : FEDGL04970006122, 006124, 006125, 006213, 006216, 006218, 006237, 006248, 006282, 006285, 006286, 006338, 000429, 000437 Base Branch - Hari Nagar - Contact : 8755647157, District - Patel Nagar - Contact : FEDGL05530001666, 001667, 001668, 001671, 001681, 001686, 001689, 001706, 001717, 001718, 001732, 001737, 001738, 001777, 001793, 000205, 000213, 000242 Base Branch - Hastal Village - Delhi - Contact : 8588866172, District - Dwarka Mor - Contact : FEDDS05030000097, 005088, 005092, 005093, 005098, 005186, 000486 Base Branch - Inderpuri - Contact : 9711462040, District - Inderpuri - Contact : FEDGL04360010016, 010030, 010073, 010091, 010092, 010118, 010119, 010137, 010141, 010172, 010173, 010174, 010175, 010176, 010194, 010197, 010201, 010209, 010231, 010261, 010355, 000885, 000897, 000903, 000905, 000923, 000926 Base Branch - Kirari - Contact : 9716705151, District - Rohini Sector 16 - Contact : FEDGL04490008823, 008892, 008899, 008900, 008908, 008945, 008962, 008988, 008992, 008994, 009009, 009011, 009036, 009068, 009076, 009077, 009107, 009108, 000714, 000722, 000732, 000743, 000747 Base Branch - Mandawali - Contact : 7011085658, District - Vishwas Nagar - Contact : FEDGL04680003895, 003956, 003965 Base Branch - Matiyala Branch - Contact : 9717104856, District - Patel Nagar - Contact : FEDGL06130000250, 000273, 000278, 000315, 000319, 000330, 000341, 000016, 000017 Base Branch - Mayur Vihar - Contact : 9871654527, District - Vishwas Nagar - Contact : FEDDS01070000087, 000090, 010697, 010708, 010709, 010710, 010734, 010736, 010768, 010776, 010793, 010826, 010831, 000520, 000529 Base Branch - Mayur Vihar Phase 3 - Contact : 7982025335, District - Vishwas Nagar - Contact : FEDGL03680014904, 014910, 014922, 014923, 014978, 015002, 015044, 015056, 015057, 015060, 015069, 015084, 015107, 015134, 015168, 000870, 000876, 000880 Base Branch - Mehrauli - Contact : 6395530464, District - Dwarka Mor - Contact : FEDGL05870000324, 000330, 000350, 000351, 000356, 000369, 000370, 000371, 000378, 000381, 000394, 000086, 000087, 000088, 000094 Base Branch - Najafgarh - Contact : 9555679602, District - Dwarka Mor - Contact : FEDGL03990006158, 006186, 006209, 006210, 006222, 006223, 006227, 006233, 006249, 006267, 006280, 006292, 006334, 000517, 000520, 000527 Base Branch - Nangloi - Contact : 8368827285, District - Patel Nagar - Contact : FEDGL05670001047, 001049, 001050, 001077, 001078, 001082, 001101, 001136, 001207, 000136, 000137, 000141, 000150 Base Branch - Narela - Contact : 8708765572, District - Adarsh Nagar - Contact : FEDGL03260011927, 011928, 011945, 011946, 011952, 011953, 011954, 011955, 011975, 011977, 011978, 012010, 012042, 012043, 012044, 012054, 012064, 012072, 012073, 012082, 012110, 000410, 000413, 000414 Base Branch - Palam Colony - Contact : 8448800976, District - Dwarka Mor - Contact : FEDGL01080014986, 015000, 015002, 015032, 015043, 015054, 015065, 015066, 015077, 015083, 015095, 015097, 015098, 015099, 015100, 015107, 015108, 015109, 015110, 015111, 015112, 015114, 015136, 015138, 015141, 015166, 015176, 015193, 015197, 015205, 015213, 015214, 015228, 015257, 000745, 000759 Base Branch - Pankha Road - Contact : 8800379452, District - Patel Nagar - Contact : FEDGL03530009142, 009330, 009342, 009343, 009345, 009346, 009347, 009361, 009394, 009399, 009406, 009407, 009409, 009412, 009413, 009418, 009436, 009441, 009450, 009451, 009455, 009457, 009507, 000668, 000670, 000680, 000681, 000682, 000693, 000694, 000696 Base Branch - Patel Nagar - Contact : 7011407399, District - Patel Nagar - Contact : FEDGL01420008114, 008145, 008146, 008147, 008148, 008170, 008180 Base Branch - Ramphal Chowk - Contact : 9711648049, District - Dwarka Mor - Contact : FEDGL06080000309, 000331, 000035, 000036, 000038 Base Branch - Rani bagh - Contact : 8860289891, District - Rohini Sector 16 - Contact : FEDDS04810000443, 000444, 007998, 008000, 008024, 008073, 008076, 008077, 008091, 008106, 008107, 008108, 008109, 008110, 008111, 008113, 008114, 008115, 008118, 008126, 008137, 008138, 008143, 008147, 008148, 008150, 008152, 008160, 008167, 008219, 008222, 