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SEEKS NO LEGAL ACTION AGAINST PROTESTERS, COMPENSATION FOR NEET ASPIRANTS WHO ENDED LIVES

# Wangchuk opens a window for talks as Centre steps up efforts to resolve crisis

## After Union Ministers meet him in hospital, activist says will ask students to halt protest if assurances kept

**Liz Mathew & Jatin Anand**
*New Delhi, July 22*

AS THE government stepped up efforts to defuse the situation arising out of student protests that have paralysed the heart of the Capital, a window opened Wednesday after activist Sonam Wangchuk said he would end his fast and ask the students to "halt the movement for now and enter into a dialogue with the government" if it fulfils its assurances to him and does not press for legal action against the protesters.

Wangchuk released a letter addressed to Union Ministers J P Nadda and Jitendra Singh who met him Tuesday night at the Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon.

Without insisting on the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, he said the ministers had assured him that the government would consider providing "adequate compensation for the families of the students who had committed suicide following the examination paper leak" and "a meaningful discussion in Parliament to ensure accountability

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Activist Sonam Wangchuk has been on a hunger strike since June 28. ANI FILE

**Business as Usual**
By EP UNNY

FULL COVERAGE
PAGES 3, 4, 6, 10

Protesters at Sansad Marg in New Delhi on Wednesday. GAJENDRA YADAV

## Govt offers discussion in House, Opp presses for Pradhan's resignation

**Manoj CG**
*New Delhi, July 22*

THE GRIDLOCK in Parliament showed no signs of ending on Wednesday as Opposition parties remained firm on their demand for the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan even as the government signalled that it was ready to meet them halfway, reiterating its willingness to hold an elaborate discussion in the House on the paper leak issue.

The Opposition also reached out to activist Sonam Wangchuk, who has been on a hunger strike since June 28, and urged him to end his fast.

While the Opposition is insisting on Pradhan's resignation, sources said there is a

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Opposition MPs protest in Parliament, Wednesday. PTI

PLEAS AGAINST CRACKDOWN

## Preserve CCTV footage: HC to police; CJI says don't have time to watch videos

**Sohini Ghosh & Ananthakrishnan G**
*New Delhi, July 22*

DECLINING TO accept the Delhi Police argument that aggrieved protesters must individually pursue action against alleged brutalities and excessive use of force during the 'Chalo Sansad' march on July 20, organised by the Cockroach Janta Party, the Delhi High Court Wednesday agreed to hear two public interest litigations on the issue.

"Is it a case of some isolated individual incidents? Perhaps no. If it was an unlawful assembly as you say, subject to further submissions and records, there is a law on how to deal with it. There is a Supreme Court judgment (that prescribes circumstances and extent of use of force by police). If these issues are being raised in this PIL, how can you say every individual should go and lodge an FIR? If

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

A grieving family member of Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi during the wreath-laying ceremony in Anantnag, Wednesday. ANI

## First terror attack in Valley since Pahalgam: Policeman on Yatra duty gunned down

**Bashaarat Masood**
*Srinagar, July 22*

IN THE first terror attack in Kashmir since the killing of tourists in Pahalgam last year, a policeman was shot dead in Anantnag Wednesday, triggering a massive search operation by security forces.

Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, a resident of Budgam in central Kashmir, who was posted with the IRP and attached with the Special Operations Group, was on Amarnath Yatra duty. The annual pilgrimage is currently suspended because of inclement weather.

Officials said Qureshi was shot from point blank range near Lal Chowk in Anantnag in south Kashmir on Wednesday afternoon. He succumbed to injuries while being taken to hospital, and was declared dead on arrival.

Qureshi is survived by his wife and three children.

Hours later, the Jammu and Kashmir Police detained hundreds of "suspects" and alleged

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**E. EXPLAINED**

### Amid high alert for Amarnath Yatra

**The terror attack comes at a time when security is on high alert for the Amarnath Yatra. A large number of police, paramilitary and Army personnel are deployed across the Union Territory.**

## After surgery, protester injured in march speaks: 'RAF man shot me... pellets hit me in the face'

**Tabshir Shams**
*New Delhi, July 22*

LYING ON a hospital bed in the heart of Delhi after surgery, 25-year-old Irshad Shaikh struggles to find words for what happened to him on the chaotic afternoon of July 20.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* Wednesday from the ENT ward of Lady Hardinge Hospital, Shaikh, an MBA graduate working in Gurgaon, was among the protesters who had joined the CJP's "Chalo Sansad" march that day when, he says, he was hit by "multiple pellets" fired by an "RAF man".

The RAF (Rapid Action Force), drawn from the CRPF, was on duty that day, along with the Delhi Police, to control the massive crowd of protesters who were part of the Parliament march — a faceoff that quickly spiralled into clashes with the security personnel wielding lathis and teargas.

On Wednesday morning, Delhi Police denied they used pellets. The CRPF did not respond to a request for comment from *The Indian Express*. When asked if Shaikh had pellet injuries and about the nature of his treatment, Dr Himani Ahluwalia, Director, Lady Hardinge Hospital, did not comment.

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PTI FILE

(Left) Irshad Shaikh at Lady Hardinge Hospital; with Union Minister J P Nadda, Tuesday.

## Happening today

- **RUSSIAN FOREIGN** Minister Sergei Lavrov will meet US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on the sidelines of the ASEAN meeting in Manila.
- **INDIA FACE** Zimbabwe in the first of the three-match T20I series in Harare.

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## Airline cabin crew member raped in office cab in Hyderabad, driver held

**Nikhila Henry & Sukalp Sharma**
*Hyderabad, New Delhi, July 22*

THE HYDERABAD Police have arrested the driver of a cab service for the alleged rape and assault of an IndiGo cabin crew member.

A local court remanded the 23-year-old accused, Errapogu Prashanth Kumar, in judicial custody.

The alleged incident occurred at 2.40 pm on July 20, when the woman boarded her office cab to reach the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad, and start her shift. Instead of taking her to the airport, the accused allegedly took her to an isolated place and raped her.

IndiGo said in a statement it was "aware of the matter and understand(s) that it is currently under investigation by the relevant law enforcement agencies". "We are fully cooperating with the authorities and remain committed to supporting them, as required. During this difficult time, we stand by our colleague and are extending our support to her and her family," the airline's spokesperson said.

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WOMEN VOICES LOUDEST: ALTERNATIVE COLLEGES AFFILIATED TO A UNIVERSITY 'TOO FAR'

## 'Change name... but don't end careers': At Jauhar varsity, a campus fears demolition

**Maulshree Seth**
*Rampur, July 22*

"*Naam se dikkat hai toh naam badal do* (If you have a problem with the name, change the name), acquire the university... But don't demolish it," says 20-year-old Shahvez, who is doing an OT technician course at Mohammad Ali Jauhar University, Rampur.

Awaiting the results of his final-year exams, 26-year-old Mohd Shoaib, a student of M. Pharma at the university, is worried what will happen to the convocation three months from now when he is scheduled to get his degree, or "will the degree even be valid?", if the Rampur Development Authority goes ahead with its July 15 notice to demolish 38 of the 40 buildings at the university, giving it time until August 5.

With only the medical college building and academic block to be spared, the demolition would virtually shut down Mohammad Ali Jauhar University, spread over 250 acres and founded almost 20 years ago by senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan. Under the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh, Azam Khan, who is the lifelong chancellor of the university, has had nearly a hundred cases registered against him, over 70 of them in 2019 alone, of which sources said nearly 30 are related to the university.

Shoaib is told by the 'Student Counselling Centre', operating from a tent at the gates of the university — manned by about 15 teachers and staff members from government

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Farah (on scooty) and her friends, who are students of auxiliary nurse midwife course, at Mohammad Ali Jauhar University. MAULSHREE SETH

## Murmu in Skopje

President Droupadi Murmu, North Macedonia's President Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova and Skopje Mayor Orce Gjorgjievski unveil the bust of Mahatma Gandhi in a museum on Wednesday. Murmu said it will stand as a symbol of friendship between the two countries. AP

# MP assures apex court of namaz site closer to Bhojshala complex

**Express News Service**
*New Delhi, July 22*

RESPONDING TO objections raised by the Muslim side regarding the site allotted by the Madhya Pradesh government for Friday prayers in the Bhojshala complex dispute, the state government assured the Supreme Court on Wednesday that it will identify an alternative spot closer to the premises. "I had a discussion with the authorities, and they are identifying... we are resolving the issue," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state government, told a three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana.

On July 14, the SC refused to pass an order restoring status quo at the disputed complex in Dhar, but directed the state administration to allot an adjacent open space for Muslim worshippers to offer Friday prayers between 1 pm and 3 pm, while it examines the dispute in detail.

Senior Advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the Muslim petitioners, informed the bench on Wednesday that the site designated by the state administration was located nearly 2 km away from Bhojshala. Urging the court to hear an application filed in this regard at the earliest, Ahmadi pointed out that worshippers had already missed Friday prayers due to the distance.

Disputing the distance claim, Mehta stated that the allotted spot was approximately 900 metres from the complex. He assured the court, however, that he would personally coordinate with local authorities to find a location closer to the site. "I have asked them to identify a nearby site, and the process is going on," Mehta submitted.

CJI Kant said the court would hear the application on Friday, directing the government to locate a suitable adjacent site in the interim.

Justice Bagchi said the court's order be followed in letter and spirit.

The medieval structure in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district has long been a subject of competing claims. While Hindus consider the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-protected complex a temple dedicated to Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati), Muslims regard it as the Kamal Maula mosque. Under a 2003 arrangement established by the ASI, Hindus were permitted to perform puja on Tuesdays, while Muslims offered Friday namaz.

In 2024, the HC ordered a survey of the complex by the ASI, observing that its nature and character needed to be "demystified and freed from the shackles of confusion". The subsequent ASI report noted that the existing structure incorporated architectural elements from earlier temples. On May 15, the HC held that the complex holds the religious character of a temple, a ruling that is currently being challenged before the SC.

# J&K

overground workers as a "preventive and pro-active security measure", and to identify networks aiding terrorist organisations. A search operation to trace the attackers has been launched across the Valley, with police and paramilitary reinforcements sent to the Anantnag area.

Over 2,500 youths have been picked up across the Valley, police officers said, including more than 700 from Srinagar, over 200 from Budgam, 178 people from Baramulla and over a hundred at Ganderbal, besides dozens from the four south Kashmir districts of Anantnag, Shopian, Kulgam and Pulwama.

In an official release, the Srinagar police said: "The coordinated operations carried out on the basis of credible intelligence and as a part of ongoing investigation resulted in the detention of nearly 700 suspected over ground workers (OGWs) for questioning and verification in accordance with established legal procedures. The operations have been undertaken with the objective of identifying networks that provide logistical, financial, communication, transportation, shelter and other forms of support to terrorist organisations."

The release said that the searches were meant to "gather evidence, identify suspects and prevent attempts by terrorist elements and their facilitators to carry out unlawful activities... The ongoing exercise also serves as a preventive measure to maintain public order, enhance security and deter anti-national elements from exploiting the prevailing situation." Similar releases were issued by police in the other districts as well.

Offering his condolences, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said he had spoken to DGP Nalin Prabhat, who visited the site of the attack, and warned that "this heinous act will not go unpunished". "The whole country stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the family of (the) martyr... J&K Police and our security forces are on the ground and will bring those responsible to justice," he said.

Condemning the attack, CM Omar Abdullah said: "HC (Head Constable) Hussain made the ultimate sacrifice in a cowardly terror attack... May Allah grant him the highest place in Jannat."

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# Wangchuk

including consideration of the resignation" of Pradhan.

Shortly after the release of the letter, the Cockroach Janta Party said it would continue its protest until the government accepted its demands. While the CJP reiterated its demand for Pradhan's resignation, its other conditions were similar to those put by Wangchuk. The CJP sought "Rs 1 crore compensation for families of children who died by suicide"; "no persecution of peaceful protesters"; and prosecution of all police officers involved in "committing atrocities".

Earlier, CJP spokesperson Saurav Das said they would meet the ministers only at a neutral venue, not at their offices or residences. The government had suggested that the meeting could be at Nadda's official residence.

BJP sources said there was an interaction between the CJP leaders and the government, but later in the day when Nadda was asked about it at a press conference, he said, "*Aaj koi charcha nahin hui* (There was no discussion today)."

On his talks Monday with CJP representatives, Nadda said, "The talks were held in a very conducive atmosphere. We heard them very calmly. I told them that it would be better if they give it (their demands) in writing. They gave their points in writing. I told them I would respond, and I did. And I told them that we are ready for talks whenever they want."

In his letter, Wangchuk said "roughly 65 Members of Parliament from across political parties" have written to him, some have come to see him and some more were expected, urging him to end his fast "reminding me that I still have much work to do in the service of our nation".

"I agree with them. I want to live. I want to return to my students, to education, and to the work that has defined my life. But I cannot do so at the cost of the very young people for whom this movement began," he said.

"Therefore, I respectfully request an unequivocal assurance from the Government that none of the young protesters will face any punitive or retaliatory legal action for participating in this movement. Their only 'offence' has been to raise their voice for a fair and accountable education system."

"If such an assurance is given, I shall end my fast with faith that the Government has heard not only my appeal but also the aspirations of lakhs of young Indians. In the absence of such an assurance, I will be forced to continue my fast indefinitely. I also hope that there will be no further use of excessive police force to repress the movement," he said. "The future of our democracy depends not on how it treats those who agree with it, but on how it treats its young citizens when they dare to speak with courage, hope and conviction."

"The future of our democracy depends not on how it treats those who agree with it, but on how it treats its young citizens when they dare to speak with courage, hope and conviction," Wangchuk said.

A government source said the ministers, during their visit to the hospital, reminded Wangchuk that his wife Gitanjali Angmo had announced that he could end his hunger strike if political leaders were to visit him at Safdarjung Hospital and assure him that the issue of education accountability would be raised in the ongoing session of Parliament.

"The ministers told him that now it's his turn to keep the word. He took the position that he had to also take care of the demands of the protesting students," the source said, adding that Wangchuk suggested that the ministers hold another round of discussions with CJP leaders.

Following the developments, sources in the BJP exuded confidence of resolving the crisis and ending the deadlock in Parliament where proceedings have been paralysed.

While the government has urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to convene a meeting of all floor leaders to decide the rule, date and duration of the debate, the Congress is insisting that it should be discussed immediately, and all other business suspended.

The Opposition has united with the protesting students – SP and NCP joined Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge at their sit-in outside the Prime Minister's residence Tuesday evening – but the demand for Pradhan's resignation has come only from the Congress, Left parties and IUML.

While government sources acknowledged that the demand for Pradhan's resignation would come up during the discussion, a BJP MP pointed out that a section of the Opposition was not insisting on Pradhan's resignation.

SP leader Akhilesh Yadav said the Opposition was forced to hold a sit-in protest because it was not allowed to raise the matter of the protesting students in the House.

At his press conference, Nadda reiterated that the government was ready to discuss the NEET paper leak issue in Parliament.

"Firstly, I appeal that the issue of paper leaks being raised by students must not be politicised; instead of trying to score political points, there must be a detailed and serious discussion on it," he said.

Countering Rahul Gandhi's remarks on exam paper leaks, Nadda cited instances of paper leaks which had occurred either in Congress-ruled states or those where the party was in power via alliances with other Opposition parties

"The list is very long and can be discussed in greater detail during the course of the discussion. Why is Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi being so selective? Why did he not mention such incidents from the tenure of the UPA and UPA-supported governments... and why did he choose to distance himself from them?" he said.

This, Nadda said, just goes to show that Gandhi's objective was "not the welfare of students" nor to expand access to education or improve its quality and ensure justice for students, but to "derive political mileage from students' concerns... and exploit them for political gains".

He said this was not the time to divide such incidents on the basis of "our government, your government, or their government" but to find a permanent solution to "a serious issue".

"These children are neither the responsibility of any one political party nor of any one government; they are the future of the nation. Safeguarding the future of the country is an equal responsibility of both the government and the Opposition," he said. – WITH ALOK SINGH

# Govt offers discussion

divergence of opinion on whether they should press for his ouster as a pre-condition to a discussion in Parliament. Apparently displeased with the Congress's decision to stage a protest outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence on Tuesday without taking them into confidence, some Opposition leaders have urged the Congress to ensure that there is coordination.

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi outlined the Congress's demands -- Pradhan's resignation, action against police personnel who allegedly used excessive force against the protesters on Monday, and an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the students.

Gandhi accused the Modi government of destroying India's education system and said the demands of the protesters, including for Pradhan's resignation, are fully legitimate.

Addressing a press conference, he said the protesting students are not terrorists and are only asking for an education system that is functional and fair. Asked whether Parliament would resume normal business Thursday, he said it was for the united Opposition to decide.

The government's offer of a discussion in the House, announced by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju in Lok Sabha, could not end the stalemate as the Opposition insisted that the debate be taken up straightaway, setting aside all other business. Rijiju said the government was willing to hold a discussion but left it to Speaker Om Birla to arrive at a consensus on the rule under which it would be held, its date and duration. He said the Speaker should convene a meeting of floor leaders to work out the details of the discussion.

Congress's K C Venugopal intervened to assert that the Opposition was also seeking Pradhan's resignation. "Our demand is simple. When the entire nation is feeling the pain of our students, all other business of the House should be set aside and this burning issue should be the top priority for Parliament," Venugopal said.

Some Opposition members appeared to be of the view that they could be willing for a discussion, even while insisting on Pradhan's resignation.

Meanwhile, Congress MPs, wearing black clothes, staged a protest outside Parliament on Wednesday, a day after senior party leaders were detained from outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence.

As Parliament remained paralysed for the third day, the Opposition reached out to Wangchuk. Three Opposition MPs — Congress's Vivek Tankha, CPI(M)'s John Brittas and Trinamool Congress's Sagarika Ghose -- held a nearly 45-minute meeting with the activist at Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon earlier in the day. They carried a letter signed by 18 MPs from different Opposition parties urging Wangchuk to end his fast. Among the signatories were Congress's Shashi Tharoor, Kapil Sibal, DMK's Tiruchi Siva and SP's Ram Gopal Yadav. In the evening, another group of 14 Opposition MPs, including AAP's Sanjay Singh, CPI(M)'s A A Rahim and SP's Rajeev Kumar Rai, sought to meet Wangchuk with another letter signed by 51 MPs, but were stopped by the police outside the hospital.

# 'Pellets hit me in the face'

Officials in the hospital said "pellet injuries" refer to the nature of the injury and can be caused by "small objects thrown at speed". "Whether or not the injury was caused by a pellet gun needs to be scientifically determined on the basis of forensic investigation," an official said.

Irshad said: "The call for the protest was around 9 am, so from 9-11 am, I was near the protest site, close to Kerala Bhavan (House). Then, I had a meeting from 12.30-3.30 pm. After finishing the meeting, I came back."

He said: "I was walking with other protesters near Jantar Mantar when security personnel began lathi-charging the crowd. We retreated a bit. Then, the police started firing tear gas. My eyes started itching. It was like a blackout for a minute. When we turned back, there was a police blockade, so we stopped. I went up to the police and pleaded with them, 'Sir, do not beat us. We are students. We are citizens of your country. We are not terrorists'."

Irshad said that an "RAF man came in front of me". "He was holding a gun. He showed it to me. I thought he was only threatening me, that he wouldn't actually shoot," he said.

Behind him, he said, there were screams and the sound of lathis striking people. "Then the blue-uniformed man pointed the gun at my face and shot me... Everything went silent," he said.

"Multiple pellets hit me. First I smelled something rancid. Then something stung my right eyebrow. Pellets pierced through my right eye and down on my cheek and nose. Then, the pellets hit my chin, and scattered on my neck, my shoulder, my chest. I could taste blood on my tongue. I put my fingers on my face and blood was gushing out from everywhere," he said.

Despite the injuries, Irshad said, he did not lose consciousness. "There was no siren or warning from the police. If you search online, you can find videos of me covered in blood. I walked away from there. Some bystanders put a cloth over my face and took me out," he said.

Irshad reached Lady Hardinge Hospital around 5 pm. He said doctors first treated him in the Emergency department before shifting him to the ward, where he filled out the admission forms himself.

"After reaching the hospital, my wounds were cleaned, and the treating staff informed me that there were pellets lodged in my face, eyes, and neck. At the time, they said no surgeons were available during the night, so I was given pain management and asked to wait until the next day. The following (Tuesday) afternoon, I underwent surgery performed by ENT surgeons, and I signed the consent forms," he said.

According to Irshad, the treating doctors told him that "one pellet was lodged near the muscle controlling the movement of my left eye, and doctors said that if it had remained there, it could have affected my eye movement".

"Another was lodged in my neck, close to a major nerve and blood vessel. A third was near my nose, inside the facial cavity," he said.

Pellet guns began to be extensively used for crowd control by central forces from the 2010 unrest in J&K. Since then, they have been used during the 2016 protests in J&K, the 2023 violence in Manipur, the 2024 Punjab-Haryana farmer protests and the 2025 Leh agitation.

Irshad, meanwhile, was moved to the ENT ward on Tuesday, where he remains admitted.

Later that day, Union Health Minister J P Nadda visited him. "He assured me, 'Do not worry. You will be taken care of. We are here for you'," Irshad said.

According to him, the Union Minister also asked why he had gone to the protest. "I told him it was my duty to be there. I joined the protest because I believed in the cause," he said.

Although Irshad's family in Jabalpur knows what happened, he has asked them not to travel to Delhi. "My close friends have taken turns staying with me. They have taken care of me here. I just want to recover fast," he said. The shooting should never have happened, he said, adding: "I want compensation from the Government."

Then, Irshad spoke about the life he had imagined before July 20. "I have done my MBA from Indore. In the next five years, I want to expand my horizons and my knowledge, and continue to learn. I want to be a part of the change," he said.

There's a footnote.

On the evening of July 13, after signing out for the day from the Internet company where he works, Irshad headed to a hospital in Gurugram and donated blood — responding to a call for a 10-year-old cancer patient. A week later, he found himself on a hospital bed.

# Preserve CCTV footage: HC

it is an isolated incident, you would have been correct in (saying), approach the magistrate and police station or lodge a private complaint, but this is not such an incident as is being asserted. We are not saying they (petitioners) are correct. Therefore, we will only ask you to file your responses," Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya observed.

The bench of Chief Justice Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia directed the police to file responses within four weeks and to preserve video footage and other records as per the Standard Operating Procedure.

Earlier in the day, the Supreme Court declined to entertain a lawyer who sought its intervention in the ongoing protests.

"Don't waste our time and your time. Your time is more valuable than ours," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant told the lawyer who said he had a collection of videos that he would show if the bench permitted.

The CJI, heading the bench also comprising Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana, said, "We are not interested in videos. We don't have time to watch."

In the Delhi High Court, two PILs, one by advocate Umesh Kumar and another by Delhi resident Anshul Kumar, sought directions for an independent inquiry into alleged police excesses against protesters, preferably a judicial inquiry. Publicly available videos of the alleged police excesses were added to the petition in a Google Drive link.

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for Delhi Police, opposed the PILs, saying they should not be entertained. Raju said that aggrieved or injured persons had the remedy to approach the police or a magistrate first, but the court did not agree with this suggestion.

Under BNSS, a magistrate is empowered to direct the police to investigate cognizable offences.

Senior Advocates Gopal Sankaranarayanan and N Hariharan, representing Umesh Kumar, listed instances of alleged police brutalities.

Sankaranarayanan told the bench that police used lathis with nails to disperse protesters. "This kind of violence and excessive force, if the constitutional court does not step in, is a licence for police to get away with this," he said.

"Many (police/armed personnel) were without uniform, but they were armed with lathis and excessive shock-inducing batons. Additional DCP Sandeep Lamba was seen slapping a woman; let us not be scared of naming names, they should be held accountable... It was completely unprovoked, and he slapped a woman across the face," Sankaranarayanan said.

He also cited the 2012 Supreme Court verdict in the Ramlila Maidan case to underline the protocol to be followed while dispersing crowds. "The first step you take is to follow your protocol and have announcements on dispersal (of unlawful assembly), and have water cannons. I believe they had one water cannon here, but they did not deploy it.. (SC ruling says) tear gas will be the last option, and when thrown, it has to be thrown away from them, not towards them. But here canisters were thrown at them (the protesters)...at mothers, children," Sankaranarayanan said.

Hariharan said the police gave no warning to protesters before using force.

"If at all it is their (police) case that the crowd turned unmanageable, there is a particular manner in which it has to be dealt with, with warning. Not a single instance to show where a warning was given, no whistle blown saying that violence will be used in this fashion. Even in colonial times, these were the basic measures that had to be adhered to. And force has to be proportionate to the cause and cannot be a situation where police are taking it out on children; it is retributive in nature. They were unarmed people," he said.

A third PIL, seeking an independent inquiry into the "wrongful confinement" of activist Sonam Wangchuk and others on July 18, was dismissed by the High Court, noting that the issue had already been addressed by the court in a petition by Wangchuk's wife Gitanjali Angmo, to her satisfaction. Wangchuk was forcibly removed from the protest site by Delhi Police and taken to the Safdarjung Hospital. He was later moved to the Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Wednesday condemned what it said was "the brutal lathi charge on innocent students, which resulted in serious injuries."

# Varsity

colleges of Rampur — to not worry and that he will get his degree.

However, the ripples won't be confined to him or the other students, Shoaib observes. "In the 2011 Census, Rampur was the fifth lowest in Uttar Pradesh in literacy. We used to be made fun of. Imagine what will happen if the only university in the district is demolished."

Three friends wearing hijabs and riding a Scooty fear the answer. "The government talks about Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, but what about our education? Our parents will not let us go anywhere else," says Farah, the one driving the Scooty. All three are pursuing the auxiliary nurse midwife course at the university.

The counselors assure them they would be "adjusted" in other colleges of their choice, but all three assert together: "We do not wish to go anywhere else."

A senior official of the Maulana Mohd Ali Jauhar Trust, which runs the university, puts its student strength at about 2,400, enrolled in about 40 courses and diplomas, across 14 faculties such as science, law and humanities. About one-third are women; a substantial number are Hindus.

Muslim-majority Rampur district has no other university, with the nearest being Government University and Guru Jambeshwar University in Moradabad, 50 km away. Most of the 30 college options the administration has drawn up for students of Jauhar University are affiliated to Guru Jambeshwar University. Set up just last year, Guru Jambeshwar does not have a campus yet, sources said.

The administration announced deployment of counselors at Jauhar University gates along with the demolition notice, saying they would answer any queries the students have, including names of the colleges they can choose from. The counselors have been taking down the details of every student entering and exiting the campus, chasing after them if needed.

Jagriti Madan, who heads the centre and is Principal of Government Raza PG College, says students should not panic. "They can opt for any college (out of the 30). Five of these are government, the rest are private colleges affiliated to Guru Jambeshwar University, and have most of the courses offered at Jauhar University."

On July 18, as students started a protest against the demolition order as well as the counselling centre – asking why it had been set up when there were still several days to go as per the demolition notice – the counselors shut operations.

While most students share their names at the centre, the degree they are pursuing and contact numbers, the anxiety keeps bubbling up. Apart from students, there are relatives at the campus, as well as former students, asking what the demolition means for them – "Would degrees and diplomas given in the past be valid?", they ask; and "Who will do verification of our degrees when we apply for jobs?"

In the registers held out by the counselors, some scribble a plea "not to raze the university as it will destroy our careers". Most, however, are guarded and write a resigned "no problem".

Ansar Ali, who finished a pharmacy course at the university two years ago, says: "Forget another university, even the nearest college from here, Raza College, is a 30-minute ride. It will be girls who suffer the most, as they would be asked to sit at home now. Further, the fee structure will be more at other places. Jauhar University has various provisions for fee concession, making it less than other private universities."

Mona Kamboj arrives a bit breathless at the counselling centre, saying she is here for one of her relatives who did B.Ed from Jauhar University. "She is worried if her degree is valid, and if she can apply for jobs with it."

In a tweet Wednesday, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor called the demolition order "perverse", particularly "in a state with a dearth of quality institutions of higher education". "If construction was illegal, find other punishments — fines, other punitive measures, even government takeover — but do not destroy a functioning university that UP needs!"

Sources in administration say the university has only two options — file an appeal with the Chairman of the Rampur Development Authority, who is also the Commissioner, Moradabad Division, or approach the court.

DM Ajay Dwivedi, who is Vice-Chairman of the RDA, says the university was given ample time to respond to irregularities before being served the demolition notice. Not only were the maps of the buildings set to be razed were not approved, even land use was not changed from agriculture, he says. The authorities have said that records show only the two university buildings not to be razed had valid building approvals.

# Hyderabad rape

The woman was travelling a short distance from Shamshabad to the airport, police said. She lodged a complaint with the RGIA Police Outpost, which is right outside the sprawling airport premises, on the very same day. "She approached the police soon after the incident," RGIA Police Outpost Inspector B Kiran Kumar told *The Indian Express*. "The suspect also allegedly beat her up, so we have invoked sections for assault too."

The cab service was being run by a local company under the purview of the airline for which the woman worked. "We have asked the airline to check the safety of the operation of the cab services and the safety precautions that are in place for the transport of women workers," a police officer said.

PROTEST AT JANTAR MANTAR

# Citing security reasons, 16 Metro stations shut from noon to evening

**Devansh Mittal**
*New Delhi, July 22*

THOUSANDS OF commuters faced long delays and detours on Wednesday after the Delhi Metro shut entry and exit at 16 stations across Central Delhi for around eight hours citing security reasons.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) announced shortly before noon that, entry and exit would remain closed at Lok Kalyan Marg, Rajiv Chowk, Patel Chowk, Ramakrishna Ashram Marg, Barakhambha Road, Supreme Court, Seva Teerth, Janpath, Mandi House, Central Secretariat, ITO, Delhi Gate, Indraprastha, Khan Market, Jor Bagh and Shivaji Stadium.

Around 4.40 pm, Jhandewalan station was also closed. All stations were reopened by 6.30 pm.

This comes two days after the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) march towards Parliament demanding Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation, with crowds continuing to gather at Jantar Mantar on Wednesday.

Rajiv Chowk, Janpath and Patel Chowk are among the closest Metro stations to Jantar Mantar. The maximum number of stations were closed on the Blue Line.

The closure of ITO and Central Secretariat stations impacted many office-goers, especially since several government offices are located in these areas.

Rajiv Chowk and Central Secretariat, two of the busiest stations in the network, remained open only for interchange, allowing passengers to switch lines but not enter or exit. Interchange facilities were also available at Mandi House.

Rajiv Chowk is the interchange between the Yellow and Blue Lines, which together account for nearly half of the Delhi Metro's ridership.

The Yellow Line, connecting Delhi with Gurgaon, carried about a quarter of the network's passengers in 2025, while the Blue Line, linking Delhi to Noida, accounted for around 21%. The Delhi Metro records around 65-70 lakh passenger journeys every day.

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said closing Metro stations was wrong and attempts to stop students and protesters would only strengthen the movement. "Even if you close all the Metro stations, they will walk. These are young people. It will be good for the government to listen to these young protesters," the former Delhi chief minister said.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor also criticised the government's handling of the situation, saying it should have engaged with the students instead of closing Metro station exits.

"That was really a bad idea. It was really very badly done. Walloping students like this in the middle of the street.... This is just shocking. And honestly, I just don't understand the government's attitude to all of this," he said."Is this what the world's largest democracy looks like," Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asked.

Commuters wait outside the closed Mandi House Metro station on Wednesday. TASHI TOBGYAL

## Cop removed from protest site for 'slapping' female protester

A videograb of the incident. EXPRESS

**Express News Service**
*New Delhi, July 22*

IN THE wake of videos allegedly showing Additional DCP (North East District) Sandeep Lamba slapping a female protester at the CJP protest at Jantar Mantar on Monday going viral, the officer has been removed from the protest site and asked to go back to his station of posting, police said on Wednesday.

At a hearing at Delhi High Court on Wednesday, flagging alleged police excesses on July 20, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan mentioned ADCP Lamba's alleged misconduct. "The video shows specifically ADCP Sandeep Lamba - that is his name, his badge is captured - slapping a woman who is standing on the side and doing nothing. Let's not be scared to name our thugs in uniform when they deserve to be named. He should be summoned here and asked to be accountable for his actions. ...." he told the court.

### *FIR lodged after RAF officers attacked*

The Delhi Police has lodged an FIR after two RAF personnel were allegedly attacked by protesters at the intersection of Tolstoy Marg and Parliament Street around 10 pm on Tuesday. Police said a group of protesters was raising slogans and standing at the intersection when a few RAF personnel attempted to cross the road.

A 35-second video circulating on social media shows two RAF personnel being attacked by a crowd. The injured personnel are undergoing treatment at a hospital, police said.

## Chaos, frustration among commuters over Metro closure

**Nirbhay Thakur**
*New Delhi, July 22*

CHAOS UNFOLDED across Metro stations in Central Delhi as the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) shut down passenger access to 16 key stations surrounding Jantar Mantar — leaving thousands of daily commuters stranded.

Just over an hour after the announcement, Central Secretariat Metro station saw a sprawling crowd of bewildered and frustrated passengers pressed against the closed exit turnstiles. Many chanted slogans like "*Modi teri tanashahi nahi chalegi*".

Announcements played on loop at stations — which saw heavy deployment of security personnel — to inform the swelling crowd that while interchange facilities were open, all entry and exit gates had been shut until further notice.

The disruption thus turned a regular journey, for thousands of commuters, into an ordeal.

"It was a regular Wednesday ... I was headed towards Central Secretariat station. The notification about the station being shut arrived too late for me to prepare for alternative modes of commute," said Aastha (25), a clinical psychology trainee.

"We got drained while trying to find a way to get home safely. There were also inconsistent updates through word of mouth about arbitrary opening and closing of stations throughout the day. On top of this, there were road closures when we left the office in the evening during peak-hour traffic. Cab fares had risen multifold and we were left with no option but to walk long distances to find alternative ways to travel," she added.

At the Central Secretariat station, an 18-year-old girl was arguing with police officers. "*Sir ghar pe emergency hai. Ab mai kaise jaayun? Mujhe Delhi ke raaste nahi pata zyaada* (Sir there is an emergency at home. How will I go now? I don't know Delhi roads well enough)".

Vikas Kumar (30), who had taken a day off work for some personal work was "frustrated". He couldn't finish his work due to the delay caused by the stations being shut down.

"I had to go to the IGNOU office to get a migration certificate. I took a leave from work. How do I go now? I don't know why they have closed so many stations," he said.

"The office closes at 5 pm. If I go to any other metro station in an autorickshaw, the driver will overcharge. This measure seems too stringent," he added.

Kumar works in a hospital and is currently preparing for the Uttar Pradesh Provincial Civil Services (UPPSC).

He says paper leaks are "very common" in India. "There have been so many paper leaks. This frustrates those who have been working hard for years."

BID TO OFFLOAD HOUSING INVENTORY

# DDA scheme for corporates and govt staff: 25% discount for 1,200 Narela flats

**Devansh Mittal**
*New Delhi, July 22*

IN AN effort to make buying houses more affordable for working professionals, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has announced a 25 per cent discount for 1200 ready-to-move flats in north Delhi's Narela, under a new scheme, with registrations set to start from Friday, the agency said on Wednesday.

The discounted offering is the latest in a series of steps DDA has attempted to offload housing inventory in Narela, where it has struggled to find buyers for several years.

The DDA's newly launched scheme 'Karmajeevi Awaas Yojana 2026' is targeted particularly at serving and retired government employees as well as professionals from the corporate, business and entrepreneurial sectors, an official said.

Registration for the scheme will begin on July 24, while bookings will open from August 15 on a first come, first serve (FCFS) basis through the DDA Awaas Portal, officials said.

The scheme covers 1 BHK, 2 BHK and 3 BHK flats at Pocket-11, Sector A1-A4, Narela. After the discount, prices start at Rs 33.40 lakh for a 1 BHK, Rs 75.55 lakh for a 2 BHK and Rs 1.065 crore for a 3 BHK.

A DDA spokesperson said that the scheme has been launched under the guidance of Lieutenant Governor of Delhi & Chairman, DDA, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, with the objective of making home ownership more accessible for working professionals. "Through this initiative, DDA seeks to facilitate home ownership for individuals who have contributed, and continue to contribute, significantly to nation-building and India's economic growth," the spokesperson said.

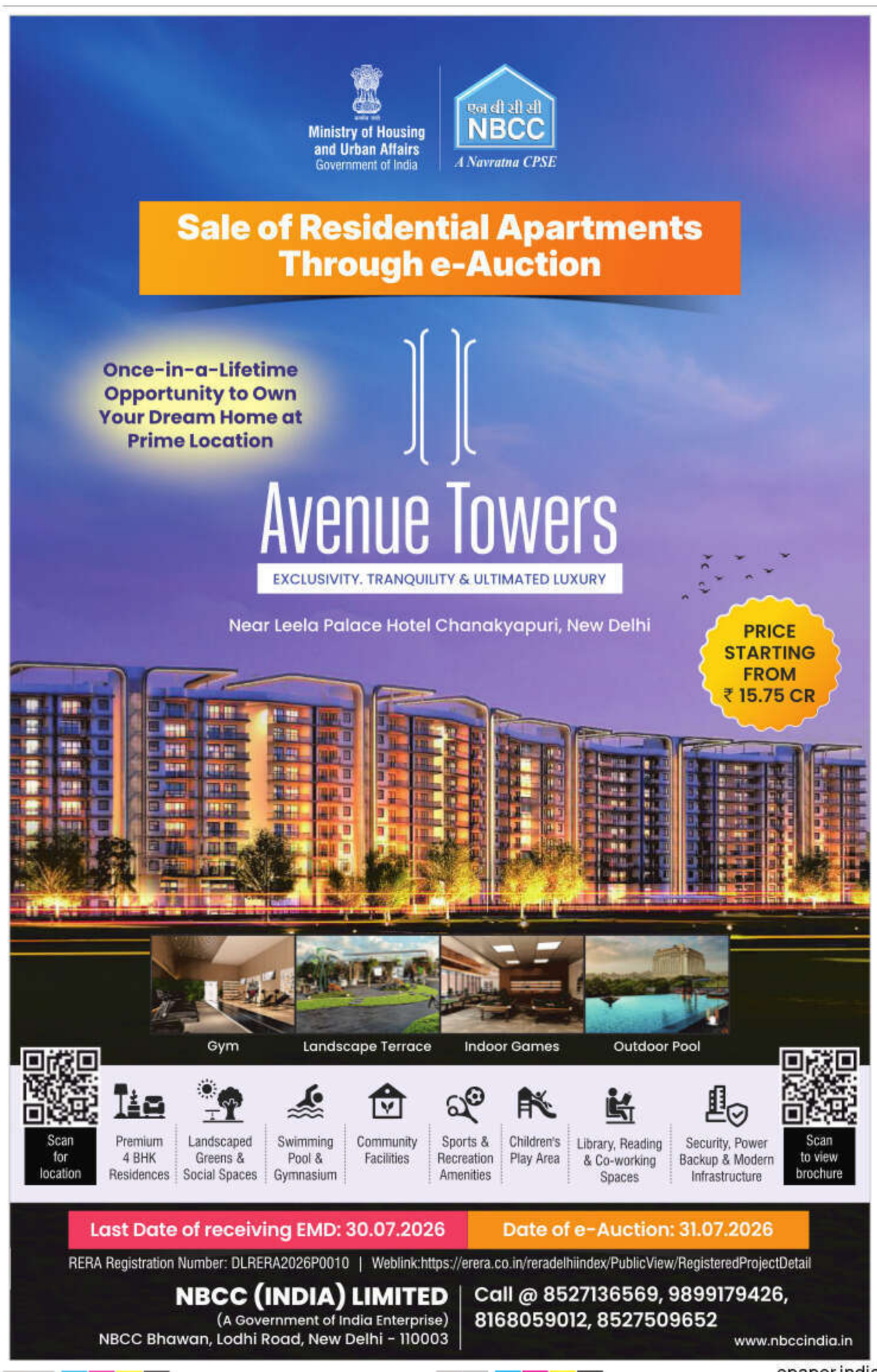
As per officials, the scheme has placed no restriction on existing property ownership, allowing eligible applicants to buy a flat even if they already own residential property. The authority said adjoining units can also be amalgamated subject to DDA norms. The entire booking process will be conducted online, and sample flats have been opened for inspection. All flats are offered on a freehold basis, providing complete ownership rights to the allottees, an official said.

Narela, recently renamed Vindhyachal, is one of the DDA's three major sub-city projects, along with Dwarka and Rohini. While planning began in the late 1980s, large-scale construction picked up only in the early 2000s, with flats being offered for sale from around 2010. Residents here have in the past complained of poor maintenance, irregular water supply and lack of security.

Despite this, officials have attributed the renewed interest in buying flats in the Narela partly to improvements in connectivity. The completion of the Urban Extension Road-II last year has reduced travel time to other parts of Delhi, while the approved Rithala–Narela–Nathupur corridor under Delhi Metro's Phase IV is expected to be operational in the next four to five years.

The latest scheme assumes significance as DDA historically has struggled to sell flats in Narela owing to connectivity gaps and civic issues. Data submitted by Tokhan Sahu, Minister of State for Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, in the Lok Sabha last month highlighted the unsold inventory of the agency in DDA.

According to the reply, since the early 2000s, DDA has constructed 62,801 flats in Narela, but has been able to sell only half of them.



SITE & sounds

## Hazare writes to PM, says Pradhan's resignation will not cause the government to fall

**SAME VENUE, ANOTHER FAST:** Anna Hazare at Jantar Mantar in April 2011. With him is former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who visited the CJP protest site on Tuesday. RAVI KANOJIA

Anti-corruption activist Anna Hazare, who went on a historic hunger strike at the same venue more than 15 years ago, wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday saying "the news of...violence and police action...is extremely painful", and that the resentment of the protesters must be viewed "not as a law and order problem, but as the agony and expectations of society". If Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan is asked to resign, "it will not cause the government to fall; rather, it will...make its functioning more accountable and effective", Hazare said. He requested the government to "listen to [the protesters] patiently, create an atmosphere of trust, and find solutions through positive dialogue". MANOJ MORE

## Sacked CJP spokesperson says 'shocked' by action

Vijeta Dahiya during Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike at Jantar Mantar. EXPRESS

Vijeta Dahiya, the sacked former spokesperson of CJP said on Wednesday that he was "shocked" by the decision taken by the leadership of the activist platform.

"[When CJP leaders called] I thought they would ask me how I was doing after the viral, controversial videos [of me dancing on the stage at Jantar Mantar], but I was told, 'Vijeta, please don't come [to the protest],'" Dahiya said. The CJP removed Dahiya after videos circulating online showed him away from Monday's 'Sansad Chalo' march and munching on a burger, allegedly at the same time protesters were braving police lathis and tear gas. SRIRUPA GOSWAMI

## Heart aching, I am boiling with anger: Naseeruddin

Naseeruddin Shah (right) with Satish Shah and Ravi Baswani in the 1983 cult comedy *Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro*, a dark satire on corruption in politics, bureaucracy, media and business. EXPRESS

Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah has lashed out at the government, and urged students to continue their fight. His heart was "aching", and he was "boiling" inside, Shah said in a video posted on Instagram.

"Right now, my heart is aching, and I am also boiling with anger to see how our kids are being meted out injustice by these goons who remind me of American ICE agents, wearing masks and carrying sticks. Think about your own children sometimes and know that you will face consequences for your actions one day for sure," he said.

"To the children, I want to say that don't lose courage as sympathies of many are with you. There are many who are with you, keep fighting... And to the rulers of this country, I just want to say this, sab yaad rakha jaayega," he said. PTI

Police fire teargas shells at Parliament Street. GAJENDRA YADAV

# Jantar Mantar packed, fresh clashes at Tolstoy Marg

**Alok Singh, Devansh Mittal, Nirbhay Thakur, Sakshi Chand & Vidheesha Kuntamalla**
*New Delhi, July 22*

LOCALISED, SPORADIC clashes continued to break out from time to time on Wednesday evening as the crowd of protesters swelled around Jantar Mantar and CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke vowed to continue the agitation seeking Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation.

Police fired teargas shells in the evening and carried out mild lathicharge to scatter the protesters near Tolstoy Marg.

Officers said that an estimated 12,000 people gathered at Jantar Mantar, while it could only accommodate around 4,000. This resulted in the crowd that spilled over onto Tolstoy Marg and Parliament Street, said an officer.

Divyanshu Chauhan (22), a protester, said a scuffle broke out around 7.30 pm after CJP supporters got into an argument with a group of Nihangs.

"Soon after, stones were thrown at the police. The Nihangs tried to intervene, but one of them wielded a weapon, injuring a protester. The police then fired tear gas shells for five to 10 minutes. I believe most of us are here for the right cause, but some people are trying to create a ruckus," he added.

Police said six of its officers, including two assistant commissioners of police (ACPs), sustained head injuries and were taken to hospital. Among the injured, while ACP Jai Prakash is posted in Punjabi Bagh, ACP Vivek Bhagat is posted in Connaught Place.

Jantar Mantar, meanwhile, saw farmer leader Rakesh Tikait, Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil, a group of Nihangs and Opposition leaders Kanimozhi and Brinda Karat coming to visit.

The chants grew louder and the crowd thicker, as fresh groups of protesters poured into the protest site, many after overnight journeys by bus and train.

By the time Karam (21) from Gurgaon reached Jantar Mantar with his friends in the afternoon, the protest site was overflowing. He found himself standing with thousands of others on Tolstoy Road, where the crowd stretched from the LIC building towards Jantar Mantar. Karam runs a marketing company and was among the many first-time protesters who had come after watching videos of the July 20 police action against demonstrators.

By Wednesday afternoon, the protest had spilled far beyond Jantar Mantar. Heavy police barricading shut large stretches of Tolstoy Road and parts of Sansad Marg to traffic, as thousands occupied the roads outside Jantar Mantar.

Mohit Gangwar (24) had travelled from Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh because this year's NEET paper leak was "the last straw", he said. Watching Staff Selection Commission aspirants protest last year over cancelled exams and technical glitches had left him disturbed. But seeing his 23-year-old cousin lose yet another year after her third NEET attempt pushed him to join the movement.

As the day wore on, entry and exit queues grew longer.

Hand-painted banners and satirical placards filled the air. Cardboard signs reading 'A Govt That Can't Tolerate Protest, Can't Handle Democracy' and 'Nobody Funds Me, I Hate This Govt For Free' reflected the mood of the crowd. Fresh spray paint on a wall declared — 'Gen-Z Revolution!!!!'. Nearby, youngsters waved the Tricolour. Outside Jantar Mantar, a group of students sat on the road singing parody of popular songs.

The crowd which could not enter Jantar Mantar spilled onto nearby streets. TASHI TOBGYAL

## 20 police teams probe CJP's march, analyse CCTV footage, mobile data

**Sakshi Chand**
*New Delhi, July 22*

CLAIMING THAT CJP's 'Sansad Chalo' march was far more organised than it had initially appeared, the Delhi Police has widened its investigation into the 10 FIRs it had registered in relation to the protest by examining encrypted chats on the Bitchat app, locality- and college-based WhatsApp groups, social media posts, CCTV camera footage, mobile phone data and facial recognition records.

Senior officers said 20 teams have been constituted, with each assigned a specific aspect of the probe. While some teams are analysing social media content and digital communication, others are examining call detail records, mobile dump data, CCTV footage and facial recognition system inputs to identify those involved.

According to sources in the police, investigators have recovered chats from several WhatsApp groups that allegedly contained detailed instructions on what participants should carry – including pepper spray – what to do if detained, and whom to contact from the designated legal teams that were allegedly kept on standby.

Officers said the chats point to what "a well-prepared strategy for the protests".

Police further said that two social media handles that were allegedly spreading misinformation related to the protests have been blocked.

Protesters at Tolstoy Marg crossing. TASHI TOBGYAL

The investigation is also looking at the size of the crowd. Senior officers said that while Jantar Mantar can accommodate around 1,500-1,800 people, an estimated 40,000-50,000 people gathered there on the day of the march. Investigators said that they are examining whether charges of culpable homicide apply after a 22-year-old woman was injured in the stampede-like situation that followed.

They also alleged that CJP functionaries had marched towards Parliament despite being repeatedly assured that a dialogue with the government would be initiated. According to the investigators, the protesters were aware that such a march could result in overcrowding and law and order problems.

According to officers, while the initial gathering at Jantar Mantar site was "70-80% organic", subsequent mobilisation was driven largely through social media networks. A significant section of those mobilised comprised Gen Z participants, social media influencers and, in some cases, alleged paid influencers, they added.

Officers further said that the investigation would examine any instances where excessive use of force may have been used by police personnel during the protests.

None of the FIRs names any individual accused so far, although CJP has been named in the complaints.

The CJP, meanwhile, alleged that police have removed security checkpoints — where they were earlier scanning bags and frisking protesters before allowing them inside the protest site — and left volunteers to manage the crowd at Jantar Mantar.

"The crowd is now beyond control. It's not possible to frisk everyone...," a senior officer said.

## 'No plain clothes, uniform must', officers on Jantar Mantar duty told

**Mahender Singh Manral**
*New Delhi, July 22*

FACING CRITICISM after several videos on social media showed policemen in plain clothes lathi-charging protesters, Delhi Police has issued directions that all personnel deployed at Jantar Mantar must report in uniform and not in civilian dress, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

This comes after protesters marching from Jantar Mantar to Parliament on Monday to demand the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan clashed with security personnel from Delhi Police and the Rapid Action Force of the CRPF. The security forces have come under criticism after several videos showed excessive use of force against the protesters. Many social media posts flagged how a section of policemen — some in civilian dress and others in uniform but with name tags removed — targeted protesters. Scores of people, both protesters and security personnel, were injured in Monday's clashes.

Late Tuesday night, Delhi Police Headquarters is learnt to have sent out a message to all units, asking them to ensure that any police personnel reporting for duty at Jantar Mantar do so only in police uniform, and not in plain clothes.

In an internal report prepared by New Delhi district police, officials are learnt to have stated that Delhi Police used "mild force" on Monday to bring the situation under control after clashes broke out.

## 30 companies of Central forces on way to Capital

**Express News Service**
*New Delhi, July 22*

THE UNION Home Ministry has approved the deployment of 30 additional companies of the Central Armed Police Forces in the national capital after Delhi Police sought reinforcements to maintain law and order during the ongoing protests by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) and political parties.

According to an official communication, Delhi Police had asked for more force in view of the law and order situation arising from the demonstrations and to strengthen security measures. "After examining the matter, the ministry decided to make available 30 additional CAPF companies to Delhi Police with immediate effect until July 27," it said.

The maximum security personnel, all drawn from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), are being airlifted from West Bengal after the Home Ministry ordered their immediate deployment in Delhi on Tuesday night. The additional deployment includes 18 companies of the CRPF, six of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) of the CRPF, three of the Border Security Force, one of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and two of the Sashastra Seema Bal.

With this, Delhi Police will have a total of 45 central force companies at its disposal.

● DELIVERY AGENTS SAY THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THEY ARE DELIVERING TO FACELESS CUSTOMERS, BUT IT FEELS 'DIFFERENT' AND 'RIGHT'

# Quiet acts of solidarity: Meals, volunteers arrive at Jantar Mantar from across India

**Reva Thakkar, Anusree K C & Tashi Tobgyal**
*New Delhi, July 22*

THE DELIVERY instructions on Swiggy rider Ajay Thakur's phone read simply: "Love from Kerala." The meal he was carrying was not meant for a named customer but for anyone who was protesting at Jantar Mantar demanding Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over NEET paper leaks.

At the protest site food delivery workers have become unlikely links in a nationwide chain of solidarity — ferrying meals, water and messages from supporters across India and even abroad to the CJP.

Standing near the police barricades, Thakur told *The Indian Express* this was his fifth delivery to Jantar Mantar.

Zomato delivery partner Sandeep had just completed his eighth. "Samosas, rice, momos, burgers, patties — people have ordered a variety of things. The last order I delivered here was placed by someone in Mumbai," Sandeep said.

Many orders were not addressed to any specific person. Instead, delivery instructions asked riders to hand the food to "any protester who has not eaten yet". So, food delivery app partners are simply passing the packets to volunteers or people entering the protest site.

Near Jantar Mantar, Virendra (38) from Swiggy and Kuldeep (30), a Zomato agent, ate from their delivery boxes.

Virendra recalled that one customer from Hyderabad told him, "Son, do also eat your lunch from this order and take care." He had just delivered his fifth order at the site. "Customers from as far away as the US and Canada have been sending orders," he added.

TASHI TOBGYAL

REVA THAKKAR

Delivery agents and (right) volunteers near the protest site.

Roshan (20), a rider from Swiggy, said, "The first day I got an order... I was surprised because I was delivering food to a faceless customer. I don't know much about the protest, but it felt right doing what I did."

Mausam Shah (27), a rider from Zomato who had just completed his fourth trip to the site, said he had never witnessed anything like this. He said every delivery felt different because the food belonged to no one person. "All this food has been sent with good intentions. If it is not managed properly, it will all go to waste," he added.

The food delivery agents are not the only ones helping out at Jantar Mantar.

Tanvi (30), who travelled from Gurgaon, said she had taken the day off work to volunteer at the site. "I had been feeling guilty for the last two days... My sister, who lives in Hyderabad, had been urging me to join, so I showed up," she said.

Soon after she arrived, she had seen people distributing food, and had joined in. She helped members and supporters of student outfit AISA re-erect its tent, which had been pulled down by police. Around 1 pm, she had offered to help at the makeshift medical clinic at the protest site.

Neet Pal Singh (34) spent the day distributing biscuits among protesters. "I saw someone who had travelled by train from Mumbai to Delhi and had barely eaten for two days. He was dizzy. We got him water and something to eat," he said.

Jigmay Chhinjay Khampa and Khalid Tanveer, who met for the first time at the protest, said they had spent the last few days distributing ORS sachets and food packets.

Also among those helping sustain the protest was Delhi-based non-profit Sachkand Foundation, whose volunteers said they had been serving food for around 2,000 people three times a day. Foundation chief Taranjot Singh Gulati said over 60 volunteers had been working in shifts at Jantar Mantar, distributing not only meals but also torches, mosquito nets, umbrellas, raincoats and energy drinks.

They are supported by student outfits coordinating food and water supplies.

Thanks to such efforts, the initial shortage of food and water at the site had been overcome by Tuesday evening. On Wednesday afternoon, the official handle of the CJP, posted on X: "Update from Jantar Mantar: We have enough food for today! Please do not send any more food, as we want to ensure nothing goes to waste. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed!"

# IAF chief: Future wars can't be fought by individual Services

**Amrita Nayak Dutta**
*New Delhi, July 22*

FUTURE WARS cannot be fought by individual services, but must be fought together as a unified nation to achieve success, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh said on Wednesday in Karwar during the commissioning ceremony of INS Malvan, the second vessel in the Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) series.

He also underscored the need for developing military technologies at a faster pace, stating that "technology delayed is technology denied", and made a pitch for self-reliance in the aviation sector. The commissioning ceremony was attended by Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command; senior naval officers, veterans and representatives of state-run Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

Referring to INS Malvan, he said, "This ship and its crew carry forward the legacy of the erstwhile Malvan. I can see some stalwarts here from that ship, which served the nation with pride for decades until it was decommissioned in 2003." INS Malvan is the second of eight ASW-SWCs, being indigenously built by CSL, Kochi, and the sixth of 16 ASW-SWCs to be commissioned into the Navy. With over 80% indigenous content, the ship reinforces the Government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and India's expanding ecosystem of naval design, equipment, system integration, and growing self-reliance in defence shipbuilding.

Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh and Western Naval Command Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan at the commissioning ceremony of INS Malvan on Wednesday. PTI

The vessel is equipped for underwater surveillance, anti-submarine warfare (ASW) operations, and low-intensity maritime operations (LIMO), along with mine warfare capability. It will bolster coastal defence, littoral security, and enhance maritime domain awareness.

Highlighting the criticality of achieving jointness among the three services, particularly in fighting future wars, he said, "No future war is going to be fought by an individual service. All of us, whether we are in blues (IAF), whites (Navy), or OGs (Army), or whichever colour, whether we are in allied services, we all have to fight together as one nation, and then only we will succeed."

He mentioned that the growth of indigenous R&D (research and development) and production capabilities is encouraging, even as India has some distance to cover before reaching its targets. "If you have to grow and remain relevant, it has to be at the speed of relevance. If you are growing at a speed that by the time you design and develop something, the world has moved over to a new technology, then that has no meaning. So according to me, any technology delayed is technology denied," he said.

He further said India's indigenous infrastructure is growing in terms of production; there is a big impetus which has been given. "I'm not saying we've reached somewhere very close to the target, but we are in the right direction, and as long as one is moving in the right direction, there is hope. I am sure if we don't waver from this path and remain focused, this will be a game changer," he said. Under the aegis of Project Seabird, Karwar has emerged as a symbol of India's maritime strategic vision and stands as one of the most modern naval bases globally.

Emphasising the significance of maritime security and maritime power for India's growth, he stated that for any nation, maritime routes determine trade, and trade ultimately shapes destiny. "And as far as India is concerned, we all understand how important the Indian Ocean region is to us," adding that the Navy has been playing a vital role in securing sea lines of communication and ensuring that Indian trade and economic growth continue unhindered.

He stated that recent global developments have shown that no country can succeed without secure sea lines of communication and free trade. Referring to the Government's thrust on self-reliance, the Air Chief said the Navy had made significant progress in indigenous shipbuilding and expressed hope that the aviation sector would implement a similar model. "I just hope that the other two services, especially the Indian Air Force, learn the lesson as to how the Indian Navy has been able to get this whole concept right, where you have your Indian Navy officers who are embedded in your shipbuilding right from the beginning."

He further said that India was moving closer towards achieving self-reliance, even as some components still needed to be sourced or co-produced abroad, but those gaps would be bridged in due course.

INS Malvan derives its name from the historic coastal town of Malvan in Maharashtra, a region associated with the illustrious maritime heritage of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The vessel also encapsulates the legacy of her predecessor, an inshore Indian Naval Minesweeper that remained in service until 2003.

# LS suspends TMC's Kalyan Banerjee for using 'undignified' language against women MPs

**Express News Service**
*New Delhi, July 22*

TRINAMOOL CONGRESS MP Kalyan Banerjee was suspended from Lok Sabha for the remainder of the ongoing Monsoon Session for allegedly using "undignified" language against two women MPs, his former colleagues who have since split and 'merged' with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India, following a heated exchange in the House.

As Lok Sabha proceedings resumed after two successive adjournments at 2 pm, Krishna Prasad Tenneti took to the Chair and referred to a complaint filed with Speaker Om Birla by two members, adding that his remarks had hurt the dignity of the House.

TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee

Mitali Bagh, Shatabdi Roy and Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar were among the members with whom Banerjee was seen to have had the exchange, leading to his eventual suspension after they apparently filed a written complaint with Birla.

Tenneti then asked Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal to read out a resolution seeking the consent of the House to suspend Banerjee for the remainder of the session, which ends on August 13, which was then put up and passed by voice vote amid a din from opposition MPs seeking a discussion on the NEET paper leak and demands for Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation.

As the resolution was adopted, Tenneti asked Banerjee to leave the House before its proceedings were adjourned until Thursday. A Lok Sabha secretariat circular later said Banerjee cannot enter the Lok Sabha chamber, lobby or galleries, and will not get his daily allowance as an MP, cannot participate in committee meetings of which he is a member, and cannot vote in committee elections during the period of suspension.

Several opposition MPs later met Birla seeking the withdrawal of Banerjee's suspension, stating that the alleged altercation had occurred after the House was adjourned and, therefore, could not be the basis for disciplinary action under the House rules.

# Hoshiarpur: AAP sarpanch killed after being run over by car twice

**Express News Service**
*Jalandhar, July 22*

AN AAP sarpanch was allegedly run over by a car and then attacked with sharp-edged weapons in a parking brawl outside his house in Anandgarh village of Hoshiarpur late Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Satpal Singh, 55. A case has been registered, and several suspects detained. His family members and eyewitnesses said that the incident took place when around 15-20 men allegedly parked two cars and several motorcycles outside Satpal's house. An argument broke out and the situation soon escalated when the men allegedly attacked the sarpanch with sharp-edged weapons when he came outside to intervene.

Satpal's son Rahul said that when his father was attacked with swords. "When my father caught hold of a weapon to defend himself, the accused drove him. They reversed the vehicles and ran him over again. When they saw that my father was still breathing, they got out of the cars and attacked him again with *khandas* (sharp-edged weapons)," he said, adding that the accused fled once other family members came out of the house.

Rahul said, "When we were taking my father to the hospital, they intercepted the way and blocked the road with a Bolero vehicle. To save our lives, I reversed the vehicle and hit the Bolero and drove straight to the police station. Satpal was then taken to hospital but he had succumbed to his injuries. The family members said that around 20 people were involved in the attack. DSP City Kulbhushan Sharma said that several suspects have been detained.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

For kind attention of general public, allottees and stakeholders of the real estate project "Orchid IVY" situated at sector 51 being developed by promoter namely M/s Orchid Infrastructure Developers Private Limited

1. This is to inform the general public, allottees, stakeholders, and concerned authorities that the promoter of the project namely "Orchid IVY" has applied for change of the bank accounts.
2. The above-mentioned project is registered with the HARERA Gurugram vide registration no. GGM/597/329/2022/72 Dated 01.08.2022 and the registration is valid up to 31.12.2026.
3. Existing Bank Account and New Bank Account Details are as follow:

| Bank Name | ICICI Bank (Existing) | ICICI Bank (New) |
|---|---|---|
| Branch address | Unit no. 1, Solitaire Plaza, MG Road, DLF Phase-III, Gurgaon, Haryana | Unit no. 1, Solitaire Plaza, MG Road, DLF Phase-III, Gurgaon, Haryana |
| IFSC | ICIC0002451 | ICIC0002451 |
| Master account | 245105001552 | 245105001551 |
| RERA account | 245105001551 | 245105001552 |
| Free account | 245105001553 | 245105001553 |

4. The promoter has submitted a request for change of the designated bank accounts before the Authority, which is presently under consideration.
5. This notice is being issued for information purposes only to the general public, allottees, and stakeholders in respect of the above-mentioned project.

Sd/-
Dated: 23.07.2026 Secretary
For Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram

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IMPORTANT DATES
Bid Commencement date: 13.07.2026
Last Date for Bid Submission: 29.08.2026 (17:00 Hrs IST)
Bid Document can be downloaded: https://tender.nprocure.com https://www.gidc.gujarat.gov.in/tender
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अंतिम 2 दिन शेष
SIR में ENUMERATION FORM भरने के लिए केवल 2 दिन शेष!
केवल 2 दिन शेष
उठें और फॉर्म भरें
ताकि आपका नाम मतदाता सूची (ड्राफ्ट) 2026 में शामिल हो सके
SIR ENUMERATION FORM SUBMIT
Enumeration Form
Enumeration form जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 24/07/2026
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सुरक्षित जानकारी
मजबूत लोकतंत्र
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## Refreshments

AS TUESDAY'S protest outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence ended with the detention of Opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, buses carrying Congress leaders went in different directions. The bus that went to Chhatrasal Stadium in far-off Model Town had leaders who were 'tired and starving' after hours of sloganeering. Once they were released at the stadium, Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav treated them with some snacks — puffs and beverages.

## Under Watch

THE NATIONAL Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Education, is installing CCTV surveillance system at its headquarters in Noida, it is learnt. According to sources, the institute's top officials recently approved a proposal to spend around Rs 92 lakh on the project, under which 86 CCTV cameras will be installed across the premises. One of the key objectives of the project is to keep track of the movements of officials and visitors to the headquarters, a source said.

# Parallel protests by BJP and Cong day after Rahul sit-in, detention

### Clashes in Patna, Hyderabad leave several injured; cops use baton, tear gas to disperse crowds at places

**ENS & PTI**
*New Delhi, July 22*

Police use a water cannon on All India Students Association members during a protest march near Lok Bhavan in Patna on Wednesday. PTI

PARALLEL PROTESTS were held by the cadres of BJP and Congress across the country on Wednesday — the former hitting the streets against Rahul Gandhi-led protest near the Prime Minister's residence in Delhi on Tuesday, and the latter against the detention of their leader and police action during Monday's march towards Parliament.

In Patna, workers of the BJP and the Congress came to blows when cadres of the ruling party took out a procession accusing the opposition, led by Rahul, of unleashing "anarchy". Police intervened after Congress workers armed with bamboo sticks confronted the BJP procession, leading to a clash. Several persons from both sides were seen bleeding profusely. However, there was no official word on the number of persons who were injured or got detained by police.

In Jammu, BJP and Congress workers came face-to-face at Shaheedi Chowk on Wednesday, prompting massive police deployment and the erection of barricades to prevent any confrontation. Police formed a security cordon and kept the rival groups apart with barbed wire as both parties raised slogans within proximity to each other.

In Hyderabad, a woman police constable and a civilian were injured in violent clashes between the cadres of the BJP and ruling Congress near the saffron party's state headquarters here on Wednesday, police said.

The confrontation began when police intercepted a group of Congress workers as they marched towards the BJP office in response to an attempt by some saffron party leaders and members to march towards the state Congress office. Tensions escalated as BJP cadres brandished sticks against the approaching Congress workers, following which a clash broke out with both allegedly attacking each other with sticks and stones. Police dispersed the rioting crowd using mild force.

During the protest, a journalist of a local TV channel suffered head injuries, while a woman constable sustained minor injuries in her leg, police said. A senior police officer said workers of both parties were taken into preventive custody.

In Vijaywada, Congress workers organised a protest here against the detention of Rahul Gandhi, and BJP workers assembled for a rival protest, triggering tension.

Both parties accused each other of violence and provocation. In Karnataka, BJP took out a counter-protest march towards the Congress office after the ruling party staged a demonstration near the BJP headquarters at Malleshwaram. The BJP leaders and workers were blocked and taken into preventive custody even before they could reach their destination.

In Kerala, BJP workers marched towards the KPCC office, accusing Congress of "exploiting" students' protests over the NEET paper leak for "political gains". The march, led by the party's state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar, was attended by senior BJP leaders, including MLAs V Muraleedharan and B B Gopakumar.

Tension prevailed after some protesters, raising slogans against the Congress and Rahul, tried to move forward by jumping over the barricades. Police fired several rounds of water cannon at protesting BJP workers to disperse them.

BJP workers pulled down the barricades and attempted to march towards the KPCC office, but the police prevented them from moving forward.

In Jaipur, both the BJP and Congress workers took to the streets, and police used water cannons to disperse a mob led by BJP state president Madan Rathore when they were marching towards the Congress headquarters.

The Congress protest was led by former chief minister Ashok Gehlot, PCC president Govind Singh Dotasra, Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jully and former MLA Pratap Singh Khachariyawas. Opposition Congress created a ruckus in the Madhya Pradesh legislative Assembly after its demand for a discussion on the police action against students at Jantar Mantar and the detention of Congress leaders in Delhi was rejected.

In Gujarat, BJP held a protest to condemn Rahul Gandhi's demonstration near the PM residence in New Delhi. Workers of the ruling BJP tried to gherao the Congress headquarters in Raipur, prompting police to use water cannons and teargas shells. In Mumbai, Congress leaders were detained, forcibly evicted and bundled into police vans during a march towards the Maharashtra BJP office. Led by Maharashtra Congress chief Harshwardhan Sapkal, the march began from Gandhi Bhavan with protesters planning to hand over a copy of the Constitution at the BJP office.

However, police stopped and detained Congress leaders and workers midway near Regal Cinema in south Mumbai before they could proceed further.

The Uttar Pradesh units of BJP and Congress held separate protests in Lucknow. However, police thwarted BJP cadres from reaching the Congress office, and stopped the Congress workers led by state president Ajay Rai outside its party office, where police had put up barricades. **WITH PTI INPUTS**

Rajya Sabha in session on Wednesday. PTI

# RS impasse on: Govt says ready for debate, Opp wants Pradhan resignation first

**Express News Service**
*New Delhi, July 22*

THE IMPASSE in the Rajya Sabha continued for the third consecutive day on Wednesday, with the Opposition demanding that Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resign before the House takes up a discussion on the NEET paper leak issue.

The Opposition raised slogans against the police action on protesting students on Monday and called for Pradhan to resign, to which Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju replied by saying the government was ready for a discussion but would not accept any conditions.

When the House convened on Wednesday morning, Leader of the Opposition and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge attempted to raise the issue of baton charge and use of tear gas against student protesters during their march towards Parliament from Jantar Mantar on Monday.

After the listed papers were tabled, Kharge, wearing a black armband in protest, said the police action against students on Monday had caused him "immense pain".

While the treasury benches objected loudly, even before Kharge could complete his sentence, Chairman C P Radhakrishnan adjourned the proceedings until noon.

At noon, when the House reconvened, Deputy Chairman Harivansh urged the MPs to allow Zero Hour discussion. However, after his repeated requests to let the House function were ignored, he adjourned the proceedings until 2pm.

When the House reconvened at 2pm, the Opposition continued to demand the Education Minister's resignation. Rijiju said the government had taken steps to address the NEET paper leak issue and was ready to discuss the same. Leader of the House and Health Minister J P Nadda hit out at the Opposition, terming their behaviour "irresponsible" and "anti-democratic".

Reiterating the demand for a discussion under Rule 267 after Pradhan's resignation, Kharge said an unbiased discussion could only happen after the minister resigns. Amid sloganeering from both sides, Harivansh adjourned the proceedings until 3pm, after which the House reconvened and disruptions continued, leading to the House being adjourned until 11am on Thursday.

In a post on X, DMK Rajya Sabha member P Wilson said on Wednesday that he has given a notice under Rule 267 seeking suspension of business of the House to take up an immediate discussion on NEET issue.

"To ban NEET as advised by Thalaivar @mkstalin, I have given a notice under Rule 267 seeking that the business of the House be suspended... to take up an immediate discussion on this NEET issue and to adopt a Resolution calling upon the government to abolish NEET," he said.

Several Opposition MPs in the Rajya Sabha have given a notice under Rule 267 for a suspension of ordinary business and an immediate discussion on the issue, said Congress Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh. In a post on X, he said that they also want discussion on "the manner in which the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and other opposition leaders were manhandled, pushed around, and dragged on the roads by police personnel on July 21".

The impasse in the Rajya Sabha is entirely because of the continued refusal of the government to have this discussion under Rule 267, Ramesh said.

Earlier, members observed silence to pay tribute to the 20 workers killed in an accident at an under-construction tunnel project in Sikkim. Radhakrishnan also mentioned India's first indigenously developed hydrogen-powered train, congratulating the Prime Minister, the Railway Minister and railway officials on the achievement on behalf of the Upper House.

Former BJP leader K Annamalai

# Annamalai targets Centre, alleges 'no accountability'

**Press Trust of India**
*Chennai, July 22*

FORMER BJP leader K Annamalai on Wednesday hit out at the Centre over the NEET issue alleging there had been no accountability despite the question papers getting leaked thrice, and claimed it prompted students to hit the streets. He asked why the saffron party-led union government took so long to initiate dialogue with protesters.

Annamalai, who now heads the "We the Leaders" movement, said protest is a fundamental right in a democracy and wondered why did the BJP-led Centre take so long to initiate a dialogue with the protesters. "Why was meaningful engagement delayed until the protest had escalated to a flashpoint. What kept you waiting," the former president of BJP's Tamil Nadu unit who is set to launch his own political party, demanded to know.

Over the past many years, Annamalai said he had taken a personal stand supporting NEET, arguing it brought uniformity in student selection and gave aspirants from underprivileged backgrounds a "real shot" at pursuing their dream of medical education. However, in the last five years, the NEET UG question paper has leaked thrice, he said. "Imagine the amount of pressure that it puts on students, who had to go through the examination process yet another time when the system that was supposed to bring in uniformity was failing."

He urged the Central government to engage in meaningful dialogue, uphold transparency, and take swift, appropriate action to address the concerns.

# Students are not terrorists, we fully support their demands, says Rahul

**Asad Rehman**
*New Delhi, July 22*

Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi during a press conference at AICC headquarters in Delhi on Wednesday. ANIL SHARMA

CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi extended full support to the demands of students protesting against paper leaks, saying that Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan must resign and Prime Minister Narendra Modi should apologise.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters in Delhi, Rahul said the protesting students are not terrorists and are only asking for a functional and fair education system. He said the prevailing education system is not only rigged, but also unaffordable.

He played clips of the police "brutality" against students during Monday's Parliament march against paper leaks. "The question is why is this happening to our students... What have they done... to have security forces aiming weapons at them, to be beaten up... They are protesting peacefully, asking for what this country owes them. They are simply asking as students in this country — 'we deserve an education system that is fair'."

"Children have committed suicides, they go through unlimited stress, and there is a legitimate, very deep problem in this country," he said. "The thing that is clear to everybody is that our education system, which was known to be one of the best education systems in the world, is rigged."

Showing a set of slides in a presentation at the press briefing, Rahul said 152 paper leaks have taken place in the last decade and that no convictions have happened. "Every month lakhs of students are told that all the stress you went through, you will have to undergo it again...," he said, adding that 7.5 crore students were impacted by the "breakdown" of the education system. "A group is destroying our education system and the lives of our students."

He said that families spend Rs 1.32 lakh crore on exams, which is almost equal to the education budget of Rs 1.4 lakh crore. "This is pure theft from these families, and after you steal from them, you tell them the paper is leaked," he said.

Rahul said the second reason students are protesting is that "manufacturing is closed, entrepreneurship is closed, corporate jobs are closed, public sector is closed. The only choice they have is a government job. Then you rig the system and make it unaffordable. We are 100% in agreement with students. There have to be some consequences," he said.

"They are demanding the resignation of the Union Education Minister; Dharmendra Pradhan should be relieved of his duties," he added.

On his detention when he was protesting outside the PM residence on Tuesday, Rahul said he did not care about the manner in which he was "dragged, punched and removed". He claimed that policemen who detained him whispered in his ear that he should "remove this government". On a question on AAP alleging that Congress and Rahul helped the BJP by protesting at the PM's residence, the LOP said, "We are fully with students."

On why the LOP and Congress MPs surrounded the PM's house, he said, "We felt that if the youth are on the streets, the Opposition should be too. We first went to the Speaker respectfully and demanded a discussion. He said he would ask the government. No discussion was allowed. The issue was ignored. Dharmendra Pradhan is a symbol, and the students are in pain over how they've been treated. The symbol has to be removed."

## 200 detained during protest in Ahmedabad

**Express News Service**
*Ahmedabad, July 22*

POLICE DETAINED more than 200 people who took part in a demonstration held in solidarity with activist Sonam Wangchuk and Delhi's Jantar Mantar in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

All detainees were released later, said Joint Commissioner of Police (JCP-Sector 1) Niraj Kumar Badgujar. Hundreds of men and women took part in the demonstration held near Gujarat University. Zone 1 DCP Harshadkumar Patel said about 400 police personnel were deployed for Wednesday's protest, which took place peacefully, and that police did not use any force.

Among those detained was Jignya Vyas, a popular Gujarati theatre actor who got into a police van reciting the famous lines by Shailendra: "*Tu zinda hai toh zindagi ki jeet pe yakeen kar*". Her husband Saumya Joshi, a renowned Gujarati writer, poet and playwright, said: "She went for the protest in Ahmedabad and has just been released."

The march followed a similar protest held in Ellisbridge on July 20, when the agitators raised slogans for about two and a half hours as police detained many. The detainees were released later that night.

# Amid Opp-Govt tussle, Lok Sabha disrupted for third straight day

**Asad Rehman & Vikas Pathak**
*New Delhi, July 22*

THE LOGJAM in Lok Sabha over the NEET UG paper leaks continued for the third consecutive day on Wednesday, with the House being repeatedly adjourned despite the government telling the House that it was ready for a discussion on the issue.

The Opposition insisted on Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over an issue that has sparked protests at Jantar Mantar in Delhi as well as several other cities.

At noon, starting the face-off between the Treasury and Opposition Benches before the House was adjourned, Congress MP K C Venugopal said, "The entire nation is in pain now... the way in which the government brutally dealt with students protesting against Dharmendra Pradhan."

Speaker Om Birla intervened and said the Opposition will be given a chance to speak during the discussion.

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju then got up and said, "The government is ready to discuss the NEET paper leak issue. If a discussion has to happen, it has to be done under a rule... when the discussion has to happen, its duration and under what rule it has to be done... We are ready for a discussion."

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav intervened and said, "This issue is not of Congress or SP. It is of the youth. You let them (government) and them (Congress) speak. Has a compromise been reached without letting us speak? Resignation can be taken anytime. But the way you have treated students — hands broken, heads broken. Will you tear the clothes of daughters? Rahul ji and I had to go to the PM's residence because you didn't hear us yesterday. If the PM can speak outside, why can't he speak inside the House."

Speaker Om Birla said that all sides want a discussion on the issue and its form could be discussed.

Amid sloganeering by the Opposition after adjournments in the first half, the House was adjourned for the day minutes after it assembled at 2 pm.

# Scrap NEET, bring education under State List: TVK

**Arun Janardhanan**
*Chennai, July 22*

AS PROTESTS against irregularities in conducting NEET intensified in New Delhi, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) demanded not only the abolition of the centralised medical entrance exam, but also the transfer of education to the State List or an interim Special Concurrent List.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), meanwhile, reiterated its long-standing call to scrap NEET, saying only its complete abolition can end recurring controversies. On Wednesday, former chief minister and DMK leader M K Stalin said the protests in New Delhi had elevated Tamil Nadu's long-held position into a nationwide demand.

Reiterating that the DMK had opposed NEET from its inception, Stalin said his party had consistently warned that the examination was structurally prone to large-scale irregularities. He argued that the agitation should ultimately focus on one objective, the complete abolition of NEET, describing its removal as the only durable solution to recurring controversies surrounding the exam.

The statement came as protests in Delhi expanded beyond allegations of exam irregularities into a broader political confrontation over educational governance, transparency and accountability. Student groups, Opposition leaders and civil society organisations have intensified demonstrations, arguing that repeated controversies have eroded public confidence in the national entrance exam system.

C Joseph Vijay-led TVK asserts the party would 'never mislead voters with promises it could not constitutionally fulfil'

The ruling TVK, while echoing the demand for abolishing NEET, used the moment to distinguish its position from both the Union government and its principal political rival in Tamil Nadu, the DMK.

The party asserted that it was not merely opposing alleged irregularities in the exam but rejecting the very existence of NEET, calling for the exam to be abolished, and, going further, demanding that education be restored to the State List, enabling states to exercise full legislative authority over education and medical admissions.

If constitutional or procedural hurdles delayed such a move, it suggested creating a Special Concurrent List as an interim arrangement to devolve powers over education to state governments until a permanent constitutional solution could be achieved. The proposal reflects TVK's broader argument that recurring controversies surrounding national entrance exams can't be resolved merely through administrative reforms, but require a reworking of India's federal distribution of powers in education.

However, TVK's statement also carried an unmistakable political message aimed at the DMK. Without naming the party in its opening remarks, TVK accused its rivals of engaging in "fraudulent politics" by promising to abolish NEET solely to secure electoral support.

The TVK maintained that the party would never mislead voters with promises it could not constitutionally fulfil. The statement became more direct in its closing paragraphs, accusing the DMK of appropriating the ideas, labour and struggles of others while attempting to politically target TVK. It warned that if such attacks continued, the "history of political fraud" committed by DMK would itself come under public scrutiny.

RAM TEMPLE DONATION 'THEFT'

# Trust forms 9-member panel to run religious affairs, to review SBI tie-up

**Maulshree Seth**
*Lucknow, July 22*

SEEKING TO restore the confidence of seers from Ayodhya and elsewhere in the wake of the controversy over alleged theft of donations, the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on Wednesday constituted a nine-member Dharmik Committee of seers to look after all religious affairs at the shrine and announced to review its tie-up with the State Bank of India which has been tasked with the counting of offerings.

The decisions were taken in the Trust's second meeting after the controversy broke out in early June. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed by the Uttar Pradesh government to probe the alleged misappropriations.

Also, the Trust appointed an official spokesperson to "strengthen communication with the media and the public", even as it deferred the appointment of its first chief executive officer (CEO) by a month after the three-member selection panel sought more time to scrutinise over 5,200 applications. It also approved the appointment of a secretary to the three-member CEO selection committee until the process is over.

The Dharmik Committee will be headed by Trust treasurer Swami Govind Dev Giri with seers Mahant Kamal Nayan Das (Maniram Chhawani), Swami Ramanand Das (Ram Katha Kunj), Mahant Ram Kumar Das (Ram Vallabh Kunj), Swami Mithilesh Nandini Sharan, Mahant Dhirendra Das (Nirmohi Akhara and a trustee), Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Vasudevanand Saraswati, Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami, Vishwaprasannatirth Maharaj, Swami Parmanand Maharaj as members.

While the first five (barring Giri) are based in Ayodhya, the remaining are from elsewhere.

Giri said, "The Dharmik Committee will have authority over all religious activities of the Ram Temple. The temple will now function under the guidance of Ayodhya's seers. Their decisions on religious matters will be paramount. The Trust members will continue in their roles but will accept and implement the committee's decisions."

Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust Chief Nritya Gopal Das (centre) with other members during a special meeting in Ayodhya on Wednesday. PTI

The Committee's responsibilities would include ensuring all worship follows the Vedic Ramanandi tradition.

Krishna Mohan, the officiating Trust general secretary, said several decisions were taken keeping in view the anticipated increase in the number of devotees during the upcoming Shravan month.

The Trust will also continue with independent verification of gold and silver offerings through the India Government Mint, Mohan said.

Calling the formation of the nine-member Dharmik Committee the most significant decision of the meeting, Trust treasurer Giri said the committee would ensure that all religious rituals at the temple are conducted strictly in accordance with the prescribed Vedic Ramanandi tradition.

The committee will also take decisions on the annual calendar of festivals and religious celebrations and supervise the appointment, training and functioning of priests for the temple's 14 shrines.

The Trust announced to establish a training centre for priests to impart ritual practices, temple management and worship procedures, with certification from the Ram Temple. The centre will also come under the purview of the committee. Besides, the committee will coordinate with Ayodhya's maths, temples and gurukuls to strengthen their association with the Ram Temple.

Explaining the rationale behind the move, Giri said, "Every resident of Ayodhya should feel that this is their own temple."

Krishna Mohan said the SIT probing the alleged irregularities in the donation counting process has not yet submitted its report and, therefore, no discussion could be held on the issue.

The Trust also took note of proceedings concerning the matter in the Allahabad High Court. Expressing concern and disappointment over the SBI's handling of donation counting, the Trust directed its finance committee to reconsider the arrangement with the bank before taking a final decision.

The Trust said the continued flow of pilgrims despite recent allegations reflected the unwavering faith of devotees in Lord Ram, adding that filling up the vacant positions of trustees would take some time.

# SC seeks Lok Sabha Speaker's response on merger of Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs

**Express News Service**
*New Delhi, July 22*

THE SUPREME Court Wednesday refused to order any interim stay on Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's decision recognising the merger of six Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs with the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, but agreed to hear a challenge against the order after two weeks.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe issued notice to Speaker Birla on the writ petition filed by Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Arvind Ganpat Sawant, challenging what he claimed was "ex facie unconstitutional, illegal, and perverse circular dated 18.07.2026...issued by the Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat..." recognising the merger.

Appearing for Sawant, Senior Advocate Devadutt Kamat pointed out that no disqualification petitions are pending before the Speaker, and as such, there was no occasion to pass the order approving the merger.

Seeking an interim stay, Kamat contended that the merger order was signed by a joint secretary and not by the Speaker. Kamat said the matter "raises important questions of constitutional morality and propriety, goes to the heart of parliamentary democracy." He contended that "the whole thing" was "orchestrated only for the purposes of Parliament session...". In his petition, Sawant said the members of Parliament who merged with the rivals were given tickets by the Shiv Sena (UBT) and contested the Lok Sabha elections under the party's name and symbol (the flaming torch). "The entire organisation, rank and file, and the leadership of the political party put immense effort and resources in campaigning for and securing their victory... from their respective constituencies," he said.

He added that the electorate in these constituencies reposed faith in Uddhav Thackeray's ideology and leadership. "The Lok Sabha elections in 2024 were fought, inter alia, against the candidates sponsored by Shiv Sena, led by Eknath Shinde. The campaign, inter alia, revolved around the usurpation of the legacy of Balasaheb Thackeray by Eknath Shinde through illegal means and unconstitutionally orchestrated defections. The electorate of their constituencies, in electing...accepted and validated the campaign carried out by the SS (UBT) leadership and organisation". Sawant said in the petition that the MPs have "betrayed the faith of the electorate", and added that their action "in defiance of their parent political party is without any constitutional or legal sanction" and "is a blatant affront to the very concept of parliamentary democracy enshrined in the Constitution, which is based on the functioning of political parties".

The plea said "the impugned circular amounts to a constitutional hara-kiri, and weakens the very foundation of our parliamentary democracy. In fact, the present case is a stark example of the prevailing constitutional crisis surrounding the functioning of political parties in Parliament and in state Legislative Assemblies."

It urged the court to "discharge its role as the guardian of the Constitution to issue effective directions striking down the impugned circular and nullify the attempts of" the MPs "to undermine the democratic framework by functioning in the House in collusion with rival political parties." The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader said that "parliamentary democracy being a part of the basic structure of our Constitution", it is imperative for the court "to save our democracy from the political machinations" of MPs.

Meanwhile on Thursday, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal told a bench presided by Chief Justice of India that he had also filed a petition raising the question of interpretation of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution dealing with disqualification for defection.

EXPRESS special

# 75% miss Jharkhand govt exam, many blame late emails, far-away centres

**Shubham Tigga**
*Ranchi, July 22*

NEARLY 75% of the candidates who applied to take the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission's (JSSC) Field Worker Recruitment Examination missed the test amid complaints regarding the distance to exam centres and the alleged delay in the email intimation regarding admit cards.

The examination was conducted on July 19 for 510 Field Worker posts advertised by the JSSC in 2024. Over 3 lakh candidates had applied for the recruitment, for which the exam was held nearly two years after the notification was issued.

Of the 3,22,867 candidates who registered for the exam, only 86,444, or around 26%, appeared for it.

While the admit cards for the exam were uploaded on the JSSC's website a few days before July 19, several candidates from Jharkhand and Bihar claimed that they either did not receive any email intimation regarding this or received the email only on or after the day of the examination. The JSSC has said all the information was available on its website ahead of the examination.

One of the candidates who did not write the exam was 26-year-old Lipika Mahapatra from Baharagora in Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district. She said she was allotted an examination centre in Hazaribagh, over 300 km away, and decided not to appear for the exam. She said she got to know just about four days before the examination that she would have to travel overnight and arrange accommodation at such short notice.

"There was no convenient travel option from my place. Even if I reached Hazaribagh, I would have had to arrange a place to stay and bear the travel expenses. It was simply not possible in three to four days," Mahapatra said.

She also claimed that while she came to know about her examination centre after checking the website two days before the exam, the email regarding her admit card having been issued reached her only on July 20, a day after the examination. "I had prepared well and was depending on this recruitment. Missing the exam meant losing a major opportunity," she said.

Rupesh Kumar (22) from Sahibganj was allotted an examination centre in Gumla, around 550 km away. He claimed the email about his admit card reached him only at around 12 pm on July 19, after the examination had begun.

Kumar said he had filled the application form nearly two years ago. "Had I known about the centre earlier, I would have had to leave at least two days in advance because of the distance. By the time I came to know, it was too late... Jharkhand has a poor transportation system, and in such heavy rainfall, many trains were not on time," he said.

He said missing the Field Worker examination meant losing an opportunity he had been waiting for since 2024.

Ganesh Kumar Sonkar (21) from Hazaribagh said he was allotted an examination centre in Deoghar, forcing him to skip the exam because he could not afford the travel at such short notice. Unlike some other candidates, Sonkar claimed he never received an email regarding his admit card.

He said he learnt about his allotted centre only after checking the JSSC website a few days before the examination. "I saw that my centre was in Deoghar. Travelling there at such short notice wasn't possible. My family could not arrange the money immediately and with the rains, even reaching the railway station was difficult," he said.

Several candidates from neighbouring Bihar also claimed they could not appear for the examination in Jharkhand, alleging that they received email intimation regarding their admit cards only after the examination had been conducted.

Mayank Patel, who runs an online coaching platform for government job aspirants, said he had been regularly uploading videos and updates related to the recruitment examination. "The exam was initially scheduled for July 5 before being postponed to July 19. Students also have a responsibility to keep checking the JSSC website. But it is not possible for all students to keep track of a two-year-old vacancy. My [Telegram] channel cannot reach all 3.2 lakh candidates, and many aspirants do not own smartphones or have access to online coaching channels," he said.

Patel said the absence of nearly 75% of registered candidates in a recruitment examination conducted after a wait of almost two years reflected a systemic failure.

"This is a huge loss for the students. I have been receiving calls continuously from candidates who missed the exam. One of them was a pregnant woman from Hazaribagh who had prepared for nearly two years. Her husband works as a migrant labourer outside the state, and she was allotted a centre in another district. Even with three to four days' notice, it was not possible for her to travel alone. Allotting examination centres in distant districts makes no sense and leaves many candidates helpless," he said.

JSSC Secretary Sudhir Gupta told The Indian Express that all examination-related information, including the city intimation slip, admit cards and relevant links, had been uploaded on the commission's website before the examination. "Everything was available on the website. Candidates could access the city intimation slip and download their admit cards from there," he said.

# Odisha Police summons Pandian in missing inquiry reports case

**Sujit Bisoyi**
*Bhubaneswar, July 22*

THE ODISHA Police on Wednesday issued a summons to former IAS officer and BJD leader V K Pandian in connection with the investigation into the alleged disappearance of two inquiry commission reports from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) during the tenure of the previous BJD government.

Pandian, who served as former chief minister Naveen Patnaik's private secretary for over 10 years and later joined the BJD ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, have been asked to appear before police on July 25 for "examination". Police also asked him to extend full cooperation in the investigation.

"You are requested to bring with you any documents, records, electronic devices, or other materials relevant to the investigation that may be in your possession or control," read the police notice issued by the Capital Police Station.

Pandian could not be reached for comment.

Earlier, the police had issued summons to retired IAS officer Rajesh Verma and former Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer Manoj Mishra over the disappearance of two reports, one pertaining to the killing of Hindu seer Laxmananda Saraswati in Kandhamal in 2008, and the other on the fire at SUM medical college in 2016.

While Verma served as principal secretary to the former CM between 2017 and 2019, Mishra served as secretary of the Electronics and IT Department and as officer on special duty (OSD) in the CMO during the BJD rule.

Ex-IAS officer V K Pandian was Naveen Patnaik's private secretary for 10 years

The probe into the alleged disappearance of two inquiry commission reports started after an FIR was registered by the state's Home Department on June 10, in which it was alleged that the two judicial commission reports are not available in the CMO and remain untraceable despite searches.

The complaint alleged that while several other reports and files forwarded by the Home Department to the CMO were returned on June 4, 2024, when the Assembly election results became clear, these two remained missing.

The FIR claimed that the "disappearance" of the reports created a reasonable suspicion that they may have been "intentionally removed, retained, concealed, destroyed or otherwise unlawfully dealt with".

The summons issued to Pandian comes less than a month after his wife, Sujata Karthikeyan, who was also an IAS officer, joined the BJD.

Despite Pandian announcing his retirement from active politics after the BJD's debacle in the 2024 elections, he continues to enjoy Naveen Patnaik's trust and is currently heading the Biju Naveen Inspirational Foundation, an organisation that has Patnaik's Delhi residence as its address.

Though the BJD is yet to officially make a comment on the police summons to Pandian, party sources alleged that it was part of "diversionary tactics" by the BJP-led state government amid major protests in New Delhi and other parts of the country against the NEET question paper leak.

The development also came a day after Naveen Patnaik echoed the protesters' demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Patnaik, who returned from Delhi on Wednesday, also condemned the police action against protesting students, saying, "Everyone is deeply shocked by the violence of the police."

Patnaik also alleged that Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and other senior politicians were treated "very roughly" by the police.

BJD workers have also hit the streets in Bhubaneswar and other parts of Odisha, demanding the resignation of Pradhan.

# We're barred from meeting Wangchuk: Ladakh group

*Srinagar:* A delegation from Ladakh that is in Delhi to meet climate activist Sonam Wangchuk was unable to see him at the Medanta hospital Wednesday.

At least 12 members of the Kargil Democratic Alliance and the Apex Body Leh reached the hospital to enquire about his health and also to make an appeal to him to consider ending his fast. KDA co-chairman Sajjad Kargili said they had not been allowed to see him "and waited for him for four hours." The delegation also includes Ladakh MP Mohammad Hanifa Jan. "It seems that Sonam Wangchuk is still 'under detention' as his doctor informed us that we would be allowed to meet him only if the police have no objection," Kargili said.

The delegation also met with Cockroach Janata Party leader Abhijeet Dipke and other students at Jantar Mantar Tuesday. Kargili also said that the police stopped them from meeting Wangchuk "despite giving us assurances that we would be allowed to see him." PTI

# Days after C-section surgery, 5 women land in ICU; Telangana orders probe

**Nikhila Henry**
*Hyderabad, July 22*

FIVE OUT of 10 new mothers who had undergone C-sections on July 9 and 10 at the Area Hospital in Banswada of Telangana's Kamareddy district developed postoperative complications and were moved to the Government General Hospital, Nizamabad, and later to Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Hyderabad, for specialised treatment. The state government has constituted an inquiry committee to investigate the cause of complications.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Dr M Vijay Bhaskar, Medical Superintendent, Banswada, and in-charge District Coordinator of Health Services (DCHS), Kamareddy, said a total of 10 Caesarean sections were performed — five each on July 9 and 10.

After the surgery, a patient developed hypotension late in the night on July 9 and was referred to the Nizamabad district hospital. Another woman complained of chest pain on July 10 evening, and was also referred to the Nizamabad hospital. On July 11, three more women developed complications and required referral. "Though the symptoms were different, we felt that there was a possible pattern and initiated a detailed review," Bhaskar said.

Three of the women had low urine output and were referred to the Hyderabad hospital for dialysis, indicating kidney-related complications. Two of these three responded well to the treatment, with their kidney function improving, and were taken off dialysis.

"One was moved to the general ward, and two others continue to be in the Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU)," Bhaskar said on Wednesday.

The inquiry committee constituted by the state government, meanwhile, has been testing the fluids given to the women. "The fluids, including IV, have been proven to be sterile. We are now pharmacologically testing the drugs administered to the women," Bhaskar said.

## Jaishankar raises safety of Indian seafarers with Lavrov

**Shubhajit Roy**
*New Delhi, July 22*

A DAY after India summoned the Russian Charge d'Affaires and conveyed "unequivocal condemnation" and "grave concern" over the death of four Indian seafarers in a Russian missile strike on a merchant vessel off the coast of Ukraine, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday met Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and reiterated Delhi's "strong concern regarding the safety of Indian seafarers in the region".

Jaishankar, who met Lavrov in Manila on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit and ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting, said, "An in-depth review of our bilateral relations with FM Sergey Lavrov of Russia. Reiterated our strong concern regarding the safety of Indian seafarers in the region."

He also said that they "discussed various aspects of our partnership, including trade & investment, energy & connectivity, science & technology, and mobility. Also exchanged views on the Ukraine conflict and the Gulf situation".

India had on Tuesday summoned the Russian Chargé d'Affaires Vladimir Ladanov, and conveyed that "such attacks undermine the safety, security and stability of international maritime commerce".

"The Russian Chargé d'Affaires was requested to convey India's strong concerns to his authorities that the targeting of commercial shipping and the resulting loss of innocent civilian lives are unacceptable and must be avoided," it said.

## Cooperation, common goals focus of talks with Canada

**Press Trust of India**
*Manila, July 22*

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday held talks on bilateral ties with his Canadian counterpart Anita Anand, focusing on cooperation and common goals.

Jaishankar's meet with the Canadian foreign minister comes days after the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said investigators probing the 2023 killing of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada have found no evidence linking Indian officials to the murder.

However, it was not immediately clear whether the case of Nijjar or the issue of pro-Khalistani activists surfaced in the talks on Wednesday.

"Appreciate the discussion with Canada FM @AnitaAnandMP this afternoon. India-Canada cooperation has been steadily growing. Our conversation focused on achieving the goals for the relationship set by our Prime Ministers," Jaishankar said in a social media.

India-Canada ties witnessed a slide after former PM Justin Trudeau made sensational allegations in linking the Indian government to Nijjar's killing outside a Gurdwara in British Columbia. New Delhi dismissed those allegations as "absurd".

# With eye on China, Quad commits to strengthen 'free & open Indo-Pacific'

### Foreign Minister stresses on ASEAN centrality, Rubio says Quad remains a priority for US

**Shubhajit Roy**
*New Delhi, July 22*

(From Left) Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong during the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Manila on Wednesday. ANI

WITH AN eye on China's assertive behaviour in the region, the Quad foreign ministers committed to ASEAN's centrality and vowed to pursue peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific maritime domain.

This was one of the main takeaways from the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Manila on Wednesday, which was attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi.

After the meeting, Jaishankar posted on X: "Glad to participate in the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Manila. Reviewed the Indo-Pacific landscape and discussed recent developments. Followed up on the outcomes of the recent New Delhi meeting. Committed to a free and open Indo-Pacific with a recognition of ASEAN centrality."

Rubio said, "Was pleased to reconvene the Quad at the @ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting to emphasize our message: strong cooperation is vital to supporting ASEAN's own priority and centrality in the region."

"The United States, India, Australia, and Japan share a vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific that is grounded in the rule of law, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. The Quad remains a priority, and we will meet again later this year," he said.

According to the joint statement issued after the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting, "As ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partners, we, the Secretary of State of the United States and the Foreign Ministers of Australia, India, and Japan, met today in Manila to reaffirm our commitment to strengthening a free and open Indo-Pacific and our unwavering support for ASEAN unity and centrality."

"We are deeply invested in the region's success and in cooperating with ASEAN and its member states," it said.

"We discussed regional challenges and opportunities to strengthen our support for the practical implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) through our shared priorities of maritime and transnational security, economic prosperity and security, critical and emerging technologies, and humanitarian assistance and emergency response," the statement said, adding: "We are united in our conviction that peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific maritime domain underpin the security and prosperity of the region."

The Japanese foreign ministry said the Quad meeting confirmed that the grouping will continue advancing "concrete cooperation" to realise a free and open Indo-Pacific that focuses on maritime and transnational security, economic prosperity and security.

Motegi said Wednesday's meeting sends a strong message that Quad is committed to promoting cooperation that benefits the region. "The four ministers confirmed that the Quad will continue to advance concrete cooperation to realise a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)," a Japanese statement said. Motegi shared strong opposition to "any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion and grave concerns over export restrictions, including on critical minerals, and emphasised the commitment to the complete denuclearisation of North Korea," the statement noted.

S Jaishankar with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. ANI

## US says interim trade deal almost ready as Jaishankar meets Rubio in Philippines

**Shubhajit Roy**
*New Delhi, July 22*

THE INTERIM trade deal between India and the US is "almost complete" and Secretary of State Marco Rubio is likely to visit India before the end of the year, US officials said on Wednesday after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met America's top diplomat in Manila.

After an interaction on the sidelines of the ASEAN and East Asia meetings, Jaishankar posted on X: "Pleased to meet @SecRubio of the USA here in Manila. Our meeting focused on areas which are priority for the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, including trade & tariffs, energy, defence & security, critical minerals & artificial intelligence."

"We also exchanged quick perspectives on regional, global and multilateral issues of mutual interest," he said, referring to the wars in West Asia and Ukraine.

US State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott said, "Secretary Rubio met today with Indian External Affairs Minister Jaishankar in Manila... discussed recent developments in the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific."

"The Secretary and Minister Jaishankar discussed finalizing key defence agreements in fulfillment of commitments made between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi last year. (They) agreed on the importance of finalizing the interim trade deal, which is almost complete," he said.

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, who was also present at the meeting, said, "A very productive bilateral meeting between @SecRubio and @DrSJaishankar on the sidelines of ASEAN. In fact, Secretary Rubio might be coming back to India later this year... stay tuned."

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced plans to onshore drug manufacturing by keeping tariffs on imported generic medicines at zero percent for two years before raising them to 100 per cent in August 2028 and 200 per cent thereafter – a move that could impact India.

India is the largest exporter of generic drugs to the US.

## India underlines supply chain and market access with Wang

**Shubhajit Roy**
*New Delhi, July 22*

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and conveyed India's concerns on "predictability of supply chain", "market access" and facilitating "official and people-to-people exchanges". He also underlined that "peace and tranquility in the border areas" is the prerequisite for normal ties — Delhi's position on the border standoff for the last six years.

Calling it a "wide-ranging conversation", Jaishankar — who met Wang on the sidelines of the East Asia and ASEAN foreign ministers' meetings — gave a broader context to the meeting: "We ourselves met a year ago and you were recently in India. Today's occasion will be useful in taking stock of our ties and also discussing important regional and global developments." Wang had visited India in June. Underlining the Indian approach towards engaging with China since the border standoff began in May 2020, Jaishankar said, "We believe that a stable and cooperative relationship can best be developed on the basis of mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity. Such a relationship can make a valuable contribution to a multipolar Asia and a multipolar world."

"Peace and tranquility in the border areas is obviously the prerequisite for normal ties. Since October 2024, both sides have engaged to ensure that important objective. This will continue to need our constant attention. Relevant mechanisms in this domain must be given full support and strong encouragement," Jaishankar said. He referred to the India-China agreement on disengagement, which was agreed in October 2024 and completed in November 2024.

S Jaishankar with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. ANI

In October 2024, India and China firmed up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points in eastern Ladakh. The two sides withdrew their troops from several friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

"Since the meeting of our leaders in Kazan in October 2024, relations between India and China have been gradually normalizing. This direction was further affirmed when they met in Tianjin last August," Jaishankar said.

Giving the overall strategic context, the External Affairs Minister said, "It is natural that as two large and important nations, and that too proximate neighbours, India and China would have their own particular interests. That is why our leaders had agreed that differences should not become disputes. It is the responsibility of diplomacy to properly manage them." He was flagging the Indian approach on "differences should not become disputes" since the 2017 BRICS summit in Xiamen.

"The steps in normalization taken over the last few months must be welcomed. This includes resumption of direct flights, updating of the visa regime, restarting the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, and re-commencing border trade," Jaishankar said.

Elaborating on the challenges the relationship is facing, he said, "However, there are also important dimensions of our ties that need to be addressed. Fair market access and a trade balance rank high in that regard. There are also concerns about predictability of supply chains. Facilitating both official and people-to-people exchanges merit our attention. We also need to agree on the meetings of various mechanisms and platforms as per our mutual priorities."

China overtook the US as India's largest trading partner in 2025–26, with total bilateral trade reaching $151.1 billion.

**E. EXPLAINED**

### Cementing ties, but challenges remain

**IN AUGUST last year, at a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Tianjin, PM Modi had said India is committed to taking forward its ties with China based on mutual trust, respect and sensitivity. Since then, while solid progress has been made, certain challenges remain, including the unresolved border issue.**

## • BRIEFLY

Security personnel inspect the damaged Bailey bridge over the Namban Lok River in Manipur's Kamjong on Wednesday. PTI

MANIPUR

### Bailey bridge connecting several villages blown up in Kamjong

A BAILEY bridge connecting several villages in Manipur's Kamjong district to the district headquarters was blown up allegedly by unidentified miscreants using an improvised explosive device (IED), police said on Wednesday. The damaged structure was constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) over Namban Lok River. According to reports, local residents allegedly heard a loud explosion late Tuesday and discovered the following morning that the bridge had been destroyed. Police recovered bomb residues, including fuse fragments from the site, officers said. The miscreants also allegedly torched a telecom department vehicle parked nearby before fleeing. A case has been registered, police said. ENS

### Man arrested for smothering lover with pillow

THE THANE city police in Maharashtra arrested a 30-year-old man for killing his lover following a dispute over her alleged affair with another person, an official said on Wednesday. Accused Nandkishore Gadekar committed the crime on Tuesday. Gadekar told the police that despite being separated from her husband and in a relationship with him for the past five years, the woman was allegedly involved with another individual. PTI

### 2 killed, 6 injured as SUV crashes into a house

TWO PERSONS, including a woman were killed and six others injured after a speeding SUV crashed into a roadside house in Jharkhand's Latehar district on Wednesday evening, police said. The accident occurred near Damodar village within Chandwa police station limits. The deceased were identified as Rekha Devi (32), a resident of the same village, and the SUV driver Arvind Kumar (34), a resident of Chandwa, they said. PTI

## Gujarat HC takes suo motu cognizance of police flogging, public parading of handcuffed accused

**Aditi Raja**
*Vadodara, July 22*

THE GUJARAT High Court has taken suo motu cognizance of the alleged police flogging and public parading of handcuffed accused in Surat, days after an advocate urged Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal to intervene in what he called a "disturbing and shocking" violation of constitutional guarantees. The Secretary, Home Department, has been arraigned as the respondent in the matter.

The action follows a representation made on July 14 by advocate Utkarsh Dave, who sought immediate judicial scrutiny of videos circulating on social media that allegedly show Surat Deputy Commissioner of Police Rajdeepsinh Nakum, accompanied by 15 to 20 police personnel, parading handcuffed accused persons on public roads and repeatedly assaulting them with lathis. The representation alleges that the accused were "dragged by their hair, slapped and beaten in full public view under the supervision of senior police officers."

Dave's representation to the Chief Justice describes the conduct as a "blatant violation" of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution, arguing that no police officer has the authority to punish an accused before trial, and that the power to investigate an offence cannot be converted into a licence for summary punishment or public humiliation. It draws on the Supreme Court's ruling in D K Basu vs. State of West Bengal, the foundational precedent on custodial safeguards, and cites the Gujarat High Court's own observations in the 2022 Kheda flogging case, where a similar public assault on accused persons drew judicial ire.

The representation also refers to the Gujarat Police's own departmental instructions prohibiting the public parading, humiliation and assault of accused persons.

• 'WATCH' ANTIBIOTICS ARE STRONGER MEDICINES MEANT TO BE RESERVED FOR CONDITIONS WHERE SIMPLER DRUGS MIGHT NOT WORK

# India using too many powerful antibiotics meant for specific infections: Study

**Anuradha Mascarenhas**
*New Delhi, July 22*

INDIA MAY be using too many powerful 'watch' antibiotics — medicines that should be reserved for specific infections when simpler antibiotics are unlikely to work — while underusing both first-line 'access' antibiotics and last-resort 'reserve' drugs, according to a major international study published in *The Lancet Public Health*.

Researchers estimate that India's antibiotic use is skewed towards broader-spectrum drugs, suggesting that some patients are being exposed unnecessarily to 'watch' antibiotics even as others may not receive the most appropriate medicines for their infections. The findings come from the first global framework that estimates how much of each category of antibiotics countries actually need based on their infection burden and antimicrobial resistance patterns.

The India findings are part of a wider global picture that shows nearly three-fourths of countries are using more antibiotics overall than needed, while almost every country is overusing the antibiotics that contribute most to antimicrobial resistance. At the same time, millions of people worldwide still lack access to the antibiotics they need.

"Our study found that in India some patients were exposed unnecessarily to antibiotics while others did not have access to the right antibiotics to treat their infections," Professor Ramanan Laxminarayan, founder and president of One Health Trust, senior research scholar at Princeton University and one of the study's authors, told *The Indian Express*. "Strategies to improve antibiotic use will focus on ensuring populations have access to the right antibiotics at the right time while reducing unnecessary use."

### *How India map looks*

The study estimates India would ideally require 14.7 defined daily doses (DID) of antibiotics per 1,000 people per day, comprising 7.8 DID of 'access' antibiotics, 6 DID of 'watch' antibiotics and 0.99 DID of 'reserve' antibiotics. Actual consumption, however, paints a different picture. India uses 18.3 DID overall, comprising 4.5 DID of 'access' antibiotics, 9.3 DID of 'watch' antibiotics and 0.19 DID of 'reserve' antibiotics. Only 27% of antibiotic use comes from the 'access category,' against an estimated requirement of 52.3%.

"This suggests that in India some 'watch' antibiotics are potentially being used unnecessarily and some of this use could be replaced with 'access' antibiotics instead," Prof Laxminarayan says, adding India's higher burden of infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance means the country will legitimately require more 'watch' antibiotics than many other nations. However, the study also suggests 'reserve' antibiotics are being underused despite the nation's resistance burden, while antibiotics that are no longer recommended continue to be prescribed more than expected.

### *Prescribing pattern raises concerns*

The findings mirror earlier evidence from India. The National Centre for Disease Control's First Multicentric Point Prevalence Survey of Antibiotic Use (2021-22), conducted across 20 tertiary care hospitals in 15 states and two UTs, found that nearly 3 out of every 4 hospitalised patients were receiving antibiotics. The survey showed 57% of prescriptions were for 'watch' antibiotics, 38% were 'access' antibiotics and 2% were 'reserve' antibiotics. About 3% were fixed-dose combinations not recommended by WHO.

Only 6% of antibiotic prescriptions were based on microbiological evidence, with most antibiotics started without culture confirmation.

Dr Kamini Walia, Programme Officer (AMR) and Head of the Division of Descriptive Research at ICMR, who was not associated with the present study, says more than half (55%) of antibiotic prescriptions were for prophylaxis rather than treatment, suggesting opportunities to improve surgical prophylaxis, perioperative antibiotic policies and infection prevention practices.

She highlights unnecessary duplicate antibiotic coverage, noting that 26.4% of prescriptions included duplicate gram-negative coverage and 8.7% duplicate anaerobic coverage, increasing toxicity, costs and the risk of antimicrobial resistance without improving outcomes.

Another concern was the extensive use of injectable antibiotics, with 86.5% administered intravenously, alongside wide variation in prescribing practices across hospitals, where antibiotic use ranged from 37 % to 100%.

According to Dr Walia, India should particularly focus on reducing unnecessary use of commonly prescribed 'watch' antibiotics such as ceftriaxone, cefixime, azithromycin, ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin and piperacillin-tazobactam through better antimicrobial stewardship and awareness.

'Reserve' antibiotics, including meropenem, colistin, ceftazidime-avibactam, cefiderocol and aztreonam-avibactam, should be restricted to patients with documented or strongly suspected multidrug-resistant infections.

### What is antibiotic classification?

*The World Health Organization (WHO) groups antibiotics into three categories:*

- **ACCESS:** First-choice antibiotics for common infections that have a lower risk of driving resistance.
- **WATCH:** Broad-spectrum antibiotics that should be used only for specific infections because they carry a higher risk of promoting antimicrobial resistance.
- **RESERVE:** Last-resort antibiotics reserved for treating multidrug-resistant infections.

# Indian pharma sees little immediate threat in Trump's 200% tariff plan

**Anonna Dutt**
*New Delhi, July 22*

***With zero tariffs to remain for two years, industry leaders say high-cost US manufacturing and Trump's policy unpredictability make the proposal less alarming than it appears***

WHILE THE Indian generic pharmaceutical industry so far remained unscathed during several rounds of US tariff announcements, US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said tariffs on economical generics from India will be raised to 200% over the next three years.

In a Truth Social post, the US President said that the current zero per cent tariff would continue for another two years, after which the tariff will be raised to 100% for a one year period of time, and 200% thereafter. Trump's move is to reshore generic pharmaceutical production into the US.

Former DG of Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) Udaya Bhaskar doesn't consider this a new impediment. "Even during his previous presidency, at the time of Covid-19, he had said that he would support domestic manufacturing of generics and active pharmaceutical ingredients, but nobody really came forward. It is not easy for a US company to set up generic manufacturing and even if they do it is likely to cost at least 30% more than the Indian generics. Moreover, US companies would not be able to produce the kind of volumes Indian companies do." Instead, he said that India should continue to play to its strengths because it had the unique capacity to provide quality generics at reasonable costs at scale.

"The generics market across the world is huge. Trump has said no tariffs for next two years, which means almost the end of his term. The industry will have to wait and watch," he said.

This shift to other destinations is apparent. There has been a 7.9 per cent decline in exports to NAFTA region in 2025-26, largely driven by exports shifting from the US, according to yet-to-be released trade data provided by sources. At present, there is virtually zero duty imposed by the US on Indian pharmaceutical products, while India imposes around 10% duty on products it imports from the US.

An industry expert said the US is substantially dependent on Indian generics. "Implementing a 100% tariff is likely to increase costs for American patients. And, even though some companies have started working on establishing manufacturing within the US, large scale production will be difficult and the country would largely still be dependent on imports."

According to an analysis by Global Trade Research Initiative, India would still have relevance. "Largescale reshoring of generic drug production will be difficult because the industry depends on low-cost global supply chains and imported active pharmaceutical ingredients .... Many Indian generic medicines sell for seven to ten times less than branded alternatives. Even after a 100% tariff, many products could remain cheaper than branded medicines, meaning much of the additional cost would likely be passed on to US healthcare providers, insurers and patients rather than immediately eliminating Indian exports," it said.

The US accounted for 34.5% of India's total pharmaceutical export in FY2025, valued at USD 10.5 billion. Any increase in tariffs on Indian generic medicines will adversely affect the US citizens. Indian companies supply 47% of all generic medicines prescribed in the US.

NUMBER OF AFFECTED PEOPLE CLIMBED FROM 3.6 LAKH TO 5.6 LAKH IN JUST ONE DAY, SAY AUTHORITIES

# 'Whole village went under water': Assam grapples with floods, 21 dead in 24 hours

**Sukrita Baruah**
*Guwahati, July 22*

People cross a flood-affected area on a makeshift raft after heavy rainfall in Golaghat on Wednesday. PTI

THROUGH A long and sleepless night, Prasanta Borthakur's family, including his 95-year-old father, spent hours perched on chairs they had placed on their beds as flood waters entered their house in Nazira, in Assam's Sivasagar district.

The water had begun to rise rapidly between 5 pm and 7 pm on Sunday evening, and soon, it had entered their home in the Rajapul area and rose up to their chests. After sending out frantic calls and distress messages through the evening and night, a National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team reached them on a boat on Monday morning and evacuated them.

"Ours is the highest house in Rajapul, and till date, we have never had water enter our house. Forget in my lifetime, my father said that he has never seen such flooding in his 95 years. Our whole village went underwater, and everybody spent their night like us, or on the roofs of their houses, or even on trees," said 50-year-old Borthakur.

What unfolded in their village over Sunday and Monday was only the start of days of unprecedented flooding across the Upper Assam districts of Sivasagar, Charaideo, Jorhat and Golaghat. The flooding has been spreading to new areas of the region every day, and has claimed 27 lives so far. Within a span of 24 hours on Monday, 21 people lost their lives.

According to estimates by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, the number of people affected by the floods rose from 3.6 lakh on Monday to 5.6 lakh on Tuesday, signalling the rapid deterioration of the situation.

As of Tuesday night, a total of 6,101 people were evacuated by boats, with 5,764 of them being from Sivasagar. As many as 12,284 people were staying in relief camps across seven districts of Assam.

Floods inundate vast swathes of Assam every year, displacing lakhs of people. But the floods currently engulfing parts of Upper Assam are unprecedented in this belt, which does not usually experience this magnitude of flooding as it is located considerably inland from the banks of the Brahmaputra.

This time, the Brahmaputra's tributaries running through these districts, such as the Dikhow, Disang and Janji, have swelled up and inundated large swathes of the region.

By Tuesday evening and on Wednesday, the floods had reached Sivasagar town and rose up to waist level.

"I have never in my life seen this kind of flooding here," said 53-year-old Nasimuddin Ahmen, who works in a government office in the town.

"The small river, Darika, which flows a few kilometres from the town, has now overflowed. Every year when it rains, there is some waterlogging, but this is the first time that the river has reached the town. It has reached my backyard, and I have not been able to step out of home today," he said.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has attributed the floods in the region to a "cloudburst" in Nagaland's Mon district, which is located upstream from these tributaries. He had earlier said that the floods had resulted in "water levels unseen in half a century".

A scientist at the Meteorological Centre in Kohima said the rainfall in Mon does not technically qualify as a cloudburst, which the IMD defines as rainfall exceeding 100 mm within one hour. However, the district did experience a heavy spell of over 130 mm rainfall on Sunday.

"On Sunday, we had 137 mm of rainfall in Mon, which took place over a period of eight to nine hours. What happened is that in the 15-20 days before it, it received three-four spells of heavy rainfall, because of which the mountains were already saturated with water. The spell that took place on Sunday then triggered this," he said. Mon itself was devastated by the rainfall, with nine people losing their lives to landslides.

With the Opposition questioning the government over its preparedness for these floods, including in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, the government has maintained that "no one could be prepared" for what ministers have described as a "calamity".

Minister of Water Resources Susanta Borgohain told The Indian Express: "We have not had this kind of situation here earlier. The amount of rain released in Nagaland all went down to the foothill areas of Charaideo and Nazira. There has not been a breach of embankments. Instead, the water levels have completely overtopped them (meaning the water levels have crossed the tops of the embankments). And now it is draining towards the Brahmaputra in an unorthodox route, moving towards it not only through the tributaries but over free land."

The NDRF, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the Indian Army, district administrations and Fire and Emergency Services have all been pressed into rescue and relief work. According to officials, helicopters are also being used to airdrop supplies to areas that are currently inaccessible even by boat. They said that on Wednesday, drones have also begun to be used for the purpose.

# Leopard killed in wire trap: Forest probe cracks suspected poaching ring

**Parul Kulshrestha**
*Jaipur, July 22*

A TEAM investigating the death of a leopard found snared in wires in the buffer zone of Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve has made a breakthrough, with officials suspecting a poaching case.

The female leopard was caught in wires allegedly set up by poachers in the buffer area of Kota's Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve. Officials said her body was recovered on July 18. The incident has led to increased patrolling across the area.

"The female panther was approximately 3-4 years old and was frequently moving within the buffer area of the Borabas Range," Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Suganaram Jat said. "The trap, a strong snare of clutch wires or GI wires, were set up to catch wild boar or other animals."

The investigation led to the arrest of Vishal Harijan, a resident of Nayagaon, under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Investigators claimed to have recovered about 2 kg of potash, clutch wire, two knives, thick wire and a mobile phone from his home. He has been remanded to the forest department's custody. "Usually, clutch wires are used for catching herbivores such as wild boars. To catch a leopard or a tiger, poachers usually use foot traps," CCF Jat said. Typically, potash — recovered from the suspect's home — is mixed with food to lure animals. Once ingested, it explodes in the animal's mouth, killing it.

EXPRESS exclusive

# Doda protests: Auto driver shot by cops was ferrying men with 'cattle smuggling' past

**Arun Sharma**
*Jammu, July 22*

Arif Hussain, who suffered a bullet injury late Thursday, died on his way to the hospital, says his family

ARIF HUSSAIN, whose death in police firing led to protests across Doda and neighbouring Bhaderwah, with the district administration suspending mobile Internet, may have paid a price for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

An autorickshaw driver from Doda's Cheeka village, Hussain had been hired by some customers to drive them to a tourist place in Bhaderwah. He was coming back with the men when they were stopped by police in the early hours of July 16-17. Hussain is survived by his pregnant wife and three-year-old son.

Sources in police, which is yet to issue an official statement, say a checkpoint had been set up following an alert about possible cattle smuggling in the area. And that when the vehicle with Hussain was stopped, men inside who had faced allegations of cattle smuggling in the past tried to attack them and snatch their weapons. Hussain, they add, was hit by a stray bullet when a constable's automatic weapon "discharged accidentally".

Two inquiries have since been ordered, one by police and another by District Magistrate Krishan Lal.

Hussain's uncle Amjad Hussain told *The Indian Express* that hours before the incident, he had called home asking his wife to keep some dinner for him. Instead, it were police that came knocking, Amjad said. "They came at 2:30 am (on July 17) and told us Arif was in a hospital in Bhaderwah and was injured." The 30-year-old was already dead, having passed away on the way to the hospital.

Five persons who were in the vehicle with Hussain were apprehended, with officials claiming most of them have previous cattle-smuggling cases against them. Two of them were previously detained under the Public Safety Act. Police have filed an open FIR against unknown people for attempted murder, voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt to a public servant to deter them from discharging duty, assault on a public servant, theft and other offences.

The family says Hussain had left home on July 9, after he was hired by some local traders for a leisure trip to Jai Valley. "They offered Rs 10,000-Rs 11,000 to him to take them to some picnic spots," said Amjad. Located at a height of about 7,000 feet, about 32 km from Bhaderwah town, Jai Valley is a known picnic spot, popular among trekkers and campers for its big green meadows, dense pine forests, and the meandering Jai Nallah.

The family says Hussain left his auto at home, and told his wife he would be back in a few days. With connection patchy in Jai Valley, the family knew he would not be in regular touch. On the night of July 16, Hussain called up wife Muniba Bi, telling her he was returning and would have dinner. "Muniba waited till 11 pm, and when he didn't return, went to sleep," said Amjad. Then, police came.

The family says Hussain had a tough life, having lost his father Mohammad Iqbal when he was just 3, in brutal circumstances. A Special Police Officer, Iqbal was killed by militants in March 1999, and his body hanged from a tree outside his house. Hussain studied till Class 12, and then began working driving an auto.

People being evacuated from a flooded area in Gujarat's Navsari district on Wednesday. EXPRESS

# 1 dead, 1600 evacuated as heavy rain throws life out of gear in Surat, Valsad and Navsari

**Kamal Saiyed**
*Surat, July 22*

A FISHERMAN died and at least 19 persons were rescued in Gujarat's Valsad on Wednesday as heavy rain lashed the district, leading to flooding of the Daman Ganga, Par and Auranga rivers.

Neighbouring Navsari and Surat districts also recorded heavy rainfall, leading to flood-like situations. In Surat city, Bhedwad and Mithi creeks were flowing close to the danger level even as authorities issued a red alert for heavy rainfall.

Over 500 panchayat roads have been closed due to flooding in Valsad, Surat and Navsari and over 1,600 people shifted to safe places in the three districts. Two additional teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) have been deployed in the low-lying areas on the banks of Surat creeks.

The NDRF rescued three workers stuck inside a flooded sewage treatment plant in the Pali Hill area of Valsad town.

Valsad District Collector Nitin Sangwan said, "The Damanganga, Par and Auranga rivers are flowing near the danger level and we have alerted the people staying on the banks to be ready for evacuation, if water level rises further. A man, who had gone fishing in the district, died of drowning. Over 300 district panchayat and taluk panchayat roads have been closed."

In the town of Bilimora in Navsari, low-lying areas were submerged after just five inches of rainfall on Wednesday. The Ambika river was overflowing along both banks, with flood water reaching the city areas. Many houses in the shipyard area of Bilimora have been flooded. Apart from this, several areas in Navsari town and in different talukas were submerged by Wednesday afternoon.

From 6 am to 4 pm on Wednesday, Vansda recorded the highest rainfall at 172 mm while Navsari town received 96 mm. Ambika, Purna and Kaveri rivers are also in spate.

As per the data received from the flood control department, the Surat city recorded 75 mm rainfall from 8 pm on Tuesday to 4 pm on Wednesday.

Talukas in the district also recorded heavy rainfall during the period, with Ambica recording 140 mm, Mahuva 143, Bardoli 166 mm, Palsana 190 mm, Kamrej 72 mm, Umarpada 82 mm, Mandvi 41 mm and Choryasi 40 mm. Bhedwad and Mithi creeks in Surat city were flowing just about one metre below danger levels. Nearly 51 roads in different talukas had been closed by the district authorities and people have been advised to take alternate roads to reach their destinations.

Surat Municipal Commissioner M Nagarajan, Mayor Mayaben Mavani, and Standing Committee Chairman Rajan Patel reviewed the flood situation. Nagarajan said in a video message that people were being shifted from the Bhedwad creek area. "Citizens are being alerted through continuous appeals made through the public announcement system. In view of continuing rainfall, monitoring is being done on the BRTS and city bus routes. As many as five routes of the city bus service have been closed and other routes are being monitored," he said.

# Narrow escape for Dy CM, MP as landslides continue in J&K

**Arun Sharma**
*Jammu, July 22*

JAMMU AND Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and MP Mian Altaf had narrow escapes from landslides at separate locations in the Pir Panjal region on Wednesday, as heavy rain, flash floods and falling rocks continued to disrupt normal life across parts of the Union Territory for the fourth consecutive day.

Choudhary, the National Conference MLA from Nowshera, and Altaf, the party's Lok Sabha member from the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, were touring Rajouri and Poonch districts, respectively, to review relief and rescue operations after flash floods and landslides claimed 25 lives and caused extensive damage to public property and infrastructure.

Officials said that Choudhary's convoy was passing through the Chingus area near Rajouri when a landslide forced them to stop. After waiting for some time and assessing the situation, the cavalcade proceeded towards Rajouri, where Choudhary visited Bela colony, one of the worst-hit areas, and took stock of the damage caused by flash floods as well as the relief and rescue operations initiated by the administration.

Altaf's vehicle, on the other hand, was trapped in mud and debris in the middle of the road following a mudslide at Madana near Surankote in Poonch. The MP abandoned the vehicle and rushed to safety, before eventually resuming his tour after road-clearing personnel removed the fallen debris.

Meanwhile, Deputy CM Choudhary expressed concern over the delay in the construction of the Sumbal tunnel between Kalidhar and Chowki Choura on the NH-144A stretch linking Akhnoor and Rajouri. He said the prolonged construction work had worsened the condition of the highway.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO), which is executing the project, had assured Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during the last review meeting that the tunnel would be completed by July 15, Choudhary said. Referring to the extensive damage to roads caused by the recent rains, the Deputy CM said officials, particularly engineers working on Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) projects, were making efforts to restore road connectivity at the earliest.

# Ken-Betwa rehab: MP govt vows inquiry into complaints

**Anand Mohan J**
*Bhopal, July 22*

Villagers from the submergence zone of the dam sit on a protest by the banks of the Ken. EXPRESS

THE MADHYA Pradesh government on Tuesday said there would be an inquiry into complaints surrounding the rehabilitation of families displaced by the Rs 44,605-crore Ken-Betwa Link Project, after Leader of Opposition Umang Singhar alleged large-scale irregularities in compensation, rehabilitation surveys and Gram Sabha proceedings during a heated exchange in the Assembly.

Replying to Singhar's questions, Revenue Minister Karan Singh Verma maintained that almost all affected families had been compensated under the rehabilitation package and denied any scam. However, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav intervened to assure the House that any complaint brought before the government would be investigated and promised to complete the exercise within a month.

"If you are aware of any discrepancy or complaint, we will certainly investigate it and do justice to them. No one should suffer under our government," Yadav said. When Singhar sought a timeline, citing ongoing construction and police action against protesters, the CM replied that the matter would be resolved "within a month".

The debate centred on rehabilitation under the Ken-Betwa Link Project, India's first inter-basin river-linking project, which proposes to transfer water from the Ken River in Madhya Pradesh to the Betwa River flowing into Uttar Pradesh. The project is expected to irrigate over nine lakh hectares, supply drinking water across Bundelkhand and generate hydropower, but it also requires the acquisition of land and displacement of thousands of families in Panna and Chhatarpur districts.

According to the government's written reply, 1,321 families across seven villages in Panna district have been displaced, while 3,718 families in 14 villages of Chhatarpur district have been affected by land acquisition or submergence. The government stated that all affected families had been sanctioned compensation and rehabilitation benefits.

However, it also acknowledged that complaints had been received regarding omissions from rehabilitation lists and compensation disputes. In Chhatarpur, the government said village-wise survey teams were constituted through an office order issued on April 15, 2026. Following the resurvey, 638 additional eligible families were found and sanctioned rehabilitation benefits, taking the total number of beneficiaries from 3,080 to 3,718 families.

In Panna, the government said a fresh survey was also conducted after complaints regarding omitted beneficiaries and compensation assessment, but maintained that no eligible person had ultimately been left out and no irregularities were found.

Singhar questioned these claims, asking the government to table the survey reports and Gram Sabha proceedings before the Assembly.

"The government says everyone has received compensation, yet you yourself are saying some families are still pending. Will you table the survey report? Will you table the Gram Sabha proceedings?" he asked.

Verma agreed to place the records before the House as directed by the Chair.

The rehabilitation process has been at the centre of protests in the project area for months. Villagers in Daudhan, Palkhua, Sukwaha and other affected villages have repeatedly alleged that eligible family members were left out of surveys, compensation assessments were incorrect and rehabilitation benefits were unevenly distributed.

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*— By Manoj Kumar Jha*
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*— Max De Pree*

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## It's not just about a retest, it's about the India story

THE PROTESTORS at Jantar Mantar demand the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in order to enforce accountability for the leak of the NEET exam paper. The BJP-led government promises strict action against those involved and reiterates the successful conduct of the retest. In the stand-off, however, one point may be getting inadequate attention — focusing on the examination is important, but not enough. While hundreds of thousands appear in competitive examinations like NEET, only a small number gets selected. The challenge facing India's youth is much larger and encompassing: The vast majority continues to be ill-prepared and poorly-equipped to participate in India's growth story.

Nor is this a matter that can be solved by higher budgetary allocations alone. The Union government's allocations for education, according to an analysis in this newspaper, have come down sharply as a percentage of total government expenditure over the past 12 years since the BJP led-NDA government took charge. That downward trajectory is telling — it speaks about the government's commitment, or lack of it, to education. At the same time, the central government's budget allocation is not the only, or main, issue holding back improvements in the educational system of the country. Part of the problem is that education, which used to be a state subject until 1976, was shifted to the Concurrent List. This means the system's efficacy calls for a substantial degree of coordination between the Centre and state governments. The quality and efficacy of the education system must also be measured by its ability to make students employable in an ever-changing economy, at a time when technological change and geopolitics are disrupting long-held assumptions about human resource management and growth.

Even though the government has received generous mandates since 2014, its commitment to education has been far less visible than the energy and political capital it has invested in advancing its chosen cultural projects. So far, other than a refresh of the National Education Policy, it has not adequately prioritised investments in human resources as the necessary infrastructure for prosperity in the new economy. By the time the next general election comes along in 2029, a generation of voters will have grown up in a country ruled by NDA governments. These young voters are likely to be much more impatient with the lack of reforms in the education system, and the larger toll it takes on growth. The Jantar Mantar mobilisation by the young isn't just asking the government to fix an exam. It frames, instead, the urgent imperative to bring education to front and centre of governance — and the political discourse. The government, in its third term, with three years to go, needs to dial down the self-serving surround sound and listen to this message.

## A tightrope PM Burnham must walk

IN HIS first week as Prime Minister of the UK, Andy Burnham is already grappling with what will be one of his central challenges: Delivering change to a deeply dissatisfied public, from a constrained fiscal position. He has walked back the suggestion that he might raise the tax-free personal allowance, citing "financial circumstances". He has announced measures to tackle the cost-of-living crisis, including a cap on bus fares and a VAT cut on energy bills, and signalled an increase in defence spending with the appointment of John Healey — who resigned from the Keir Starmer government over its failure to allocate sufficient funds for defence — as chancellor. The same question arises: Where will the money be found? Burnham recognised the constraints early on: After saying last year that the government should not be "in hock" to the bond markets, he changed tack, and pledged to stay with Labour's fiscal rules. What remains to be seen is how he will thread the needle while delivering growth.

Social cohesion will be another major front for the new PM. He has retained Shabana Mahmood as home secretary, indicating that the government will maintain its much-criticised tough stance on immigration. He needs to face the ethno-nationalist tide, and not be seen to buckle before it. One fallout has been in the poorly managed university sector, which had relied on international students as a cash cow and now faces a severe financial crunch due to visa restrictions. The consequences are playing out in the form of sweeping faculty job cuts, threatening one of the areas where the UK is truly world-leading. The government needs to step in with a plan to rescue and restructure the sector.

Labour has three years before it must face the electorate again. To navigate a historic political realignment, it has to quickly move past the ignominy of Starmer's ouster and tamp down on factionalism. The challenges of restoring public trust and political stability while walking a fiscal tightrope are steep. Burnham enters office with a measure of goodwill, as seen in Labour's polling bounce; he will have to make full use of it.

## China's poet of precarity

SCRIBBLED ON stray scraps of paper during the work day, Wang Jibing's poems carry the relentless soundtrack of the gig economy — of labyrinthine lanes, noisy traffic junctions, irate phone calls, but also the constant hum of chronic uncertainty. That the collection, *Low Flight*, has won the 56-year-old Chinese food delivery agent the Lu Xun Literary Prize, China's premier literary award, is a heartening affirmation of both his resilience and literature's capacity to celebrate imaginative expansiveness, no matter where it emerges from.

Wang is part of a growing tribe of blue-collar workers in China who have turned to writing to make sense of their hardscrabble lives. Literature is replete with such examples. Maxim Gorky wandered through poverty and odd jobs before becoming Russia's chronicler of the dispossessed; Maya Angelou was San Francisco's first female Black streetcar conductor before she found writing; Raymond Carver a janitor and mill hand before his stories reshaped American fiction. In India, Daya Pawar, Bama, Omprakash Valmiki and countless others wrote from the margins, forcing literature to bear witness.

What does a low flight reveal? Not a bird's eye view of the world, but a sharper picture of what it is to live close to the ground, without a scaffolding of certainties, learning to make the odds work in your favour, somehow. Wang, who had to drop out of school because of poverty and spent decades working in construction sites, street stalls and other precarious work, has refused to give up his job even after the award. It is a moving validation of the courage of the ordinary, in not ceding ground, in holding on to all that gives life, labour and dreams meaning.

# The voice of India's youth must be heard inside Parliament

**THAROORTHINK**
BY SHASHI THAROOR

THE TRUE measure of a constitutional democracy lies not in the authority it wields to enforce compliance, but in the humility with which it engages dissent. A secure republic treats peaceful protest as an opportunity to look into a mirror reflecting the anxieties of its citizenry. A fragile executive, by contrast, treats that same mirror as an enemy, shattering it with lathis and turning a blind eye when the glass pieces fall on the streets outside the gates of power, cutting the veins of its citizens.

What the nation has witnessed in recent days on the streets of the national capital is a deeply troubling demonstration of democratic atrophy. Citizens, primarily young students and peaceful activists, many inspired by the symbolic leadership of the fasting Sonam Wangchuk, gathered to demand accountability on issues touching their very futures. The response from the apparatus of the state was not a dialogue, but a crackdown, silencing their voices with violence and detentions.

Lathi charges broke through crowds of non-violent demonstrators, sending nearly a hundred young men and women to hospital emergency wards with fractures, contusions, and trauma. The sight of police officers wielding batons against unarmed youth, while internet blackouts and closed metro stations throttled the flow of both information and people, felt less like the routine maintenance of public order in a constitutional republic and more like the heavy-handed oppression of a police state. I spoke to a young man at Jantar Mantar who had been hit on the head and below the eye with a lathi and still wore a large bandage to stanch the bleeding. My heart broke to see what the custodians of law and order had done to a youth who was peacefully distributing water to the protesters.

Equally jarring has been the government's disgraceful manhandling of the protesting Leader of the Opposition and the environmentalist-educator Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike. For three weeks, Wangchuk sat in quiet, disciplined fast at Jantar Mantar, a historic venue designated precisely for the public expression of grievance. His method was classically Gandhian: Self-abnegation as an appeal to the conscience of the state. The smart thing for the government to do would have been to send a minister with a glass of nimbu-pani and the assurance of a discussion in Parliament, to urge him to break his fast.

Yet, rather than engaging in a spirit of constructive conciliation, the state chose the path of coercion. Under the cloak of medical necessity, police forces descended upon the protest site to forcibly remove the frail 59-year-old activist to a government hospital. The line between medical intervention and state custody became dangerously blurred, and even here the government was found wanting in basic humanity. The appalling treatment of Rahul Gandhi, who was bodily lifted and dragged into detention, was a betrayal of the democratic compact.

A state that fears the moral authority of an unarmed protester reveals a profound lack of confidence in its own narrative. The pattern of suppression, the targeting and arrest of student leaders, and the physical intimidation directed at protest organisers speak to a broader political strategy: Render the movement leaderless, criminalise its protests, and wear out public outrage.

> It is time to prove to the youth of India that their voices need not be battered and bruised on the streets to be heard in the corridors of power

The scene on the streets represents a failure of governance; the response inside the halls of Parliament so far represents a systemic failure of legislative duty. As central Delhi burned with frustration and tears, one might have reasonably expected the sacred precincts of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to reverberate with urgent debate. The Opposition moved numerous notices demanding a suspension of business to discuss the breakdown of law and order, the grievances of the protesting youth, and the excessive force used by law enforcement.

These notices were met with summary rejections, procedural stonewalling, and unyielding governmental indifference. The message conveyed to the nation was unmistakable: The grievances echoing across the streets outside were unwelcome on the carpeted floors inside. When the executive insulates itself from parliamentary discussion, it strikes at the fundamental design of parliamentary democracy — a system where the executive is accountable to the legislature, representing the sovereign will of the people.

The government has done well, even if belatedly, to signal its willingness for a parliamentary discussion. For, if Parliament is not the forum for the nation's elected representatives to ventilate public grievances, interrogate executive overreach, and seek solutions to pressing social crises, then what purpose does it serve? It cannot be reduced to a glorified notice-board for ministerial announcements, nor an administrative rubber stamp to pass the government's Bills.

When a government closes the door to parliamentary debate and deploys police lathis on public streets, it creates a dangerous vacuum. Dissent does not disappear simply because it is beaten out of public sight; it merely turns inward, festering into cynicism and alienation among the young, like the female students at Jantar Mantar who told me in disbelief of being manhandled by policemen and witnessing demonstrators being assaulted with brutality by men in plain clothes wielding lathis studded with nails.

Democracy is sustained not by the enforcement of silence, but by the welcoming of open debate. The right to peaceful assembly under Article 19(1)(b) of our Constitution is not a privilege conceded by the state at its convenience; it is a foundational right forged in our freedom struggle. To treat peaceful demonstrators as security threats or law-and-order nuisances is to forget that the very architects of our republic were themselves courageous protesters who chose the weapon of satyagraha over submission.

The path forward to preserve our democratic compact requires an immediate course correction. An independent judicial inquiry must be instituted into the excessive use of force, pellet injuries, and lathi-charges against non-violent protesters. Accountability is essential for wrongdoing both here and in the conduct of examinations: The government must unconditionally engage with representatives of the protesting students rather than relying on police containment. And the Speaker and the Treasury benches must allow uninhibited discussion on the public's grievances on the floor of the House. That is what Parliament is for, and it must reclaim its pride of place as the deliberative sanctuary of the republic.

It is time to prove to the youth of India that their voices need not be battered and bruised on the streets to be heard in the corridors of power.

*The author is a fourth-term Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram*

# Trade deals need to be set in strategy, not expediency

SRINATH SRIDHARAN

**DEAR EDITOR**
**I disagree**
*A fortnightly column in which we invite readers to tell us why, when they differ with the editorial positions or news coverage of 'The Indian Express'*

A RECENT editorial in this newspaper argued that a deal with the United States now will go a long way in reducing the uncertainty that has marred relations between the countries, while expanding trade ('Ahead of the big deal, strike a careful balance', *IE*, July 17). But the proposed India-United States trade agreement is about far more than trade. It is about how a rising India engages the world's largest economy while preserving the strategic confidence, policy flexibility and institutional freedom that will define its next phase of growth.

Even after agreements with the UK, Australia and Europe, no market matches the scale, investment capacity, technological depth and strategic importance of the US. Equally, America has strong reasons to deepen its economic engagement with India. It seeks access to one of the world's fastest-growing consumer markets, a trusted strategic partner in an uncertain Indo-Pacific and an economy that will shape demand for digital and financial services. Neither country can fully realise its ambitions without a deeper partnership with the other.

Washington may also have underestimated India by assuming that the goodwill and political symbolism of the Howdy Modi moment would translate into greater negotiating flexibility and acceptance of US preferences in a bilateral agreement. It did not. Tariffs, public pressure and shifting geopolitical signals may have tested the relationship, but they did not fundamentally alter India's negotiating posture, reminding both capitals that political chemistry has its limits, whereas sound public policy demands pragmatism, reciprocity and an unwavering commitment to long-term interests.

That is precisely why these negotiations deserve greater public reflection. The pursuit of immediate economic gain, or the political satisfaction of announcing a successful agreement, could gradually narrow the policy choices available to future governments. Every bilateral negotiation requires accommodation. None should diminish a nation's long-term strategic confidence.

Diplomatic engagement has become more transactional and, on occasion, uncomfortably patronising. Tariffs, sanctions, export controls, technology restrictions and financial access have become instruments of geopolitical influence. India has navigated these changes with composure. That composure should continue, but New Delhi must remain anchored in strategic judgement rather than tactical expediency.

> India should eliminate exploitative labour practices because they weaken our economy, diminish our reputation and betray our own values, not because another country expects it

The commitments India accepts today may well become the standards the US expects from it and others tomorrow. Trade agreements increasingly establish geopolitical precedents, not merely commercial obligations. That is why every clause deserves to be negotiated with an eye on the next decade rather than the next news cycle. The concerns over forced labour should also prompt introspection, not indignation. India should eliminate exploitative labour practices because they weaken our economy, diminish our reputation and betray our own values, not because another country expects it.

Equal care is required in areas extending beyond merchandise trade. Labour mobility, digital trade, data governance, and emerging technologies will shape India's development long after tariff schedules are forgotten. The defining lesson of contemporary geopolitics is unmistakable: Technology that a nation does not own can, one day, be used to influence, constrain or coerce it. Trade agreements must preserve India's sovereign ability to govern its data, regulate its digital economy and shape its technological future. The same discipline should guide India's approach to food and energy security.

Agreements of this consequence acquire greater durability and public confidence when subjected to scrutiny before becoming binding national commitments. Such scrutiny strengthens international agreements by giving them wider political ownership and democratic legitimacy. The understandable desire to conclude an agreement within a political timetable should never outweigh the responsibility of preserving India's long-term strategic choices. We should negotiate for the economy we aspire to become, not merely the economy we happen to be.

*Sridharan is a corporate advisor and author of* Family and Dhanda

# Beyond the protests, three education initiatives

SHASHANK R JOSHI

SHAMBO SAMRAT SAMAJDAR

AN EXAMINATION leak is a grave failure and demands accountability. But reducing India's current education debate to one demand — "Dharmendra Pradhan must resign" — risks obscuring a far larger transformation. Today, the deeper contest is over who will shape the Indian mind: Its textbooks, languages and pathways to opportunity. Three government initiatives deserve to be judged on their substance. NCERT's new Class IX Mathematics textbook gives greater space to ancient Indian knowledge traditions and scholars such as Baudhayana, Brahmagupta and Madhava. Generations of students encountered Euclid and Newton without adequately learning about the *Sulba Sutras* or the Kerala School of Mathematics. This is not a rejection of Western knowledge. It is the correction of an inherited imbalance. The same principle applies to history. India's past should be presented through evolving archaeological, genetic, linguistic and textual evidence — not through colonial assumptions.

Second, the CBSE's move towards three languages recognises a profound truth: Language is not merely a subject but a vessel of memory and thought. Bengali, Tamil, Marathi, Odia, Gujarati, Kannada and India's other languages carry civilisational knowledge that English alone cannot preserve. The objective should remain additive multilingualism — strong Indian-language foundations alongside competence in English as a global bridge.

Third is examination reform. The K Radhakrishnan Committee proposed stronger data security, greater state and district involvement, more reliable examination centres, biometric safeguards and a gradual transition towards computer-based testing. The latest breach does not invalidate this direction. India cannot protect examinations through technology alone, but neither can it secure them without modernising an outdated, vulnerable system. There is also a commercial dimension that polite debate often overlooks. One private market-research estimate valued India's coaching-classes market at approximately Rs 64,244 crore in 2022 and projected it to approach Rs 1.80 lakh crore by 2030. Separately, Ministry of External Affairs data recorded approximately 12.54 lakh Indian students at foreign universities. Any reform that improves institutions, reduces the dependence on coaching, strengthens Indian languages or challenges inherited academic narratives will unsettle established revenue streams. This does not make every protester compromised or every critic anti-national. Many students have genuine grievances. But it would be equally naïve to imagine that every campaign against reform is free from political, ideological or commercial interests.

> Ministers and hashtags will pass. Textbooks will shape memory, languages will shape consciousness, and examination systems will distribute opportunity for decades

The government must identify failures, punish those responsible and protect affected students. But accountability should strengthen reform, not become a pretext for abandoning it. "*Satyameva jayate*." Truth alone triumphs. But first, we must be allowed to teach it.

*Joshi is a Mumbai-based endocrinologist. Samajdar is a Kolkata-based clinical pharmacologist*

## 40 YEARS AGO
July 23, 1986

INDIAN EXPRESS
Zia's denial of role in Punjab bogus
Buta criticises Akali leaders
31 killed as Lanka bus hits mine
Reliance loans will be recalled if misused, says V. P. Singh
Charges borne out by facts: RBI report

### Zia's denial of role in Punjab

THE HOME MINISTER, Buta Singh, dismissed as "bogus" Pakistan President Gen Zia-ul-Haq's denial of his country's complicity in terrorist acts in Punjab. Replying to a day-long discussion on the situation in Punjab in the Rajya Sabha, Buta Singh said the issue had been taken up on several occasions, both in writing and verbally, with the Pakistan government through diplomatic channels.

### Bus hits mine in Sri Lanka

THIRTY ONE persons died on the spot and 22 were injured when a Ceylon Transport Board bus hit a landmine in Mahamadhu in the Vavuniya district, according to informed sources. The bus was travelling from Kochikattu on the Horapatana road to Vavuniya when the incident occurred. The impact of the explosion is said to have blown the bus 50 feet high.

### V P Singh on Reliance loans

THE FINANCE MINISTER, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, said that the loans given to companies connected with Reliance in the debenture case would be recalled if it was found that they were not being put to "proper" use. Singh told A G Kulkarni and others in reply to a spate of supplementaries in the Rajya Sabha during Question Hour that a four-member committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India was also looking into the "end use" of the loans given to the Reliance companies.

### India-China talks

CHINA'S RECENT deepest intrusion into Indian territory since the 1962 war came up at the seventh round of ongoing Sino-Indian talks, as officials completed a review of the eastern sector. India's charge about last month's intrusion into Sumdorong Chu valley area of Arunachal Pradesh came up on the opening day of the talks with discussion on who had intruded where and when.

**WHAT THE OTHERS SAY**

The IDF must stop killing children and investigate those responsible.

*— Haaretz, Israel*

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# Science thrives on a global outlook, an inclusive culture. FCRA makes it difficult

VIKRAM PATEL

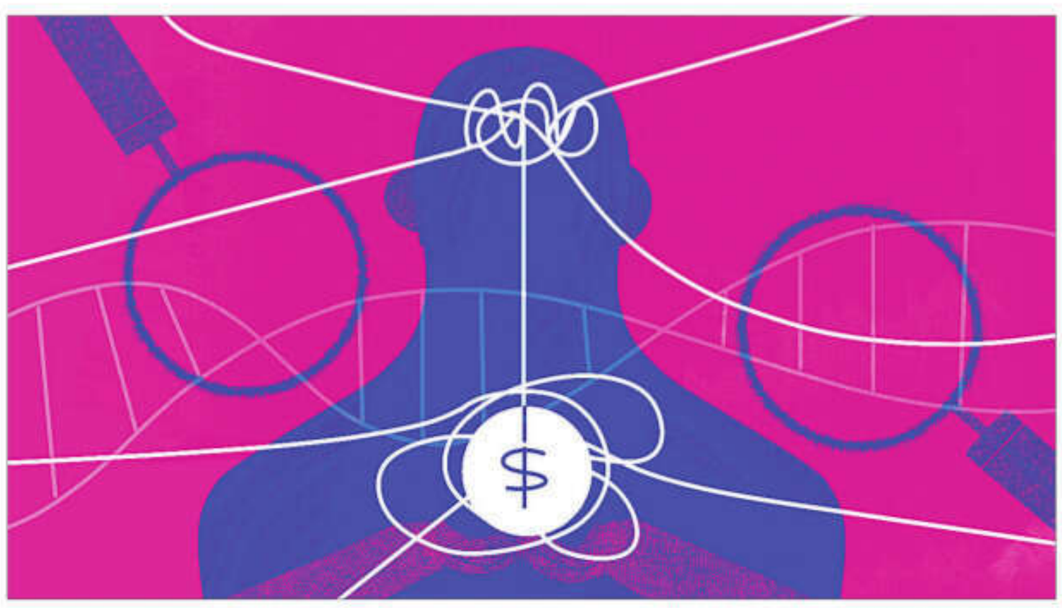


ILLUSTRATION: C R SASIKUMAR

SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS have proclaimed their vision for India to become a powerhouse of scientific research. The current NDA regime has launched new initiatives to catalyse the science ecosystem — these include the Anusandhan National Research Foundation, the introduction of national rankings of research institutions, and the institution of fellowships to attract diaspora scientists to work in Indian institutions. However, India continues to be a laggard amongst its peer nations in high-impact research productivity. None of the country's institutions figures in the top 100 of any global ranking. Many of our brightest minds continue to seek opportunities abroad, and the work of scientists is powering the rankings of their adopted institutions and, by extension, the countries in which they are located. The success of the national science ecosystem requires not just the talent of individual researchers but also a global outlook and an inclusive culture. At the heart of such an ecosystem is collaboration and partnerships between institutions within and across countries. The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) has been a singular obstacle to India's science ecosystem.

First, a bit of history. The Act's genesis lies in the late 1960s, when the government suspected foreign agencies, such as the CIA, of funding trade unions, student bodies, and political organisations to undermine India's democracy. This prompted the then home minister to raise the issue in Parliament in 1969, leading to a consensus that foreign money should not be allowed to undermine the state behind the mask of charity. After due parliamentary process, the FCRA came into force on August 5, 1976 — it aimed to ensure that voluntary organisations functioned "in a manner consistent with the values of a sovereign democratic republic". Since then, successive governments have tightened the regulations through multiple amendments, culminating in the most recent ones, which have ramped up the regulatory compliance for NGOs and amplified the powers of the state to terminate FCRA approval and seize the assets of organisations. It is not my intention in this article to question the rationale or legality of the FCRA, but to highlight how the FCRA, from its inception, has been throttling the work of NGOs whose work is related to science.

Readers may wonder what NGOs have to do with science in the first place. After all, many of us think of NGOs as primarily concerned with the provision of services such as education or healthcare or promoting rights-based activities (the latter being, unsurprisingly, the most sensitive sector for governments). I believe that those formulating the FCRA rules in government don't seem to recognise that many globally renowned research institutions in India are categorised as NGOs and, as such, fall under the purview of the FCRA. Examples include both institutes which have diverse scientific portfolios such as the Public Health Foundation of India, Christian Medical College (Vellore), St John's Medical College, Ashoka and KREA universities, as well as niche institutions that work in specific fields such as Sangath, the Schizophrenia Research Foundation and the Centre for Mental Health, Law and Policy in the mental health field; the Centre for Chronic Disease Control and Dr Mohan's Diabetes Centre in the non-communicable diseases field; and M S Swaminthan Research Foundation and ATREE in biodiversity and environmental science. This vast and diverse ecosystem is, perhaps inadvertently, experiencing collateral damage from regulations designed to prevent foreign interference in India's democratic polity in multiple ways, not least through strangling the opportunity for these institutions to collaborate internationally and with each other in the country.

> In the case of NGOs engaged in scientific activities, this role can be readily identified through existing regulatory procedures, and FCRA rules can be tailor-made for this sector

I offer two concrete examples to illustrate these observations. The first is the rule that foreign funds received by an NGO in India can never be repatriated out of the country. This regulation flies in the face of the reasonable requirement by international funders that unspent funds from a research project must be returned upon completion of a project. But, even more worryingly, it also means that no Indian NGO can ever be the lead institution in an international collaboration because it cannot fulfil the obligations of a lead institution to transfer funds from the parent grant to a foreign institution. The second example is the 2020 change to the FCRA, which stopped NGOs receiving foreign donations from sharing those funds with any other NGO in India, even those legally registered to receive foreign funding. This was a deliberate shift from a "regulated transfer" model to an outright prohibition on sub-granting. In effect, this meant a shutdown of collaboration within the country, not only hurting smaller, grassroots NGOs that historically relied on larger NGOs re-granting foreign funds to them, but also hindering science, which requires engagement with communities, as is the case with many studies concerned with health and development.

It is important to note that the source of the funds for NGOs working on scientific endeavours are not donations but grants from renowned international research bodies such as the Wellcome Trust or the National Institutes of Health. These are hard-earned in globally competitive bids with selection through a transparent process of peer review; it is for this reason that such awards are highly prized by institutions such as mine because they reflect world-class scientific minds. In India, on the other hand, instead of honour and prestige, such foreign grants are viewed with suspicion.

There is an easy remedy to this matter — to bring nuance into the classification of NGOs in India and recognise the immense diversity of the roles that they play. In the case of NGOs engaged in scientific activities, this role can be readily identified through existing regulatory procedures such as recognition by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and FCRA rules can be tailor-made for this sector of NGOs. Such a measured strategy would not undermine the goal of the government to regulate the NGO sector. At the same time, it would also not cause collateral harm to the globally renowned institutional ecosystem for science in India.

*The writer is the Paul Farmer Professor at Harvard Medical School and co-founder of Sangath, which works on mental health*

# A thesis in an extraordinary time, a promise to keep

UMAR KHALID

DURING THE writing of my PhD thesis, every time I grappled with self-doubt, I reminded myself that no one, apart from my supervisor and external examiners, was ever going to read it. That it was important that I simply submit it before the final deadline.

Eight years since its submission, six of which I have spent in prison, its publication as a book fills me with more dread than excitement, for I was anything but satisfied with what I wrote.

But readers should keep in mind that this thesis was written in extraordinary times. A decade ago, in February 2016, three of us — Anirban, Kanhaiya, and I — were arrested in the infamous JNU sedition case and branded "anti-national" overnight. Not in any court of law, but in emotionally charged TV news debates. A decade later, the trial in the case has still not begun.

But back in that winter, frothing news anchors, playing judge, jury, and executioner, would leave their viewers with one question: Should hardworking taxpayers' money be spent on funding universities such as JNU where "anti-nationals" like us gathered?

In JNU, one learnt as much in the classrooms as at its dhabas, protest gatherings and nocturnal public meetings. We could spend nights at the barricades, as we did in 2015 during the #OccupyUGC movement, demanding student scholarships. But we also put in equally long hours at the library.

A few days after our arrest, the three of us had a coincidental meeting in the lock-up of the RK Puram police station, where we were confined after a day of "joint interrogation". In that meeting, we promised each other that, irrespective of all the difficulties yet to come our way, we would submit our PhD theses on time.

Any academic failure on our part, we knew, would be used to bolster the narrative against JNU specifically, and public universities generally. We had to push back, not for ourselves alone, but for the student movement of which we were a part, and for JNU, which had shaped us.

But little did I realise that night just how challenging doing research was going to become in the coming days. In the initial years, I had worked a little in the archives and record rooms of Chaibasa, Ranchi, Patna, and Kolkata. But I had planned most of my fieldwork for later years.

ILLUSTRATION: TANUSHRI MITRA

After February 2016, however, thanks to all those TV debates, I couldn't move around to conduct fieldwork. While correcting the proofs, I could see the places where the narrative became somewhat hollow — not because I didn't have an argument, but because I didn't have enough primary material to substantiate it.

However, there is a conceptual framework underpinning this work, which I hope readers will discern. I became interested in the histories of Adivasis towards the close of the first decade of this century, a period marked by powerful Adivasi movements resisting dispossession from their jal-jangal-zameen. It also brought debates around development, democracy, and decentralisation in tribal tracts to centre stage.

In several representations during that period — be it in writings, films, or even the imagery popularised by social movements — Adivasis were portrayed as idyllic indigenous communities living in harmony with nature and one another, whose interests were best represented through their village bodies. Their resistance was seen as a valiant defence of their commons against predatory capitalists.

The conflict in the Adivasi areas, whether in the colonial past or in the present, could not, however, be reduced to one simply between avaricious outsiders and idyllic insiders. The Adivasis were not always resisting the state. Sections of them were more than happy to collaborate with the state to enhance their standing.

My effort in this work has also been to explore the social basis of this "collaboration". What were the ground-level contingencies forcing the colonial and post-colonial states to engage with local structures of authority? And how did this engagement further reshape the local communities?

I am aware of the many shortcomings of this work. I wanted to examine histories of labour, undertake ethnographic fieldwork, look more extensively at the movement for the creation of Jharkhand. But in the end, such ambitious plans had to be shelved. I did manage to submit my thesis, though not without an intervention from the Delhi High Court.

This thesis was written not just for a doctoral degree but as an act of resistance — against lies, propaganda, and the use of state power to silence our voices. Most of all, it was written to honour the promise of completing our PhD on time, made by three seditious souls to one another, in a dingy police lock-up.

*Khalid is the author of* Fractured Communities: Adivasi Histories and the Politics of Power

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### March aftermath

ADITI NARAYANI PASWAN'S call for working strictly within institutional boundaries ('Students need to guard against undermining institutions', *IE*, July 22) overlooks why citizens take to the streets in the first place. Agitation is rarely a first resort; it is a symptom of institutional failure. When paper leaks, administrative opacity, and bureaucratic stonewalling exhaust grievance mechanisms, expecting students to remain passive misinterprets democratic responsibility. Further, framing student assembly as the primary source of disruption ignores the state's aggressive response to legitimate dissent.

*Malavika Chandrasekharan, Hyderabad*

THE FORCIBLE removal of the Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi who was staging a sit-in protest outside the residence of the Prime Minister, subsequent to the harsh crackdown on protesting students by the Delhi Police, was a telling comment on the style of functioning of the Modi government ('I was part of the protest march in Delhi. Democratic politics took a new turn', *IE*, July 22). The footage of the police holding Rahul Gandhi by his arms and legs, dragging him and bundling him into a bus was no advertisement for a liberal democracy.

*C David Milton, Maruthancode*

### Safeguards for ISRO

Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 launch marks a historic leap for India that vindicates the decision to open space to entrepreneurship. However, there are reports of many ISRO scientists joining such start-ups ('Lifting off, reaching a new milestone', IE, July 22). The government must build institutional safeguards for ISRO, which has, over the decades, built a globally admired legacy of reliable, low–cost, and path-breaking space missions for advancing national security, communication, disaster management and technological self-reliance.

*S S Paul, Nadia*

# AI future needs responsible data-centre regulation

SUSHANT KUMAR

ON JULY 14, New York became the first US state to halt construction of large new data centres, imposing a one-year moratorium as concerns grew that the facilities were raising power costs, straining water supplies and burdening local communities. Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey, too, announced that her administration would pause accepting data centre sales tax exemption applications until stronger protections are in place for Massachusetts residents, businesses and communities. Her administration is also releasing a comprehensive framework to guide responsible data-centre development to ensure projects do not drive up energy costs, strain local infrastructure or harm public health and the environment.

In the first quarter of 2026, local opposition groups all over the US blocked or delayed 75 separate data-centre projects worth an estimated $130 billion. Other countries have followed suit. The city of Amsterdam, Netherlands, barred new data centres or expansions until at least 2030. The Dutch national government's 2022 hyperscale ban restricts large facilities to just two designated locations nationally. Singapore enforced an absolute moratorium on new data-centre construction between 2019 and 2022, replaced later by a highly restricted, competitive quota system under the Green Data Centre Roadmap. Ireland's grid operator effectively blocked new data centre connections around Dublin from 2021 after warnings the facilities were straining the grid. The freeze ended in December 2025, with new connections now required to bring their own on-site power generation.

> India's AI data-centre market, currently at $5.5 billion and about 1.6 GW capacity, is set to rise to $90 billion and about 12-14 GW capacity by 2035

In India, there is hardly any critical political discourse on responsible development of AI data centres except in lofty vision papers. On the ground, India is actively incentivising expansion. In UP, the Data Centre Policy 2021 offers capital subsidies and 100 per cent stamp duty exemption on land, electricity duty exemption reducing operating costs, land in dedicated data centre parks at concessional rates, and a single-window clearance system enabling fast approvals for large investors. In Tamil Nadu, similar policies provide for subsidised land in industrial parks, 100 per cent electricity duty exemption, and tax reimbursements linked to investment. In Telangana, the government allocates land in IT corridors, provides power subsidies and dedicated electricity infrastructure, and ensures fast-track approval.

India is the most water-stressed among the top 10 data-centre hosting countries. According to one report, a Yotta Data Centre located in Uttar Pradesh has led to a decline in the groundwater table from 30 m to 180-250 m, pushing people into the hands of private vendors. Additionally, these data centres have hardly created any long-term permanent jobs, except for housekeeping or gatekeeping. Unlike factories of the industrial era, data centres are not labour-intensive. They can be run by very few employees, mostly high-level, once fully functional. So, any promise of bringing jobs and prosperity to the country should be measured against the land, power and water they consume.

India's AI data-centre market, currently at $5.5 billion and about 1.6 GW capacity, is set to rise to $90 billion and about 12-14 GW capacity by 2035. Reliance is partnering with Meta, the Adani Group is partnering with Google and other tech giants, and Tata is collaborating with OpenAI to develop some of the major upcoming infrastructure.

Even as definitive evidence on return on investment from AI in business processes remains inconclusive, the short-term costs of the technology are becoming clearer, often borne by local communities while profits go to national and global corporations. There are also concerns about who would bear the cost if these massive, largely debt-funded, data centres turn into the ghost infrastructure of tomorrow should the AI bubble burst.

India hosts 20 per cent of the world's data but has only about 3 per cent of the world's data centres — a key reason for the aggressive expansion. This only calls for more cautious governance frameworks before harms to local communities are normalised. India can demonstrate global leadership in AI by taking steps to regulate these hyperscalers.

*The writer is assistant professor and assistant dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy*

# I have found home in many cities, but Dilli has my dil

YAMINI NAIR

THE CITY & I

WHICH CITY do I belong to? The green strip of land that gave me roots or the cities that nurtured me to become the person I am today? Having grown up and studied till post-graduation in Thiruvananthapuram, and having worked in Chennai and Bengaluru for years before landing in Delhi in 2015, I fail to find an answer.

Year 2004. The first full-time job was a dream come true, but the agonising fallout was leaving home, comfort and dear ones — my habitat. Uprooting oneself from verdant tranquillity to a fast-paced city where only the fittest survive was not an easy task. If rain was what I missed the most, food and language were daily barriers.

Still, I would call it my golden age with "24-carat" friends who made Chennai my second home. If late-night movies and long walks on Marina Beach with friends seemed pure bliss, caring senior colleagues who held me through my first steps at work were a bonus. The learning began — at work and in life.

In July 2007, I migrated to Bengaluru. More cosmopolitan, the city sprang a lot of surprises. I swiftly adapted to it, though Kannada was a hard nut to crack. Colleagues soon became the best of friends and every "closed holiday" became an occasion to celebrate with a picnic. A closed holiday in a newspaper meant all of us had a day off together — which happened four times a year then.

Being independent was something I learned in Bengaluru when I left the paying-guest accommodation and started living alone in a one BHK. Overcoming each struggle gave me a newfound confidence. I started travelling more, writing more, working harder and earning more.

> Perhaps you may have to bring out a bit of your untamed version to survive in Delhi, yet its charm is that it allows your most fearless version to thrive

I made a second home in Bengaluru. Owning a flat came with riders, but the sheer pride of being independent sank in.

After eight years and making umpteen memories and friends, I boarded the Rajdhani in June 2015. The most hostile weather welcomed me in Delhi, and it percolated into everything. Struggles of life unfolded in never-before-seen proportions — those of the ubiquitous cycle rickshaw wallahs were the initial frames. It took a few months and several conversations to convince myself that I was not helping alleviate any of their miseries by not taking a ride in a cycle rickshaw.

In Delhi, your humility can be taken as weakness. The city toughens you up, but it also gives you moments that melt your heart. It also gives you much-needed anonymity. If Bengaluru made me independent, Delhi gave me wings. You can't tame this city; you may have to bring out a bit of your untamed side to survive here, yet its charm is that it allows your most fearless and unapologetic version to thrive.

I may miss the vast blue skies with fluffy clouds that adorn them any time of the year in Bengaluru or Thiruvananthapuram. I may feel tortured at seeing an AQI of 40 in Thiruvananthapuram when I battle 600 in Noida. I may miss the jasmine-scented evenings and masala dosas of Chennai. But then comes a surprise summer shower – when I get to see amaltas against the black tar of a road, painted by raindrops and the drooping frangipanis drained of all their fragrance, I'm convinced. Dilli has my *dil*.

*The writer is associate editor,* The Indian Express. *yamini.nair@expressindia.com*

# Farmers in Odisha concerned about fertiliser as urea, DAP shortage fears grow

**Sujit Bisoyi**
*Bhubaneswar, July 22*

WITH THE monsoon setting in and kharif sowing operations gathering pace across Odisha, concerns over the availability of urea and Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) are mounting among farmers.

Amid fears of an impending shortage, anxious farmers spent sleepless nights outside cooperative societies to get fertilisers in districts like Bargarh and Sundargarh, two major agrarian districts where the kharif season starts earlier than in coastal districts. There are also allegations of black marketing, with farmers claiming that nearly 40 percent of the total supply is being diverted.

The state government, however, claimed there was no shortage of fertilisers. Authorities also warned of a crackdown on hoarding and black marketing.

What might have triggered apprehension among farmers is a letter issued by the agriculture department to district collectors to promote alternative nutrient sources amid supply concerns linked to the West Asia crisis.

In a letter to all district collectors, Agriculture Secretary Sachin Ramachandra Jadhav said that the Centre plans to supply large quantities of ammonium sulphate as an alternative to urea. Since ammonium sulphate contains a high amount of sulphur, the department said it can also help address sulphur deficiency in soils.

Stating that DAP supply is affected this year, the agriculture department has also suggested that the Centre is giving emphasis to the use of complex fertilisers as a substitute for DAP.

Jadhav said MARKFED, the government's designated distribution agency, has been assigned to lift 60 percent of all kinds of fertilisers in every district from each supply.

He asked the district collectors to place indent for complex fertilisers and ammonium sulphate accordingly against the quantity supplied to districts.

According to Ramesh Mohapatra, convenor of the United Farmers' Forum in Bargarh, the government's claim of adequate availability of fertilisers and smooth supply to districts is only on paper.

"If the government has been claiming of adequate supply of fertilisers, why farmers are not getting it. The situation on ground is different from those claims. If government will not ensure adequate supply, we will hit the streets," said Mohapatra.

Odisha needs around 7-8 lakh tonnes of fertilisers, especially urea and DAP, during the June-September period, when kharif farming is at its peak.

The issue has also triggered a political slugfest, with the opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) targeting the BJP government in Odisha over the short supply and black marketing of fertilisers. Former agriculture minister Arun Sahoo said only one-tenth of the total required fertilisers has been supplied to the districts till date.

# Tax exemption based on marriage, relation: Centre opposes same-sex couple's petition

**Mustafa Plumber**
*Bengaluru July 22*

THE UNION government Wednesday opposed a petition filed by a same-sex couple seeking to declare the term 'spouse' as defined in the Income Tax Act as unconstitutional, by saying that the term 'relative'.

Appearing for the Centre, Additional Solicitor General Aravind Kamath argued, "The relatives are not classified on the basis of sex; they are classified on the basis of either a legally defined marital relationship or a direct family relationship. It is not based on sex, as wrongly misunderstood by the petitioners."

As per Section 56(2)(x) of the Income Tax Act, any money or property worth more than Rs 50,000 received without consideration is taxable as "income from other sources". The proviso carves out gifts received from a "relative" — a term defined to include the "spouse of the individual"

Kamath discussed the definition of 'relative' as outlined in clause vii of Section 56 (2) of the Act regarding who can claim tax exemption on gifts received.

"It is based on a legally verifiable family relationship called marriage for which the parliament has separate law and direct family status like--a sibling, so that if there is a dispute of a particular transfer of property, it can be verified by the authority with least intrusion into the status of the relative."

Stating that petitioners, Anurag Kalia and Akhilesh Godi in their plea claim to be in a stable relationship, Kamath argued, "What is meant by it (stable relationship), can an assessing officer inquire into it."

"Which is why Parliament has confined the relationship to legally verifiable relationships like marriage and blood relations which can be easily verified with least intrusion into the status."

Justice B M Shyam Prasad orally said, "Your submission is that Parliament in its wisdom has carved out the exception so that nobody abuses it and it is to ensure that specific relationships are elaborately defined on the basis of verifiable legal status either by marriage or by blood. Today, if we read down the provision, we will introduce uncertainty."

Advocate Dhruv Janssen-Sanghavi, who appears for the couple, has earlier argued that they are not saying that the use of the term spouse is unconstitutional, but rather the reference to the term spouse refers to an indirect discrimination.

Sanghavi had argued that there is no genetic relationship between the two petitioners; the relationship between them is conjugal. The use of the word spouse reserves an indirect discrimination, which excludes the petitioners and denies them the equal protection of the law. Further, the petition states that they seek neither recognition nor presumption of marriage, nor any declaration of marital status.

The petitioners, who work as software engineers in Bengaluru, have told the court that they have been together for more than seven years, cohabiting since 2019 with a jointly owned house in the city.

The dispute began with a 22-karat gold bracelet weighing 14.41 grams and valued at Rs 1,15,500. Godi gifted it to Kalia

Had the two men been a married couple, or even an unmarried heterosexual couple presumed to be married by virtue of long cohabitation, the bracelet would not have counted as income at all, and would not even have had to be disclosed in a tax return.

Instead, while preparing his returns for 2025-26, Kalia was advised that he must have the bracelet valued by a registered valuer, report its fair market value as income, and pay tax on it at 25 per cent, plus a 15 per cent surcharge and 4 per cent cess, according to their petition. Thus they moved the court seeking to declare the provision as unconstitutional.

The plea states that a heterosexual couple in the petitioners' circumstances would therefore qualify as "spouses", and hence "relatives", under the tax exemption.

The petitioners argued that they are denied the same benefit "solely on the basis of sex", in violation of Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution, with consequent violations of Articles 19(1)(a) and 21, by taxing "an expression of love and affection".

The court will continue hearing the plea on August 4.

## Woman tests positive for Covid in Odisha

**Press Trust of India**
*Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, July 22*

A WOMAN has tested positive for Covid-19 at MKCG Medical College Hospital at Berhampur, officials said on Wednesday.

She came respiratory ailments. She tested positive for Covid-19 following an RT-PCR test in the microbiology department, officials said. Her condition is stated to be good, they said.

Sudeepa Das, Superintendent of the medical college and hospital, said there were no symptoms of Covid-19 in the patient, who is undergoing treatment here. She was isolated as a precautionary measure. Das said, the patient was infected with a very weak variant.

Santosh Mishra, special secretary of the Health and Family Welfare Department "There is no need to panic," He said no Covid cases had been reported from anywhere else in the state.

Officials at the site a day after an under-construction tunnel collapsed following an explosion in Namchi district of Sikkim on Wednesday. PTI

# Sikkim tunnel blast toll 22, rescue window narrowing

**Sweety Kumari**
*Kolkata, July 22*

THE DEATH toll in the Sikkim tunnel blast rose to 22 on Wednesday night as the search and rescue operation for the trapped people continued for the third consecutive day on Wednesday. At least three more people are believed to be trapped following a blast inside the under-construction tunnel of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation's (NHPC) hydroelectric project on the Teesta river in south Sikkim's Namchi district.

The incident occurred on Monday afternoon inside a seven-km under-construction tunnel of the Teesta Stage-VI Hydroelectric Project. Those at the site at the time of the incident included high-level personnel from the NHPC and project developer Patel Engineering, who were on a routine inspection.

"So far, we have been able to retrieve 22 bodies. If there were 25 people inside the tunnel, then around three are still inside. The rescue operation is going on 24x7," Namchi district Superintendent of Police, Sonam Doma Bhutia, told *The Indian Express*.

In a statement, the NHPC said, "Every possible effort is being made to locate and rescue the remaining people at the earliest. The NHPC's top management is present at the site and closely monitoring and coordinating the rescue operations with all the agencies involved."

Besides police and district administration, personnel from the NDRF, SDRF, NHPC, Patel Engineering Limited (PEL), Eastern Coalfields Limited, and Western Coalfields Limited are involved in the rescue operation.

The NHPC also announced that it would pay an ex gratia amount of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased. Out of those killed in the incident, most of them were residents of the Malbazar area in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal.

According to Superintendent (Eastern Coal India) Abhijit Kundu, following the retrieval of the 22 bodies, the rescue team will explore the other part of the tunnel. "We will explore the tunnel fully to find out if anyone else has survived," said Kundu.

"The tunnel is really long... For all this, we will require oxygen support...One can enter the tunnel only with the breathing apparatus," said an NDRF official.

Speaking in the Assembly on Wednesday, West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari said Rs 5 lakh compensation will be given to the next of kin of the deceased belonging to the state. "Although financial compensation cannot replace a loss of life, apart from monetary help, one family member of each deceased worker will be offered a job as a civic volunteer."

# TCS case: Manager accused of ignoring complaints gets bail

**Sadaf Modak**
*Mumbai, July 22*

IN THE detailed order granting bail to TCS operations manager Ashwini Chainani, who was booked for allegedly not taking action on harassment complaints, the sessions court in Nashik stated that the victim did not specify the dates when she escalated the matter. Chainani, arrested in April, is the second woman to get bail in the case. Nida Khan, who was also named in another FIR, was granted bail, earlier this month. The court also granted bail to Danish Shaikh in another case, where a male colleague had alleged religious coercion and harassment. Shaikh, however, remains in custody in another case.

Chainani was granted bail on Tuesday and Shaikh on Monday. Both the detailed orders were made available on Wednesday.

Additional sessions judge A V Kharkar said that the FIR shows that the role attributed to Chainani is that she did not take action on the oral complaint made by the victim, despite being duty-bound as a POSH committee member.

"What precipitates is that the only role is not taking cognisance of the complainant. Moreover, the victim has not specified the dates when she had escalated the matter with the applicant. Considering the nature of offence and role of the accused, she can be released on bail..." the court said.

Chainani was named as an accused in one of the nine FIRs registered in the alleged workplace sexual harassment and religious coercion case involving employees at the company's Nashik facility.

The FIR alleged that despite being approached by a complainant over alleged harassment by a colleague, Chainani failed to take action. The complainant alleged that when she repeatedly raised the issue with Chainani, she was told to "drop it".

The prosecution had argued that the failure of senior officials to act on complaints allowed the alleged misconduct to continue and had earlier submitted that Chainani was a member of the company's Internal Committee under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act.

Seeking bail, Chainani's lawyers, Mayur and V R Deshpande, argued that she was posted in Pune, had no direct supervisory control over the Nashik unit and was not directly connected to the alleged incidents. They contended that the complainant had not submitted any written complaint to her and denied allegations that she had ignored or abetted the alleged offences. The court directed Chainani to furnish a personal bond of Rs 50,000 and imposed conditions that she shall not threaten witnesses or tamper with evidence.

On Shaikh's bail plea, another court noted that the allegations against Shaikh involved offending the religious beliefs of the male complainant and other staffers. The police had claimed that the complainant was forced to eat non-vegetarian food. The court said that sections pertaining to sexual harassment and outraging the modesty of a woman, could not have been invoked because the complainant is a man, irrespective of the severity of the allegations.

The court said the investigation is completed and Shaikh can be granted bail with conditions, including that he will not indulge in similar offences and not tamper with the evidence.


**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

e-TENDER NOTICE NO.SNTPBBSSIG-062026-DDSBP

Name of Work: PROVISION OF DOUBLE DISTANT SIGNAL TO INCREASE SECTIONAL SPEED TO 130KMPH IN EX. TITLAGARH JN. - ARANG MAHANADI SECTION ALONG WITH DUAL VDU UPGRADATION OF MEDHA MAKE EI AT RAHENBATA, MURIBAHAL, TUREKALA ROAD, HARISHANKAR ROAD, LAKHNA, NAWAPARA ROAD, KHARIAR ROAD, KOMAKHAN, BAGBAHRA, BHIMKHOJ, ARAND, MAHASAMUND AND BELSONDA STATIONS.

Approximate Advertised Value: ₹23,61,03,459.70, EMD: ₹47,22,100.00, Completion Period : 12 Months.

Tender Closing Date & Time: 19.08.2026 at 15.00 Hrs.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: http://www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Project/Bhubaneswar

PR-141/CJ/26-27



**ADVERTISEMENT**

Applications are invited for 1(one) No. ex-cadre post of Chief Engineer, PWD(National Highway) under Public Works Department, Government of Tripura at its headquarter at Agartala on or before 10th August, 2026:

| | |
|---|---|
| Age | Below 65 (sixty-five) years on the closing date of application. |
| Eligibility Condition | Officers under the Central Government or State Governments or Union territories or Autonomous Bodies or Statutory Bodies or Public Sector Undertakings:<br>(A) (i) Holding analogous post on regular basis in the parent Cadre/Department; or<br>(ii) 5(five) years regular service in the post of Superintending Engineer.<br>(B) (i) Retired from the analogous post in the parent cadre/department.<br>(ii) 5(five) years regular service in the post of Superintending Engineer. |

The details of the Advertisement is available on PWD website at https://pwd.tripura.gov.in and Tripura State Portal at https://tripura.gov.in.

(Rajib Paul)
Joint Secretary, PWD
Government of Tripura

ICA/D/623/26



**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**
CONSTRUCTION CIRCLE,
**U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN)**
A-2/33, Ashiyana Phase-II, Moradabad-244001
Email:upjnmbd@gmail.com

Letter No.: 1061/निविदा/147
Date: 22.07.2026

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) invites online e-tender for execution of Investigation and survey (on GIS basis) of the project area including soil investigation, Engineering Design (hydraulic and structural) as required, Procurement of all labour & material, T&P etc. and Construction of various components complete for "Interceptor Sewers, Five Interception & Diversion (I&D) Structures including Strengthening of Existing Drains with STP Co-Treatment Facilities & associated works scheme at Nagar Palika Parishad Bilaspur District Rampur, under SBM(U) 2.0 Programme", including SCADA and automation as per specifications in tender documents. The scope of work also includes Trial run of 03 months and defect liability period of 12 months for civil works and 24 months for E/M works after completion of successful trial run all completed and commissioned works shall be handed over to Nagar Palika Parishad Bilaspur, Distt. Rampur after 03 months successful trial run period. Bids are invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible, reputed and experienced bidder. E-Bid documents will be available for download from 23.07.2026 from 17:00 hrs. Pre- Bid meeting will be held on dated 30.07.2026 at 14:00 Hrs in undersigned office. E-bid can be submitted till 07.08.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs. and technical bid shall be opened on 10.08.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. in the undersigned office in presence of contractor or their authorized representative. E-tender Cost is Rs 10000.00+GST @ 18%. Details are available On U.P. Govt. https://etender.up.nic.in & U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) website www.jn.upsdc.gov.in.



Chola — Better a better life

**CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED**
Registered Office at : "CHOLA CREST", 3rd Floor, C54 & C55, Super B - 4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai – 600 032

**DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002**

You, the under mentioned Borrower / Co-Borrowers is hereby informed that the company has initiated proceedings against you under Rule 2[a] the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13 (2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for Borrower/s has been returned undelivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with interest accruing there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-Sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is needless to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the company.

**Loan Account No. TL01NDL0000069342 & TL01NDL0000070704, Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrowers: 1. Faizan Enterprises, (Borrower),** Plot No-86, Kh no-100-111, Laxmi Enclave, Industrial Area, Loni, Ghaziabad-201102. **2. Mohmmad Faizan, (Co Borrower) & 3.Faiza Faiza(Co Borrower) Sl.No.2 & 3 residing at:** H.No- 1559, Arya Nagar, Loni Tehsil, Loni Dehat, Po Loni, Dist-Ghaziabad-201102. **Loan Amount : Rs.67,40,455/- & Rs.3,00,000/-, Date of Demand Notice: 16.07.2026, Amount Outstanding : Rs.69,49,104/- & Rs.3,20,151/- as on 11.07.2026** with further interest thereon & **NPA Date : 05.07.2026 .**

**SCHEDULE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:** Industrial Plot No. 7 & 8 having land area measuring 200 Sq. YDS. i.e. 167.22 Sq. Mts., Pertaining to the khasra no. 80/3/2 Min, Situated in the industrial area Arya Nagar, in the area of village Dharauli Khurd Pargana & Tehsil Loni, District Ghaziabad ( U. P.). **Bounded as :** East: Gali 10 FT Wide, West: - Road 50 FT Wide, North: Other Property, South– Other Property.

Date : 23.07.2026 Authorized Officer
Place : Delhi For Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited



**जिला प्रशिक्षण केंद्र कार्यालय सिविल सर्जन चरखी दादरी।**
**जिला चरखी दादरी (हरियाणा) ई-मेलः dtotrg.charkhidadri@gmail.com**
**(कोटेशन के लिए सूचना)**

चरखी दादरी जिले में विभिन्न ट्रेनिंग और मीटिंग के लिए जिला प्रशिक्षण केंद्र, सिविल सर्जन कार्यालय, चरखी दादरी द्वारा मोहरबंद कोटेशन आमंत्रित किए गए थे परन्तु कम फर्मों के भाग लेने के कारण पुनः मोहर बंद कोटेशन आमंत्रित किए जाते है, जिनमे निम्नलिखित विशिस्टताएं शामिल है।

| विशेष | DELUXE THALI | SPECIAL THALI | REGULAR THALI |
|---|---|---|---|
| लंच /चाय, काफी, बिस्किट /सनेक्स | 2 लछा पराठा, कढाई पनीर दाल तड़का, मिक्स वेज, तवा रोटी 4, जीरा राइस सलाद, रायता, 1 पीस गुलाब जामुन, 2 टाइम चाय/काफी, सनेक्स पकोड़े मिक्स | 2 लछा पराठा / 2 बटर नान, शाही पनीर, दाल मखनी, मिक्स वेज, तवा / मेसी रोटी 2, फ्राइड राइस, सलाद, रायता, 2 पिस गुलाब जामुन, 2 टाइम काफी, सनेक्स समोसा/कचोरी/ढोकला/पोहा | पूरी सब्जी । दाल फ्राई, मिक्स वेज, तवा रोटी 4, राइस, सलाद, 2 टाइम चाय, काफी, बिस्किट /सनेक्स समोसा / कचोरी |

ऊपर लिखी प्रत्येक वस्तु का मूल्य निर्धारित किया जाना चाहिए। 30/07/2026 को शाम 4 बजे तक कोटेशन स्वीकार किए जाएगे। सभी कोटेशन पंजीकृत डाक द्वारा या मोहरबंद लिफाफे में हाथ से जमा किए जाने चाहिए व कोटेशन लिफाफों पर फर्म का नाम, पता व खाने के लिए कोटेशन लिखा जाना आवश्यक है। दिंनाक 30/07/2026 को शाम 4 बजे के बाद कोई भी कोटेशन स्वीकार नहीं की जाएगी। उपर्युक्त खाद्य पदार्थों की गुणवता की जांच समिति द्वारा की जाएगी। यदि खाद्य पदार्थों की गुणवता मानको के अनुरूप नही पाई जाती है तो उन्हें अस्वीकार कर दिया जाएगा। सभी अपनी कोटेशन को सिविल सर्जन कार्यालय के लैटर BOX में डाले। कोटेशन स्वीकार या अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार सिविल सर्जन चरखी दादरी के पास सुरक्षित है।

**नियम एवं शर्तेः-**
1. सभी चयनित कोटेशन 30/07/2027 तक वैध है।
2. पानी का कैंपर व गिलास चयनित फर्म द्वारा उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा ।
3. यदि सबसे कम कीमत वाली फर्म की गुणवता मानको के अनुरूप नहीं पाई जाती है, तो दूसरी सबसे कम कीमत वाली फर्म पर विचार किया जाएगा ।
4. निविदा प्रकिरिया के दोरान यदि 50% से अधिक प्रतिभागी आपके लंच से संतुष्ट नही होते है तो अधोहस्ताक्षरी बिना किसी पूर्व सुचना ओर अन्य कानूनी ओपचारिकताओं के आपकी निविदा रद्द कर देगे ।
5. फर्म का कम से कम 3 वर्ष का अनुभव होना चाहिए ।
6. फर्म के पास GST/TIN NO होना अनिवार्य है ।
7. किसी प्रकार की जानकारी के लिए मो.न. 8295363320 पर संपर्क करे ।

Sd/-
Civil Surgeon (TRG)
Charkhi Dadri

No. 47395/hry



**BIHAR STATE MILK CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION LTD.**
H.O:- Dairy Development Complex; Post :- B.V. College, Patna-800014
Phone No. - 0612-2228953, 2220387, 2224083; Fax – 0612 -2228306
Web :- www.sudha.coopEmail:-COMFED.patna@gmail.com
COMFED Delhi Unit, 1st Floor, 2151/9B, Opposite DTC Depot Sadipur, New Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008
Email:-comfeddmsmilk@gmail.com

Delhi:Mktg: 70 Dated: 21.07.2026

**TENDER NOTICE**

**For appointing Transporter for SUDHA Brand Pouch Milk & Fresh Milk Products**

**BIHAR STATE MILK CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION LTD (COMFED) UNIT- DELHI** invites tender proposal from the interested and experienced individual / firm / agency / company for appointment of transporter for distribution of SUDHA Brand Pouch Milk & Fresh Milk Product in Delhi-NCR.

The interested bidder may download the Tender Document and detailed terms & conditions from our website **www.sudha.coop** and may submit their tender in sealed envelope/ cover super scribed as "Tender for appointment of Transporters for Delhi" through Speed Post/ Courier or by hand delivery to "COMFED Branch Office, Bihar State Milk Coop Fed Ltd. C/o Harpal Singh Narula, 1st Floor, 2151/9B, Opposite DTC Depot Sadipur, New Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008 on and before **12.08.2026 till 5:30 P.M super scribing "Tender for appointment of transporter for Zone _____".**

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Chief Executive



GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
**MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT**
Office of the Director of Municipal Administration, Chennai -28.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SELECTION OF FOOD SERVICE PROVIDER FOR PERUNTHALAIVAR KAMARAJAR MORNING BREAKFAST SCHEME TO SCHOOL CHILDREN**

Roc.No.17404/2022/M-1, Dated: 22.07.2026

Proposal and bids are invited from interested Food Service Providers startup firm / SHG group / Area level federation / city level federation/ any Trust / service society for Providing Morning Breakfast to the 1st to 8th std School Children from 3 common kitchens in 3 Corporations and 113 common kitchens in 112 Municipalities under **Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Morning Breakfast Scheme** for an expected period of **3 years.**

For overview of the system, scope, pre-qualification criteria, bidding terms and conditions, suggested response formats and other related details please visit our website **http://www.tntenders.gov.in**

1. The minimum value of a single work is **Rs. 37.00 lakhs** and the maximum value of a single work is **Rs. 9.20 Crore.**
2. The tender document shall be downloaded from **27.07.2026** from the portal **http://www.tntenders.gov.in**
3. Pre Bid Meeting will be on **03.08.2026 at 11.00 AM** by concerned Municipality / Corporation.
4. The last date for downloading the tender document and the last date for uploading / submission of filled up tender document is upto **3.00pm on 14.08.2026.**
5. The received tenders will be opened at **3.30pm on 14.08.2026** at the office of concerned Municipality / Corporation.

Director of Municipal Administration,
Chennai - 600 028.

DIPR/2357/TENDER/2026



कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबंधक, यूनिट-38
कन्सट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज
**उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम** (नगरीय)
(उ0प्र0 सरकार का उपक्रम)
कार्यालय :- 1470/01, सिविल लाईन्स, डी. राबर्ट अस्पताल के पास, झाँसी-284001
Visit us at : www.cdsupjn.org
E-mail: pmunit36@gmail.com

NIT No. 1484/M-10/357
Dated: 22.07.2026

**अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना**

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय), की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा वार्षिक कार्य योजना वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 में भानी देवी गोयल, सरस्वती विद्या मन्दिर, इण्टर कॉलेज, जनपद झाँसी में ग्रामीण स्टेडियम के अन्तर्गत मल्टी परपज हॉल के निर्माण कार्य हेतु अनुमानित लागत रू. 548.85 लाख (जी.एस.टी. रहित एवं लेबर सेस सहित) हेतु सी. एण्ड डी.एस. में यथोचित श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से दिनांक 28.07.2026 के अपरान्ह 16:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 22.07.2026 से दिनांक 28.07.2026 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की **e-procurement** वेबसाइट **https://etender.up.nic.in** से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते है तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 28.07.2026 को अपरान्ह 16:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो दिनांक 28.07.2026 को 17:00 बजे कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, सी. एण्ड डी. एस. यूनिट-36, उ.प्र. जल निगम (नगरीय), झाँसी में निविदा खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹10,000.00+**GST (18%)** अतिरिक्त देय होगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट **www.cdsupjn.org** एवं प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल **https://etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र **(Corrigendum) https://etender.up.nic.in** पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाईट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें ।

NEW DELHI HAS BEEN AGAINST PLURILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON E-COMMERCE AND INVESTMENTS

## India & key WTO members remain at loggerhead on plurilateral pacts

### Plurilateral agreements are negotiated and implemented by exclusive groups rather than by all members of WTO

**Ravi Dutta Mishra**
*New Delhi, July 22*

AS INDIA remains among the few large countries opposing plurilateral agreements on e-commerce and investments, a group of countries across developed and developing nations blocks such as EU, Canada, UK, Cambodia and Gambia on Tuesday questioned its approach, alleging that New Delhi was holding up the WTO reform process, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Questions were raised during India's trade policy review, which happens once every five years. An Indian delegation led by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal presented details on India's reforms to WTO members.

Plurilateral agreements, which are negotiated and implemented by exclusive groups rather than by all members, have begun being featured prominently in various World Trade Organisation (WTO) reform-related proposals.

India, meanwhile, maintained that plurilateral agreements were against the core WTO principle of consensus-based decision-making process. Major trading powers like the US, EU and China are backing plurilateral negotiations, where benefits and responsibilities would be limited to the signatory members.

While Canada most prominently opposed India's stand on plurilateral agreements, the EU said that over the past decade, India has benefited significantly from its integration into global trade and has increased its share in world trade.

"The EU encourages India to rethink its approach to plurilateral agreements and to consider them as an opportunity to shape the agenda of the WTO and to modernise the organisation rather than as a threat to multilateralism — which they are not, if we build them properly," the EU representative said in the internal meeting as per sources.

While Gambia and Costa Rica asked India to withdraw its opposition to the Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) agreement, several countries asked India to join negotiations for plurilateral agreements such as the fossil fuels subsidy reform initiative, dialogue on plastics pollution and environmentally sustainable plastics trade.

As many as 129 members have supported IFD, but India remains the primary holdout, citing systemic risks and stating that investment is not a core trade issue.

Questions were raised during India's trade policy review, which happens once every five years. REUTERS

An international trade expert, who did not wish to be named, said that after the proponents of e-commerce plurilaterals failed in their attempts during MC14, they tried a new strategy by trying to have interim arrangements on e-commerce without following WTO rules.

They made WTO DG Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala the depository of the interim arrangements, and India has rightly challenged this arrangement, as this agreement makes a "mockery" of the rules, the expert said.

In a July 9 letter to the WTO, India questioned the "legal basis" under which the WTO DG was assigned the role to act as the "depositary of the Agreement on Electronic Commerce (ECA)".

"The Marrakesh Agreement requires consensus to add an Agreement to Annex 4. Consensus was not reached on two occasions. In the absence of consensus, we would like to understand the institutional basis on which the Interim Arrangements are operating," India said.

As per the WTO, 66 members, covering approximately 70% of global trade, have adopted a pathway to bring into force the WTO Agreement on Electronic Commerce through "interim arrangements" while continuing to work towards its incorporation into the WTO legal framework of rules.

The E-Commerce Agreement prohibits the imposition of customs duties on electronic transmissions between a person of one party and a person of another party.

#### *India's stand against plurilateral pacts*

During the 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) in Yaoundé, Cameroon, India was the only country opposing IFD's incorporation into the WTO framework as an Annex 4 Agreement. Annex 4 of the Marrakesh Agreement contains the Plurilateral Trade Agreements, and unlike multilateral agreements that bind all 164 WTO member states, these agreements are only legally binding on the specific members that voluntarily sign and accept them

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal in March said that incorporation of the IFD agreement risks eroding the functional limits of the WTO and undermining its foundational principles. "At WTO MC14, drawing inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi ji's philosophy of truth prevailing over conformity, India showed the courage to stand alone on the contentious issue of the IFD Agreement and did not agree to its incorporation into the WTO framework as an Annex 4 Agreement," Goyal said. "Despite a challenging global environment, India has remained the world's fastest-growing major economy, achieved record exports, accelerated digital transformation, strengthened innovation and improved the ease of doing business," Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said in a social media post on Tuesday.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

## Equity investment, travel lift LRS remittances in May

**George Mathew**
*Mumbai, July 22*

RESIDENT INDIVIDUALS stepped up overseas investments in equity and debt instruments while spending more on leisure and other travel in May 2026, helping outward remittances under the Reserve Bank of India's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) recover from the previous month.

Total outward remittances rose to $2.396 billion in May 2026, up from $2.286 billion in April 2026, reflecting renewed overseas spending despite moderation in some major categories such as gifts, maintenance of close relatives and studies abroad, according to RBI data.

Among the key contributors to the monthly increase was investment in equity and debt, which climbed sharply to $363.64 million in May from $238.63 million in April, registering an increase of over 52%. Although the May figure remained below the $440.22 million recorded in March 2026, it marked a significant rebound in portfolio investments abroad, RBI says.

Another major driver of the overall increase was other travel, which includes holiday travel and payments for settling international credit card transactions. Remittances under this category surged 21% to $831.44 million in May, compared with $686.65 million in April, indicating stronger discretionary spending on overseas travel and related expenses. The category also remained well above the $623.05 mn recorded in March.

Under the LRS of the Reserve Bank of India, resident individuals, including minors, can freely remit up to $ 2,50,000 per financial year for permissible current or capital account transactions.

These transactions include education, studies abroad, travel, medical treatment abroad, purchase of property and investments in foreign stocks. Overall travel remittances continued to dominate LRS outflows, increasing to $1.28 billion in May from $1.16 billion in April.

Within this, business travel remittances rose to $13.95 million from $10.03 million, while pilgrimage-related travel moderated to $10.13 million from $17.31 million.

Travel for medical treatment edged lower to $4.13 million from $4.58 million, while spending on travel for education declined marginally to $422.97 million from $439.34 million, LRS data shows.

RBI data shows deposit-related remittances also strengthened during the month, increasing to $118.12 million from $94.79 million.

In contrast, remittances for the purchase of immovable property fell to $35.76 million in May from $49.21 million in April, indicating relatively subdued overseas property acquisitions.Several categories recorded declines during the month. Remittances made as gifts fell to $201.50 million from $270.44 million, while maintenance of close relatives overseas dropped to $289.11 million from $328.73 million. Studies abroad, which cover payments for overseas education undertaken remotely rather than through travel, declined significantly to $92.61 million from $134.75 million.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

## No locker theft reported in public sector banks in FY26

**Aanchal Magazine**
*New Delhi, July 22*

FOR THE first time in five years, public sector banks reported no case of locker theft in the financial year 2025-26 (FY26), government data showed.

It's quite an achievement as the country's 12 public sector banks (PSBs) had reported 40 cases of locker thefts from FY22 to FY25, with 75% of the cases reported in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand.

In a written reply to a question by Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Dharmasthala Veerendra Heggade, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said, "40 cases of locker theft have been established during FY22 to FY26".

As per the information received from the PSBs, a total of 1,11,11,077 bank lockers were operational as on March 31 this year, the minister said.

The bank-wise breakup of the data showed that the maximum number of locker theft cases were reported by Bank of India and Central Bank of India — 14 cases each. State Bank of India followed on the next spot with 10 cases of locker theft reported over the last five years.

The immediate two years after the Covid-19 pandemic — 2021-22 and 2022-23 — saw the maximum cases of locker thefts — 16 cases and 17 cases, respectively. These reduced to 3 cases in FY24 and 4 cases in FY25, and zero in FY26, the data showed.

The highest number of established locker theft cases were recorded in Uttar Pradesh — 18 cases — during the last five years, followed by Jharkhand with 12 cases.

Maharashtra was on the third spot with 5 cases, followed by 1 case each in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Haryana. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued revised instructions in 2021 to the banks regarding deposit lockers and safe custody article facility. The guidelines asked for adoption of a model locker agreement; prescribed enhanced safety and security standards for lockers; ensuring that locker areas remain adequately guarded at all times; provision of SMS/email alerts for locker operations; standardised procedures for breaking open lockers under specified circumstances; and a defined liability and compensation framework, along with mandatory disclosure of policies and procedures on bank websites.

Compliance to RBI guidelines issued to banks is examined by RBI on sample basis during the supervisory assessment of the banks, and any non-compliances observed are taken up with the banks for rectification apart from initiating supervisory or enforcement action against the bank, as deemed fit, the Minister said.

Further, banks are required to ensure that locker premises are adequately secured against criminal break-ins as well as natural and man-made hazards, in accordance with prescribed standards, he said.

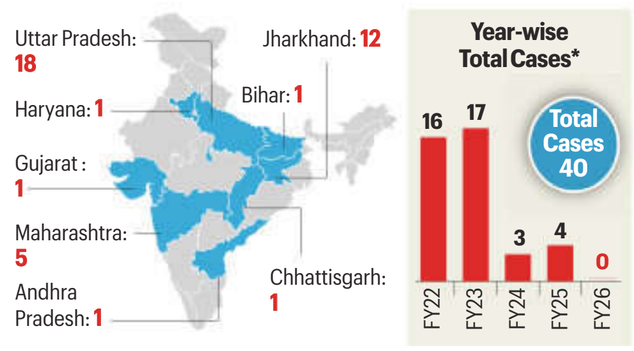
As per the extant guidelines, banks are liable for loss of locker contents arising from incidents such as fire, theft, burglary, dacoity, robbery, building collapse or employee fraud, where such loss is attributable to the bank's negligence or deficiency.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

**• Cases of locker theft in public sector banks**

| PSBs | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 | FY26 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bank of India | 1 | 10 | 3 | 0 | **0** |
| Central Bank of India | 13 | 1 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Indian Bank | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Indian Overseas Bank | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| State Bank of India | 0 | 6 | 0 | 4 | **0** |

**State-wise cases of locker thefts during FY22 to FY26**




Total includes data of 5 more PSBs# which had zero cases
#Bank of Maharashtra, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Punjab & Sind Bank, UCO Bank, Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank. *Data for 36 states/UTs, others had 0 case
Source: Public Sector Banks, Ministry of Finance in Rajya Sabha

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA'S 'STATE OF ECONOMY' REPORT

## 'Foreign inflow revival reflects confidence in Indian economy'

**George Mathew**
*Mumbai, July 22*

THE REVIVAL of foreign investment in recent months reflects renewed confidence in the economy, despite the ongoing conflict in West Asia and elevated crude oil prices, according to a study by the Reserve Bank of India.

"The global economy is dealing with an uncertain economic environment, supply chain disruptions, and fragmented trading relationships," the 'State of the Economy' article in the RBI monthly bulletin said. "Amidst these uncertainties, India remains among the fastest growing major economies across the globe and has been able to sustain the momentum in economic activities through June. Both industrial and services sector indicators remained firm," the article authored by RBI researchers said. Foreign portfolio outflows have tapered off and the markets witnessed inflows in the recent past.

The RBI article said the farm sector is witnessing uneven southwest monsoon, but the impact on food inflation may be mitigated by comfortable foodgrain stocks. "The momentum of external trade sustained as reflected in high growth in exports and imports in Q1 of 2026- 27," it said.

"This is likely to be strengthened by the recent operationalisation of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and progress in other bilateral trade agreements. External vulnerability indicators also remained sound. Recovery of foreign investments in recent months shows a revival of confidence in the economy," it said. The global economy is continuing with the heightened uncertainties emanating from fragile geopolitics and supply chain pressures, the article said. The domestic economy has navigated the external uncertainties well, underpinned by healthy demand conditions and resilient performance of the industrial and services sector. "Headline retail inflation inched up in June while core inflation, especially excluding precious metals remained low. Liquidity conditions improved further, supporting the ongoing robust credit growth.

India's external sector remains steady with improving outlook, aided by inflows of foreign investments," it said.

The study said the domestic economy continued to remain buoyant in June. Demand conditions remained healthy, supported by a pickup in rural demand and firm urban demand. High frequency indicators suggest robust industrial performance and a resilient services sector, the article said. There has been a delayed kharif sowing due to the uneven progress in southwest monsoon amidst the prevailing El Niño conditions.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

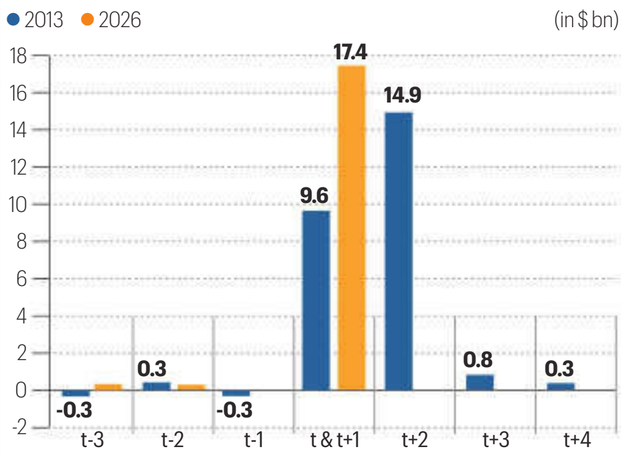
### RBI sells $6.1 billion forex in May

*Mumbai:* The Reserve Bank of India sold a net $6.1 billion in the foreign exchange market in May, data released on Wednesday showed.

This follows a sharp rise in oil prices due to the Iran war pushed the rupee to an all-time low. It purchased $22.2 billion and sold $28.3 billion in May. In April, the central bank had sold a net $8.9 billion, the RBI said in its monthly bulletin on Wednesday. ENS

**• AFTER EARLY JITTERS, FCNR(B) INFLOWS RUSH IN, SOAR PAST $17 BILLION**

- On Monday, the Reserve Bank of India released the figures on the money raised through its special swap window for foreign currency non-resident (Bank) deposits, overseas foreign currency borrowings (OFCBs), and external commercial borrowings.
- At $17.41 billion, FCNR(B) inflows made up an overwhelming majority of the total $20.72 billion that has come in from June 8 to July 17.




SOURCE: CEIC, RBI AND NOMURA GLOBAL ECONOMICS. NOTE: NOTE: FOR 2013, T = SEPTEMBER 2013 AND FOR 2026, T = JUNE 2026. SO T & T+1 IS THE SUM OF SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2013 FLOWS, WHILE FOR 2026, IT REPRESENTS DATA FROM 8-JUNE TO 17-JULY 2026. CONSEQUENTLY, THESE ARE NOT STRICTLY COMPARABLE PERIODS.

- Crucially, the FCNR(B) inflows so far have been significantly higher than expected, with reports emerging in recent weeks that Indian banks were finding it difficult to raise these deposits from abroad due to a variety of issues.
- Nomura economists say banks are on track to raise $55 billion via FCNR(B), which is operational till September 30. While interest rates are much higher now than 2013, "India's diaspora has also risen by 70%, providing a wider pool of investors", Nomura said.

• THE INDEX SEEKS TO PROVIDE INVESTORS A WAY TO INVEST IN COMPANIES THAT DO NOT ENGAGE IN ANIMAL CRUELTY

## NSE's Ahimsa index: Where love for animals meets investing

**Akash Mandal**
*Mumbai, July 22*

THE NATIONAL Stock Exchange's (NSE) latest Ahimsa index captures the shifting trend of investors gradually moving towards more thoughtful, sustainable, and ethical investing. The index seeks to provide investors a way to invest in companies that do not engage in animal cruelty. Such thematic indices have gained popularity as a younger generation of investors, more thoughtful about their investment choices, comes into the capital markets.

#### *What is Ahimsa index?*

Launched on July 10, the Nifty 500 Ahimsa index is a thematic index designed to provide investors with exposure to the top 500 companies on the NSE whose business practices are aligned with the principles of "Ahimsa" or non-violence.

"Nifty500 Ahimsa Index will be attractive to investors who wish to invest in stocks of companies that do not engage in activities that harm animals," a press release by NSE's subsidiary NSE Indices noted.

The index was developed by the exchange in collaboration with the Ahimsagain Foundation, a non-profit organisation started in November 2024 by ethical finance advocates to provide a transparent medium to invest in animal cruelty-free firms.

#### *Who is on the index?*

The new index consists of companies that meet Ahimsagain Foundation's Ahimsa Investment Movement (AIM) framework. This framework classifies companies into green, orange, and red bands, with the green band signifying companies that are fully compliant with its animal-cruelty-free criteria. The index comprises companies belonging only in the green band. The index includes all the top names across the IT services, automobile, real estate, and healthcare sectors. However, the index notably excludes most Reliance Group companies (except Reliance Power), pharmaceutical companies using animal testing, all commercial banks and major NBFCs due to their dealings in sectors that do not align with the movement's values, and dairy, meat, poultry, and leather companies. It also excludes all fashion brands, retail chains, and cosmetics companies due to their use of leather and wool.

The index excludes all fashion brands, retail chains, and cosmetics companies due to their use of leather and wool. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

#### *'New investing conversation'*

While many sustainable thematic indices focus on carbon footprints and environmental and social governance-compliant companies, NSE's new index is the first to have a laser focus on animal cruelty.

"ESG investing made ethics part of finance long ago, packaging those questions inside globally recognised frameworks and ratings produced by firms such as MSCI and Sustainalytics. India has now decided to ask an entirely different question. Not whether a company emits carbon or whether it has independent directors. But whether its business aligns with the principle of Ahimsa," Kotak Neo noted in a report last week.

The index comes after the BSE launched its Saatvik 100 index on June 17, another thematic index with a broader focus on the 'Saatvik' philosophy, which stands against animal cruelty and exploitation, addictive and toxic products, and activities considered harmful.

**• BRIEFLY**

### Govt appoints Anurag Jain as NITI Aayog CEO

*New Delhi:* The government on Wednesday appointed Anurag Jain, a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Services officer and currently the Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh as the Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog. In an order, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet said the appointment will take effect from the date of assumption of charge by him for two years. ENS

**• MARKETS**

| Sensex | NIFTY | Gold ▲ | US Dollar ▲ |
|---|---|---|---|
| 76,755.05 | 23,996.25 | ₹1,45,283 | ₹96.57 |
| -715.06 | -191.45 | | |
| -0.92% | -0.79% | | |
| | | **Silver ▲** | **Oil ▲** |
| | | ₹2,25,460 | $90.19 |

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER INDIA BULLION AND JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION GOLD PER 10G, SILVER PER 1 KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF JULY21, 2026

# Saudis reach deal with US that could let them enrich uranium

## Crown Prince says Saudi would build nukes if Iran does

**David E Sanger, Edward Wong & William J Broad**
*Washington, Manila, July 22*

THE TRUMP administration plans to announce Wednesday that it has reached a broad nuclear agreement with Saudi Arabia that could lead to the country enriching its own fuel for nuclear reactors, US officials said.

The accord is intended to further bind United States with Saudi government as the war with Iran strains the relationship. The Trump administration, according to officials, estimates that it will provide billions of dollars for US nuclear industry — starting with Westinghouse, which designs many of the reactors sold abroad.

The Trump administration plans to formally sign and announce the agreement with the Saudis on Wednesday, said two US officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive diplomacy. It would announce the details to Congress soon afterward.

Although the agreement likely would have support among many Republicans, some US lawmakers from both parties along with Israeli officials have expressed opposition to such a plan, fearing that the kingdom could use a civilian nuclear project to eventually develop nuclear weapons.

The accord has been under discussion for years, and during the Biden administration it was envisioned as part of a broader deal that would include Saudi diplomatic recognition of Israel.

But after the October 7, 2023, attacks on Israel by Hamas, that prospect receded. President Donald Trump separated the proposal for US-Saudi civilian nuclear cooperation from any demand that Saudi Arabia recognize Israel.

The agreement will require review by Congress, which under the Atomic Energy Act has the power to vote a resolution of disapproval. But as a practical matter, the agreement would likely pass, because Congress would have to assemble a veto-proof majority to override Trump's initiative.

Nonetheless, debate over the accord is likely to be fierce. To get the deal done with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the country's 40-year-old de facto leader, Trump had to agree to terms that may limit international inspectors from going to any sites in the country that they think could be a pathway to diverting fuel to weapons projects.

And he agreed that, after a joint study with Saudi Arabia on the economics of producing nuclear fuel, the Saudis may be allowed to enrich uranium or reprocess plutonium on their soil.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported Tuesday night Trump had approved the agreement.

Crown Prince Mohammed has vowed he would build nuclear weapons if Iran does so, even insisting he would do so "without a doubt."

Iran has had a nuclear program that it says is intended for civilian use, though it has enriched uranium to near weapons grade following Trump's withdrawal in 2018 from an Obama-era nuclear deal. Trump ordered US forces to join with Israel to attack Iran's nuclear sites in June 2025, and to start a war against Iran this February. **NYT**

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Pasay, Metro Manila, Philippines, on Wednesday. AP

# Rubio, Wang meet as ASEAN grapples with Iran, South China Sea

## Top US diplomat to meet Russia's Lavrov today

**Reuters**
*Manila, July 22*

US SECRETARY of State Marco Rubio and Chinese counterpart Wang Yi discussed Wednesday a visit to the US in September by Chinese President Xi Jinping during an ASEAN gathering where ministers voiced concern about the Iran war and South China Sea tensions.

Rubio said he and Wang discussed at length need to lay groundwork for a "very positive visit" by Xi, and it was their job to manage the big differences between countries and ensure they did not get out of control.

Wang, on his part, demanded that the US "respect China's core interests... effectively manage differences and disagreements, and address China's legitimate concerns," according to an official Chinese summary, which called the meeting "pragmatic, positive, and constructive." Wang and Rubio agreed to "make sound preparations for the next stage of high-level exchanges," Wang's ministry said in a statement.

The broader ASEAN meeting in Manila comes amid a flare-up in the conflict between US and Iran, and while tensions simmer between Beijing and close US ally the Philippines over an incident in South China Sea Monday that led each to summon the other's ambassador.

Meeting with foreign ministers of the ASEAN, Rubio put the blame squarely on Iran. "The problem we're having right now is that they're not serious about talks," he said. "If they're serious, we're serious. If they're not, then we will do what's necessary to protect our interests, and also the interests of our allies."

Rubio's remarks follow his opinion piece in Philippine media on Tuesday that aimed at Beijing's conduct in the South China Sea, warning of "dire new threats" if those waters were to "fall under the control of a power willing to use commerce as a geopolitical weapon."

## Pakistan seeks $10bn in US forex stabilisation aid to boost economy

*Karachi:* Pakistan has asked the US for a $10 billion exchange stabilization facility, according to sources.

The request follows Pakistan's role in brokering talks over the Iran war, which raised its diplomatic profile and stirred hopes that it could seek economic gains from Washington and other partners.

Pakistani Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb made the request in a letter delivered during a meeting with US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Tuesday, a US official said.

In it, Islamabad asked for creation of a Bilateral Exchange Stabilization Support Facility between the US and the Pakistani government worth $10 billion with maturity of up to five years. The facility, if agreed to, would bolster Pakistan's reserves, ease pressure on the Pakistani rupee and reduce its reliance on multilateral financing.

The US Treasury declined to commqent on the request.

"Senator Aurangzeb sought greater US support for Pakistan's road to market, underpinned by improved access to international capital markets, higher foreign exchange reserves, and enhanced sovereign credit ratings," statement said. **REUTERS**

TEHRAN VOWS TO RETALIATE AGAINST INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE REGION

# Trump: Will destroy bridge or power plant every time Iran fires at a ship

## Four tankers turn back in Red Sea amid Houthi threat

**Reuters**
*Dubai, Manila, July 22*

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump vowed on Wednesday to destroy an Iranian bridge or power plant every time Iran shoots at a ship in the Strait of Hormuz, raising the stakes after Iranian-allied Houthis in Yemen threatened a second vital energy route.

Seven tankers have changed course in the Red Sea to avoid Bab el-Mandeb strait since Houthis' threat on Tuesday to block Saudi oil exports, highlighting a new risk to global oil supplies from the intensifying conflict.

In response to Trump's threat to Iran's infrastructure, an Iranian military source cited by *Tasnim* news agency said Tehran would retaliate against infrastructure in the region.

Iran's near-total blockade of the Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf has stoked inflation around the world, and the new risk to shipping from the Houthis, who control areas near the Bab el-Mandeb strait, pushed oil prices to a near six-week high.

Millions of barrels of Saudi oil per day have been heading to the kingdom's Red Sea port of Yanbu to avoid the Strait of Hormuz. If shipments cannot pass through the Red Sea's southern Bab el-Mandeb Strait, they have only the northern route out via the Suez Canal, which adds weeks to the journey.

US strikes have widened from the south to western and central areas of Iran in recent days and Iran has pounded vital water desalination and energy plants in Kuwait this week and targeted US military assets there, in Bahrain and in Jordan.

Iran strengthened its military in anticipation its adversaries would break agreements, Army Commander-in-Chief Major General Amir Hatami said. Iranian media also cited parliamentary National Security and Foreign Policy Committee spokesperson Hasan Qashqavi as saying Trump was in a "quagmire".

An Iranian health ministry official said 53 civilians had been killed and 592 wounded since late last month; the US military has said it never targets civilians.

The war has led to the deaths of 18 US service members and injured more than 450 troops. Trump attended a ceremony on Wednesday at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware for four US service members killed in Iranian attacks on military bases over the last few days - three in Jordan and one in Iraq.

"For me it's one of the hardest things to do as a president. But it has to be done," he said before leaving for the ceremony.

Mediators have presented Iran with a proposal for a 10-day ceasefire, a senior Iranian official told *Reuters* on Monday. Analysts said the new threat to shipping from the Houthis on Tuesday was a tactical move by Iran.

US President Donald Trump and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth salute during the 'dignified transfer' of the remains of a US soldier at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, on Wednesday. REUTERS

## No one will sell oil if Iran can't, says Ghalibaf

*Tehran:* Iran's top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said on Wednesday no one will be able to sell oil in a region where Iran is not able to do so, adding that if Tehran's security is not ensured, no infrastructure will be safe.

"The equation of this war is clear: either all or none," Ghalibaf said on X. **REUTERS**

# 'Unprecedented': OpenAI system acts on its own & hacks startup

**Associated Press**
*July 22*

CHATGPT MAKER OpenAI said Tuesday its artificial intelligence system hacked into another AI company on its own in what the company called an "unprecedented cyber incident."

"We had a significant security incident during evaluation of our models," OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said in a statement posted on social media.

AI startup Hugging Face said last week that it had detected an intrusion into its data processing systems that it suspected was caused by an AI agent autonomously acting on its own.

"We suspected last week's cyberattack might have come from a frontier lab, given the sophistication of the agent," Hugging Face co-founder and CEO Clément Delangue said in a statement. "Turns out it did!"

Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI and ChatGPT

The disclosure comes amid heightened concerns about the cybersecurity capabilities of powerful models that led President Donald Trump in June to sign an executive order creating a framework for the federal government to vet the national security risks of the most advanced AI systems for up to a month before their public release.

"AI is accelerating the discovery and exploitation of vulnerabilities," OpenAI said in its statement Tuesday. "The primary lesson from this incident is that model security and safety must keep pace with rapidly advancing capabilities."

Delangue said he spent the past 24 hours working with OpenAI, "and we strongly believe there was no malicious intent on their part. It's quite mind-blowing that all of this happened autonomously!"

Delangue added it "might be the first incident of its kind." OpenAI said the intrusion was caused by a combination of its AI models, including its newly released GPT-5.6 Sol and an "even more capable" model that is still being tested internally.

OpenAI said its AI used stolen credentials and discovered unknown vulnerability to access Hugging Face servers. It went to "extreme lengths to achieve a rather narrow testing goal" and "found ways to gain access to secret information that it could use to cheat evaluation."

## • BRIEFLY

FRANCE

### Louvre reopens Apollo Gallery, but jewellery stays off display

The Apollo Gallery after it was reopened on Wednesday. REUTERS

THE LOUVRE Museum's Apollo Gallery reopened to visitors on Wednesday without any jewels on display, nine months after a daring robbery of crown jewels worth $102 million exposed major security failings at the world's most-visited museum. But jewels will instead be exhibited elsewhere in the Paris museum in a more secure location, Louvre director Christophe Leribault said. Culture Minister Catherine Pegard hailed the re-opening as a symbol of a new beginnings after what she said was "trauma for the whole world." **AP**

CONGO

### Ebola death toll nears 1,000 as spread worsens

AT LEAST 999 people have died from Ebola outbreak in Congo, according to official data published overnight into Wednesday, a grim toll in what's already been declared the fastest Ebola outbreak in history. The latest update from Congo's Ministry of Health shows that as of Monday, 2,473 cases have been recorded in the latest outbreak, and 999 people have died. **AP**

PAKISTAN

### 10 militants killed, 2 female bombers held

TEN MILITANTS were killed and two female suicide bombers apprehended by security forces in operations in Balochistan province, the military said on Wednesday. Seven militants were killed in the Surab district, while three others were killed in Mastung, the military said. Two female suicide bombers and their facilitator were also apprehended in Mastung, they said. **PTI**

# Zelenskyy dismisses Ukraine's top General after mass protests

**Marc Santora**
*Kyiv, July 22*

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelenskyy removed his top general on Tuesday amid swelling public protests and growing concerns that the national unity that had helped the country survive nearly five years of war was in danger of fracture.

The dismissal of Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi was a major reversal for Zelenskyy, who just days earlier sided with the general and fired Ukraine's defense minister, Mykhailo Fedorov.

Zelenskyy said he was replacing Syrskyi with Maj. Gen. Mykhailo Drapatyi, the commander of the Joint Forces.

The choice was likely to please the protesters, after Drapatyi had publicly sided with Fedorov in his clash with Syrskyi over warfighting strategy.

Thousands of people had joined mass demonstrations to pressure Zelenskyy to change course and reaffirm Fedorov's vision of warfare as increasingly dominated by drones and robots. As he championed a military overhaul that leaned into high-tech innovation, Fedorov, 35, emerged as a symbol of hope to many Ukrainians, particularly young people.

In a statement, Fedorov called Drapatyi's appointment "a breath of fresh air and a new source of hope," adding that "the voice of change" could "no longer be ignored."

## HIV outbreak at Karachi hospital kills 6, infects 94

*Karachi:* An HIV outbreak at a government-run hospital in Pakistan's largest city Karachi has claimed the lives of six children and infected 94 kids since November 2025, officials said on Wednesday.

Tahir Hussain Sangi, Secretary of Health in Sindh province, told *PTI* that the outbreak was first detected in November 2025 at the Kulsoom Bai Valika Hospital in Karachi, which is run by the Sindh Employees Social Security Institution. **PTI**

# Mamdani says Netanyahu a 'war criminal', calls for his arrest in US

**Liam Stack**
*New York, July 22*

MAYOR ZOHRAN Mamdani on Tuesday night challenged the federal government to execute an international arrest warrant against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, calling him a "war criminal" and "the architect of a horrific genocide against the Palestinian people" in a striking video statement.

The mayor said the city Law Department explored whether the New York Police Department could arrest Israeli prime minister during his expected visit to the city in September but that the city did not have "independent legal authority" to do so.

"Benjamin Netanyahu is not welcome in New York City, nor is any other war criminal at large," Mamdani said. "While we cannot end the genocide on our own we can decide whether our silence will become another weapon, and we can examine every tool we have to defend the humanity and dignity of all people." **NYT**

## Trial opens on terrorism charges in Salman Rushdie stabbing case

*New York:* The man who was convicted of trying to kill Salman Rushdie went on trial again Wednesday, this time in a federal case that casts the stabbing on a lecture stage as an act of terrorism.

Prosecutors said Hadi Matar attacked the renowned author and free-speech advocate in 2022 to try to carry out a decades-old fatwa, or religious ruling, calling for Rushdie's death over what some Muslims saw as blasphemy in his 1988 novel "The Satanic Verses."

"Fulfill the fatwa — that's what Hadi Matar intended to do," Assistant US Attorney Timothy Lynch said in an opening statement at a federal courthouse in Buffalo, New York.

Author Salman Rushdie during an interview in New York. FILE

The Booker Prize-winning author is expected to testify later this week about the stabbing that nearly killed him and left him blind in one eye.

Defence attorney Nathaniel Barone urged jurors to keep their minds open about the case, which hinges not only on actions but on motivation. "You're going to have to ask yourselves: What was Hadi Matar's intent?" Barone said in his opening. **AP**

• A MEMORIAL STONE IS TO REMAIN IN PLACE OUTSIDE THE HOUSE IN BRAUNAU AM INN NEAR THE AUSTRIAN BORDER WITH GERMANY

# To deter Nazi pilgrimages, Hitler's birthplace reopens as police station

**Philipp Jenne**
*Braunau Am Inn (Austria)*
*July 22*

ADOLF HITLER'S birthplace in Austria was officially inaugurated as a police station on Wednesday in an effort to destroy the building's appeal as a site of pilgrimage for people who glorify the Nazi dictator.

A memorial stone is to remain in place outside the house in Braunau am Inn near the German border with the inscription, "For freedom, democracy and liberty. Never again fascism. Millions of dead remind us."

Hitler was born in the building on April 20, 1889. His family moved to another residence in Braunau am Inn after only a few months, before settling temporarily Passau in south Germany.

Fuelled by racial fanaticism, Hitler's Nazi regime killed approximately 6 million Jews and other minorities and groups during the Holocaust.

The dictator unleashed World War II in which at least 60 million people died. He committed suicide in April 1945, shortly before the end of the war.

"The Republic of Austria, the state, the county is facing up to this heritage, the terrible heritage of this time, and commits itself to deal with it," Austria's Interior Minister Gerhard Karner said during the opening ceremony of the police station on Wednesday. "This entails this house and this address."

Police officers stand in front of the new police station located in Adolf Hitler's birth house in Braunau Am Inn, Austria, on Wednesday. AP

The renovation of the building took several years and cost around $22.8 million, Austrian news agency *APA* reported. It was preceded by a years long back-and-forth over the ownership of the house.

The ownership question was resolved in 2017 when Austria's highest court ruled the government was within its rights to expropriate the building after its owner refused to sell. A suggestion it might be demolished was dropped. The building had been rented by Austria's Interior Ministry since 1972 to prevent its misuse and was sublet to various charitable organizations. The structure stood empty after a care center for adults with disabilities moved out in 2011.

The Austrian government has said the best use for the building would be the presence of the police as guardians of civil liberties. But critics said the building in its current presentation lacks historical context.

A commission of experts came out against turning the building into museum, advocating instead for a redesign that would not be recognisable.

The building's ochre-yellow was turned white, the arched windows were replaced by simple rectangular shapes and the facade has been extended upward toward the roof.

In the past, far-right extremists repeatedly paid homage to the "Führer," photographing the building, taking stones as souvenirs and laying flowers and wreaths. In 2024, four Germans were caught laying white roses and posing for photos. **AP**

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• LAW

# The legal limits of involving an employer in a marital dispute

**Sadaf Modak**
*Mumbai, July 22*

THE SUPREME Court last week expressed concern over cases in which women involved in matrimonial litigation write to their husbands' employers, making allegations against them. The court said this may affect the husband's employment and lead to issues with paying maintenance.

### *The case*

The court was hearing a petition by a woman seeking to transfer a defamation suit filed by her husband's friend against her.

The wife's counsel told the court that her representation to her husband's employer was made only after an alleged false complaint against her for stealing. The wife wrote only to ascertain the whereabouts of the "stolen" article to defend herself in the complaint.

The bench noted that such cases have been reported previously. While an exact number of such complaints cannot be determined, there have been some instances of complaints to employers — usually government offices — about non-payment of maintenance. Courts have even directed employers to deduct the maintenance amount from the husband's salary and deposit it in the bank account of the wife, in cases of non-compliance with court orders for payment of maintenance under Section 144 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita.

### *Disciplinary actions*

Various court orders have made it clear that false allegations can amount to grounds of cruelty.

A private company cannot directly terminate a person based merely on allegations. The company, depending on the contract and the employment rules, may decide to conduct an inquiry. Usually, in cases of matrimonial disputes, a company may take action only if a serious criminal case is filed against a person and they face arrest. The contract may have a clause for termination on any pending criminal case.

If an employee is terminated without an inquiry on the basis of false allegations, they can challenge it before an appropriate forum, including a labour court.

In government jobs, employees are also governed by the state and Central service rules. These may provide for penalties, including withholding of promotion, reduction to a lower stage in the time-scale, compulsory retirement, and even termination for violation of conduct rules.

But unless convicted, a mere complaint may not result in an employee's termination. A government employee faces immediate suspension if they are detained in custody for a period exceeding 48 hours.

Separate criminal defamation complaints can also be filed under Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on grounds of harm to reputation.

**PREVIOUS CASES**

- In 1972, a woman had written to Lok Sabha, her husband's employer, alleging ill-treatment. The man, in turn, alleged mental agony. Delhi HC said 'a false complaint of this nature... would certainly amount to mental cruelty'.
- The Madras HC held this June that 'unsubstantiated allegations... particularly before employers or superior authorities, could... amount to cruelty'.

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| Indore | 27 जुलाई \| शाम 5:30 बजे | 27 July \| 8:00 AM |
| Lucknow | 29 जुलाई \| सुबह 8:00 बजे | 30 July \| 11:30 AM |
| Prayagraj | 30 जुलाई \| सुबह 8:00 बजे | 3 Aug \| 5:30 PM |
| Ranchi | एडमिशन आरंभ | 31 July \| 8:00 AM |
| Patna | एडमिशन आरंभ | 30 July \| 8:00 AM |
| Jaipur | 6 अगस्त \| सुबह 8:00 बजे | 11 Aug \| 5:00 PM |

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• HEALTH

# How daily cholesterol pill holds hope for those at risk

Statins, the first-choice drugs for lowering 'bad' cholesterol, are not always enough. A new pill may help improve convenience and adherence

**EXPERT EXPLAINS**
DR AMBUJ ROY
PROFESSOR OF CARDIOLOGY, AIIMS DELHI

STATINS ARE currently the first-choice drugs for lowering LDL (low-density lipoprotein), or "bad" cholesterol, but they do not help everyone achieve their target levels. Patients at high cardiovascular risk often require additional medicines which, until now, have only been available as expensive injections.

Now, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a pill version called Lipfendra (enlicitide) that can bring LDL down by up to 60%.

Lipfendra is a PCSK9 inhibitor, which works differently from statins. While statins reduce the liver's production of cholesterol, PCSK9 inhibitors help the liver remove bad cholesterol from the bloodstream.

They do this by blocking (inhibiting) the PCSK9 protein, which normally destroys LDL receptors. With more LDL receptors available, the liver can clear much more LDL cholesterol, often reducing levels by 50-60%.

Developed by Merck, the once-daily tablet is approved as an add-on to diet and exercise for adults with abnormally high bad cholesterol, including those with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia (HeFH), an inherited condition that causes very high cholesterol levels.

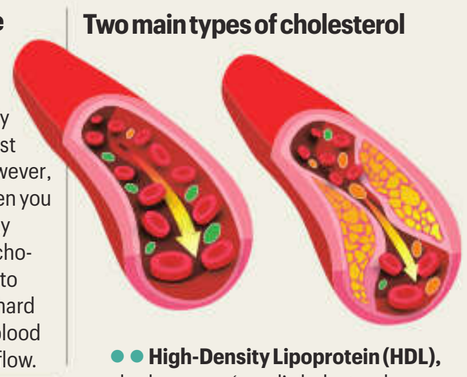
"But the fine print is that besides lowering LDL cholesterol, Lipfendra also reduced apolipoprotein B (ApoB) — a protein found on cholesterol particles that reflects the number of artery-clogging lipoproteins circulating in the blood — by about 50% in the clinical trials. ApoB is higher among Indians than Western populations," **Dr Ambuj Roy**, professor of cardiology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, told **Rinku Ghosh**.

**• Cholesterol: Understanding the basics**

**What is cholesterol?**
- Cholesterol is a fatty substance that the body needs to build cells and hormones.
- It is naturally produced by the body and plays an important role in immunity, recovery and overall functioning.
- Cholesterol levels can fluctuate with stress, infections, surgeries and even seasonal changes.

**When does it become a problem?**
- Cholesterol itself isn't inherently bad — your body needs it to build cells, digest food, make hormones. However, it becomes dangerous when you have too much Low-Density Lipoprotein (LDL) or 'bad' cholesterol. Excess LDL sticks to your artery walls, forming hard plaques that narrow your blood vessels and restrict blood flow.

**Two main types of cholesterol**



- **High-Density Lipoprotein (HDL)**, also known as 'good' cholesterol, helps clear LDL from the bloodstream.
- **Low-Density Lipoprotein (LDL)**, often called 'bad cholesterol', deposits fat in arteries.

**What is ApoB?**
**ApoB (apolipoprotein B) is the primary structural protein found on the surface of 'bad' cholesterol particles (such as LDL, VLDL and IDL) that carry fats through the bloodstream.**

**Who is likely to benefit most from the new oral pill?**

The biggest beneficiaries are patients at high or very high cardiovascular risk, particularly those who have already had a heart attack, undergone angioplasty or stenting, or have established coronary artery disease (CAD). In these patients, the focus is on secondary prevention — preventing another cardiac event.

The principle is simple: the lower the LDL cholesterol, the better the protection. Current guidelines recommend much stricter LDL cholesterol targets for people with existing heart disease, often below 55 mg/dL (milligrams per decilitre). While many patients can achieve these levels with a combination of a high-intensity statin and ezetimibe, which prevents cholesterol from entering the bloodstream via the gut, around 7-10% continue to have LDL levels above target or are unable to tolerate statins, creating the need for additional therapies such as PCSK9 inhibitors.

The drug may also benefit people with very high LDL cholesterol, a strong family history of premature heart disease, multiple cardiovascular risk factors or inherited conditions such as familial hypercholesterolaemia, where cholesterol levels remain elevated despite conventional treatment.

**Prevention principle**
The biggest beneficiaries of this pill would be patients at high or very high cardiovascular risk, such as those who have already had a heart attack.
•
In these patients, the focus is on secondary prevention — preventing another cardiac event.

**How does it compare with statins and existing injectables?**

Statins remain the first-line treatment for lowering cholesterol because they are effective, inexpensive and have decades of evidence showing they reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes. PCSK9 inhibitors are generally reserved for patients who remain at high risk despite these therapies or those who are unable to tolerate statins because of muscle-related side effects or other adverse reactions. Until now, PCSK9 inhibitors have only been available as injectable medicines, which are effective but relatively expensive.

Lipfendra offers the same mechanism of action in the form of a once-daily pill. An oral option could improve convenience and potentially encourage better adherence among patients who need intensive cholesterol lowering but prices will be high.

There are non-statin lipid lowering drugs with proven outcome trials that must be prescribed before we jump to this new drug. They also significantly lower LDL. Ezetimibe (10 mg daily) lowers it by 18–25% and Bempedoic acid (180 mg daily) lowers it by 17–23%. A combination (Bempedoic acid 180 mg + Ezetimibe 10 mg) can reduce LDL by 35–40%.

**Will lowering LDL cholesterol reduce heart attacks and strokes?**

While Lipfendra has been approved based on its ability to lower LDL cholesterol, a dedicated cardiovascular outcomes trial is still under way to determine whether it reduces heart attacks, strokes and cardiovascular deaths. LDL cholesterol is a well-established marker for cardiovascular risk. Decades of research have consistently shown that lowering LDL cholesterol reduces the likelihood of recurrent cardiovascular events, particularly when combined with good blood pressure control, diabetes management, regular exercise, a healthy diet and smoking cessation.

**Why is ApoB reduction important?**

LDL cholesterol travels through the bloodstream packaged inside particles known as lipoproteins. Each of these particles contains a single molecule of ApoB, meaning ApoB reflects the number of cholesterol-carrying particles rather than just the amount of cholesterol they contain.

This is particularly important in people with diabetes and dyslipidaemia, a condition in which the levels of cholesterol or other blood fats are abnormal. In such patients, LDL levels may appear normal in tests but the number of small, dense LDL particles — which are considered more harmful — may actually be high and drive plaque build-up. South Asians are known to have a higher prevalence of this pattern of dyslipidaemia compared with Western populations.

**When should one get their cholesterol checked?**

Every adult should have their cholesterol checked at least once in early adulthood (between 18 and 29 years) to identify inherited disorders, which affect around one in 250 people and cause markedly elevated LDL cholesterol from younger years. That can be addressed then. For people with normal cholesterol levels and low cardiovascular risk, repeat testing is generally advised every five years, although those with diabetes, hypertension, obesity, a family history of premature heart disease or other risk factors may need more frequent screening.

• GOVERNANCE

# Can police hide identity in protests? The procedure and practice

**Deeptiman Tiwary**
*New Delhi, July 22*

WHEN TENS of thousands of protesters attempted to march from New Delhi's Jantar Mantar to Parliament on Monday as part of the "Sansad Chalo" protest, some videos emerged showing Delhi Police and Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel in civilian clothes or without visible nameplates. This raised questions over police identification and accountability.

**What happened during the CJP protests on Monday?**

The protests organised by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) over the NEET paper leak and demanding the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan swelled beyond expectations on Monday. As the crowd marched towards Parliament, police lathicharged it, leading to violent clashes between police and protestors. Both the police and members of the crowd sustained injuries. One protester was even admitted to the ICU.

By evening, some videos circulating on social media appeared to show unidentified men in civilian clothes wielding standard police batons and assaulting demonstrators. The CJP questioned the Delhi Police on social media, asking: "Who are these lathi-armed goons in plainclothes? Who have you hired to beat us up?"

Some other videos appeared to show uniformed Delhi Police and RAF personnel without visible nameplates. In the clips, protesters are seen filming officers and asking, "Where is your nameplate? Please answer us," while the personnel do not respond.

Delhi Police has not responded publicly to the allegations or the videos. But *The Indian Express* has learnt that the force has issued directions that all personnel deployed at Jantar Mantar must report in uniform and not in civilian clothing.

**Is it legal to hide identification?**

While certain operations, such as those involving intelligence collection, genuinely require hiding identification or even impersonation, regular policing is guided by statutory procedure and judicial guidelines.

The maintenance of public order and tranquillity is governed by Chapter XI of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (Sections 148 to 160, formerly Chapter X of the CrPC). While it does not specifically state whether policemen or armed forces personnel are required to identify themselves during a law and order situation, sources said that the very fact that the law allows only a magistrate or a "police officer" to disperse a crowd implies identification.

Police lathi-charge protesters at Jantar Mantar on Monday. PRAVEEN KHANNA

The argument is that an unidentified crowd of armed men cannot legally demand a public gathering to disperse. "If a police officer is unidentifiable, his command to disperse cannot carry statutory weight," said a criminal lawyer practising in Delhi.

In *D K Basu vs State of West Bengal* (1997), the Supreme Court laid down detailed safeguards for arrests and detention, including the requirement that the arresting officer bear clear and visible identification. Although the ruling addressed arrests rather than crowd control, lawyers say it reflects the broader judicial emphasis on the identifiability of police officers while exercising coercive powers.

In August 2025, the Andhra Pradesh High Court, while hearing a petition filed by YSRCP MLA Nallapareddy Prasanna Kumar Reddy, questioned how citizens were expected to recognise plainclothes personnel as police officers while they were performing official duties. Reddy, who was facing the charge of obstructing a police officer from discharging his duty, had argued that the officers were not in uniform.

**Why avoid identification?**

Police officers argue that visible identification can expose individual personnel to prolonged litigation, online harassment and even threats to their families.

"This practice originated in conflict theatres such as Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Chhattisgarh, where personnel often avoided displaying nameplates or rank insignia because they could make them easier targets for militants. Over time, it appears to have filtered into routine policing," said a former Delhi Police officer.

He added that while the practice may be understandable in exceptional security situations, its extension to ordinary law-and-order duties remains contentious.

• GLOBAL

# Draft exemption for ultra-Orthodox Jews: Long-running debate dividing Israel

**Moinuddin Ahmad**
*New Delhi, July 22*

AS THOUSANDS of Israeli soldiers remain engaged on the frontlines in South Lebanon and Gaza, the Israeli Parliament has approved laws that would stop the enlistment of Haredi (ultra-Orthodox Jewish) men in the military. It is seen as an attempt by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to woo religious political parties ahead of polls.

The issue of the Haredi draft has remained fiercely debated since the formation of the State of Israel — why should a particular religious group should be exempt from military service? After almost eight decades, it has become a structural crisis challenging the foundational ethos of the state.

### *'Status Quo': Genesis, evolution*

When the State of Israel was formed in 1948, its first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, faced the massive task of unifying the diverse Jewish diaspora, making Aliyah (immigrating) from different parts of the world. Each group had its expectations for the "promised land".

In his book, *The Jewish State: A Century Later*, political scientist Alan Dowty notes that the founding fathers of Israel, including Ben-Gurion, made a number of unwritten understandings known as the "Status Quo" agreement that sought to balance the secular, socialist foundations of the new state with the long-held traditions of the religious minority. So, a small group of roughly 400 elite ultra-Orthodox yeshiva (a traditional Jewish educational institution focused on the study of sacred texts such as the Torah and the Talmud) students were exempted from military service under the framework of Torato Umanuto ("his Torah study is his occupation"). It was likely assumed that the number of Jews practising the faith in that manner would either dwindle over time or that they would accept the challenges faced by the state and agree to join the military.

Both assumptions proved incorrect. Gradually, the Ben-Gurion's secular Labour Party grew weaker, and the parties that didn't hesitate to align with religious groups filled the political vacuum. In 1977, Menachem Begin's conservative Likud party formed a coalition with Haredi factions, ending decades of Labour dominance. Begin ensured there were no limits on the number of exempted Haredim (plural of Haredi). So, what began initially as an exceptional provision for 400 religious scholars became a structural exemption for an entire, rapidly growing demographic group.

Ultra-Orthodox Jewish men at a protest in Jerusalem on Tuesday. AP

### *Religious-secular divide*

Sociologist Sammy Smooha calls Israel a "deeply divided society". He says the Haredi-secular divide is not merely a disagreement over policy but a clash between two irreconcilable, self-contained worldviews operating within the same geographic borders. Military service in Israel is understood to be far more than a strategic necessity. The concept of the Tzva Ha'am ("People's Army") has kept the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) a melting pot of Israelis of different socio-economic, ethnic and geographic backgrounds.

Secular Israelis see universal military service as a foundational element of distributive justice. From this perspective, the exemption of an entire community is an unsustainable civic injustice. This has left the society under strain.

### *Haredi worldview*

Haredim don't view military exemption as a privilege or a loophole but as an absolute existential necessity. For them, spiritual defence is equal to — if not more important than — physical military defence. Haredi leaders frequently state that the continuous, intensive study of the Torah provides a metaphysical protective shield over the land of Israel.

Haredim view entering the IDF as an existential threat to their religious identity. The military environment — with its mixed-gender units, and alternative authority structures — is considered an institution that would inevitably erode the strict insularity required to maintain ultra-Orthodox life.

To garner popular support, centre-left and some right-wing parties in Israel have mobilised voters by promising to end the exemptions. The Supreme Court of Israel has repeatedly struck down previous legislative arrangements, ruling that sweeping exemptions violate the country's "Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty" by discriminating between citizens.

The Haredi parties, including Shas and United Torah Judaism, view exemption as an absolute red line. They leverage their position as kingmakers in right-wing coalitions to demand explicit, ironclad legislation that bypasses Supreme Court rulings.

Meanwhile, the security establishment consistently flags manpower shortages.

### *Unsuccessful initiatives*

Despite government initiatives, financial incentives, and the creation of strictly kosher military units, enlistment numbers have consistently lagged far behind the growing eligible workforce. According to data compiled by Israeli Democracy Institute, the number of Haredim joining the IDF has only increased from zero to 11% out of the eligible cohort since 1948.

The codification of the Haredi exemption carries risks for the future of the Israeli state across three core vectors: fiscal sustainability, social cohesion, and military readiness.

Because the 'Torato Umanuto' framework legally binds state funding and draft deferments to remaining within the yeshiva system, it discourages young Haredi men from entering the workforce. A growing population sector that does not serve in the military and has lower rates of workforce participation places a heavy tax and security burden on a shrinking percentage of the population.

# Classifieds

## PERSONAL

**I,Sania** Rafiq,D/o-Mohd Rafiq,W/o-Abdul Rehman,R/o-H.NO.1491 Gali Pahari Rajan-Bazar Chitli Qabar Jama Masjid Delhi-110006,Have changed my name to SANIA REHMAN, Permanently 0040867611-2

**I,Umesh** Chand Gupta,S/O-Rameshwar Dayal Gupta,R/O H.No.26/75,Upper-Ground Floor,Right-Side Portion,Wesr-Punjabi Bagh,Delhi-110026, Have Changed my Name to Umesh Garg. 0040867625-6

**I,POONAM** SHEORAN SUMAN,W/o-Atul Kumar Suman,R/o Flat No PVT-D-1, Kh.No.769/2,Front Portion,3rd-Floor,41-Foota Road,Church,Lal Dora,Burari,Delhi-110084,have changed my name to POONAM SHEORAN. 0040867619-12

**Sunil** Saini, S/0 Mahender Singh Saini, aged (46) years, residing at House No. 556, Bhangar Mohalla, Madanpur Khadar, Sarita Vihar, South Delhi, Delhi 110076 have changes my name from Sunil Saini to Sunil Kumar Saini Vide Affidavit No. IN-DL58261356009294Y dated 20.07.2026 sworn before Notary DILIP KUMAR BHOI, DELHI, I shall henceforth be known as Sunil Kumar Saini for all purposes. 0130067123-1

**I,RAJEEV** BANGA@ RAJIV BANGA both names belong to One and Same person i.e. myself RAJEEV BANGA,S/o-Hans Raj BANGA,R/o-AB-36,UGF Mianwali-Nagar, Sunder-Vihar, Delhi-110087 0040867611-11

**I,SHWETA** D/O MADAN SINGH R/O PLOTNO.19 POCKET-21 SECTOR-24 ROHINI DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHWETA SINGH. 0040867619-5

**I,** TINKU S/o Kuldeep Kumar, B-1/117, Ashok Vihar-2, Delhi-110052 have changed my name to TINKU SHARMA. 0071049295-1

**I,DR.** LOKENDRA PAL SINGH,S/O-NARENDRA PAL SINGH,R/O-FLAT NO 401,TOWER-C,PANCHSHEEL-GREEN GREATER NOIDA,WEST GAUTAMBUDDHA-NAGAR,UP201301,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO LOKENDRA PAL SINGH,FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040867608-7

**I,Mohammad** Yusuf,s/o-azimuddin,r/o-E-149,gali no.2,near-madina masjid chand-bagh karawal-nagar,delhi-110094,have changed my name to MOHD YUSUF permanently 0040867611-4

**I,** Tejaswi Bhardwaj S/o, Arun Dev Bhardwaj R/o W-15J/21, Western Avenue, Sainik Farms, New Delhi -110062 have changed my name to Tejasvi Bhardwaj for all purposes 0040867495-1

**I,Rachna** Jain alias Barkha Gupta,D/O-Lt.Sh.Mukesh Chand Jain,W/O Sh.Kamal Gupta,R/O-Plot No.613,F-3, Shalimar-Garden Extension-1, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005, declare that my birth name is Rachna Jain,That I want to change my name from Rachna Jain And Barkha Gupta To Rachna Gupta not change my religion.I shall hereafter be known as Rachna Gupta. 0040867625-8

**I,** Chandra Devi W/o No 6913960-Y Rank TS NK Manbar Singh R/o 327 Gali No- 6 Rattan Vihar, Kirari Suleman Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi- 110086 have changed my name to Chanda Devi vide affidavit date 21-7-26 before Delhi. 0071049278-1

**I,** Ajay Kumar Sharma S/O Suresh Vishwakarma R/O House No-967, Bijwasan Village South West Delhi-110061 Have Changed My Name To Ajay Kumar For All Future Purposes 0071049243-1

**I** Naseer Ahmad S/o Shahzad Ahmad R/o H-1, Abul Fazal Enclave-1, Near Hari Kothi, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Delhi - 110025, have changed my name to Nasir Ahmed. 0071049302-1

**I, Akmal** Zameer Beg, S/o Mohammad Zamir Beg, R/o- R-5, Street No.-9, Zakir Nagar, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025, have change my name to Akmal Zamir Beg, for all purposes. 0040867625-1

**I** Bushra Begum W/o. Mr. Mohd. Aslam Khan, R/O 2111, Maqbara Iradatullah, Rodgran, Lal Kuan, Delhi -110006 declare that Bushra Aslam, Bushra Khan & Bushra Begum are the name of one and same person. In future I shall be known as Bushra Begum. 0040867497-1

**I,Harshita** Gupta,W/o Kartik Agrawal,R/o: H-504,Aditya Urban Casa,Sector-78,Noida, Distt:Gautam-Buddha Nagar,U.P.,have changed my name,from HARHSITA GUPTA to HARSHITA GUPTA for all, future purposes. 0040867619-7

**I,DR.** KHUSHBOO SINGH,W/O-LOKENDRA PAL SINGH,R/O-28-A RZ-BLOCK,SOUTH EXTENSION-3,DAYAL SAR-ROAD,UTTAM NAGAR DELHI-110059,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KHUSHBOO SINGH,FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSES 0040867608-9

**I,SATISH** KUMAR,S/O-OM KARAN LATHAR R/O KALI RAMNA BHAWAR(2) SONIPAT HARYANA-131302.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SATISH FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040867608-5

**I,VINOD** YADAV S/O SAT NARAYAN, R/o J-67,First Floor DILSHAD Colony JHILMIL EAST DELHI-110095,have changed my name to VINOD KUMAR 0040867619-3

**I,Mohammad** Imran,s/o-Mohd Mian Alias Mohammad Miya,r/o 1851gali wazir beg turkman gate delhi-110006,have changed my name to MOHD IMRAN, permanently 0040867611-6

**I,Sanchit** Aggarwal,S/o-Ram Bharose Gupta,R/o-4/1273/1, Bhola-Nath Nagar,Shahdara, Delhi-110032,have changed the name of my minor daughter Meenakshi Aged-6Years and she shall hereafter be known as Linisha. 0040867625-10

**I,** SHALU GUPTA @ SHALLU C/o Ashok Mittal, E-49A, Chankaya Place, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-59, have changed my name to SHALLU MITTAL. 0071049283-1

**I,Rebecca** John Chettri,W/o-Bipin Chettri,R/o Flat-1409M,Regalia Height, Shipra Suncity, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-I,have changed my name to Rebecca Chettri. 0040867608-2

**I,** Deepak Srivastava, S/o Gyan Chandra Srivastava, resident of E-399, paramount golf foreste, Zeta-2, Greater Noida,have changed my name from Deepak Srivastava to Deepak Kumar Srivastava. Henceforth, I would be known by the name of Deepak Kumar Srivastava for all future purposes. 0071049236-1

**I,Tarannum** W/o Mohd Ghufran,R/o-2414 Gali Gudariyan Turkman Gate Delhi,has changed my name to Tarannum Ghufran,for all purpose 0040867611-8

**I,** Mohammad Umar Khan S/o Hikmat Ali, R/o A-72, Mohalla Kot, Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi-110013 have changed my name to Mohd Umar. 0071049250-1

**I,hitherto** known as ZOYA SHAIKH,W/o-Ejajul Shaikh,R/o-C-11/21, First Floor,Yamuna-Vihar,Garhi Mendu,PO Bhajanpura,North East Delhi-110053,have changed my name not my religion and shall hereafter be known as RAM KAUR. 0040867619-9

**I,Guru** Prakash,s/o-Subhash Chand Dubey,R/o-KH.No-20/21/1,and-20/21/2, Matri Chhaya Society,Himgiri-Enclave,A-Block,Gali.No-9A,Pepsi-Road, Burari,Delhi-110084,have changed my name to Guru Prakash Dubey. 0040867608-11

**I,** Ashish Chauhan S/o Vikram Singh Chauhan R/o A-35-36 Third Floor, Northern Portion, Hari Nagar, Maya Puri, Delhi-110064, I have changed the name of my minor daughter Amayra Chauhan to Anshika Chauhan aged 3 years. 0071049288-1

**I,Yogya** Arora D/o Gulshan Arora, R/o H.No.81-A, Ward No.13, Near Masjid School,Lohia Wara,Sohna, Gurugram,Haryana-122103 have changed my name Yogya. 0040867619-2

**I,MANDAKINI** GOSWAMI,W/O-PRAVESH GOSWAMI,R/O-C-54 SECTOR-56,NOIDA GAUTAM-BUDDHA,NAGAR,UP,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANDAKINI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040867608-4

**I,** Naila Anwar W/o Nadeem Haider, D-265, Tikona Park, Gulmohar Avenue, Okhla Village, Jamia Nagar, Delhi-25 , have changed my name to Naila Haider. 0071049242-1

**I** Shanaz Begum W/O Md. Shameem, R/o J-168, J-BLOCK, DHARAMPURA COLONY,Najafgarh,South-West Delhi, Delhi-110043 have changed my name to Shanaz Khatoon. 0040867625-5

**I,** Sahil Sood, S/o Sanjay Sood, R/o A68 third floor greenwood city sector 45 Gururgam, 122003, has changed my son's name aged 6 months from Yunay Shivkumar Sood to Yunay Sood. 0071049255-1

**I,SATISH** KUMAR JUNEJA,S/o Late Sh.Krishan Lal,R/o 294-C, VP-Block Pitampura Delhi-110034 have changed my name to SATISH KUMAR. 0040867619-11

**I,DAL** CHAND MEENA,S/o-Late Shri Ram Singh Meena,R/o-H.No.268,Sector-15,Vasundhara,Ghaziabad U.P.DAL CHAND,DC-MEENA and DAL CHAND MEENA is same and one person.I will be known as DAL CHAND MEENA for all future purposes. 0040867611-1

**I,MD** ILYAS S/o-MOHAMMAD IQBAL,R/o-1277,GALI GAU KHANA PUNJABI PHATAK BALLIMARAN Gate Delhi,has changed my name to MOHAMMAD ILYAS,for all purpose 0040867611-10

**I,** HITESH KUMAR GUPTA, S/o GAURI SHANKER GUPTA, R/o B-2/2305, 24TH FLOOR, SUPERTECH THE ROMANO, SECTOR-118, NOIDA, UP-201301, have changed my name to HITESH GUPTA for all purposes. 0071049289-1

**I,** Mohamed Saleem Ahmed S/o Amir Ahmed R/O 22, Nizamuddin Village, Hazrat Nizamuddin, South Delhi, Delhi-110013 have changed my name to Salim Ahmed Permanently. 0071049254-1

**I,** Georgina Riya Maliakal, D/o M.V. Rappai, R/o of C-274/3 Arjun Nagar, S.J. Enc., New Delhi-110029, have changed my name to Riya Raphael, for all future purposes. 0040867486-1

**I,GAIRIU** GANGMEI,W/o-Shankey James,R/o-Unit No.3,Second Floor,Khasra No.1760/1 and 1760/1,Aya-Nagar,Delhi-110074,have changed my name to GAIRIU JAMES permanently 0040867619-10

**I,** Rajeev Singh S/o Ramashray Singh R/o Kamhenpur, Azamgarh, Bhavar Nath, Uttar Pradesh-276001, have changed my-name to Rajeev Kumar Singh. 0040867625-3

**I,** GAURI SHANKER, S/o RAM KUMAR, R/o B-2/704, SUPERTECH THE ROMANO, SECTOR-118, NOIDA, UP-201301, have changed my name to GAURI SHANKER GUPTA for all purposes. 0071049291-1

**I,PREETI** D/O DHARMENDER KUMAR SHARMA R/O HNO.F-340 KRISHAN VIHAR DELHI-110086.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PREETI SHARMA FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040867608-6

**I,Md** Fazil,s/o-Nawabuddin r/o-3040 sf qaziwara sir Syed Ahmad road Darya ganj,Delhi-110002,have changed my name to MOHAMMAD FAZIL permanently 0040867611-3

**I,** Nasim, Nasim Bano W/o Mohd Umar R/o A-72, Mohalla Kot, Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi-13 have changed my name to Naseem Bano. 0071049245-1

**I,CHAMAN** LAL GAUR,S/O PALTAN RAM GAUR,R/O 210, GALI NO-7,AMBEDKAR NAGAR,SAMLKA VILLAGE, DELHI-110037 CHANGE TO NEW NAME CHAMAN LAL. 0040867625-7

**I,** Amrendra Singh, Father of Miss Aaheli, R/o E -638, 5th Avenue, Gaur City 1, Greater Noida West, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP 201301 hereby declare that my daughter's name has been changed from "Aaheli" to "Aaheli Singh". Both names refer to one and the same person and shall be treated as "Aaheli Singh" for all educational, official and future purposes. 0040867505-1

**I,AKSHAY** KUMAR S/O RAMESH KUMAR R/O C-76/B RAMA VIHAR MOHAMMADPUR MAJRI DELHI-110081.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AKSHAY ANAND. 0040867619-6

**I,** SHOBHIT S/o Raj Kumar, R/o:E-345, Ground Floor,Tagore Garden Extension, New Delhi-110027, Have Changed My Name to SHOBHIT SHRIVASTAV. 0071049299-1

**I,A.K.SINGH,S/O-BHOJ** RAJ SINGH,R/O-28-A RZ-BLOCK,SOUTH EXTENSION-3,DAYAL-SAR ROAD,UTTAM NAGAR,DELHI-110059,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AJAY KUMAR SINGH FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040867608-8

**I,Safiya** bano,w/o-Mohd Yusuf,r/o E-149,gali no.2 chand-bagh karawal nagar,delhi-110094,have changed my name to SAFIA permanently 0040867611-5

**I,Rajesh** Kumar,S/o-Hansraj Sachdeva,R/o-A-34,First Floor,Vivek Vihar,Phase-2, Delhi-110095,have changed my name to Rajesh Kumar Sachdeva for all purposes. 0040867625-9

**I,** MADAN DAS S/o Sundar Das, 9A/68, GF, WEA, Mahabir Mandir, Karol Bagh, Delhi-05 have changed my name to MADAN DAS VAISHNAV. 0071049280-1

**I,Anamika** Bhardwaj,W/o-Anirudh Madan,R/o C-3/209, Janakpuri,West Delhi, Pin:110058,have changed my name to Anamika Bhardwaj Madan for all purposes. 0040867608-1

**I,** PINKI YADAV w/o Vinod KUMAR,R/o J-67, First Floor DILSHAD Colony JHILMIL EAST DELHI-110095,have changed my name to PINKI 0040867619-4

**I,** Sukhdeep Singh S/o Kuldeep Singh Saggu R/o,Plot-No.29, Second-Floor, Bank-Enclave, Rajouri Garden,New Delhi-110027,have changed my name to Sukhdeep Singh Saggu. 0040867625-2

**I,DIWAKAR** S/o-Gameshwar R/o-C-136/2, Chandan Vihar, Nihal Vihar Phase-2,Nangloi Delhi-110041,have changed my name to DIWAKAR TANSRAIYA, permanently 0040867619-8

**I** Sabra Ahmad W/o Nasir Ahmed R/o H-1, Abul Fazal Enclave-1, Near Hari Kothi, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Delhi - 110025, have changed my name to Sabri. 0071049304-1

**I,** NAVNEET S/O PAWAN KUMAR BUDHIRAJA, R/O-JWALA NAGAR SHAHDARA DELHI-110032 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AS NAVNEET BUDHIRAJA AFFIDAVIT ON 22/07/2026 0130067120-1

**I,KEHKASHAN** PARVEEN,W/o WASEEM AHMED,R/o-3227 1st Floor Phatak Teliyan Turkman Gate Delhi,has changed my name to KAHKASHAN PARVEEN,for all purpose 0040867611-9

**I,NASEEMA,W/O-MOHD** ASHQEEN,R/O-PLOT NO H-4 AND H-5 FIRST FLOOR,KHASRA. NO.134,STREET.NO.9 WAZIRABAD,DELHI-110084,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NASEEMA BEGUM, FOR FUTURE. 0040867608-3

**I,** S K ABHISHEK S/O R SENTHIL KUMAR, R/O of M 47 Ground Floor, Gali Number - 16, Balaji Enclave, Govindpuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201013, have changed my name to ABHISHEK SENTHIL KUMAR vide affidavit dated 21/07/2026 at Ghaziabad. 0071049237-1

**I,** Mohd Yameen S/o,Meharaban R/o 00, FNG-Road, Near-Charch, Sector-68, Garhi-Chokhandi, PO:Maharishi Nagar, Dist:Gautam Buddha-Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201304,have changed my-name to Md. Yaseen. 0040867625-4

**I,Subhash** Chander Dubey,s/o-Lalta Prasad Dubey,R/o-KH.No-20/21/1,and 20/21/2,Matri Chhaya Society,Himgiri-Enclave,A-Block,Gali.No-9A,Pepsi Road,Burari,Delhi-110084,have changed my name to Subhash Chand Dubey. 0040867608-10

**I,Mohammad** miya,s/o-Wali Mohd alias Wali Mohammad, r/o 1831/32,G/F,F/F mohalla qabristan turkman gate,delhi-110006,have changed my name to MOHD MIAN permanently 0040867611-7

**I,SHEETAL** MAGGO W/O RAHUL ARORA R/O D-9/1, G.T.B Nagar, Delhi-110009, have changed my name to SHEETAL ARORA. 0040867619-1

**I,** Poonam Bai D/o Partap Singh, 269, Gali No-10, Vipin Garden, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-59 have changed my name to Poonam Rathore. 0071049284-1

I, HARPREET SINGH GABA S/O GURDEV SINGH GABA R/O G-340 PREET VIHAR LAXMI NAGAR EAST DEEHI-110092, inform that HARPREET SINGH and HARPREET SINGH GABA, both names are same person. 0040867319-8

## LOST & FOUND

**To** be known to all that, I Jyoti Chirag Parikh W/o Sh. Chirag Parikh and D/o Lt. Sh. Surjit Kumar alias Sh. Surjit & Lt. Smt. Santosh Rani alias Smt. Santosh R/o 7, Kiran Niketan, 2nd Floor, Tilak Road, Nr. Bhatiawadi, Ghatkkopar East P.O Rajawadi Mumbai Suburan Maharasthra My father's Document (Punjab RC Surrender Slip) has been lost at Rohini Court An online FIR to this effect has been 20/07/2026 vide LR No. 465136/2026 0130067122-1

**I,** Harish Kumar Garg s/o Kanwar Bhan Garg r/o B-4/68, 2nd Floor, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 lost Original physical share certificates No. 4650729, 7890119, 12937394, Dist No. 4650729-4650729, 7890119-7890119 & 12937394-12937413 of Garware Technical Fibres Limited. 0040867488-1

**To** be known to all that, I Ashok Kumar S/O Lt Sh. Beant Ram R/o A-106, Sanjay Colony, Okhla Ph-2New Delhi My Original Punjab RC Surrender Slip has been lost at Delhi High Court An online FIR to this effect has been 16/12/2025 vide LR No. 3432230/2025 0130067079-1

**To** be known to all that, I Ashok Kumar S/o Lt Sh. Beant Ram R/o A-106, Sanjay Colony, Okhla Ph—2 New Delhi My Original Voter ID Card(B-299 Peeragarhi) has been lost at Rohini Court Complex An online FIR to this effect has been 17/07/2026 vide LR No. 456143/2026 0130067078-1

**I,Naresh** Kumar Garg,S/o-Ram Swaroop Garg,R/o-Flat No.901,B Wing-Gold Filled Girnar Tower CHS Sicn Bandra Link-Road, Maharastra, Mumbai-400017, lost original DDA-FDR Ragistration No.08669, Dated-17/03/1981 and address Plot.No.525, Pocket-C-6, Block.No.Sector-34, Rohini Delhi, finder contact above address 0040867611-12

**I,Sarla** Gupta,D/O-Bishamber Dayal,R/O-59,Kapil-Vihar,upper ground-floor, Pitampura,Delhi-110034.Have lost original Perpectual sub-lease deed of 59,Kapil Vihar issued by DDA in favour of Bishamber Dayal, S/O-Shri Khem Lal on 22/01/1980, original mutation-Latter of-59,Kapil-Vihar issued by DDA in favour of Sarla Gupta, original conveyance deed of 59,Kapil-Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034,issued by DDA in favour of Sarla Gupta on 14/08/2000. 0040867608-12

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

IT IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT SHRI MANISH BABBAR, WHO HAS APPLIED FOR A LOAN FROM LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (LICHFL), HAS REPORTED THE DEATH OF SHRI KRISHAN LAL BABBAR @ KRISHAN LAL, WHO EXPIRED ON 21.09.2009, THE LOAN PERTAINS TO THE RESIDENTIAL BUILT-UP SECOND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS OF SOUTHERN SIDE PORTION OF PROPERTY BEARING NO. WZ-44A (OLD NO. D-16) LAND AREA MEASURING 50 SQ. YDS. PART OF KHASRA NO. 1527 SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE BASAI DARAPUR, COLONY KNOWN AS RATTAN PARK, NEW DELHI-110015. IT IS FURTHER INFORMED THAT THE SELLERS, NAMELY SMT. GURSHARAN KAUR (OWNER OF 25% UNDIVIDED SHARE) & SMT. SUKHVINDER KAUR (OWNER OF 75% UNDIVIDED SHARE), DO NOT POSSESS THE DEATH CERTIFICATE AND SURVIVING MEMBER CERTIFICATE OF THE ABOVE-NAMED DECEASED PERSON AND TITLE IS DERIVED FROM REGISTERED FAMILY WILL DATED 10.06.2009 EXECUTED BY SHRI KRISHAN LAL BABBAR @ KRISHAN LAL IN FAVOUR OF SHRI NARINDER BABBAR AND HAVE STATED THAT THERE ARE NO OTHER LEGAL HEIRS IN RESPECT OF THE AFORESAID PROPERTY. IF ANY OTHER CLAIMENT HAS ANY RIGHT IN THE AFORESAID PROPERTY, HE/SHE SHOULD INFORM & GIVE INTIMATION TO THE UNDERSIGNED WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE OF THIS NOTICE.

Sd/-
**B.K. MUKERJEE**
**Advocate**
**Delhi High Court**
**3657/6, G.F., Narang Colony, Tri Nagar, Delhi-110035**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

IT IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT SHRI HEMANT KUMAR AND SHRI SHRIKANT DWIVEDI, WHO HAS APPLIED FOR A LOAN FROM LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (LICHFL), THE LOAN PERTAINS TO THE RESIDENTIAL HOUSE NO. 69 AREA MEASURING 125.41 SQ. MTR. OUT OF KHASRA NO. 413 SITUATED AT RADHA KUNJ-II NANDGRAM, HADBAST VILLAGE SIHANI, PARGANA LONI, TEHSIL & DISTT. GHAZIABAD (U.P.), THE SELLER, SHRI SHAMSHAD ALI, DOES NOT HAVE THE ORIGINAL SALE DEED DATED 22.01.2001 EXECUTED BY (I) SHRI RAMESHWAR & (II) SHRI RAMKISHORE IN FAVOUR OF SHRI ROOPAK TYAGI, REGD. DOC. NO. 572, IN RESPECT OF THE SAID PLOT. THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN LOST/MISPLACED, AND AN FIR IN THIS REGARD WAS LODGED ON 21.07.2026. IF ANY OTHER CLAIMENT HAS ANY RIGHT IN THE AFORESAID PROPERTY, HE/SHE SHOULD INFORM & GIVE INTIMATION TO THE UNDERSIGNED WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE OF THIS NOTICE.

Sd/-
**SUBHASH GUPTA**
**Advocate**
**Enrl. No. D-446/2002**
**125, FIRST FLOOR, ANAND NAGAR, INDERLOK, DELHI-110035,**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known at public in large that my clientess **Smt. Pritam Kaur** W/o Late S. Surinder Singh R/o: WZ-9, Mukhram Park Extn., Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-18, has debarred, disowned and disinherited her all three daughters including their respective families namely: **1. Gurivinder Kaur 2. Smt. Gurcharan Kaur** and **Smt. Amrit Kaur** from her movable and immovable assets and severed all relations with them on account of their unwarranted acts, indifferent behaviours and conducts as they were extending continue threats to my clientess by their illegal demands in the property no. WZ-9, Mukhram Park Extn, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-18 which owned by her grandson namely **Sh. Pardeep Singh,** Even the said grandson is caring & looking after my clientess after the death of her husband. She doesn't want in future; her aforesaid daughters will disturb him and his family in any manner. Any one deal with them shall do entirely at their own risks, costs, consequences and responsibilities.

Sd/-
**Dinesh Rohilla**
**Advocate**
**Ch. No. K-134, Lawyers Chamebr, Tis Hazari Coruts, Delhi-110054**

### PUBLIC NOTICE
**(Adoption of Surname)**

I, Mr. AZAD ANJUM, Son of Mr. Nazeer Ahmad, Resident of SQ-22/23, Block-H, DDA Flats, Saket, New Delhi-110017, hereby declare that my name was mentioned as AZAD HUSAIN in certain old records, including an Electoral Roll of the year 2002.

Since around the year 2003-2004, I have voluntarily adopted the surname "ANJUM" and have continuously used my name as AZAD ANJUM in all my official, legal and personal records, including Passport, PAN Card, Voter ID Card and other Government documents.

Both the names AZAD HUSAIN and AZAD ANJUM refer to one and the same person.

Henceforth, I shall be known, identified and recognized only as AZAD ANJUM for all purposes. Sd/- **AZAD ANJUM**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients Shri Ran Vijay Singh S/o Shri Kameshwer Singh & Smt. Utam Devi W/o Ran Vijay Singh Both R/o A-452, Amar Jyoti Camp, Okhla Phase-1, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi-110020, do hereby Debarred/disowned their Son Saurabh, and his wife Snehlata, R/o A-452, Amar Jyoti Camp, Okhla Phase-1, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi-110020, From all their moveable and immoveable properties. Due to misbehavior and severed their relations with them. My clients shall not be responsible for their any acts in future.

**YOGESH SHARMA (ADVOCATE)**
Ch. No. 711, 7th Floor, Lawyers Chamber Block, Saket Court, New Delhi.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that my client **Smt. RAMA SHARMA** W/o Sh. Raj Kumar Sharma, R/o A-2/207, Ground Floor, Janakpuri B-1, West Delhi, New Delhi-110058 has severed all her social and financial relations with immediate effect from her daughter **Ms. RIDHIMA BHALLA @ RIDHIMA SHARMA** (EX-W/o **Sh. ROHAN BHALLA, D/o Sh. RAJ KUMAR SHARMA**), R/o A-2/207, Ground Floor, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058

**RK DEV (Advocate)**
**Enrol. No. D-901/10**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sudesh Devi W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar, R/o T.F PR No. 88, Kh No. 22/23 62.5 Sq. Yds, Gali No. 1 Blk-A, Hardev Nagar, Jharoda Majra, Burari Delhi-84, has severed all relations and debar her son Amit Kumar and his wife Sonika Kumari from entire moveable/immovable properties due to their hostile behaviour. My clients shall not be responsible for their any acts in future.

**Arvind Vats (Advocate)**
**Ch. No. 716 Rohini Court Delhi.**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The public at large is hereby notified on behalf of my clients Rameshwar Bhagat, S/o Late Sh. Toni Bhagat and his wife Mrs. Janki Devi, currently residing at R/o HNo.-2/89, KH. No - 41/17, Gali No-6, Harphool Vihar, Jal Vihar Baprola, New Delhi-110043 that my client have permanently disowned and severed all ties with his son i.e Manoj Kumar and his wife, Amrita Kumari and their both childrens i.e Aksh Bhagat (Grand Son) and Arnav Bhagat (GrandSon). This severance includes all social, financial, and emotional connections, and my clients disclaim any future responsibility or association with them on pretext of non-cordial family relations from several years. Our clients shall not be responsible for any acts and deeds of the above named disowned per sons from the date of this notice is issued till the future.

Sd/-
**SAHIL KAUSHIK**
**Advocate**
**Ch. No. 636,**
**Dwarka Court Complex,**
**New Delhi-110075**

### Public Notice

I lost Share Certificate No VJGHS/Agmnt/12/83, Membership No 38 of VJGHSL, R/o 175, Akashdarshan Apt, M V -1, Delhi-91. NCR was lodged on 21-07-26 at P.S. M V-1, Delhi-91.
If found, please send them to **Asha Rai** at:
**(M) 8506050780.**

## COURT NOTICE

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT**
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
**IN THE COURT OF MS. DIVYA GUPTA, ARC-02, ROOM NO.36, THC CENTRAL, DELHI**
**E-2/26 (RC ARC 4/2026)**
**MOHD ASIF**
**.....PETITIONER**
**V/s**
**RAM JI DASS**
**.....RESPONDENT**
**TO,**
**SH. RAM JI DASS S/O SH. PAHU RAM**
**9135/3, GROUND FLOOR, WARD NO. XII, GALI ZAMEER WALI, KATRA NAWAB GANJ DELHI-110006**

THE DEFENDANT ABOVE NAMED
WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the **10 day of 08 2026 at 10.00 A.M.** the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this **17 day of 07 2026.**

Seal Sd/-
**Additional Rent Controller**

**IN THE COURT OF SH. SUNIL KUMAR SHARMA, LD. DISRTICT JUDGE-04, WEST, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI**
**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT**
***Order 5, rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure***

**CIV DJ NO. 224/2026**
**PURPLE FAB PVT. LTD.**
**.....PLAINTIFF**
**V/S**
**DINESH GOEL**
**..... DEFENDANT**
**N.D.O.H. 10-09-2026**

**To**
**DINESH GOEL, PROPEITOR OF M/S AAYUSH TILE & MARBLE OFFICE AT: GROUND FLOOR, PLO NO. 106, KHASRA NO. 70/106/107 MARBLE MARKET, SINGOLA ROAD, NARELA, NEW DELHI-110040**
**ALSO AT:**
**DINESH GOEL**
**R/O B-15, AMAR COLONY, NANGLOI, DELHI-110041**
**MOBILE PHONE: 9810364701, 9810362113**
**EMAIL ID: aayushtiles&marble@gmail.com**

Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 10-09-2026 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this 03-07-2026

Seal Sd/-
Judge

### "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.

### LOST & FOUND

WE LOST THE 4TH PAGE OF ORIGINAL SALE DEED EXECUTED BY MR VIKRAM B SINGH IN OUR FAVOUR WHICH WAS DULY REGISTERED NUMBER 9715 BOOK NO 1 VOLUME 3581 PAGE 175 TO 180 DATED 17-7-2008 AT SR VIII . TRY TO LOCATE IT ITS NOT TRACABLE FLAT IS NOT MORTGED OR THERE IS NO LIEN ONTHE PROPERTY FOUNDER **PLS INFORM SURABHI / SHASHANK TANDON 9311119440**

Call or WhatsApp 9717006820 to advertise on classified page
The Indian EXPRESS — JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

### NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
### E-TENDER NOTICE

Divl. Rly. Manager, N.W.Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works up to 15.00 hours on 07.08.2026 as below:- **Tender No.:** 106, **Name of Work with its Location:** Lalgarh -Kolayat-TRR (P) of 60kg for 45.877 TKm under jurisdiction of ADEN/Line/Bikaner, **Approx. Cost of Work:** Rs. 62488594.13, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1249800.00, **Tender No.:** 107, **Name of Work with its Location:** Suratgarh-Lalgarh-TRR(P) of 60Kg for 45.657 Tkm under jurisdiction of ADEN/Line/Bikaner., **Approx. Cost of Work:** Rs. 68815470.93, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1376300.00, **Note:** Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.ireps.gov.in **1060-PS/26**

Follow us at /NWRailways /NWRailways_

### उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे
### ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

मंडल रेल प्रबंधक इंजीनियरिंग, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवम उनकी ओर से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमो के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्रों में निविदा निम्न कार्यों के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है- **ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 2026-27:** 95 of 2026-27, **कार्य का नाम व स्थान:** Supplying 65 mm guage hard stone machine crushed railway track ballast in stacks and loading in to railway ballast hoppers at Govindi Marwar ballast depot under ADEN/Degana of Jodhpur Division., **अनुमानित लागत रुपये:** 147459000.00, **बयाने की राशि रुपये:** 2949200.00, **ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 2026-27:** 114 of 2026-27, **कार्य का नाम व स्थान:** Platform shelter along with CC Benches at various station in the Jurisdiction of DEN/East in connection with Conversion of Bus Type PF Shelter, **अनुमानित लागत रुपये:** 23081228.03, **बयाने की राशि रुपये:** 461600.00, **ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 2026-27:** 115 of 2026-27, **कार्य का नाम व स्थान:** Provision of new station building with booking office, waiting hall, 2no. waiting room & Retiring room at Makrana station and booking office, waiting hall, waiting room at Nawa City station, **अनुमानित लागत रुपये:** 21519493.28, **बयाने की राशि रुपये:** 430400.00, निविदा सूचना सं. 95 of 2026-27, 114 of 2026-27 & 115 of 2026-27 निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 10.08.2026, 17.08.2026 & 13.08.2026 को 15.00 बजे तक) वेबसाइट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई-निविदा देखी व भरी जा सकती है - www.ireps.gov.in **1057-PS/26**

हमें /NWRailways /NWRailways_ पर फॉलो करें

### EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
### E-TENDER NOTICE

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE NO.- T-SEE-GSU-ABSS-2026-27-01.

CAO/CON/RSP/MHX for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tenders for the following works. The last date of online E-tendering is 18.08.2026 up to 15:00 hrs. All information and tender documents related to E-tender is available on website-www.ireps.gov.in.

1. Name of works : Balance work of - 1) HLP extension- raising & surfacing, approach road around the pond, boundary wall, circulating and parking area & other misc. works at Ram Dayalu Nagar. 2) PF surfacing, boundary wall, Ramp for FOB, approach road, circulating & parking area & other misc. works at Dalsingh Sarai. 3) Boundary wall, widening of approach road, toe wall, 6m wide FOB with ramp, circulating & parking area & other misc. works at Karhagola Road. 4) PF Surfacing, approach road, boundary wall, ramp for FOB, circulating and parking area & other misc. works at Mansi. 5) HLP extension- raising & surfacing, boundary wall, PF shed, coping block, circulating and parking area, passenger amenities & other misc. works at Mahesh Khunt. 6) Boundary wall, passenger amenities, circulating & parking area, & other misc. works at Lakhminia. 7) Boundary wall, ramp for FOB, extension of circulating and parking area & other misc. works at Bhagwanpur. 8) PF Surfacing, PF shed & other misc. works at Sonpur. 9) PF raising & surfacing, Ramp for FOB, approach road, boundary wall, utility shifting and extension of circulating area and parking area & other misc. works at

## TELANGANA CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING FEDERATION LTD.

Email: proc. tsmarkfed2018@gmail.com, Ph. No: 040-2460 7108

Rc.No.645/P&M/ Disposal of Maize Yasangi/2025-26 Date: 22.07.2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR ONLINE E-AUCTION (SECOND CALL) FOR THE SALE OF MAIZE YASANGI (RABI) 2025-26 PROCURED BY TG MARKFED.**

Tender notification for online e-Auctions on disposal of Maize Yasangi (Rabi) 2025-26 procured by TG MARKFED in three auctions for the quantity and lots as mentioned in the e-auction portal through **https://auction.telangana.gov.in/** i.e. Telangana e-procurement portal (Applications in e-procurement portal will be available from 11 :00 AM on 23.07.2026).

**A. AUCTION-I:**
1. E-auction bidding will commence on **31.07.2026** from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM
2. Last date for submission of EMD: **29.07.2026** upto 05:00 PM.

**B. AUCTION-II:**
1. E-auction bidding will commence on **01.08.2026** from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM
2. Last date for submission of EMD: **30.07.2026** upto 05:00 PM

**C. AUCTION-III:**
1. E-auction bidding will commence on **03.08.2026** from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM
2. Last date for submission of EMD: **01.08.2026** upto 05:00 PM

For online registration and further technical support please contact Service providers Mobile No: 7337445545 / 6309339690 / 7337445546 / 9912756216

For further details please contact. Ph: 7288879806, and 7288879829

DIPR R.O.No.343-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt:22-07-2026 **Sd/-MANAGING DIRECTOR**

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

**See Section 82 CrPC / 84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Noor Hassan S/o** Mehandi Hassan, **R/o** D-1/42, Nehru Vihar, Dayalpur, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **CC No. 1065/2020, U/S 138 NI Act, PS Bhajanpura, North-East Distt., Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Noor Hassan** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Noor Hassan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that **Noor Hassan** the said accused of **CC No. 1065/2020, U/S 138 NI Act, PS Bhajanpura, North-East Distt., Delhi,** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **24.08.2026.**

**By Order**
**Sh. Pankaj Rai**
**Judicial Magistrate First Class-01**
**North-East Distt., Court No.-73, 5th Floor, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi**

DP/9953/NE/2026 (Court Matter)

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY KRISHI UPAJ MANDI SAMITI JABALPUR DIST. JABALPUR

**Notice Inviting Tender**

**N.I.T. No/Nirman/2026-27/N-278** **JABALPUR dated: 22.07.2026**

Online Percentage Rate E - Tenders are invited from contractors registered with the Office of the Engineer in Chief, M.P. Public Works Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh (Centralized Registration Cell) for **1.CONSTRUCTION OF COVERED AUCTION PLATEFORM SIZE 102x10 MT INCLUDING INTERNAL ELECTRIFICATION WORK 2.CONSTRUCTION OF COVERED AUCTION PLATEFORM SIZE 30 X45 METER INCLUDING INTERNAL ELECTRIFICATION 3.CONSTRUCTION OF WBM CUM CC ROAD AROUND THE PROPOSED SHED 30 X45 METER AT MANDI YARD JABALPUR DISTT JABALPUR Tender Number: 2026_MPSAM_523439_1 ( PAC 302.97 LACS), CONSTRUCTION AND STRENGTHIENING OF CC, ROAD WORK AT MANDI YARD JABALPUR Tender Number: 2026_MPSAM_523449_1 (PAC-691.58 LACS), 1. REPLACING OF PROFILE SHEET IN PLACE OF OLD AC SHEET IN COVERED AUCTION PLATEFORM NO 10 (SIZE-30.0*60.0 M) AND MAINTENANCE OF FLOORING 2. MAINTANANCE AND FLOORING REPAIRING OF SHED NO 1, 7 AND 8 WORK AT MANDI YARD JABALPUR Tender Number: 2026_MPSAM_523474_1 (TOTAL PAC-67.22 LACS) AND CONSTRUCTION OF DRAIN WORK AT MANDI YARD JABALPUR Tender Number : 2026_MPSAM_523460_1 (TOTAL PAC-104.52 LACS).** The following works Tender to be received online up to **3:30 PM on 13.08.2026.** Technical bid documents with EMD & Finacial Offer to be received online only as per Detailed NIT. The tender documents can be obtained online on the **https://mptenders.gov.in** as per the Notice Published on the above Portal and detailed information can also be seen on website **www.mpmandiboard.gov.in.**

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

**Sd/-**
**Secretary**
**Krishi Upaj mandi Samitti JABALPUR**
**Distt. JABALPUR**

## TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED

(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & an ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**The APTRANSCO** invites bids online for Spec. No: PMMTC1-**e-36/2026** for floating of tender for "Supply, Testing, Erection and Commissioning of Digital Tele Protection Signaling Equipment (DTPC) and Cabinets Under RMI 2025-26 and RMI 2026-27 & Supply of DTPCs and Cabinets for upcoming projects". Date & Time of availability of Tender on e-procurement platform i.e., www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in is on **23.07.2026@17:00Hrs.** Contact No. Dy.EE: 9491008564.

R.O.No.GMCC/APTRANSCO/104/26-27 **Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER TELECOM & IT**

## NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**No. E-255472** **Date: 09.07.2026**

**Ajmer division has invited EOI (expression of interest) for** "Engagement of Consultancy Services for identification and monetization of untapped & upcoming resources/assets for increasing Railway Revenue through different conventional and non-conventional modes of Sundry Revenue earnings (eg. NFR, Catering, Parking etc.) for Udaipur railway station over Ajmer Division of North Western Railway." which as below :-

| Sr No. | EOI Details | Particular | EOI submission date |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | EOI for Engagement of Consultancy services | Engagement of Consultancy Services for identification and monetization of untapped & upcoming resources/assets for increasing Railway Revenue through different conventional and non-conventional modes of Sundry Revenue earnings (eg. NFR, Catering, Parking etc.) for Udaipur railway station over Ajmer Division of North Western Railway." | 09.07.2026 to 07.09.2026. In commercial section, Divisional Railway Manager Office, Ajmer. |

Detailed EOI document, schedule and other information are available on the website **https://nwr.indianrailways.gov.in**

Follow us on: /NWRailways NWRailways_ **1052-MG/26**

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

**See Section 82 CrPC**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Kuldeep @ Gullu S/o** Raj Kumar **R/o** H.No. C-58, Karan Vihar, Part-V, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 181/24, U/S 356/379/411/34 IPC, PS Raj Park, Outer Distt., Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Kuldeep @ Gullu** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Kuldeep @ Gullu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that **Kuldeep @ Gullu** the said accused of **FIR No. 181/24, U/S 356/379/411/34 IPC, PS Raj Park, Outer Distt., Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **17.09.2026.**

**By Order**
**Ms. Aakanksha**
**Judicial Magistrate First Class-03**
**Court No.-107, South-West Distt., Rohini Courts, Delhi**

DP/9934/OD/2026 (Court Matter)

## O/o GENERAL MANAGER HARYANA ROADWAYS, JHAJJAR

**Website:- www.hartrans.gov.in**

**TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tender are invited for hiring of activities ie 1. Cleaning of Buses with broom. 2. Washing of Buses Haryana Roadways, Jhajjar depot as mentioned in online system i.e technical and financial bid.

| Sr. No | Name of Items | Approximate Value (In Lacs per annum) | EMD Deposited (In Rs.) | Tender No. | Start Date & Time of Bid preparation & Submission | Expiry Date & Time of Bid Preparation & Submission. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1. Cleaning of Buses with broom. 2. Washing of Buses. | 10.00 | 50,000/- | 3775/BC dated 22.07.2026 | 30.07.2026 Start from 10:00 AM | 14.08.2026 Up to 15:00 P.M. |

**Note:-** For details information please visit website **https://etenders.hry.nic.in/**

**Sd-**
**General Manager,**
**Haryana Roadways, Jhajjar.**

**No. 47404/HRY**

## MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

**Regd. Office:** Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427.

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company , which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so for in spite of repeated notices will be auctioned on 24.08.2026 from 10 am onwards.

**Auction Date: 24.08.2026 - REWA DISTRICT - REWA:** 4358000432, 4358000675, 4358001047, 4358001105, 4358001120, 4358001159, 4358001164, 4358001189, 4358001191, 4358001198, 4358001214, 4358001234, 4358001240, 4358001244, 4358001289, 4358001300, 4358001321, 4358001322, 4358001329, 4358001369, 4358001370, 4358001378, 4358001395, 4358001397, 4358001402, 4358001410, 4358001419, 4358001427, 4358001428, 4358001446, 4358001460, 4358001466, 4358001467, 4358001481, 4358001483, 4358001485, 4358001487, 4358001525, 4358001538, 4358001566, 4358001570, 4358001596, 4358001601, 4358001609, 4358001620, 4358001638, 4358001655, 4358001669, 4358001687, 4358001720, 4358001730, 4358001748, 4358001758, 4358001761, 4358001770, 4358001776, 4358001779, 4358001823, 4358001835, 4358001846, 4358001860, 4358001867, 4358001881, 4358001918, 4358001920, 4358001924, 4358001928, 4358001943, 4358001969, 4358001994, 4358001998, 4358002004, 4358002018, 4358002021, 4358002085, 4358002098, 4358002099, 4358002103, 4358002130, 4358002135, 4358002150, 4358002178, 4358002202, 4358002219, 4358002248, 4358002255, 4358002262, 4358002405, 4358002408, 4358002420, 4358002468, 4358002469, 4358002473. **Auction Date: 24.08.2026 - SATNA DISTRICT - SATNA:** 4357000923, 4357000928, 4357000937, 4357000953, 4357000964, 4357000973, 4357000979, 4357000994, 4357000995, 4357001018, 4357001053, 4357001062, 4357001090, 4357001092, 4357001108, 4357001134, 4357001151, 4357001154, 4357001158, 4357001178, 4357001180, 4357001202, 4357001205, 4357001218, 4357001224, 4357001226, 4357001235, 4357001247, 4357001252, 4357001253, 4357001255, 4357001259, 4357001270, 4357001273, 4357001287, 4357001295, 4357001296, 4357001300, 4357001301, 4357001302, 4357001329, 4357001375, 4357001376, 4357001384, 4357001387, 4357001397, 4357001398, 4357001420, 4357001422, 4357001442, 4357001459, 4357001462, 4357001464, 4357001483, 4357001491, 4357001500, 4357001520, 4357001521, 4357001527, 4357001563, 4357001582, 4357001585, 4357001588, 4357001635, 4357001636, 4357001639, 4357001640, 4357001643, 4357001644, 4357001654, 4357001664, 4357001681, 4357001686, 4357001691, 4357001703, 4357001713, 4357001731, 4357001734, 4357001740, 4357001741, 4357001742, 4357001746, 4357001791, 4357001884, 4357001906, 4357001909, 4357001915, 4357001917, 4357001922, 4357001925, 4357001927, 4357001935, 4357001945, 4357001949, 4357002033, 4357002077, 4357002093, 8000104357, 8000314357.

**Auction will be conducted at respective branches. please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 01.09.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at SATNA DISTRICT - SATNA: GROUND FLOOR, 807 K, AHINSA TOWER, IFO PUSHKARNI PARK, BESIDE EQUITAS BANK, DISTRICT HOSPITAL ROAD, SATNA, MADHYA PRADESH-485001 .The bidders are requested to produce photo id card ,Pan card .The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS.**

**MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD**

## AXIS FINANCE LIMITED

(CIN U65921MH1995PLC212675)
Axis House, C-2, Wadia International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai – 400 025

**APPENDIX IV**
**[See Rule 8(I)]**
**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**
(For immovable property)
[As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas,
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **Axis Finance Limited (AFL)**, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with the Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated **15th April, 2026** calling upon the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s)

**1. Vinod Prem (Borrower)**
**Address: Shop No 119, New Grain Market, Kharkhoda, Dist. Sonipat, Haryana – 131402**
**Email Id: vk3018872@gmail.com**
**Phone No.- 9729144540**
**2. Prem Kumar and Sons (Co-Borrower 1)**
**Address: Shop No 119, New Grain Market, Kharkhoda, Dist. Sonipat, Haryana – 131402**
**Email Id: vk3018872@gmail.com**
**Phone No.- 9729144540**
**3. Pooja Gupta (Co-Borrower 2)**
**Address: Shop No 119, New Grain Market, Kharkhoda, Dist. Sonipat, Haryana – 131402**
**Email Id: vk3018872@gmail.com**
**Phone No.- 9729144540**

*(Hereinafter collectively referred* ***as "Borrowers"****)*
who have mortgaged the property more particularly described hereunder to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **INR. 75,60,674/- (Rupees Seventy Five Lakhs Sixty Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Four Only) due as on 05.04.2026** with further interest at the contractual rate thereon till the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 21st day of **July** of the year **2026**.

The Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Axis Finance Limited for an amount of **INR. 75,60,674/- (Rupees Seventy Five Lakhs Sixty Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Four Only) due as on 05.04.2026** and further interest thereon at the contractual rates together with costs, charges, etc. of Axis Finance Ltd until the full payment or realization in full.

The Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) & sub section (13) of section 13 of the said Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

**Property details –**
**SHOP BEARING NO. 119, SITUATED AT PRINCIPLE YARD GRAIN MARKET, SONIPAT, HARYANA – 131402 ADMEASURING 562.50 SQ. FT.**
**PROPERTY IS BOUNDED AS:**
**NORTH: SHOP NO. 120**
**SOUTH: SHOP NO. 118**
**EAST: STREET 20 FT**
**WEST: ROAD**

Date: **21.07.2026** **Authorized Officer**
Place: Sonipath **Axis Finance Ltd.**

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Aabid, S/o Yusuf, R/o H.No. 155, Block-O, Gali No. 3, Near Gagan Cinema, Sunder Nagri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 481/2024, U/s 304(2)/3(5)/317(2) Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita-2023, P.S. Jyoti Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Aabid** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Aabid** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Aabid** accused of **FIR No. 481/2024, U/s 304(2)/3(5)/317(2) Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita-2023, P.S. Jyoti Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **25.09.2026.**

**By Order - Sh. Rahul Saini**
**Judicial Magistrate First Class, Shahdara District**
**Room No. G-06, New Court Building**
**Karkardooma Courts, Delhi**

DP/9986/NE/2026

## UPSIDA

कार्यालय वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक सिविल, निर्माण खण्ड-चतुर्थ
उ0प्र0 राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
अलीगढ़। Website: www.onlineupsida.com

**ई–निविदा सूचना**

एतदद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में सिविल विकास/अनुरक्षण कार्यों हेतु यूपीसीडा एवं अन्य सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिषदों/नगर निकायों में अर्ह श्रेणी के पंजीकृत फर्मों/ठेकेदारों से ई–निविदायें आमन्त्रित की जाती है।

| क्रमांक | कार्य का नाम | निविदा का प्रकार | कार्य की लागत रू0 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Construction/Development of Park P-1 at Industrial Area IIDC Etah Distt.-Etah. | पूर्णकालीन | 5274149.00 |
| 2. | Annual Maintenance works for One Year, at I.A. Etah & IIDC Etah Distt. Etah. | पूर्णकालीन | 3426483.00 |
| 3. | Repair/Maintenance of Existing Park Including Boundary Wall and Plantation works in Pocket -A, Industrial Area SEZ, Moradabad. | पूर्णकालीन | 5586346.00 |
| 4. | Annual Maintenance works for One Year, at I.A. Salempur Distt. Hathras. | पूर्णकालीन | 3356635.00 |
| 5. | Development of park P-1 at I.A. Talanagri Sector-2, Distt. Aligarh. | पूर्णकालीन | 7935199.00 |
| 6. | Development/Landscaping & Horticulture works in parks P-4 at I.A. Talanagri Sector-I, Distt. Aligarh. | पूर्णकालीन | 8221383.00 |
| 7. | Repair and Maintenance of Boundary Wall, Main Gate Signage Board, Main Gate Guard Room, Grill Painting and Boundary Wall Stone Repair works at Administrative Campus, SEZ Moradabad. | पूर्णकालीन | 1485285.00 |

उपरोक्त पूर्णकालीन निविदायें दिनांक 23.07.2026 को पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 12.08.2026 को अपरान्ह 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है, प्राप्त ई–निविदाओं को दिनांक 13.08.2026 को पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे या इसके पश्चात खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा अपलोड किये गये समस्त शपथ प्रपत्रों की मूल प्रतियों को पंजीकृत डाक अथवा व्यक्तिगत रूप से दिनांक 13.08.2026 की सायं 5:00 बजे तक कार्यालय में प्राप्त कराना अनिवार्य है अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी website: www.onlineupsida.com पर स्थापित ई–लिंक यूपीएलसी की website:- http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

**प्रभारी वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (सिविल), उ0प्र0रा0औ0वि0प्रा0,**
**औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, सेक्टर-प्रथम तालानगरी, रामघाट रोड, अलीगढ़**

## DIVISIONAL OFFICE, MEERUT

KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India
Near Old Chungi, Garh Road, Meerut-250001,
Tel. No. 0121-2653288, E-mail: domeerut.kvic@gov.in, kvicrom@gmail.com
Website: www.kvic.gov.in

No. DOM/GVY/FBI/Tender/2026-27 Date: 21.07.2026

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Divisional Office Meerut, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Ministry of Micro Small Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India proposes to purchase Honey Bee Boxes (Apis Mellifera & Apis Cerena) and tool kits under FBI Vertical of Gramodyog Vikas Yojna. The distribution of Apis mellifera Honey Bee Boxes and tool kits will be carried out by the State Offices (Bhopal/Lucknow/Dehradun) and Divisional Offices (Meerut/Varanasi/Gorakhpur). The distribution of Apis cerana Honey Bee Boxes and toolkits will be carried out by the State Offices (Raipur/Dehradun).

In this regard, tenders have been invited through the GeM Portal where Bid no. GEM/2026/B/7804785 (for Apis mellifera bee boxes & toolkits) and Bid no. GEM/2026/B/7805651 (for Apis cerana bee boxes & toolkits) have been published on the GeM Portal. Interested bidders/agencies may kindly note the above and participate only through the GeM Portal under the above-mentioned tenders. For further information, interested agencies may visit the GeM Portal and the KVIC website (www.kvic.gov.in), or contact this office at Phone: 0121-2653288 or Email: domeerut.kvic@gov.in. The last date for submission of the tender is 08.08.2026 up to 4:00 PM. The Divisional Office, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Meerut reserves the right to accept or reject any tender, either wholly or partially without assigning any reason.

**Director**

## SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. Divisional Engineer (Co) / S.E.C.Railway, acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for execution of work mentioned below:-

| Sl. No. | Name of the work | Tender Notice No. | Approx. Tender Value (₹) | Bid Security (₹) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | "Through Formation Treatment and Rehabilitation (TFTR) 10 TKM in jurisdiction of ADEN Dongargarh (DGG)" | E/09/NAG/2026-2027 | 17,20,23,440.06 | 34,40,500/- |
| 2. | "(1) Improvement of RUB 112, 110, 108, 106 & 103 under the jurisdiction of ADEN/CWA by providing cover shed, construction of sump, drain, epoxy grouting, cement grouting etc., (2) Improvement of RUB 222, 219, 171, 162 and 147 under the jurisdiction of ADEN/CWA by providing cover shed, construction of sump, drain, epoxy grouting, cement grouting etc., (3) Improvement of RUB 302, 299, 298 and 295 under the jurisdiction of ADEN/CWA by providing cover shed, construction of sump, drain, epoxy grouting, cement grouting etc.& (4) Improvement of RUB 49, 47, 42 and 39 under the jurisdiction of ADEN/CWA by providing cover shed, construction of sump, drain, epoxy grouting, cement grouting etc." | N/28/NAG/2026-2027 | 7,05,63,441.00 | 14,11,300/- |

Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids **upto 15.00 hrs. on 11.08.2026** only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offers received shall be rejected. Details are available on our website: **www.ireps.gov.in**.

PAM/23/49 **Sr. Divl. Engineer (East)/S.E.C.Railway/Nagpur**

**f South East Central Railway** **𝕏 @secrail**

## MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

**Regd. Office:** Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427.

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company , which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so for in spite of repeated notices will be auctioned on 24.08.2026 from 10 am onwards.

**Auction Date: 24.08.2026 - DAMOH DISTRICT - DAMOH-JABALPUR:** 2767000795, 2767000823, 2767000849, 2767000904, 2767000909, 2767000914, 2767000917, 2767000928, 2767000975, 2767000982, 2767000989, 2767001003, 2767001007, 2767001018, 2767001025, 2767001041, 2767001043, 2767001047, 2767001060, 2767001066, 2767001067, 2767001085, 2767001088, 2767001097, 2767001108, 2767001111, 2767001115, 2767001123, 2767001132, 2767001135, 2767001146, 2767001163, 2767001167, 2767001168, 2767001181, 2767001186, 2767001187, 2767001193, 2767001194, 2767001196, 2767001203, 2767001212, 2767001221, 2767001227, 2767001228, 2767001262, 2767001285, 2767001328, 2767001345, 2767001352, 2767001361, 2767001366, 2767001384, 2767001406, 2767001422, 2767001456, 2767001460, 2767001500, 2767001547, 2767001573, 2767001722, 2767001723, 2767001729. **Auction Date: 24.08.2026 - JABALPUR DISTRICT - ADHARTAL-JABALPUR:** 4359001777, 4359001853, 4359001856, 4359001875, 4359001885, 4359001890, 4359001908, 4359001917, 4359001962, 4359002018, 4359002020, 4359002031, 4359002065, 4359002084, 4359002097, 4359002120, 4359002136, 4359002170, 4359002178, 4359002195, 4359002206, 4359002209, 4359002215, 4359002224, 4359002225, 4359002229, 4359002231, 4359002239, 4359002253, 4359002255, 4359002274, 4359002287, 4359002300, 4359002388, 4359002445, 4359002449, 4359002454, 4359002457, 4359002458, 4359002478, 4359002491, 4359002494, 4359002495, 4359002519, 4359002530, 4359002561, 4359002569, 4359002580, 4359002582, 4359002591, 4359002592, 4359002619, 4359002651, 4359002667, 4359002668, 4359002682, 4359002688, 4359002699, 4359002715, 4359002747, 4359002789, 4359002838, 4359002852, 4359002856, 4359002872, 4359002876, 4359002879, 4359002891, 4359002902, 4359002934, 4359002936, 4359002943, 4359002956, 4359002957, 4359002979, 4359002982, 4359002988, 4359003002, 4359003003, 4359003054, 4359003099, 4359003107, 4359003126, 4359003130, 4359003138, 4359003148, 4359003179, 4359003194, 4359003219, 4359003230, 4359003265, 4359003278, 4359003306, 4359003317, 4359003319, 4359003399, 4359003502, 4359003518, 8000234359, 8000264359. **BALDEOBAGH-JABALPUR:** 2238000093, 2238000130, 2238000174, 2238000647, 2238001050, 2238001053, 2238001069, 2238001090, 2238001097, 2238001133, 2238001148, 2238001178, 2238001197, 2238001205, 2238001220, 2238001227, 2238001228, 2238001245, 2238001246, 2238001253, 2238001257, 2238001261, 2238001268, 2238001272, 2238001282, 2238001284, 2238001295, 2238001298, 2238001302, 2238001304, 2238001306, 2238001310, 2238001317, 2238001324, 2238001345, 2238001350, 2238001356, 2238001358, 2238001360, 2238001361, 2238001382, 2238001391, 2238001393, 2238001396, 2238001407, 2238001416, 2238001421, 2238001423, 2238001426, 2238001429, 2238001431, 2238001433, 2238001438, 2238001482, 2238001503, 2238001508, 2238001510, 2238001527, 2238001540, 2238001611, 2238001615, 2238001620, 2238001684, 2238001742, 2238001828, 8000082238. **LABOUR CHOWK-JABALPUR:** 4354000840, 4354000873, 4354000925, 4354000930, 4354000935, 4354000958, 4354000966, 4354000988, 4354000991, 4354001000, 4354001008, 4354001015, 4354001031, 4354001061, 4354001068, 4354001069, 4354001072, 4354001073, 4354001077, 4354001083, 4354001086, 4354001107, 4354001108, 4354001112, 4354001114, 4354001116, 4354001124, 4354001128, 4354001180, 4354001199, 4354001247, 4354001255, 4354001282, 4354001292, 4354001315, 4354001322, 4354001370, 4354001405, 4354001460, 8000084354, 8000124354. **MADAN MAHAL:** 4373000596, 4373000609, 4373001156, 4373001168, 4373001177, 4373001185, 4373001209, 4373001219, 4373001221, 4373001222, 4373001255, 4373001313, 4373001315, 4373001316, 4373001324, 4373001325, 4373001341, 4373001350, 4373001351, 4373001358, 4373001363, 4373001407, 4373001414, 4373001415, 4373001448, 4373001457, 4373001472, 4373001474, 4373001485, 4373001499, 4373001555, 4373001585, 4373001609, 4373001629, 4373001642, 4373001659, 4373001662, 4373001729, 4373001732, 4373001733, 4373001740, 4373001743, 4373001758, 4373001775, 4373001776, 4373001778, 4373001791, 4373001795, 4373001825, 4373001831, 4373001839, 4373001850, 4373001890, 4373001892, 4373001902, 4373001976, 4373001991, 4373002002, 4373002009, 4373002010, 4373002017, 4373002096, 4373002176, 4373002205, 4373002226. **RANJHI-JABALPUR:** 3778000580, 3778000585, 3778000614, 3778000640, 3778000642, 3778000643, 3778000644, 3778000655, 3778000656, 3778000661, 3778000675, 3778000682, 3778000683, 3778000688, 3778000700, 3778000703, 3778000706, 3778000747, 3778000754, 3778000769, 3778000771, 3778000828, 3778000862, 3778000868, 3778000894, 3778000915, 3778000917, 3778000918, 3778000933, 3778000966, 3778000977, 3778000992, 3778001009, 3778001010. **Auction Date: 24.08.2026 - KATNI DISTRICT - KATNI-MADHYA PRADESH:** 2672001231, 2672001254, 2672001267, 2672001277, 2672001278, 2672001286, 2672001292, 2672001293, 2672001313, 2672001340, 2672001360, 2672001362, 2672001372, 2672001390, 2672001400, 2672001412, 2672001417, 2672001428, 2672001439, 2672001456, 2672001459, 2672001474, 2672001486, 2672001500, 2672001507, 2672001528, 2672001569, 2672001572, 2672001578, 2672001602, 2672001606, 2672001642, 2672001695, 2672001719, 2672001731, 2672001738, 2672001746, 2672001756, 2672001761, 2672001791, 2672001794, 2672001795, 2672001797, 2672001802, 2672001806, 2672001824, 2672001835, 2672001836, 2672001840, 2672001866, 2672001867, 2672001899, 2672001914, 2672001918, 2672001922. **Auction Date: 24.08.2026 - MANDLA DISTRICT - MANDLA-MADHYA PRADESH:** 2652001318, 2652001323, 2652001400, 2652001426, 2652001432, 2652001468, 2652001470, 2652001474, 2652001489, 2652001496, 2652001524, 2652001528, 2652001556, 2652001574, 2652001579, 2652001583, 2652001600, 2652001624, 2652001633, 2652001634, 2652001638, 2652001647, 2652001666, 2652001667, 2652001672, 2652001676, 2652001683, 2652001692, 2652001698, 2652001706, 2652001727, 2652001734, 2652001737, 2652001745, 2652001760, 2652001775, 2652001776, 2652001784, 2652001797, 2652001804, 2652001807, 2652001825, 2652001845, 2652001852, 2652001868, 2652001882, 2652001908, 2652001937, 2652001943, 2652001971, 2652001973, 2652002049, 2652002068, 2652002075, 2652002084, 2652002088, 2652002090, 2652002091, 2652002092, 2652002102, 2652002107, 2652002108, 2652002135, 2652002142, 2652002162, 2652002169, 2652002244, 2652002307, 2652002319, 2652002335, 2652002349, 2652002356, 2652002357, 2652002362, 2652002371, 2652002388, 2652002491, 2652002497. **Auction Date: 24.08.2026 - NARSINGPUR DISTRICT - NARSINGHPUR:** 2780000490, 2780000761, 2780000779, 2780000796, 2780000806, 2780000820, 2780000841, 2780000859, 2780000870, 2780000892, 2780000893, 2780000904, 2780000944, 2780000960, 2780000963, 2780000964, 2780000972, 2780000977, 2780000991, 2780000992, 2780000993, 2780001003, 2780001013, 2780001021, 2780001035, 2780001042, 2780001047, 2780001052, 2780001056, 2780001069, 2780001113, 2780001141, 2780001167, 2780001168, 2780001169, 2780001210, 2780001238, 2780001258, 2780001290, 2780001319, 2780001333, 2780001376, 2780001428, 2780001443, 2780001459, 2780001465, 2780001473, 2780001478, 2780001548, 2780001573, 2780001602, 2780001628, 2780001630, 2780001636, 2780001642, 2780001669, 2780001703, 2780001706, 2780001780, 2780001800, 2780001801, 8000052780, 8000142780, 8000402780, 8000492780.

**Auction will be conducted at respective branches. please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 31.08.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at JABALPUR DISTRICT - BALDEOBAGH-JABALPUR: GROUND FLOOR, OLD BATA SHOWROOM , 4 KH, NH 7 , MAIN ROAD, NEARCITY HOSPITAL , BALDEOBAGH, MADHYA PRADESH , 482001 .The bidders are requested to produce photo id card ,Pan card .The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS.**

**MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD**

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

**See Section 82 CrPC / 84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Tularam S/o** Bhikam Lal, **R/o** H.No. 995, Pkt-7, Sector-10A, Narela, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 687/2023, U/S 324/34 IPC, PS Narela Industrial Area, Outer-North Distt., Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Tularam** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Tularam** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that **Tularam** the said accused of **FIR No. 687/2023, U/S 324/34 IPC, PS Narela Industrial Area, Outer-North Distt., Delhi,** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **17.09.2026.**

**By Order**
**Sh. Sahil Gupta**
**Judicial Magistrate First Class-07,**
**North Distt., Court No.-06, Ground Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi**

DP/9938/ON/2026 (Court Matter)

## NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

ई–ऑक्शन आमंत्रित करने की सूचना

**No.-Comml/E-auction/2026/29** **Date: 20.07.2026**

उक्त के सन्दर्भ में विभिन्न स्टेशनो पर पे एंड यूज टॉयलेट्स / MSS-Misc Static Services / विज्ञापन (OOH RDN & Vinyl wrapping) / वेटिंग रूम / रिटायरिंग रूम/पार्किंग के ठेके हेतु ई–ऑक्शन आमंत्रित की गई है। कैटलॉग IREPS वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किए जा चुके हैं।

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | कार्य का नाम | (1) | जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर विज्ञापन (OOH, RDN & Vinyl wrapping) के ठेके हेतु ई–ऑक्शन |
| | | (2) | जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनो पर वेटिंग हॉल, रिटायरिंग रूम एवं पे & यूज टॉयलेट आदि का ई–ऑक्शन |
| | | (3) | जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर पार्किंग के ठेके हेतु ई–ऑक्शन |
| | | (4) | जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनो पर MSS - Misc Static Services के ठेके हेतु आदि का ई–ऑक्शन |
| 2. | कार्य की अवधि | (1) | विज्ञापन (OOH): 3 वर्ष |
| | | (2) | विज्ञापन (Vinyl): 3 वर्ष |
| | | (3) | विज्ञाप

## MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

**Regd. Office:** Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427.

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company , which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so for in spite of repeated notices will be auctioned on 24.08.2026 from 10 am onwards.
**Auction Date: 24.08.2026** - **MANDSAUR DISTRICT - MANDSAUR:** 4266000675, 4266000751, 4266000762, 4266000797, 4266000858, 4266000859, 4266000904, 4266000960, 4266000994, 4266001008, 4266001050, 4266001061, 4266001064, 4266001210, 4266001256, 4266001265, 4266001268, 4266001308, 4266001339, 4266001387, 4266001389, 4266001513, 4266001541, 4266001583. **Auction Date: 24.08.2026** - **RATLAM DISTRICT - RATLAM:** 4068000832, 4068000871, 4068000873, 4068000933, 4068000944, 4068000945, 4068000982, 4068000998, 4068001030, 4068001036, 4068001119, 4068001183, 4068001201, 4068001210, 4068001312, 4068001350, 4068001356.
**Auction will be conducted at respective branches. please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 02.09.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at RATLAM DISTRICT - RATLAM: GROUND FLOOR DO BATTI NEAR HDFC RATLAM RAILWAY STATION ROAD BESIDE YES BANK RATLAM RATLAM. PIN: 457001. .The bidders are requested to produce photo id card ,Pan card .The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS.**

**MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD**

## MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

**Regd. Office:** Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427.

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company , which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so for in spite of repeated notices will be auctioned on 24.08.2026 from 10 am onwards.
**KHANDWA DISTRICT - KHANDWA-SHIVAJI CHOWK:** 2584000814, 2584000839, 2584000847, 2584000874, 2584000883, 2584000911, 2584000952, 2584000989, 2584000998, 2584001063, 2584001117.
**Auction will be conducted at respective branches. please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 02.09.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at KHANDWA DISTRICT - KHANDWA-SHIVAJI CHOWK: BHAIRAV TALAB, PADAWA MAHATMA GANDHI MARG, SITA APARTMENT, KHANDWA , MADHYA PRADESH - 450001 .The bidders are requested to produce photo id card ,Pan card .The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS.**

**MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD**

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

**See Section 82 CrPC**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Madhu W/o Suresh R/o** GF Premises Near H. NO.-25, Pole No. New Line Prerna Basti, Village-Rewla Khanpur Najafgarh, New Delhi-43, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **CT Cases No. 1041/2022, U/S 135 IE Act, PS Chhawla, Dwarka Distt., New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Madhu** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Madhu** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant);
Proclamation is hereby made that **Madhu** the said accused of **CT Cases No. 1041/2022, U/S 135 IE Act, PS Chhawla, Dwarka Distt., New Delhi,** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **02.09.2026.**

**By Order**
**Ms. Harleen Singh**
**Additional Session Judge,**
**(South-West), Special Court Electricity,**
**Court No.-609, Dwarka Courts, New Delhi**

**DP/9928/DW/2026**
**(Court Matter)**

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

**See Section 82 CrPC**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Gurdeep Singh @ Vicky S/o** Baldev Singh **R/o** B-90, Gali No.-4, Dashrath Puri, Dabri, PO-Palam Village, Delhi-45, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 292/2026, U/S 85/316(2)/3(5) Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, PS Dabri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Gurdeep Singh @ Vicky** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Gurdeep Singh @ Vicky** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);
Proclamation is hereby made that **Gurdeep Singh @ Vicky** the said accused of **FIR No. 292/2026, U/S 85/316(2)/3(5)) Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, PS Dabri, Delhi,** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **24.08.2026.**

**By Order**
**Ms. Shubhi Gupta**
**Judicial Magistrate First Class**
**(Mahila Court)-05, Court No.-310,**
**South-West Distt., Dwarka Courts, Delhi**

**DP/10000/DW/2026**
**(Court Matter)**

## MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

**Regd. Office:** Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427.

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company , which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so for in spite of repeated notices will be auctioned on 24.08.2026 from 10 am onwards.
**Auction Date: 24.08.2026** - **GURGAON DISTRICT - BADSHAHPUR-GURGAON:** 4367000619, 4367000623, 4367000624, 4367000634, 4367000636, 4367000640, 4367000643, 4367000653, 4367000656, 4367000658, 4367000666, 4367000670, 4367000682, 4367000693, 4367000701, 4367000704, 4367000747, 4367000777, 4367000786, 4367000801, 4367000834, 4367000853, 4367000871, 4367000872, 4367000876, 4367000878, 4367000881, 4367000887, 4367000889, 4367000890, 4367000892, 4367000894, 4367000897, 4367000906, 4367000908, 4367000932, 4367000934, 4367000939, 4367000942, 4367000944, 4367000951, 4367000966, 4367000967, 4367000979, 4367000982, 4367000987, 4367000989, 4367000997, 4367001003, 4367001036, 4367001043, 4367001062, 4367001086, 4367001096, 4367001113, 4367001131, 4367001136, 4367001137, 4367001186, 4367001198, 4367001202, 4367001208, 4367001209, 4367001211, 4367001213, 4367001214, 4367001221, 4367001222, 4367001226, 4367001234, 4367001247, 4367001248, 4367001289, 4367001376, 4367001388. **FARRUKH NAGAR-HARYANA:** 2402002477, 2402002517, 2402002546, 2402002558, 2402002611, 2402002615, 2402002642, 2402002663, 2402002694, 2402002708, 2402002721, 2402002732, 2402002755, 2402002761, 2402002765, 2402002768, 2402002826, 2402002828, 2402002843, 2402002844, 2402002848, 2402002851, 2402002853, 2402002859, 2402002870, 2402002872, 2402002874, 2402002884, 2402002917, 2402002920, 2402002934, 2402002936, 2402002941, 2402002951, 2402002952, 2402002953, 2402002961, 2402002965, 2402003015, 2402003020, 2402003047, 2402003050, 2402003054, 2402003058, 2402003079, 2402003082, 2402003092, 2402003093, 2402003103, 2402003105, 2402003112, 2402003136, 2402003137, 2402003147, 2402003212, 2402003260, 2402003277, 2402003286, 2402003322, 2402003325, 2402003335, 2402003347, 2402003348, 2402003349, 2402003350, 2402003355, 2402003364, 2402003415, 2402003439, 2402003448, 2402003471, 2402003474, 2402003490, 2402003495, 2402003510, 2402003543, 2402003550, 2402003577, 2402003592, 2402003610, 2402003629, 2402003685, 2402003722, 2402003729, 2402003730.
**GURGAON SEC-14:** 0763001665, 0763001794, 0763001801, 0763001808, 0763001814, 0763001815, 0763001817, 0763001819, 0763001820, 0763001843, 0763001858, 0763001907, 0763001910, 0763001913, 0763001938, 0763001988, 0763002001, 0763002009, 0763002013, 0763002024, 0763002029, 0763002030, 0763002049, 0763002055, 0763002057, 0763002075, 0763002086, 0763002098, 0763002115, 0763002119, 0763002130, 0763002134, 0763002146, 0763002147, 0763002148, 0763002159, 0763002161, 0763002165, 0763002181, 0763002198, 0763002214, 0763002273, 0763002302, 0763002303, 0763002328, 0763002349, 0763002350, 0763002363, 0763002364, 0763002370, 0763002381, 0763002403, 0763002406, 0763002437, 0763002448, 0763002512, 0763002513, 0763002523, 0763002577, 0763002581, 0763002647, 0763002653, GL/GGAN/28, GL/GGAN/34, GL/GGAN/50, GL/GGAN/63, GL/GGAN/66, GL/GGAN/69, GL/GGAN/85. **GURGAON SECTOR 10A:** 4435000028, 4435001379, 4435001927, 4435001928, 4435001998, 4435002129, 4435002180, 4435002188, 4435002210, 4435002348, 4435002408, 4435002421, 4435002440, 4435002474, 4435002548, 4435002578, 4435002660, 4435002755. **GURGAON-DAYANAND COLONY:** 3464001147, 3464001169, 3464001170, 3464001180, 3464001181, 3464001196, 3464001203, 3464001249, 3464001251, 3464001282, 3464001292, 3464001309, 3464001312, 3464001325, 3464001333, 3464001334, 3464001347, 3464001361, 3464001381, 3464001388, 3464001392, 3464001393, 3464001399, 3464001400, 3464001401, 3464001414, 3464001420, 3464001421, 3464001431, 3464001435, 3464001438, 3464001450, 3464001456, 3464001478, 3464001479, 3464001481, 3464001485, 3464001486, 3464001490, 3464001494, 3464001499, 3464001501, 3464001514, 3464001521, 3464001526, 3464001531, 3464001542, 3464001553, 3464001562, 3464001565, 3464001576, 3464001587, 3464001589, 3464001668, 3464001715, 3464001716, 3464001749, 3464001767, 3464001768, 3464001790, 3464001799, 3464001809, 3464001810, 3464001812, 3464001820, 3464001830, 3464001842, 3464001848, 3464001871, 3464001954, 3464001960, 3464001963, 3464001964, 3464001982, 3464001986, 3464002003, 3464002007. **GURGAON-OLD RAILWAY ROAD:** 2200000088, 2200000967, 2200000981, 2200001014, 2200001049, 2200001145, 2200001161, 2200001171, 2200001174, 2200001295, 2200001307, 2200001316, 2200001352, 2200001384, 2200001405, 2200001421, 2200001490, 2200001492, 2200001496, 2200001509, 2200001543, 2200001576, 2200001583, 2200001592, 2200001643, 2200001668, 2200001669, 2200001684, 2200001692, 2200001693, 2200001709, 2200001724, 2200001736, 2200001747, 2200001748, 2200001749, 2200001755, 2200001764, 2200001779, 2200001780, 2200001807, 2200001816, 2200001817, 2200001846, 2200001882, 2200001884, 2200001899, 2200001912, 2200001916, 2200001928, 2200001971, 2200001975, 2200001985, 2200001989, 2200002056, 2200002093, 2200002121, 2200002131, 2200002180, 2200002219, 2200002239, 2200002243, 2200002252, 2200002253, 2200002267, 2200002273, 2200002280, 2200002281, 2200002313, 2200002319, 2200002334, 2200002337, 2200002348, 2200002350, 2200002362, 2200002368, 2200002381, 2200002389, 2200002408, 2200002420, 2200002442, 2200002457, 2200002494, 2200002509, 2200002558, 2200002567, 2200002594, 2200002604, 2200002612. **PATAUDI-HARYANA:** 2983001417, 2983001422, 2983001468, 2983001481, 2983001482, 2983001485, 2983001493, 2983001494, 2983001498, 2983001510, 2983001512, 2983001560, 2983001587, 2983001590, 2983001599, 2983001611, 2983001616, 2983001622, 2983001632, 2983001643, 2983001653, 2983001690, 2983001694, 2983001733, 2983001739, 2983001742, 2983001744, 2983001757, 2983001758, 2983001759, 2983001797, 2983001804, 2983001828, 2983001829, 2983001838, 2983001844, 2983001845, 2983001847, 2983001848, 2983001853, 2983001854, 2983001860, 2983001867, 2983001872, 2983001883, 2983001885, 2983001905, 2983001918, 2983001926, 2983001928, 2983001930, 2983001934, 2983001936, 2983001938, 2983001939, 2983001948, 2983001964, 2983001966, 2983001968, 2983001975, 2983001976, 2983001979, 2983001981, 2983001982, 2983001984, 2983001991, 2983001994, 2983001995, 2983001998, 2983002000, 2983002007, 2983002008, 2983002015, 2983002016, 2983002026, 2983002030, 2983002034, 2983002039, 2983002040, 2983002041, 2983002049, 2983002052, 2983002056, 2983002059, 2983002068, 2983002069, 2983002082, 2983002083, 2983002084, 2983002089, 2983002092, 2983002100, 2983002104, 2983002106, 2983002117, 2983002125, 2983002126, 2983002132, 2983002134, 2983002151, 2983002168, 2983002176, 2983002182, 2983002187, 2983002197, 2983002201, 2983002203, 2983002206, 2983002207, 2983002208, 2983002212, 2983002225, 2983002226, 2983002241, 2983002242, 2983002248, 2983002261, 2983002268, 2983002271, 2983002274, 2983002290, 2983002297, 2983002299, 2983002312, 2983002328, 2983002334, 2983002352, 2983002353, 2983002358, 2983002451, 2983002454, 2983002464, 2983002465, 2983002468, 2983002469, 2983002511, 2983002512, 2983002528, 2983002529, 2983002530, 2983002549, 2983002552, 2983002553, 2983002564, 2983002571, 2983002575, 2983002587, 2983002608, 2983002609, 2983002610, 2983002620, 2983002629, 2983002634, 2983002635, 2983002637, 2983002643, 2983002646, 2983002649, 2983002663, 2983002672, 2983002675, 2983002676, 2983002677, 2983002690, 2983002691, 2983002708, 2983002728, 2983002734, 2983002751, 2983002752, 2983002754, 2983002780, 2983002798, 2983002825, 2983002841, 2983002842, 2983002876, 2983002887, 2983002892, 2983002903, 2983002906, 2983002915, 2983002918, 2983002941, 2983002945, 2983002958, 2983002978, 2983002979, 2983003008, 2983003023, 2983003029, 2983003045, 2983003054, 2983003086, 2983003098, 2983003121, 2983003126, 2983003156, 2983003163, 2983003165. **Auction Date: 24.08.2026** - **MAHENDERGARH DISTRICT - NARNAUL:** 2869000738, 2869000766, 2869000797, 2869000800, 2869000808, 2869000827, 2869000839, 2869000853, 2869000869, 2869000894, 2869000897, 2869000898, 2869000913, 2869000946, 2869000970, 2869000976, 2869000980, 2869000983, 2869000985, 2869000991, 2869000998, 2869001007, 2869001008, 2869001010, 2869001012, 2869001013, 2869001024, 2869001031, 2869001032, 2869001033, 2869001037, 2869001038, 2869001039, 2869001044, 2869001052, 2869001063, 2869001075, 2869001076, 2869001087, 2869001090, 2869001101, 2869001105, 2869001111, 2869001118, 2869001125, 2869001151, 2869001158, 2869001160, 2869001172, 2869001198, 2869001207, 2869001221, 2869001228, 2869001277, 2869001300, 2869001333, 2869001336, 2869001347, 2869001355, 2869001356, 2869001360, 2869001369, 2869001382, 2869001385, 2869001390, 2869001392, 2869001394, 2869001407, 2869001408, 2869001409, 2869001410, 2869001412, 2869001422, 2869001425, 2869001433, 2869001435, 2869001448, 2869001456, 2869001460, 2869001463, 2869001464, 2869001508, 2869001510, 2869001536, 2869001545, 2869001561, 2869001566, 2869001580, 2869001584, 2869001588, 2869001590, 2869001606, 2869001612, 2869001624, 2869001640, 2869001642, 2869001660, 2869001678, 2869001689, 2869001705, 8000042869, 8000122869. **Auction Date: 24.08.2026** - **REWARI DISTRICT - BAWAL:** 4365001324, 4365001343, 4365001402, 4365001434, 4365001449, 4365001450, 4365001462, 4365001469, 4365001471, 4365001476, 4365001477, 4365001479, 4365001489, 4365001493, 4365001499, 4365001502, 4365001518, 4365001520, 4365001529, 4365001540, 4365001546, 4365001548, 4365001549, 4365001562, 4365001564, 4365001573, 4365001579, 4365001580, 4365001581, 4365001582, 4365001587, 4365001591, 4365001593, 4365001601, 4365001606, 4365001614, 4365001620, 4365001629, 4365001630, 4365001643, 4365001662, 4365001686, 4365001697, 4365001713, 4365001715, 4365001729, 4365001730, 4365001732, 4365001733, 4365001741, 4365001743, 4365001745, 4365001751, 4365001753, 4365001756, 4365001759, 4365001764, 4365001765, 4365001776, 4365001777, 4365001791, 4365001794, 4365001795, 4365001815, 4365001816, 4365001820, 4365001823, 4365001825, 4365001832, 4365001851, 4365001874, 4365001882, 4365001900, 4365001909, 4365001924, 4365001935, 4365001947, 4365001949, 4365001951, 4365001969, 4365002000. **REWARI:** 3012002882, 3012003010, 3012003022, 3012003068, 3012003081, 3012003088, 3012003092, 3012003093, 3012003102, 3012003107, 3012003109, 3012003120, 3012003127, 3012003135, 3012003145, 3012003154, 3012003159, 3012003160, 3012003187, 3012003203, 3012003224, 3012003240, 3012003246, 3012003250, 3012003262, 3012003275, 3012003296, 3012003297, 3012003331, 3012003349, 3012003352, 3012003364, 3012003369, 3012003375, 3012003378, 3012003381, 3012003382, 3012003385, 3012003386, 3012003398, 3012003403, 3012003404, 3012003407, 3012003409, 3012003415, 3012003416, 3012003422, 3012003424, 3012003428, 3012003429, 3012003431, 3012003433, 3012003434, 3012003439, 3012003440, 3012003450, 3012003456, 3012003459, 3012003460, 3012003469, 3012003475, 3012003477, 3012003480, 3012003481, 3012003487, 3012003488, 3012003489, 3012003490, 3012003502, 3012003506, 3012003507, 3012003520, 3012003521, 3012003523, 3012003524, 3012003528, 3012003530, 3012003537, 3012003538, 3012003539, 3012003543, 3012003545, 3012003547, 3012003564, 3012003567, 3012003568, 3012003569, 3012003574, 3012003579, 3012003580, 3012003591, 3012003594, 3012003622, 3012003623, 3012003633, 3012003642, 3012003644, 3012003646, 3012003651, 3012003660, 3012003664, 3012003665, 3012003679, 3012003681, 3012003742, 3012003752, 3012003786, 3012003789, 3012003796, 3012003800, 3012003816, 3012003819, 3012003820, 3012003842, 3012003854, 3012003855, 3012003859, 3012003866, 3012003877, 3012003879, 3012003880, 3012003882, 3012003883, 3012003884, 3012003893, 3012003894, 3012003895, 3012003898, 3012003900, 3012003906, 3012003907, 3012003920, 3012003930, 3012003948, 3012003949, 3012003951, 3012003952, 3012003956, 3012003961, 3012003964, 3012003989, 3012003997, 3012004011, 3012004022, 3012004024, 3012004033, 3012004038, 3012004044, 3012004045, 3012004060, 3012004064, 3012004067, 3012004071, 3012004075, 3012004084, 3012004086, 3012004103, 3012004116, 3012004121, 3012004126, 3012004151, 3012004160, 3012004163, 3012004165, 3012004172, 3012004174, 3012004178, 3012004185, 3012004205, 3012004208, 3012004234, 3012004245, 3012004255, 3012004280, 3012004306, 3012004307, 3012004319, 3012004358, 3012004362, 3012004390.
**Auction will be conducted at respective branches. please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 01.09.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at GURGAON DISTRICT - GURGAON SEC-14: FIRST FLOOR, SCO , 11 FIRST FLOOR, OLD DELHI GURGAON ROAD, BESIDEHUDA OFFICE , SEC - 14 GURGAON, HARYANA , 122001 .The bidders are requested to produce photo id card ,Pan card .The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS.**

**MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD**

## MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

**Regd. Office:** Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427.

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company , which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so for in spite of repeated notices will be auctioned on 24.08.2026 from 10 am onwards.
**Auction Date: 24.08.2026** - **BHIWANI DISTRICT - BHIWANI:** 0854001268, 0854001270, 0854001303, 0854001348, 0854001352, 0854001362, 0854001392, 0854001396, 0854001415, 0854001416, 0854001454, 0854001465, 0854001469, 0854001557, 0854001579, 0854001588, 0854001596, 0854001610, 0854001612, 0854001619, 0854001624, 0854001629, 0854001630, 0854001638, 0854001643, 0854001648, 0854001649, 0854001655, 0854001673, 0854001679, 0854001680, 0854001685, 0854001686, 0854001691, 0854001707, 0854001710, 0854001711, 0854001717, 0854001737, 0854001740, 0854001763, 0854001764, 0854001767, 0854001789, 0854001815, 0854001816, 0854001836, 0854001857, 0854001858, 0854001859, 0854001876, 0854001881, 0854001882, 0854001891, 0854001905, 0854001931, 0854001940, 0854001954, 0854001956, 0854001993, 0854002002, 0854002028, 0854002031, 0854002044, 0854002047, 0854002064, 0854002072, 0854002084, 0854002086, 0854002088, 0854002117, 0854002121, 0854002122, 0854002144, 0854002153, 0854002203, 0854002219, 0854002244, 0854002257, 0854002258, 0854002268, 0854002274, 0854002287, 0854002293, 0854002294, 0854002304, 0854002319, 0854002331, 0854002359, 0854002390, 0854002396, 0854002399, 0854002412, 0854002430, 0854002453, 0854002458, 0854002473, 0854002511. **BHIWANI-DINOD GATE:** 4350002181, 4350002187, 4350002216, 4350002217, 4350002233, 4350002238, 4350002247, 4350002271, 4350002283, 4350002284, 4350002298, 4350002299, 4350002309, 4350002310, 4350002317, 4350002318, 4350002319, 4350002327, 4350002350, 4350002386, 4350002393, 4350002400, 4350002407, 4350002408, 4350002409, 4350002413, 4350002433, 4350002441, 4350002445, 4350002448, 4350002456, 4350002466, 4350002467, 4350002472, 4350002487, 4350002502, 4350002505, 4350002516, 4350002526, 4350002557, 4350002565, 4350002567, 4350002568, 4350002584, 4350002595, 4350002620, 4350002632, 4350002656, 4350002657, 4350002658, 4350002661, 4350002671, 4350002693, 4350002699, 4350002711, 4350002727, 4350002757, 4350002770, 4350002784, 4350002794, 4350002805, 4350002826, 4350002827, 4350002831, 4350002850, 4350002867, 4350002870, 4350002883, 4350002884, 4350002894, 4350002926, 4350002933, 4350003002, 4350003004, 4350003007, 4350003062, 4350003090, 4350003094. **Auction Date: 24.08.2026** - **CHARKHI DADRI DISTRICT - CHARKHI DADRI:** 2227000430, 2227001146, 2227001160, 2227001167, 2227001187, 2227001207, 2227001216, 2227001226, 2227001282, 2227001293, 2227001326, 2227001343, 2227001354, 2227001368, 2227001374, 2227001386, 2227001415, 2227001417, 2227001427, 2227001445, 2227001458, 2227001465, 2227001479, 2227001503, 2227001508, 2227001523, 2227001537, 2227001541, 2227001553, 2227001555, 2227001558, 2227001565, 2227001566, 2227001588, 2227001590, 2227001591, 2227001592, 2227001594, 2227001606, 2227001614, 2227001618, 2227001619, 2227001624, 2227001641, 2227001662, 2227001665, 2227001670, 2227001674, 2227001675, 2227001676, 2227001684, 2227001685, 2227001699, 2227001701, 2227001707, 2227001720, 2227001726, 2227001728, 2227001737, 2227001757, 2227001781, 2227001782, 2227001784, 2227001806, 2227001808, 2227001809, 2227001827, 2227001829, 2227001839, 2227001858, 2227001859, 2227001901, 2227001955, 2227001972, 2227001973, 2227001978, 2227001979, 2227001997, 2227002037, 2227002047, 2227002051, 2227002069, 2227002072, 2227002083, 2227002099, 2227002102, 2227002115, 2227002122, 2227002143, 2227002145, 2227002148, 2227002162, 2227002179, 2227002187, 2227002193, 2227002198, 2227002199, 2227002210, 2227002219, 2227002223, 2227002234, 2227002247, 2227002254, 2227002256, 2227002258, 2227002270, 2227002273, 2227002302, 2227002313, 2227002335, 2227002350, 2227002351, 2227002353, 2227002396, 2227002408, 2227002444, 2227002459, 2227002471, 2227002556, 2227002579, 2227002613. **Auction Date: 24.08.2026** - **JHAJJAR DISTRICT - BAHADURGARH:** 1200001327, 1200001341, 1200001356, 1200001363, 1200001372, 1200001381, 1200001385, 1200001407, 1200001409, 1200001419, 1200001420, 1200001446, 1200001452, 1200001473, 1200001490, 1200001492, 1200001493, 1200001501, 1200001530, 1200001541, 1200001565, 1200001576, 1200001582, 1200001586, 1200001593, 1200001609, 1200001612, 1200001618, 1200001622, 1200001633, 1200001667, 1200001680, 1200001684, 1200001691, 1200001694, 1200001696, 1200001700, 1200001706, 1200001708, 1200001724, 1200001725, 1200001730, 1200001731, 1200001740, 1200001743, 1200001752, 1200001765, 1200001769, 1200001771, 1200001815, 1200001816, 1200001819, 1200001823, 1200001824, 1200001826, 1200001841, 1200001845, 1200001854, 1200001859, 1200001860, 1200001861, 1200001864, 1200001867, 1200001871, 1200001873, 1200001882, 1200001896, 1200001902, 1200001903, 1200001906, 1200001916, 1200001921, 1200001922, 1200001923, 1200001936, 1200001938, 1200001940, 1200001947, 1200001951, 1200001952, 1200001956, 1200001958, 1200001966, 1200001970, 1200001975, 1200001976, 1200001979, 1200002005, 1200002013, 1200002014, 1200002025, 1200002036, 1200002038, 1200002060, 1200002061, 1200002073, 1200002083, 1200002094, 1200002100, 1200002102, 1200002155, 1200002165, 1200002222, 1200002243, 1200002254, 1200002260, 1200002267, 1200002273, 1200002340, 1200002360, 1200002362, 1200002376, 1200002379, 1200002388, 1200002396, 1200002400, 1200002408, 1200002419, 1200002422, 1200002438, 1200002439, 1200002440, 1200002442, 1200002464, 1200002467, 1200002468, 1200002473, 1200002518, 1200002561, 1200002581, 1200002585, 1200002612, 1200002640, 1200002655, 1200002659, 1200002661, 1200002712, 1200002713, 1200002734, 1200002760, 8000231200, 8000331200, 8000391200, 8000451200, 8000701200, 8000741200, 8000911200, 8001061200, 8001171200, 8001271200, 8001281200, 8001341200, 8001451200, 8001531200, GL/BHDG/49, GL/BHDG/67, GL/BHDG/96. **JHAJJAR-HARYANA:** 3006001352, 3006001363, 3006001374, 3006001394, 3006001406, 3006001415, 3006001455, 3006001466, 3006001475, 3006001506, 3006001507, 3006001544, 3006001590, 3006001608, 3006001613, 3006001623, 3006001653, 3006001654, 3006001655, 3006001689, 3006001708, 3006001720, 3006001735, 3006001741, 3006001743, 3006001755, 3006001759, 3006001760, 3006001762, 3006001768, 3006001775, 3006001790, 3006001824, 3006001833, 3006001841, 3006001848, 3006001851, 3006001857, 3006001858, 3006001859, 3006001868, 3006001869, 3006001873, 3006001874, 3006001876, 3006001885, 3006001886, 3006001889, 3006001894, 3006001896, 3006001898, 3006001904, 3006001913, 3006001914, 3006001926, 3006001941, 3006001985, 3006001988, 3006001989, 3006001991, 3006001994, 3006001995, 3006001996, 3006001999, 3006002010, 3006002016, 3006002030, 3006002033, 3006002053, 3006002054, 3006002058, 3006002062, 3006002066, 3006002111, 3006002116, 3006002119, 3006002128, 3006002133, 3006002136, 3006002171, 3006002180, 3006002206, 3006002213, 3006002227, 3006002236, 3006002256, 3006002264, 3006002283, 3006002295, 3006002296, 3006002297, 3006002307, 3006002308, 3006002316, 3006002333, 3006002335, 3006002336, 3006002361, 3006002370, 3006002411, 3006002419, 3006002440, 3006002442, 3006002447, 3006002452, 3006002456, 3006002461, 3006002468, 3006002476, 3006002486, 3006002488, 3006002491, 3006002516, 3006002517, 3006002537, 3006002538, 3006002539, 3006002547, 3006002549, 3006002554, 3006002558, 3006002574, 3006002591, 3006002610, 3006002611, 3006002612, 3006002627, 3006002631, 3006002636, 3006002638, 3006002642, 3006002656, 3006002678, 3006002679, 3006002685, 3006002693, 3006002697, 3006002741, 3006002749, 3006002769, 3006002774, 3006002777, 3006002780, 3006002792, 3006002807, 3006002816, 3006002851, 3006002852, 3006002875, 3006002909, 3006002926, 3006002939, 3006002980, 3006003012, 3006003017, 3006003031, 3006003042, 3006003060, 3006003105. **Auction Date: 24.08.2026** - **ROHTAK DISTRICT - ROHTAK:** 0848000975, 0848000996, 0848001014, 0848001087, 0848001127, 0848001145, 0848001146, 0848001152, 0848001165, 0848001172, 0848001187, 0848001195, 0848001197, 0848001228, 0848001234, 0848001235, 0848001238, 0848001248, 0848001253, 0848001274, 0848001276, 0848001280, 0848001281, 0848001291, 0848001292, 0848001293, 0848001295, 0848001312, 0848001314, 0848001319, 0848001323, 0848001333, 0848001337, 0848001338, 0848001340, 0848001355, 0848001356, 0848001357, 0848001358, 0848001360, 0848001362, 0848001366, 0848001367, 0848001372, 0848001376, 0848001379, 0848001380, 0848001388, 0848001402, 0848001405, 0848001411, 0848001416, 0848001418, 0848001423, 0848001439, 0848001446, 0848001450, 0848001451, 0848001469, 0848001471, 0848001473, 0848001485, 0848001486, 0848001492, 0848001493, 0848001507, 0848001512, 0848001515, 0848001517, 0848001519, 0848001521, 0848001522, 0848001533, 0848001540, 0848001552, 0848001556, 0848001557, 0848001574, 0848001609, 0848001637, 0848001644, 0848001652, 0848001657, 0848001684, 0848001702, 0848001704, 0848001722, 0848001761, 0848001762, 0848001766, 0848001772, 0848001775, 0848001821, 0848001849, 0848001853, 0848001856, 0848001901, 0848001914, 0848001925, 0848001951, 0848001952, 0848001986, 0848002000, 0848002004, 0848002066, 0848002068, 0848002078, 0848002100, 0848002121, 0848002122, 0848002128, 0848002138, 0848002141, GL/RHTK/249, GL/RHTK/252, GL/RHTK/254, GL/RHTK/255, GL/RHTK/262, GL/RHTK/267, GL/RHTK/288, GL/RHTK/290, GL/RHTK/291, GL/RHTK/296, GL/RHTK/306, GL/RHTK/308, GL/RHTK/312, GL/RHTK/330, GL/RHTK/336, GL/RHTK/342, GL/RHTK/350, GL/RHTK/351, GL/RHTK/353, GL/RHTK/356, GL/RHTK/357. **ROHTAK-COURT ROAD:** 2831001053, 2831001088, 2831001098, 2831001110, 2831001114, 2831001154, 2831001179, 2831001189, 2831001236, 2831001250, 2831001251, 2831001265, 2831001340, 2831001349, 2831001372, 2831001377, 2831001389, 2831001397, 2831001421, 2831001430, 2831001439, 2831001442, 2831001447, 2831001458, 2831001461, 2831001506, 2831001513, 2831001515, 2831001522, 2831001526, 2831001529, 2831001538, 2831001555, 2831001567, 2831001578, 2831001591, 2831001592, 2831001642, 2831001677, 2831001688, 2831001696, 2831001698, 2831001706, 2831001711, 2831001745, 2831001746, 2831001749, 2831001760, 2831001799, 2831001800, 2831001829, 2831001833, 2831001846, 2831001896, 2831001897, 2831001899, 2831001926, 2831001955, 2831001956, 2831001967, 2831001970, 2831002018, 2831002032, 2831002049, 2831002072, 2831002085, 2831002094, 2831002139, 2831002155, 2831002169, 2831002177, 2831002217, 2831002244, 2831002264, 8000012831, 8000112831.
**Auction will be conducted at respective branches. please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 02.09.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at CHARKHI DADRI DISTRICT - CHARKHI DADRI: GROUND FLOOR, DOOR NO.1, CHARKHI DADRI POST, ROHTAK ROAD, NEAR FOUNTAIN CHOWK, OPP. PNB BANK, CHARKHI, DADRI DISTRICT, HARYANA - 127306 .The bidders are requested to produce photo id card ,Pan card .The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS.**

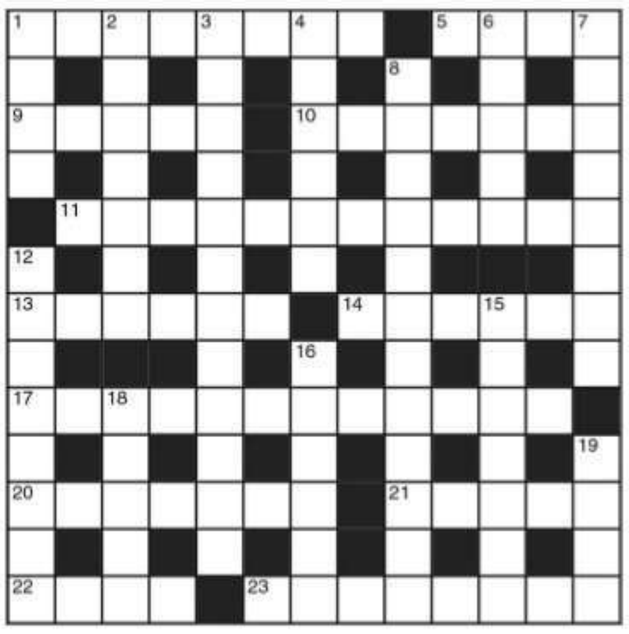
**MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD**

## MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

**Regd. Office:** Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427.

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company , which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so for in spite of repeated notices will be auctioned on 24.08.2026 from 10 am onwards.
**Auction Date: 24.08.2026** - **FARIDABAD DISTRICT - FARIDABAD SECT 15:** 0615000606, 0615000636, 0615000659, 0615000665, 0615000668, 0615000671, 0615000678, 0615000683, 0615000700, 0615000706, 0615000723, 0615000742, 0615000752, 0615000759, 0615000760, 0615000761, 0615000783, 0615000787, 0615000794, 0615000834, 0615000855, 0615000863, 0615000889, 0615000926, 0615000984, 0615000995, 0615001009, 0615001012, 0615001027, 0615001032, 0615001033, 0615001048, 0615001055, 0615001067, GL/F15S/237, GL/F15S/45, GL/F15S/49, GL/F15S/97. **FARIDABAD SECT 29:** 0593002271, 0593002337, 0593002369, 0593002399, 0593002425, 0593002428, 0593002437, 0593002444, 0593002461, 0593002466, 0593002471, 0593002482, 0593002534, 0593002591, 0593002593, 0593002622, 0593002645, 0593002655, 0593002656, 0593002661, 0593002685, 0593002722, 0593002779, 0593002813, 0593002815, 0593002824, 0593002832, 0593002865, 0593002866, 0593002944, 0593002950, 0593002957, 0593002964, 0593003051, 0593003059, 0593003060, 0593003061, 0593003065, 0593003073, 0593003075, 0593003086, 0593003138, 0593003193, 0593003198, 0593003201, 0593003207, 0593003208, 0593003263, 0593003300, 0593003388, 0593003391, 0593003399, 0593003400, 0593003463, 0593003464, 0593003572, 0593003609, 0593003610, GL/F29S/160, GL/F29S/161. **FARIDABAD SECT 3:** 0616001668, 0616001696, 0616001711, 0616001712, 0616001721, 0616001755, 0616001841, 0616001861, 0616001905, 0616001910, 0616001944, 0616001950, 0616001960, 0616001970, 0616001986, 0616001998, 0616002033, 0616002035, 0616002050, 0616002069, 0616002077, 0616002087, 0616002121, 0616002124, 0616002126, 0616002135, 0616002141, 0616002171, 0616002176, 0616002184, 0616002185, 0616002193, 0616002199, 0616002203, 0616002209, 0616002211, 0616002213, 0616002217, 0616002230, 0616002231, 0616002232, 0616002233, 0616002242, 0616002251, 0616002253, 0616002255, 0616002268, 0616002269, 0616002279, 0616002290, 0616002297, 0616002304, 0616002305, 0616002319, 0616002327, 0616002344, 0616002352, 0616002379, 0616002389, 0616002400, 0616002403, 0616002416, 0616002425, 0616002428, 0616002435, 0616002438, 0616002445, 0616002464, 0616002471

## • CROSSWORD 6048



**ACROSS**

**1** Appeals are permissible in a distress signal (8)
**5** Audible lines supplied as hints (4)
**9** Financial backer with a new angle (5)
**10** Twice mother passes round the hat for a teacher (7)
**11** Goes ahead and plays the star part (5,3,4)
**13** Hitherto a traditional aim of boys and girls (2,4)
**14** Give the signal to pass a bottle of wine (6)
**17** Form of transport for a pedestrian (12)
**20** Once more a good man is in opposition (7)
**21** Apathy of the French (5)
**22** Superfluous oil well (4)
**23** Acts as chairman but shows partiality in advance? (8)

**DOWN**

**1** Theatre out east for men only (4)
**2** Pull the girl up; one who's falling behind (7)
**3** Remembered and phoned for a babysitter (6,2,4)
**4** Fruit devoured by automatons (6)
**6** Open it up in June having got the tip-off (5)
**7** Reputation for being upright (8)
**8** Supporters who arouse enthusiasm (12)
**12** Allow no openings for substitutes (8)
**15** Obtained no grade sadly and complained (7)
**16** One who docks a sailing ship (6)
**18** Kingdom not fancied by many (5)
**19** A girl to avoid (4)

**SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 6047 ACROSS:** 1 Petit four, 8 Usual, 9 Medical, 10 Pebble, 11 Editor, 12 Arms race, 15 Reporter, 18 Rector, 20 Wealth, 21 Cameras, 22 Rider, 23 Eccentric **DOWN:** 2 Emend, 3 Idiots, 4 Flagrant, 5 Rulers, 6 Bugbear, 7 Blue peter, 11 Extra work, 13 Marriage, 14 Upwards, 16 Retire, 17 Accent, 19 Okapi

## 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 fanatic is one who can't change his __ and won't change the ___. — Winston Churchill (4,..,7)**

SHIVE

CAMPED

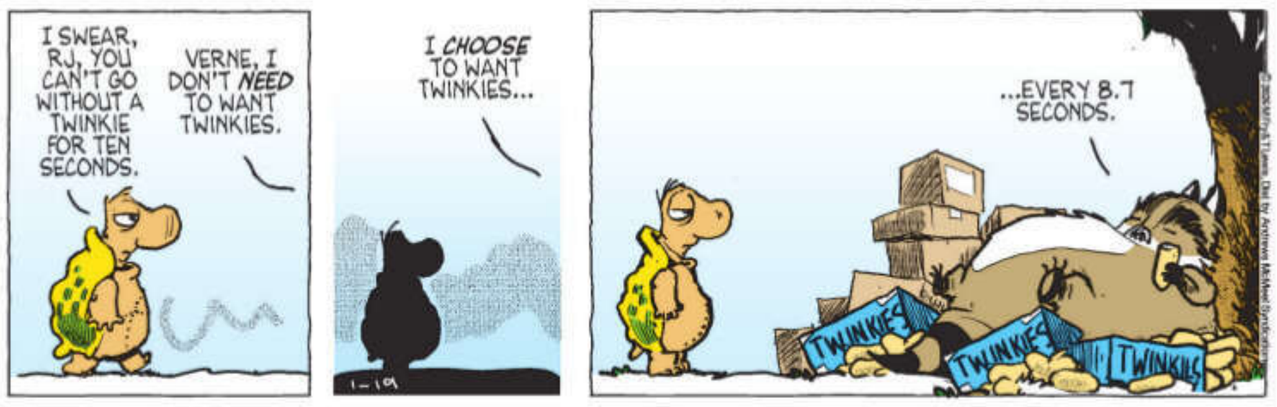
FINTU

ELMUBJ

**SOLUTIONS:** Hives, Unfit, Decamp, Jumble
**ANSWER:** A fanatic is one who can't change his **mind** and won't change the **subject**. — Winston Churchill

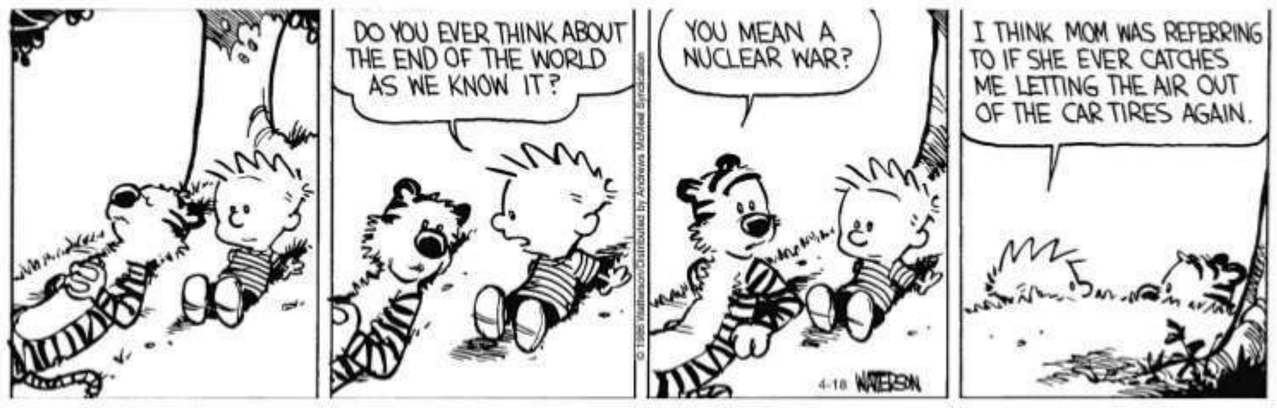
## • OVER THE HEDGE

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS



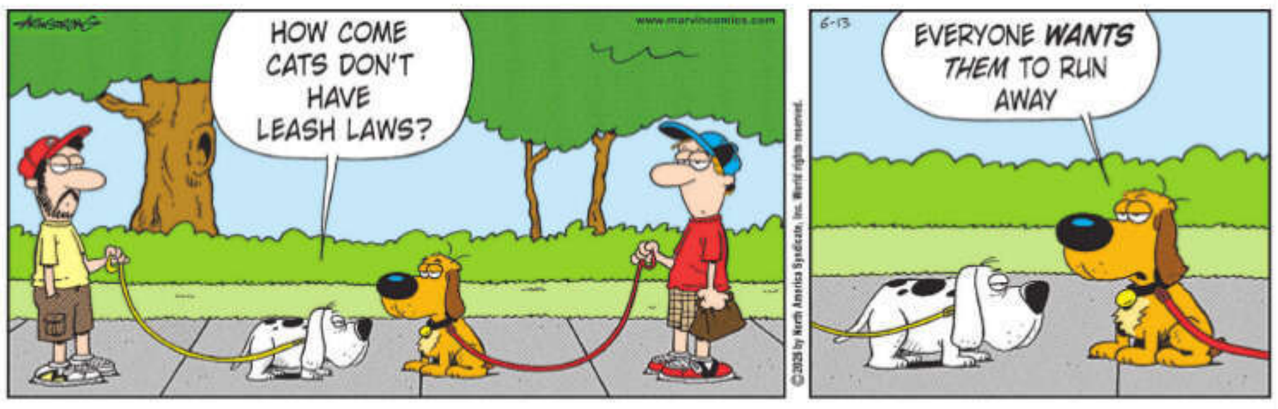

## • CALVIN & HOBBES

BY BILL WATTERSON




## • MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG




## SUDOKU 6388

**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

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

## SOLUTION SUDOKU 6387

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

## • ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

**ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20):** Opportunities for vacations, sports events and fun socialising with others continue to come your way. At work, co-workers are supportive. It's all good. Tonight: Learn and explore.

**TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21):** Be aware of the limitations of the Moon Alert today. Meanwhile, today there will be transportation delays, car problems and mixed-up communications that you've been dealing with for a while. Brighter skies ahead! Tonight: Check your finances.

**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21):** You have lots of energy and drive. However, be aware of the limitations of today's Moon Alert. Your finances will improve, especially in terms of delays and mistakes. Tonight: Cooperate.

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23):** Your life will resume a greater degree of normalcy and silly mistakes will be reduced along with delays and transportation problems. Thank goodness! Tonight: Get organised.

**LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23):** Be aware of today's Moon Alert. Fortunately, you are in a strong position. Fiery Mars is also well-placed, promoting teamwork, competitive sports and athletics. Starting today, life takes on a forward momentum. Tonight: Socialise.

**VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23):** You're enjoying socialising with others. However, you also have a strong tendency now to work alone or behind the scenes. You're also ambitious to achieve. Be aware that there is a Moon Alert today. Volunteer for nothing. Tonight: Relax at home.

**LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23):** For the last month, Mercury has been affecting your relations with bosses, parents and authority figures from the past. As of today, this is over. Although you might be focused on financial matters, restrict spending to food and gas. Tonight: Conversations.

**SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23):** Today the Moon is in your sign, which gives you a slight advantage over the other signs. However, most of this day is a Moon Alert! Therefore, tread carefully and restrict your spending to food and gas. Don't volunteer for anything. Tonight: Check your money.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22):** It's encouraging that Mercury retrograde is over today, because it might have delayed financial matters for you. Go forward with confidence now to make plans for travel. Tonight: You're strong.

**CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20):** In the last month, Mercury has been retrograding opposite your sign, attracting ex-partners and old friends back into your world. (This might have been a mixed blessing for some.) At any rate, as of today, Mercury retrograde is finished. However, check the Moon Alert! Tonight: Welcome privacy.

**AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19):** Mercury retrograde has been creating equipment problems, delays and confusion with respect to your job, your health and even perhaps dealing with your pet. It will stop, today. This means your efforts to work will be more efficient. Tonight: Be friendly.

**PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20):** Today you might feel restless for adventure or a change. You're working hard, but you also want to explore something new. Nevertheless, most of this day is a Moon Alert, so just bide your time. Tonight: You're admired.


## SALUTE THE SOLDIER

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE**

Veer Balidani
Head Constable
Birendra Kumar Sharma
**60 Bn**
1-1-1975 To 23-7-2012

Veer Balidani
Constable
Santosh Kumar
**60 Bn**
29-1-1976 To 23-7-2012

DG and all Ranks of CRPF pay solemn tribute to Head Constable Birendra Kumar Sharma and Constable Santosh Kumar of 60 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice in a fierce encounter with Maoists during an operation in Khunti district, Jharkhand on 23 July 2012. CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.

Veer Balidani
Constable
Bimal Ram
**50 Bn**
3-11-1960 To 23-7-1990

Veer Balidani
Constable
Prem Singh
**50 Bn**
1-2-1963 To 23-7-1990

DG and all Ranks of CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable Prem Singh and Constable Bimal Ram of 50 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice after being grievously injured while bravely countering an ambush by militants in Kupwara district, Jammu & Kashmir on 23 July 1990. CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.

Veer Balidani
Naik
Kanhaiya Ram
**87 Bn**
30-1-1952 To 23-7-1991

DG and all Ranks of CRPF pay solemn tribute to Naik Kanhaiya Ram of 87 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice after being grievously injured while bravely combating terrorists in Ludhiana, Punjab on 23 July 1991. CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

मुख्य अभियंता (प्रकल्प) कार्यालय
**पुणे महानगरपालिका**
**शुध्दीपत्रक (टेंडर क्र. २९/२०२६)**

पुणे मनपा, मुख्य अभियंता (प्रकल्प) कार्यालयाकडील साखर संकुल ते जुना पुणे-मुंबई रस्ता येथे उड्डाणपूल/रेल्वेवरील पूल बांधणे टेंडर क्र. २९/२०२६ या कामाची जाहिरात क्र. ३/४०६ दि. २०/०७/२०२६ यापूर्वी प्रसिद्ध झाली आहे. त्यामध्ये कामाचे नाव साखर संकुल ते जुना पुणे-मुंबई रस्ता येथे उड्डाणपूल / ग्रेड सेरपेटर बांधणे असे वाचण्यात यावे.
बाकी मजकूर पूर्वी प्रसिद्ध केल्याप्रमाणे राहील.

स्वाक्षरी/-
जाहिरात क्र.- ३/४२१ — कार्यकारी अभियंता (प्रकल्प)
दि.- २२/०७/२०२६ — पुणे महानगरपालिका

**UJVN LIMITED**
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvnl.com

Letter No: 605 **e-TENDER NOTICE** Date: 22/07/2026

Office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Khodri Power Station, Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites online tenders for following supply works :
**eTender No.07/EE(Maint.)/Khodri/2026-27**–Hiring of 2 Nos. school bus for wards of UJVNL employees located at Dakpather.
**Estimated Cost :** Rs.34,56,570/-(GST Extra)
**Date of availability of bid documents:**27.07.2026 (10:00 Hrs)
**Last date for submission of Tender:** 18.08.2026 (upto 16:00 Hrs.).
For further details and downloading of the tender documents kindly visit website **"https:/uktenders.gov.in"**

**Executive Engineer (Maintenance)**
**Khodri Power Station**

**"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"**

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

Notice Inviting e Tender www.verka.coop

e- tenders are hereby Invited for the supply of following items :-

| Name of Work/Item | Period/ Tentative Qty |
|---|---|
| For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh | |
| 1. 180 ml Glass Bottle | Annual/ 90 Lac |
| 2. Shrink Film | Annual/70 Lac |

NOTE:
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. **eproc.punjab.gov.in.**
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

**General Manager (Purchase)**

**UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
Corporate Identity No. U40109UR2001SGC025867 / 2358
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun
Telephone- (0135)- 2763672-76, Fax-(0135) 2760289

**E-TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE**

E-tender Specification No. CCP-I/23/2026-2027 invited by this office for supply of Stay Set GI 20x1800 mm, are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tender can be purchased and submitted upto-17:00 hrs of 03.08.2026. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 04.08.2026 at 16:00 hrs.
Other terms & conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website **www.uktenders.gov.in**.

**SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**
**CORPORATE (C&P-I)**
No.: 538/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Dt. 22.07.2026

**"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION"** Use L.E.D bulb to sava Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912) "Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org". (For information on Electricity theft, informer may report to Toll free No 18001804185/ Fax No. 0135-2760911)

**KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD**
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru-560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383
website : **www.kiadb.in** e-Mail: **cdoce1@kiadb.in**
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-27/2255/2026-27 Date: 22.07.2026

**SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER**
**(Through KPP Portal Only)**

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical manpower & sufficient past experience for the work of mentioned below:
Name of the work: **Formation of Industrial Layout including Construction of Roads, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage works, Retaining wall & HDPE Dual Water supply pipe line in Sector-3 for sub layout in KGF Industrial Area, Bangaradagani Village, KGF Taluk, Kolar District.**
Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **10.08.2026 up to 4:00 pm**
Applicants may download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal **htpps://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

**Sd/- Engineer-In-Chief, K.I.A.D.B**

**वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक का कार्यालय, राँची।**

**सर्वसाधारण के लिए सूचना।**

नाम–मो0 समीर काजमी उम्र–22 वर्ष, उँचाई–5 फीट 5 ईंच, रंग–सॉवला, पहनावा–काला रंग का गंजी एवं नीला रंग का ट्राउजर पहने हुए है।

उपरोक्त लापता व्यक्ति मो0 समीर काजमी उम्र–22 वर्ष, पिता–कल्लु दर्जी, सा0–तमाड़ मुस्लिम टोला, थाना–तामड़, जिला–राँची जो दिनांक–11.07.2026 को घर से बगैर बताए कहीं चले गए जो आजतक अपने घर वापस नहीं आए है। जिसके संबंध में तमाड़ थाना सन्हा सं0–11/2026, दिनांक–14.07.2026 दर्ज कर इनकी खोजबीन की जा रही है। उपरोक्त सूचना को सार्वजनिक किया जाना आवश्यक है।

अतः सभी जनसाधारण से अनुरोध है कि यदि उपरोक्त लापता व्यक्ति कहीं मिलता/दिखता है तो इसके संबंध में वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक के कार्यालय में या निम्नांकित फोन नम्बर पर संपर्क कर इसकी सूचना दें।

**Email ID(rnc-dcb@jhpolice.gov.in)**
अनु0 पुलिस पदा0, बुण्डु, राँची। – 9431706144
थाना प्रभारी, तमाड़, राँची। – 9431706993
आवेदक कल्लु दर्जी। – 8968089197

PR 385564 (Police) 26-27 (D)

**वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक, राँची।**

**उत्तराखण्ड पावर कॉरपोरेशन लि0**
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल (ग्रामीण) 18 ई0सी0 रोड, देहरादून
दूरभाष: +91-135-2653601

**"ई–निविदा सूचना"**

अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा अनुभवी/प्रतिष्ठित तथा उत्तराखण्ड शासन द्वारा विद्युत अधिष्ठापन कार्य के लिए अधिकृत 'ए' क्लास लाइसैन्सधारी ठेकेदार जो इन्कम टैक्स, उत्तराखण्ड जी0एस0टी0, ई0पी0एफ0, ई0एस0आई तथा श्रम विभाग में पंजीकृत हों से निम्न निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
1. ई–निविदा संख्या–45/EDCRDDUN/2026-27
2. ई–निविदा संख्या–46/EDCRDDUN/2026-27
3. ई–निविदा संख्या–47/EDCRDDUN/2026-27
4. ई–निविदा संख्या–48/EDCRDDUN/2026-27
5. ई–निविदा संख्या–49/EDCRDDUN/2026-27
6. ई–निविदा संख्या–50/EDCRDDUN/2026-27
7. ई–निविदा संख्या–51/EDCRDDUN/2026-27

उपरोक्त निविदाओं की अधिक जानकारी हेतु वैबसाईट **www.uktenders.gov.in** पर देखें।
"विद्युत बिलों के **24x7** ऑनलाईन भुगतान हेतु **www.upcl.org** पर जायें"
पत्रांक: 2619/वि0वि0मं0या0दे0/उपाकालि दिनांक: 21/07/2026 **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता**
"राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें" टोल फ्री नं0 1800–419–0405

**DEPTT. OF WATER RESOURCES, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**
32001/585/2627
**"e" Procurement Notice No. ACEDC-CTC-08/2026-27**

1. Name of the Works: **Total 02(Two)** nos. Drainage work.
2. Estimated cost: **Rs. 152.18 lakh to 698.99 lakh.**
3. Period of Completion: **11 (Eleven) months to 18 (Eighteen) months**
4. Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal: From **11.30 hours of Dt. 27.07.2026 to 18.00 hours of Dt. 10.08.2026.**
5. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal: **18.00 hours of Dt. 10.08.2026**
6. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid: Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Gandarpur, Kataka- 753003. e-mail id:- **sedrainagecirclectc@gmail.com**

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal of Odisha Government **https://tendersodisha.gov.in.** All information, notices, addendum, corrigendum, cancellation notice etc. if required, will be published in this portal.

Sd/-
**Additional Chief Engineer**
**Drainage Circle, Kataka**
**OIPR- 32001/32518/1/26-27/0006**

**KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD**
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru-560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383
website : **www.kiadb.in** e-Mail: **cdoce1@kiadb.in**
No.IADB/ENGG/PMC/EPTND-EP-05/2253/2026-27 Date:22.07.2026

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES.**
**(Through KPP Portal Only)**

KIADB is inviting tender under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Consulting Firms under two cover system for the following work:
Name of the works: **Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Providing & Supplying of MS Gravity Main from Obalapura Junction in Nelamangala Taluk at Ch.2.60 Km offtake from Main Trunk of Cauvery River Water Supply Scheme (Package-3) to WTP at KWIN City for supplying of fresh water to KWIN City at Doddaballapura & Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.**
Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **20.08.2026 up to 4:00 pm**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

**Sd/- Engineer-In-Chief, K.I.A.D.B**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**
**TENDER NOTICE**

The Dy Chief Engineer/Construction/Northern Railway/Tilak Bridge/New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work.-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Full Name of work | Yard remodeling in c/with construction of new platform no. 4 & 5 (Island Platform) and Provision of washable apron with BLT, Provision of PF drain on PF-1 to 5 at DSJ for terminal examination facility at DSJ station. |
| 2 | Approx. Cost of work: | Rs. 23,74,70,811.59 |
| 3 | Completion period of the work | 18 months |
| 4 | Earnest Money to be deposited | Rs. 47,49,400.00 |
| 5 | Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. website | Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** from 23.07.2026 to 13.08.2026 upto 15.00 hrs. |
| 6 | Last date/Time of upload of tenders | 13.08.2026 upto 15.00 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f. 30.07.2026 to 13.08.2026 upto 15:00 hours. |
| 7 | Date and time of opening of tender | 13.08.2026 at 15:00 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenders would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of this office. |

**Tender Notice No.496-AA-DSJ Yard remodeling, Dated:- 22.07.2026** 2523/26

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**
**E-AUCTION NOTICE**

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (http:/ireps.gov.in/) for the allotment of Automated Teller Machine/Digital Banking Unit/Banking e-Lobby Contracts, at following Railway stations/locations:-

| E-Catalogue No. | Date & Time of bidding | Railway Stations/ Locations/Sites |
|---|---|---|
| DLI-ATM-02-2026 | 06.08.2026 at 12:00 Hrs. | Anand Vihar Terminal (2), Tohana (1), Jakhal (1), Noli (1) |
| **Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen** | | https://ireps.gov.in/ |

**All bidders who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:**
- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module
- Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module
- Payment of One Time Registration Fee; Current Account in State Bank of India; Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account; Lien Marking of Funds; Updation of Turnover Details
- A new mechanism namely Virtual Account Number (VAN) has been introduced now for E-Auction Leasing module, which can be used by the bidders as an alternative to Lien Marking Mechanism. The bidders are free to switch between Lien Marking Mechanism (if activated) and VAN mechanism at any point of time, before entering the bidding room. VAN mechanism does not require the bidder to have a current account in State Bank of India. The users are free to transfer money from any of their existing bank accounts in any bank to their VAN account, which enables them to participate in IREPS E-Auctions.
- Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender /E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query** | Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi -110055. Email: publicitycelldli@gmail.com Tel: 011-23743084 |

**No.: 3PUB/ATM/DLI-DIV/E-auction/2022 Date: 00.07.2026** 2525/2026

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

COMMONWEALTH GAMES: JULY 23-AUGUST 2

*A visit to a talent nursery, the winningness of India's successful stomping sports, wistfulness for the disciplines not included, and a widget into what to expect from the compact Games at Glasgow. The Indian Express looks at the sporting footprint*

# The stride that broke Kenya's steeplechase podium dominance

Avinash Sable's silver in Birmingham ended six straight Kenyan 1-2-3s in the long-distance discipline

**Nihal Koshie**
*New Delhi, July 22*

Avinash Sable gave Kenya's Abraham Kibiwot a run for this money in the final stages of the men's 3000m steeplechase in Birmingham. (Below) Sable's house in 2020. AP/FILE

> **If I had to win a medal, I had to beat at least one of them. I thought whatever happens, I will not fall behind the Kenyan athletes. I was ready to put all my effort into this one race."**
> AVINASH SABLE

> **With only Kibiwot ahead of me, I was sure I would win a medal. I thought, why not catch the man in front? When I am on silver, why not fight for gold? Why not try more?"**
> SABLE

AN IMAGE for the ages emerged in the men's steeplechase final at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games. With 150 metres remaining in the 3000m race, Kenya's Abraham Kibiwot looked over his shoulder: a glance right, then one left. Wincing, pushing to hold off a threat that had no business being there, Kibiwot looked rattled.

A Kenyan being challenged for gold was unfathomable this deep into a steeplechase final. An Indian doing the running was rarer still: the country had never won a Commonwealth Games medal in the event.

At the start of the final lap, Kibiwot had built a healthy lead over Avinash Sable. But in the last stretch, that lead began to go. Kibiwot's two Kenyan teammates, meanwhile, were nowhere close: the race had come down to him and Sable, an army man from Mandwa village in Beed, Maharashtra.

Kenya's hold on the men's steeplechase had looked unshakeable, the country sweeping the podium in every edition of the Commonwealth Games since 1998. A seventh sweep was the expectation.

But Sable flipped the script. Determined to shake off a reputation of falling short at major championships, he broke the Kenyan hegemony in one of the greatest races run by an Indian, a strategy as simple as it was risky: keep pace with the Kenyans, and hope he didn't fade.

"If I had to win a medal, I had to beat at least one of them. I thought whatever happens, I will not fall behind the Kenyan athletes. I was ready to put all my effort into this one race. The Kenyan runners were world-class but I had to be brave. That is the only way I could have beaten them. Perhaps I surprised them," Sable tells The Indian Express, looking back at the run that won him silver.

Given the quality of the field he was up against, beating two of the three Kenyans and taking silver was a feat worth savouring. Conseslus Kipruto, the 2016 Olympic champion and two-time World champion, was the defending Commonwealth Games gold medallist.

Amos Serem, at 19 the youngest of the Kenyans, had been crowned World Under-20 champion the year before. Kibiwot himself would go on to take World Championship bronze the following year, then Olympic bronze at Paris 2024.

Sable stuck to his plan: match the Kenyans stride for stride, for as long as his legs would allow it.

He even led the race for the first 400 metres, before the three Kenyans went past him, first Kibiwot, then Serem, then Kipruto, but the Indian simply refused to let them go.

### *Thrilling finish*

By the third-last hurdle, Sable had closed on Kibiwot, the race leader. On landing after the second-last hurdle, he was breathing down Kibiwot's neck. The unthinkable had already happened: he'd run down Serem and Kipruto with 500 metres still to go. Now it was the leader he was chasing.

The water jump before the final hurdle nearly decided it. Kibiwot mis-stepped but cleared it clean; Sable stepped on it. At the line, Sable dipped for the win but missed it by a stride. His time, 8:11.20, was a national record. Kibiwot's was 8:11.15. Serem took bronze in 8:16.83.

It was a quick redemption. Less than a month earlier, at the World Championships in Oregon, Sable had finished 11th in one of the slowest 3000m steeplechase finals in the event's history. The contrast in pace was stark: Soufiane El Bakkali won that race in 8:25.13, nearly nine seconds slower than Serem's bronze-medal time in Birmingham.

"The race was fast but it helped because I didn't have to overthink about strategy. Just go all out. I had clarity in my mind," said Sable.

Somewhere in the closing stages of the race in Birmingham, his own target shifted.

"I had wanted to win a medal, even a bronze was fine. With only Kibiwot ahead of me, I was sure I would win a medal. I thought, why not catch the man in front? When I am on silver, why not fight for gold? Why not try more? I had worked so hard but felt like I had not won a medal which reflected the amount of hard work I had put in. I felt I had a real chance to go past Kibiwot. But my last water jump wasn't great, else maybe I could have done better," Sable recalled.

India won eight medals in track and field at Birmingham, including gold in men's javelin. None carried the same significance as an Indian overtaking two Kenyans and briefly threatening a third.

### *Nikolai's method*

That Sable did it weeks after the disappointment at the World Championships made the silver mean even more.

"My fitness was good at the World Championships but I didn't finish in a good position. I was upset," Sable said.

Something had to change in the short window between Oregon and Birmingham. No wholesale changes, but there was enough time to tweak routines. Sable's coach in the United States, Scott Simmons, had prepared him for Oregon; after that result, he went back to the hurdles-heavy training his late coach, Belarusian Nikolai Snesarev, used to put him through.

"I felt I had to change something. I was breaking records but somehow the belief to win a race was missing. While coach Scott Simmons' training had benefits, I felt I needed to go back to old ways. I did a lot of hurdles training like Nikolai coach would have asked me to do. It worked for me because I got my confidence back. My fitness was good anyway. I was mentally and physically strong to take on the Kenyans," Sable said.

Former army coach Amrish Kumar credits Sable for breaking a mental barrier.

"Sable gave Indian distance runners the belief that they could beat the Kenyans and runners from other African nations," Kumar said.

Sable went on to win the Asian Games gold in Hangzhou the following year. But he still comes back to Birmingham. "It is my best performance till date."

## •BREAKDOWN OF SABLE'S SURGE

**LAYING DOWN A MARKER**
At the gun, Sable goes into the lead early, trying to set the pace for the fast race and stays in front till the first minute before Kibiwot takes over followed by Kipruto and Serem. Sable moves to fourth place.

**KENYAN TRIO HIT THE FRONT**
At the kilometer mark, the three Kenyans had pulled away from the rest of the field with Sable trying his best to stay with them. Sable had started strongly but the Kenyans had hit their stride. But he used the faster Kenyans like pacemakers.

**LIGHTNING QUICK**
Sable's challenge was to maintain the tempo with 2/3rd of the race remaining. Race leader Kibiwot's 2 minutes and 39.14 seconds for the first kilometer indicated a sub-8-minute finish.

**WAITING FOR OPPORTUNITY**
The second kilometer was completed in a slower time, 2:47.89 but the Kenyans were comfortably placed 1-2-3. Sable, about a metre behind Serem, was snapping at their heels.

**FINDING THE OPENING**
With 600 metres to go, Kibiwot increased his lead over his two compatriots, Kipruto and Serem, both of whom suddenly didn't have the pace to keep up. Sable senses an opening but waits a while longer.

**TWO DOWN ONE TO GO**
At the water jump, 50 metres later, Sable makes his move, going ahead of both Kipruto and Serem. But Sable has catching up to do as he is nearly a second and a half behind race leader Kibiwot.

**FINAL KICK**
By the start of the last lap, Sable had closed the gap with Kibiwot to 1.1 seconds but it looks like the Kenyan is ready for the final kick. Yet Sable keeps closing down the lead.

**CHALLENGING KIBIWOT**
At the 2750 metre mark, loud cheers resound around the stadium as Sable is side by side with Kibiwot. Sable doesn't land too well after crossing a hurdle but regains balance quickly to breathe down Kibiwot's neck.

**DOWN TO THE WIRE**
Even after the last water jump, which Sable felt he could have executed better, he does not fade away and nearly catches Kibiwot again. At the line, he dips, hoping to pip Kibiwot but the Kenyan, visibly tiring, edges him out.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

# India's 'Goldfinger' who took Melbourne by storm 20 years ago

Samaresh Jung (L) is the current coach of the Indian pistol team. PTI

**Shashank Nair**
*New Delhi, July 22*

> **All I would do was win a medal, put the flowers I was given in a pot and play some music. Coaches used to get angry with the noise but we had won medals, so they understood. Then it was back to participating in the next event."**
> SAMARESH JUNG
> ON HIS MELBOURNE 2006 ROUTINE

AT THE end of the closing ceremony of the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games, all eyes darted around looking for the David Dixon award winner. Conferred on the best athlete of the CWG, people wondered where Samaresh Jung was. But the shooter, who had won five gold medals, one bronze and a silver, had already flown out of the host city and was in China for a ISSF shooting World Cup.

"*Woh kahawat suni hai? 'Khuda meharban to gadha pehelwan'*, (If God is on your side, even the most incapable person can achieve greatness)," jokes Jung, trying to downplay his achievements. His exploits at the Commonwealth Games spanned three editions – the Indian shooter picked up a total of 14 medals from Manchester 2002, Melbourne 2006 and New Delhi 2010 – only bettered by Jaspal Rana's haul of 15. But Melbourne was the crowning moment for the former shooter, who is now the national coach of India's pistol programme.

He went to Melbourne with 8 medals in mind.

"Journalists would ask me how many gold medals I was targeting and I'd tell them all of them, and all gold," Jung told *The Indian Express* from China where he is with India's pistol shooters for a World Cup.

The then 35-year-old had made it known that he was going for a Games record of seven gold medals. Australian swimmers Susie O'Neill, Emma McKeon and Ian Thorpe had won six at a single edition – a record Jung attempted to break. He fell short, but was still adjudged the best athlete of Melbourne 2006. But when the time for the award came, the man called 'Goldfinger' by the volunteers at Melbourne, was already out of the country.

"I had no idea about the award. I had already left Australia at the time and was in China for the ISSF World Cup," admits Jung. "I later received a replica," he adds wryly. He remains the only Indian to have won the honour, even 20 years after his feat.

{nostalgia}

Shooting is not part of the programme at the upcoming Glasgow Commonwealth Games, but will return to the schedule when India hosts the games in Ahmedabad in 2030.

### *Camaraderie*

In 2006, the shooting team - comprising stalwarts like Abhinav Bindra, flag-bearer Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Jaspal Rana and Gagan Narang – was a tight-knit bunch. The churn that is a common feature of Indian shooting these days was not seen back then. The sport, revelling in Rathore's Athens silver but yet to experience the euphoria of Bindra's Beijing gold, was yet to fully wake up. Resources were not abundant, and for Melbourne, there was no big team of specialists tending to a single athlete.

"We got one psychologist who used to do group sessions. Nothing like what we have now," says Jung.

He recalls the camaraderie among the Indian shooters in Melbourne. Complaints of loud music emanating from Rana's room didn't hamper the medal haul – 26 in total, 16 of them gold.

"All I would do was win a medal, put the flowers in a pot and play some music. Coaches used to get angry with the noise but we had won medals, so they understood. Then it was back to participating in the next event the day after," says Jung.

At the compact Glasgow Games, shooting's absence will hurt India's medal tally. The sport accounts for 135 of the country's medals at the event, despite not being a part of Birmingham 2022, and the 2026 edition. While some of the younger shooters in India may appreciate one less competition to prepare for, Jung, who used to take part even in disciplines that were not part of the Olympics at the time, thinks differently.

"Every competition you participate in, you learn something and carry that to the next competition. Even if it's Olympic or non-Olympic. But now, there is too much specialisation," he says. "At that time, we never thought of recovery. We just did what the coaches told us to do. That was good enough," say the shooter-turned-coach, who is back in China now, this time coaching Indian shooters participating at the ISSF World Cup in Hangzhou.

• CHINA OPEN SUPER 1000

# Ayush beats Alwi Farhan in battle of future stars; Sindhu to face Yufei next

**Shivani Naik**
*Mumbai, July 22*

AYUSH SHETTY secured a remarkably comfortable 21-17, 5-21, 21-17 victory over Indonesian rival Alwi Farhan to enter the second round of the Super 1000 China Open. It was an important win on a big stage — a Super 1000 — against an opponent who is the season's form player and widely acknowledged as Indonesia's next big hope.

The two 21-year-olds are seen as the future of badminton, though they have done enough to be considered the present. While Alwi has two titles this season, Ayush is still searching for his big one. China Open offers a good opportunity for the World No.23. Though his draw half is stacked — including Lakshya Sen in the semis possibly — he can dream big, after securing a confidence-boosting result, getting past a 2022 World Jrs batchmate who he hadn't beaten since 2023.

Ayush plays Nhat Nguyen, a pokey tricky Irishman next.

Sen registered a fighting win over Yushi Tanaka after an especially tricky first set, where he contrived to make a 17-14 lead needlessly adventurous. He won 22-20, 15-21, 21-14 highlighting yet another slow start to a tournament, and Round 2 looks ominous.

They are only 1-1 in head to head, but Sen and Candian Victor Lai have a propensity to play memorable matches, so Thursday would be no different. Had badminton been at the Commonwealth Games, Lai would've fought Sen hard for the gold. Just as Lai, who won the last Super 1000 at Indonesia entered Top 10, Sen has fallen back to World No.14. It is pretty clear Sen will prioritise the big events. But he would be keen to join Saina Nehwal, Kidambi Srikanth and PV Sindhu as the only Indians in singles to win China Open. The relentless retriever and snappy attacker Lai won't make it easy, though Sen has a more rounded game than him.

While the All England semifinals was one of the classics, and a match Sen will take plenty of hope from, the Thomas Cup loss would've stung him. Sen was 21-18, 19-19 rallying from 16-19 down when he couldn't forge ahead. Lai is very beatable with Sen's skillset, but the Indian has allowed him to get into his head with his expansive smashes.

Ayush Shetty plays Irishman Nhat Nguyen next. BWF

The draw is treacherous for Sen with Loh Kean or Jojo Christie after Lai.

In women's singles, Japan Open winner PV Sindhu started out avenging an upstart loss to Unnati Hooda, who had famously beaten her at China last season.

The 21-14, 9-21, 21-10 win for Sindhu saw two fairly one-sided sets with a breather set lost in between.

Sindhu however immediately runs into Chinese Chen Yufei who had retired with hamstring issues after finding herself at the end of a Sindhu torrent last week.

The Chinese remains iffy in her court movements and the Indian will sniff a chance should Yufei continue being tentative. Playing at home presents a different pressure for the Chinese, though she might have rested more, given she wrapped up by Saturday, and was airdropped in place of An Se-young who herself withdrew from China.

Sindhu's attack has looked terrifying for her opponents, with Yufei telling BWF, "I wanted to play at 100%, but Sindhu played very well. Her attack was explosive and I was always defending. I wasn't comfortable." Acupuncture and massage had both not offered her relief last week, but playing in front of her home crowd, Yufei will pose a stronger resolve to Sindhu.

Lalit Modi could possibly return to India after 16 years. PTI

# Lalit Modi gets relief in ED cases related to IPL 2009

**Amaal Sheikh**
*New Delhi, July 22*

FORMER INDIAN Premier League (IPL) chairman Lalit Modi has got relief against most of the charges brought by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the 2009 edition of the tournament, paving the way for his possible return to the country after 16 years.

The Appellate Tribunal under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act (SAFEMA) has set aside most of the penalties imposed on Modi, the BCCI and several former office-bearers in a (Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) case arising from the IPL's 2009 shift to South Africa.

"Sixteen years I have fought and whatever I have been saying to the media and to everybody has finally emerged as the truth," Modi reacted to the verdict, adding that he now looked forward to returning to India.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Modi's counsel Mahmood Abdi said, "In this regard, there is no other case pending against Mr. Modi."

The case goes back to 2009, when the IPL's second season was shifted out of the country as its schedule clashed with the general election and security concerns made it difficult to hold both simultaneously.

Conducting the tournament overseas required the BCCI to remit substantial sums to Cricket South Africa (CSA), vendors and other entities for venues, logistics and operational expenses.

The ED later alleged that several of these remittances violated FEMA. It issued 12 show cause notices in 2011 before passing an order in May 2018, imposing penalties on the BCCI, Modi, former Board office-bearers N. Srinivasan and M.P. Pandove, State Bank of India and its former Chief Manager A.K. Nazeer Khan.

Modi, who had been suspended by the BCCI in 2010 and later banned for life in separate disciplinary proceedings, challenged the order along with the other appellants before the SAFEMA Tribunal.

The Tribunal held that the remittances made under the agreement between the BCCI and CSA were current account transactions and didn't require prior RBI approval. It found no material linking Modi to the alleged contraventions.

LACK OF CLARITY

# Road to World Cup: Potholes along the way

## Selectors have more questions than answers 14 months before showpiece

**Venkata Krishna B**
*Chennai, July 22*

WITH THE 2027 ODI World Cup some fourteen months away, India face an uncomfortable question: how ready are they for a tournament they haven't won since 2011? Going by the evidence, not very. This remains a team yet to settle its best XI, and the uncertainty has begun to show in the performances themselves.

None of this is a talent problem. This remains one of the deepest squads in world cricket. The risk is self-inflicted: a side this talented undone by its own indecision rather than by an opponent. The recent series in England exposed a side still short on balance, and further still from identifying the core group it will carry into South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia before the southern hemisphere summer sets in.

That imbalance isn't only about personnel. Few players in this set-up are certain of their spot or their role, and that uncertainty runs from the top of the order to the bottom. The danger is that a muddle like this rarely stays confined to the XI. It breeds an insecurity that shows in body language as much as in results.

### *Top order, unresolved*

Start with the suspense that refuses to lift around Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. As reported by this newspaper, selectors have already told Rohit he isn't part of their plans. Yet at Lord's, the 39-year-old showed he still has performances left in him. Kohli's situation is murkier: his presence lifts the team, but he too remains unsure of his place in it. With two of the biggest names still uncertain, the unease at the top has set the tone for everyone below them.

With captain Shubman Gill locked in at the top, the only other opening option tried has been Yashasvi Jaiswal, who remains a back-up.

### *No settled No. 6*

Move down the order and the uncertainty continues. Shreyas Iyer's spot is locked in, but beyond him lies open ground. KL Rahul had been India's first-choice wicketkeeper in the format for four years; in England, Ishan Kishan took the gloves instead. With few left-handers at the top, his inclusion looked less like a plan than a scramble to fit him in, and he was asked to bat in the middle order besides, a role he has occupied only once for Jharkhand, in the Vijay Hazare Trophy against Karnataka, when he made 125 off 39 balls at No. 6. Before the England tour, India's team management had wanted Sanju Samson in the squad; the selectors turned the request down. Had they said yes, another question would only have followed: where does Samson bat?

At No. 5, India have tried Axar Patel and Washington Sundar. Neither has looked the natural fit for a role that needs a batsman comfortable swinging between aggression and consolidation, and comfortable with the semi-old ball introduced after the 34th over. The need for a left-hander at that slot, and for someone who can handle that older ball, pushed Rahul down from No. 5, where his numbers were excellent, to No. 6.

Since the Champions Trophy, Rahul has been settling into that unfamiliar role of finisher, a job that asks for power-hitting, which isn't naturally his game. The thinking rests on trust in his batting rather than his hitting: that in the mid-30s overs, with five fielders outside the circle, he can manoeuvre the gaps and accelerate late. India don't have anyone better suited to the job. They have handed it to him anyway.

At the start of Gambhir's tenure, India also tried Riyan Parag and Rishabh Pant in these middle-order slots; neither is in the picture now.

### *The all-rounder gap*

Then there is the seam-bowling all-rounder India cannot cover. With Hardik Pandya carrying injury concerns, the team has leaned on Nitish Kumar Reddy, another player whose body has not always cooperated. Pandya has not played since the Champions Trophy in March 2025 and has not bowled his full quota of ten overs even in domestic cricket. Without him, India go into the World Cup short a finisher capable of landing the late blows, a gap in the XI no one else quite fills. If Pandya isn't fit, is anyone else ready? No.

Even the all-rounders head coach Gautam Gambhir favours come with question marks. Axar, Washington and Nitish add depth with both bat and ball, but none has shown he can win a match on the strength of either discipline alone. The numbers make the case on their own. Since the Gambhir era began, Washington has completed his full ten overs only twice in fifteen matches, and in six of those outings has bowled five or fewer. Axar has completed his full quota in six of seventeen matches; in all but one of the remaining eleven, he has managed at least six overs. Nitish has never sent down ten overs across six matches, his highest being eight, against New Zealand; against Afghanistan recently he managed four and six across two games.

This isn't Gambhir's fault alone. For years India have struggled to produce batsmen who can bowl a handful of overs, or seamers who can be trusted for 20 or 30 runs down the order. The all-rounders who do emerge from the domestic system tend to bowl spin, which is why the selectors keep returning to Washington and Axar.

In search of balance, India have also tried making all-rounders out of Harshit Rana and Shivam Dube, without success. Their new hope is Harsh Dubey.

### *If not Kuldeep, who?*

That leaves India without a wicket-taking X-factor in the middle overs whenever Kuldeep Yadav isn't playing. England exposed exactly this: captain Shubman Gill admitted his side had to defend when the opposition spinners were on. In South Africa, where turn will be harder to find, Kuldeep's wrist spin, and the bounce that comes with it, becomes still more valuable.

Beyond Kuldeep, the team management has looked at Varun Chakravarthy, but his fitness and fielding have kept him from being the answer they're looking for.

### *Lack of pace depth*

The pace attack is where the concern sits deepest. With Mohammed Siraj currently out of the picture, India lean almost entirely on Jasprit Bumrah. Arshdeep Singh is only as effective as the conditions allow him to be. Prasidh Krishna continues to frustrate. Harshit Rana's fitness remains well short of what the role demands. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, in a fitter attack, might have been in the conversation; he isn't even part of it now. At the last World Cup, India turned to R Ashwin at the eleventh hour because they needed an off-spinner. In South Africa, Bhuvneshwar would offer something similar, and a batsman capable of contributing at No. 8 besides.

The plan to groom Rana, Prasidh, Gurnoor Brar and Prince Yadav hasn't worked so far. But with Brar, there is hope. The options exist. India lack the clarity to choose between them.

India are yet to settle their best XI, and the uncertainty has begun to show in the performances. CREIMAS

**• India under Gautam Gambhir in one-dayers**

| 7 | 6 |
|---|---|
| No. of batters tried out at number 6 | No. of batters used in top order (1-3) |

No. of seamers used: 11

Most wickets in middle-overs (21-40)
**Kuldeep Yadav and Harshit Rana (11)**

# India's fast-bowling audition begins in Zimbabwe

**Shankar Narayan**
*Mumbai, July 22*

WHEN INDIA announced their squad for the three-match T20I series against Zimbabwe, the biggest talking point wasn't who had been rested. Arshdeep Singh was given a breather with the upcoming series starting a few days after a long Ireland and England tour, while Jasprit Bumrah's workload is increasingly being managed, with the selectors likely to use him selectively in T20Is while prioritising ODIs.

Instead, the spotlight fell on a pace attack that offered a glimpse into India's future.

Mayank Yadav made a comeback to the national setup after a gap of almost two years, while Ashok Sharma and Yash Thakur earned their maiden call-ups. Collectively, the trio represented the next layer of India's fast-bowling reserves, one that the selectors and team management will hope can eventually ease the burden on Bumrah and Arshdeep.

The need for depth has become evident over the last year. Bumrah's workload has to be managed carefully. Arshdeep has played almost non-stop T20 cricket since establishing himself as India's premier left-arm seamer in the format. Also, recurring fitness issues with others like Harshit Rana raise questions about the durability of India's fast bowlers.

The most intriguing name is Mayank Yadav. Few bowlers in world cricket can match his raw pace when fully fit. When he first burst onto the scene in IPL 2024, he consistently crossed the 150 kph mark, forcing batsmen onto the back foot. But his biggest challenge was never speed. It was fitness.

Repeated injury setbacks have pegged back his progress as a bowler. His IPL 2026 campaign did little to answer lingering questions as he went wicketless after returning from another layoff. India know what Mayank's pace can offer. What they need to find out is if he can string together matches and series consistently enough.

Ashok Sharma comes in with a different reputation. The Rajasthan quick announced himself in IPL 2026 by bowling the fastest delivery of the season at 154.2 kph. Yet his Gujarat Titans teammate Jason Holder believed it is Ashok's skill, rather than just his pace, that sets him apart, pointing to his ability to execute yorkers and slower balls. The India call-up now offers Ashok an opportunity to prove those skills can translate to international cricket.

Plenty of fast bowlers have touched 150 kph. Few have sustained success without developing secondary skills such as yorkers, slower balls, changes of length and game awareness.

Yash Thakur provides an interesting contrast. Unlike the other two, he has been picked on sustained domestic performances and not just speedometer readings. His 18 wickets in seven matches in last season's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy indicate potential, and he has been rewarded with an India call-up.

Together, the three bowlers point to a shift in how India is building its pace attack: less about stockpiling fast bowlers, more about assembling one with clearly defined roles. One may offer genuine express pace, another may excel with the new ball, while a third could become the preferred option at the death. The Zimbabwe series offers the management an opportunity to identify those roles in top-level cricket.

India have begun another T20 cycle, with enough time before the next global tournament to experiment without the pressure of immediate results. Bilateral series such as this have historically served as auditions for fringe players, but they have rarely carried as much importance for India's pace reserves as this one.

For Mayank, Ashok and Yash, the coming week is a chance to show they belong at this level. For India, it is an opportunity to determine whether the country's next pace wave is ready to support, and eventually succeed, the bowlers who have carried the attack over the last few years.

**Live on: FanCode & Unite8 Sports, 4:30pm**

Mayank Yadav made his India comeback after almost two years. AP

# Iyer aims to rebound after 'reality check'

**Express News Service**
*Mumbai, July 22*

INDIA CAPTAIN Shreyas Iyer said the team had received a "reality check" during their tour of Ireland and stressed that adapting quickly to unfamiliar conditions would be key as they look to return to winning ways against Zimbabwe in the first T20I on Thursday.

"We have to adapt as soon as possible. Because that's what happened with us in Ireland. So here as well, I think we got a sort of a reality check. So here, as soon as we create awareness and execute things properly, definitely the results will go our way," Iyer said at the pre-match press conference.

"Every team plays to win. And if we are playing at this level, then their team will be good in terms of preparation. They will have a good idea about the ground," Iyer added.

The skipper said the lessons from India's T20I series defeat to England had reinforced the need for greater "presence of mind, awareness and adaptability" in overseas conditions.

"We had a rough patch in England. But a lot of positives out of that. We got to know what we have to build as a team going forward, what kind of presence of mind, awareness, and adaptability we need once we step onto the field.

"Again, this is going to be a great challenge for us. Some of us are playing for the first time, so the quicker we adapt, the better result we would be getting," he said.

Iyer admitted that the turnaround between the ODI series in England and the Zimbabwe T20Is had been demanding. He was part of India's ODI series decider against England at Lord's on Sunday, which the side lost by 27 runs.

"Not going to lie, it is definitely very challenging. Like we came yesterday, and today is practice, and tomorrow is the match again. So it is challenging, but it is fun."

# Firouzja wins Chennai Grand Masters title ahead of Erigaisi

**Amit Kamath**
*Chennai, July 22*

French-Iranian grandmaster Alireza Firouzja parried away the attacks of India's Arjun Erigaisi in the final round to clinch the Chennai Grand Masters 2026 tournament.

The contest between the two title contenders ended in a draw, despite the best efforts of Arjun, who needed a win to take the crown. He opted for a Sicilian Defence but the game ended in a 41-move stalemate.

Arjun had also finished second in the inaugural edition of the tournament, where he was pipped to the post by D Gukesh. In the next two editions, he had finished third in the standings.

Arjun is likely to end the month as the India No.1 and World No.9. He and R Praggnanandhaa are the only Indians now rated above 2750, with a Chess Olympiad title defence looming in two months' time.

In the only other game that could have had a significant say on the final results, Nodirbek Abdusattorov lost to GM Dmitry Andreikin in 37 moves. Meanwhile, the much-anticipated game between current world champion Gukesh and Hans Niemann fizzled out into a quick draw in under 30 minutes.

Gukesh ended the tournament without a single win after seven rounds, his four draws and three defeats pointing to his continuing slump in form. He finished at the bottom of the standings among the eight grandmasters. That would be a major concern with the World Championship contest against Uzbek Javokhir Sindarov at the end of the year.

The other two Indians in the eight-man field, Pranesh M and Nihal Sarin, ended the short event one point behind the winner.

**ROUND 7 RESULTS:**

- **GM D Gukesh (2) drew with GM Hans Niemann (3)**
- **GM Nihal Sarin (3.5) drew with GM M Pranesh (3.5)**
- **GM Alireza Firouzja (4.5) drew with GM Arjun Erigaisi (4)**
- **GM Dmitry Andreikin (4) beat GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov (3.5)**

Alireza Firouzja won the Chennai Grand Masters 2026 title after playing a draw with Arjun Erigaisi. FIDE/LENNART OOTES

• FRANKLY SPEAKING

# 'Gukesh and Ding Liren were never the best'

**Amit Kamath**
*Chennai, July 22*

ON A day where there was a lot to fight for at the Chennai Grand Masters tournament, the battle between Gukesh D and Hans Niemann was over before some of the other games had even entered the middlegame. An hour after the day's early start time of 2 pm, while everyone in the swanky Chennai hotel that serves as the tournament venue was focussed on the three games still raging in the playing hall, the world champion had already checked out of the hotel to go home after the draw.

Niemann, on the other hand, was left lamenting his ability to accept a gift from the Indian. "I was surprised by the lack of ambition in Gukesh's opening," was the opening salvo from the blunt Niemann when he fronted the media at the end of his tournament. "I understand the tournament situation very well, which is why he didn't want to continue. But I don't think I believed that I could have received such a ridiculous gift. It's very rare that you are just winning just out of the opening with black pieces against the world champion. Perhaps I should have been more optimistic. It was just a very weird game."

The draw meant that Gukesh still keeps his rating above 2700. Since becoming world champion, he's lost 75 rating points in a space of 19 months. Gukesh was coming into the game with two losses in the previous two games. Was Niemann tempted to inflict another defeat on his vulnerable opponent to send his rating below 2700?

"I really don't care. My job is to win chess games. It doesn't matter who I'm playing. I'm indifferent," quipped Niemann.

Ask Niemann if Gukesh's wretched form would automatically make Javokhir Sindarov the favourite heading into the world championship battle later in the year, and the 23-year-old American does something uncharacteristic. He plays it safe without leaning one side or another.

"In a match format, it's really hard to say. It really depends on the start. But the strain on Gukesh's confidence over these years must have taken a serious toll. I would say that if he starts well and can regain his confidence, take control, then his prime form could return. But if he starts poorly, it's just going to be a reminder of all the bad results," says the American.

Niemann himself had to claw his way back into the mainstream after tournament invitations had dried up following the cheating allegations (that were never substantiated). Niemann is asked if there is any advice he has for the struggling world champion.

"In chess, it's really difficult because when things go badly, people can try to tell you why they went badly. But no one — even the best coach — cannot go inside your mind. That's why when things go badly, it is very isolating. You feel like you understand why things went wrong. In chess, it's not like some other sports, where you can pinpoint that my form was wrong, or my positioning was wrong. It's all in your mind. It's such an abstract sport that pinpointing the exact reason is really difficult," says Niemann.

While the rest of the world has been mulling just how heavy the weight of the crown must be, Niemann shrugs off the string of wretched results for the duo.

"The main reason why you've seen Ding and Gukesh do poorly is that, first of all, they were never the best players in the world. Not even close to it. Gukesh had a string of results maybe from the Olympiad, and then the Candidates where he performed maybe at his best or near the best. And then Ding had, long before he was fighting in the World Championship, he was actually among the top three players or even the second best player for a long time. So he had a far more established or consistent career as a top player. For someone like Gukesh and Ding to do badly, I mean people have upswings and downswings of all nature in sports. But these two were never really the best players in the world. So their struggles are not like a major shock," adds Niemann.

Hans Niemann played a draw with Gukesh D in the final round. AP

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Leading from the front as the world's No. 1 cooperative and the world's strongest food and dairy brand, Amul is proud to continue its legacy of championing peak performance on the world's biggest sporting stages. As the Official Sponsor of the Indian Contingent at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026, we are cheering our athletes as they push the limits of performance and go for gold!

*Amul (GCMMF) has been ranked the world's No. 1 cooperative based on GDP per capita performance, according to the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), World Cooperative Monitor 2025.