008254, 008281, 008306, 008307, 001041, 001044, 001053, 001062, 001066, 001072, 001073, 001074, 001075, 001078, 001086 Base Branch - Rohini - Contact : 8586851237, District - Rohini Sector 16 - Contact : FEDGL01340012454, 012460, 012487, 012488, 012594, 012603, 012611, 000419 Base Branch - Rohini Sector 16 - Contact : 9315890305, District - Rohini Sector 16 - Contact : FEDGL03610006890, 006891, 006894, 006914, 006929, 006945, 006946, 006987, 007000, 007006, 007007, 007018, 000322, 000323 Base Branch - Sabzi Mandi - Contact : 8290679288, District - Adarsh Nagar - Contact : FEDGL05400001014, 001015, 001019, 001044, 001053, 001055, 001060, 000185, 000190, 000194, 000196, 000203 Base Branch - Sadar Bazzar - Contact : 8010295140, District - Inderpuri - Contact : FEDGL03870008166, 008225, 008235, 008236, 008238, 008240, 008241, 008254, 008255, 008256, 008257, 008258, 008269, 008270, 008279, 008300, 008304, 008308, 008333, 000381 Base Branch - Sonia Vihar - Contact : 9899875570, District - Vishwas Nagar - Contact : FEDGL06400000112, 000064 Base Branch - Tagore Garden - DELHI - Contact : 9582561516, District - Patel Nagar - Contact : FEDGL04980004037, 004040, 004046, 004049, 004050, 004059, 004062, 004063, 004065, 004067, 004069, 004073, 004074, 004093, 004095, 004101, 004102, 004106, 004110, 004119, 004123, 004124, 004127, 004128, 004132, 004133, 004134, 004136, 004137, 004138, 004139, 004140, 004141, 004166, 004167, 004169, 004177, 004178, 004180, 004190, 004195, 000336, 000337, 000339, 000341, 000349, 000350 Base Branch - Tilak Nagar - Contact : 9899506370, District - Patel Nagar - Contact : FEDGL04750004808, 004881, 004883, 004886, 004887, 004911, 004912, 004934, 004955, 004956, 004972, 004984, 000852, 000853, 000863, 000870, 000872, 000873, 000890, 000891 Base Branch - Tri Nagar - Contact : 9560240576, District - Rohini Sector 16 - Contact : FEDGL05660001517, 001518, 001568, 001587, 001595, 001604, 001605, 001606, 001638, 001639, 001640, 001641, 001642, 001653, 001697, 000659, 000664, 000677, 000678, 000696, 000714, 000716, 000725, 000728, 000734 Base Branch - Tughlakabad - Contact : 9027252942, Di Base Branch - Uttam Nagar - Contact : 9873133090, District - Patel Nagar - Contact : FEDDS03710000482, 000484, 000496, 008249, 008268, 008294, 008324, 008326, 008327, 008328, 008329, 008334, 008335, 008336, 008356, 008375, 008427, 008428, 008462, 008471, 008472, 008475, 008509, 001789, 001817, 001819, 001821 strict - Khirki Village - Contact : FEDDS04310000149, 004522, 004524, 004527, 004622, 004634, 004635, 004637, 004650, 004654, 000346, 000349, 000355, 000360, 000363 Base Branch - Vishwas Nagar - Contact : 7838606648, District - Vishwas Nagar - Contact : FEDDS04260000409, 007883, 007885, 007886, 007888, 007911, 007916, 007923, 007935, 007936, 007937, 007954, 007965, 008015, 008052, 008054, 008061, 008062, 008063, 008069, 008105, 008108, 000609, 000626, 000635 Base Branch - Yamuna Vihar - Contact : 9560889306, District - Vishwas Nagar - Contact : FEDGL06390000168, 000088

Change in Venue or Date, if any, will be displayed on our Website https://www.fedfina.com/gold-loan/special-sections/auction-venue/. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit any of the above branch/es or contact at the number mentioned above on/or before auction Date subject to the terms and condition applicable. Auction will be conducted at respective Districts. In case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days at district level as per above schedule. This would continue till the auction process is over. On failure of the first offline auction at District level, auction will also be initiated through the E-auction platforms of SAMIL https://gold.samil.in and/or e-Procurement Technologies Ltd. (AuctionTiger) - https://egold.auctiontiger.net/.

All participating bidders will be intimated subsequently with respect to acceptance or rejection of bids submitted by them.

Dated : 01.07.2026 **For, sd/- Authorised Signatory**
Place : Delhi **Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.,**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIM