SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026

The Indian EXPRESS

NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 24 PAGES

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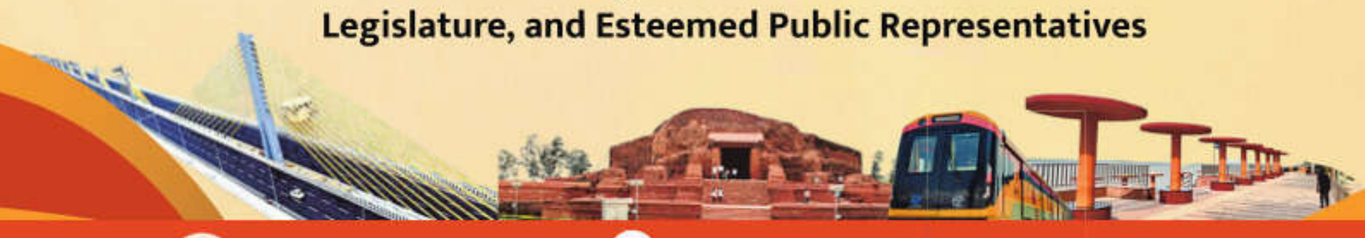

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS

The World

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026

Russian missile strike kills 10 after Zelenskyy hosts US defence firm

Associated Press
Kyiv, July 24

A RUSSIAN attack Friday a site near Kyiv that was hosting a defense industry event killed at least 10 people and wounded nearly 100 , Ukrainian government and industry officials said.

The ballistic missile strike came a day after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met in Kyiv with senior representatives of Raytheon, the U.S. company that makes the Patriot air defense systems that Ukraine desperately needs to counter the devastating ballistic missiles Russia uses to advance its invasion. Raytheon didn't immediately respond to an email inquiring whether any of its workers were at the event.

"Missiles for Patriot systems are the number one priority," Zelenskyy said on social media, where he reported the attack.

The attack hit the grounds of a privately operated military training site that was hosting an event, acting regional military administration head Ruslan Oliinyk wrote on Facebook, citing preliminary information. The site is about 20-30 kilometers (12-19 miles) from central Kyiv, in the Bucha district.

The Ukrainian Defence Industry Council, which describes itself as the country's largest association of private defence manufacturers, said industry representatives were at the site when it was hit, although it did not immediately provide further details.

The Raytheon meeting came less than three weeks after U.S. President Donald Trump vowed to give Ukraine a license to produce Patriots. The pledge marked an important shift, as Trump recently adopted a more positive tone toward Zelenskyy.

In another sign that Ukraine is changing minds in Washington, ardent Trump ally Laura Loomer met with Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Thursday.

The site of Russian missile strikes in Kyiv on Friday. REUTERS

U.S. MISSILES HIT QESHM ISLAND AND SITES IN GILAN ON IRAN'S CASPIAN COAST

Drones target US bases in Iraq as tensions escalates

Tehran says it also attacked US bases in Kuwait, Bahrain & Jordan

Associated Press
Irbil, July 24

DRONES CARRYING explosives targeted a city in northern Iraq where US forces are stationed, and sirens rang out in Bahrain on Friday, hours after the American military said it finished its 13th night of strikes against Iran.

The conflict has flared again over the past week, as the US pounded Iran while Tehran attacked ships in the Strait of Hormuz and targeted US assets and allies in the region.

The strait, which is a crucial passage for the world's energy supplies, is at the centre of the latest fighting since Iranian attacks can effectively shut the waterway, sending fuel prices soaring worldwide and causing widespread economic turmoil.

The Iranian-allied Houthis added further pressure this week by targeting two Saudi tankers in the Red Sea, making good on a threat to cut off an alternative route for the region's oil.

Despite the war's unpopularity - and its widespread damage to Iran and the global economy - the latest round of fighting has no clear off-ramp. The Iranian Health Ministry says 3,434 people have been killed since the war began.

The US and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28 and have offered shifting goals for the war, including toppling Tehran's government and eliminating its nuclear programme. But the conflict has devolved into a fight for control of the strait - with Iran apparently hoping to win concessions by inflicting damage on the global economy.

US-led forces shot down five explosive-laden drones Friday over Irbil, according to security officials in northern Iraq. No injuries or damage were reported.

Flights continued as normal at the airport, the state-run Iraqi News Agency reported, citing the facility's director. US military officials in Iraq did not respond to a request for comment.

A small contingent of US military advisers is based in Iraq, many of them in Irbil Iran's Revolutionary Guard urged people in neighbouring countries to stay away from bases with American troops.

The Guard said it had targeted the US base in Udairi, Kuwait, setting ablaze three ammunition and storage sheds and destroying them. It also claimed to have struck a watchtower for the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, based in Bahrain, which it said was damaged.

US Central Command did not respond to inquiries about the claims. Bahrain said it intercepted and shot down Iranian aerial attacks on Friday.

Jordan's armed forces said they had downed seven Iranian missiles and six drones Friday.

US strikes hit a Revolutionary Guard naval base in northern Iran, the semiofficial news outlets *Fars* and *ISNA* reported.

Blasts from US bombardment overnight were also reported on Iran's Qeshm Island, a base for naval assets including drone boats that Iran can use to attack vessels in Strait of Hormuz, as well as in Isfahan province, home to a major Iranian air base and Iran's nuclear sites.

Iran Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf with Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi in Tehran, on Thursday. REUTERS

Trump warns China, Russia not to join war

Washington: US President Donald Trump said Friday he does not believe China or Russia are "participating" in the ongoing Iran conflict, but warned that if they did get involved "it would be very bad for them."

"President Xi, at our recent meeting in Beijing, China, told me that he would not, under any circumstances, give or sell Weapons to the Islamic Republic of Iran — And that statement included Chinese Companies," he wrote on Truth Social.

Trump said Putin had also told him that he would not sell weapons to Iran and that he believed Russia and China were not participating in the Iran conflict. "If they did, it would be very bad for them — Certainly not in their best interests," Trump posted. REUTERS

• BRIEFLY

UNITED KINGDOM

Singer Chris Brown pleads guilty over bottle attack at London bar

Chris Brown arrives at Southwark Crown Court in London on Friday. AP

GRAMMY-WINNING singer Chris Brown pleaded guilty Friday to brawling at a London nightclub in 2023, a fight in which he hit a music producer over the head with a bottle. Brown, 37, made the change of plea during a hearing at London's Southwark Crown Court. He had earlier denied more serious charges over what prosecutors called a "vicious attack." In return for the guilty plea, prosecutors dropped charges of assault, attempting to cause grievous bodily harm and having an offensive weapon, a bottle. AP

VIETNAM

Govt plans to ban kids from posting on social media

VIETNAM IS planning to force social media platforms to ban users under 16 from posting content, commenting or reacting to posts, according to a draft decree reviewed by *Reuters*. The rules would require accounts belonging to children under 16 to be registered using the information of a parent or legal guardian responsible for supervision. REUTERS

IRELAND

Police intercept car bomb near Northern Ireland

AN "EXTREMELY significant" car bomb was intercepted earlier this week near the Northern Ireland border during a probe of dissident republicans, Irish police said Friday. A woman driver in her 20s was arrested Wednesday near County Monaghan, and remained in custody Friday. A man in his 40s was later detained and continues to be held. AP

• NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

PAKISTAN

15 troops killed in attack on police outpost in KPK

AT LEAST 15 personnel, including 12 soldiers, were killed in an attack on a joint police checkpost in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military's media wing said on Friday. The ISPR said attack in Tank district was carried out by the Fitna-al-Khawarij early on Friday. PTI

SRI LANKA

El Niño may arrive early, warnings issued

SRI LANKA is likely to face severe dry weather till September, followed by heavy rainfall till December as El Nino could hit the island nation earlier than expected, warned Environment Minister Dhammika Patabendi on Thursday. This will likely cause economic hardships, and job losses. PTI

China imposes export controls on 14 EU entities over Russia sanctions

Associated Press
Beijing, July 24

CHINA ANNOUNCED Friday it was adding 14 European entities to an export control list in retaliation for the European Union penalizing 14 Chinese enterprises as part of its latest round of sanctions against Russia.

Chinese companies will not be allowed to export dual-use items, which can be used for both civilian and military purposes, to the 14 European organizations, China's Commerce Ministry said in a statement.

Additionally, foreign companies are barred from providing to the 14 entities dual-use items made in China.

The European companies affected include Czech vehicle manufacturer Tatra Trucks, Italian electric motor maker Lafert SpA, German manufacturer Sindlhauser Materials GmbH and French drone manufacturer Cavok UAS.

A Chinese Commerce Ministry spokesperson said the measures were taken in retaliation for the EU on Thursday adding 14 mainland Chinese and Hong Kong enterprises to its latest list of sanctions against Russia over its war in Ukraine.

The measures are intended "to safeguard national security and interests, and to fulfill international obligations such as non-proliferation, in response to the EU's egregious actions," the spokesperson said.

Merz reshuffles top posts to counter far-right surge

Associated Press
Berlin, July 24

GERMAN CHANCELLOR Friedrich Merz reshuffled top posts on Friday as he tries to boost the fortunes of his deeply unpopular government ahead of elections in which a far-right party could get its first state governor.

Merz took office less than 15 months ago with pledges to reform and turn around Germany's economy, Europe's biggest, after years of stagnation. But that economic turnaround has been slow to start. And the middle-of-the-road coalition of Merz's center-right Union bloc and the center-left Social Democrats, two traditional rivals, has yet to persuade voters that it can produce results.

That has resulted in Merz's popularity sinking to rock-bottom levels, while the far-right Alternative for Germany, or AfD, has gained support on the back of discontent.

Merz took the opportunity to make a series of changes after a senior ally quit as the leader of his bloc's parliamentary group over personal conduct that undermined his credibility.

Chancellor Friedrich Merz

Merz plans to put his chief of staff, Thorsten Frei, in that job.

The German leader said Health Minister Nina Warken will take Frei's place at the chancellery, a post that is key to the smooth functioning of the government. She will be the first woman to take that job.

Another close ally, Carsten Linnemann, the general secretary of Merz's Christian Democratic Union party, will become health minister. Merz said there will be further Cabinet changes, but didn't offer details. He said decisions will take "a few days yet, and perhaps more time."

"The personnel changes follow a clear line," he said. "We want a government that works with great vigor and pleasure and also represents the personal diversity of our society and politics. We are a reform government and want to continue showing that."

In the eastern region of Saxony-Anhalt AfD is hopeful of winning a majority that would give it control of a state government for the first time.

Knightly Knockout

Two fighters clash with swords and shields during the International Medieval Combat Federation's World Championship at Spottrup Castle in Denmark on Thursday. Competitors from 30 countries are taking part in the tournament, which recreates medieval combat with 14th-century weapons under modern safety rules. AP

Tens of thousands evacuated as wildfires sweep France, Spain

Reuters
Madrid, Paris, July 24

TENS OF thousands of people fled wildfires in southwest France by car and boat on Friday and Spain declared a national emergency as huge blazes merged outside Madrid and searing heat left tinder-dry conditions across the region.

French authorities ordered total evacuation of the Cap Ferret peninsula, a tourism hotspot on its Atlantic Coast. Two fires merged outside Madrid, and a third was on the verge of joining them, government officials said.

Both countries, which have suffered a succession of heatwaves and fires in recent months and years that scientists say have been exacerbated by climate change, sought help from the EU as the blazes strained emergency services.

Spain's national emergency — the first it had ever declared over a wildfire — opened up federal funding to tackle the crisis.

"This is the worst wildfire in our region's history," Madrid's regional leader Isabel Diaz Ayuso said. "It's the perfect storm of very high temperatures and ceaseless winds that aren't letting up."

In southwest France, authorities sent boats to help the evacuation and a total of about 63,000 people were told to get out as two separate fires threatened homes.

Smoke and flames rise as a wildfire advances near La Adrada, Ãvila province, Spain, on Friday. AP

Bangladesh President Shahabuddin, a close ally of Hasina, resigns

Press Trust of India
Dhaka, July 24

BANGLADESH PRESIDENT Mohammed Shahabuddin, a former ally of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, resigned on Friday, two years ahead of the end of his tenure.

"I am suffering from various health complications," the 76-year-old leader was quoted as saying by *The Daily Star* newspaper. He was responding to a question about the reason for his resignation.

Bangabhaban - the president's house - spokesman told *PTI* Shahabuddin's representatives have left his office for the parliament carrying his resignation letter.

The resignation letter would be submitted to parliamentary Speaker Hafizuddin Ahmed, who would serve as Acting President in accordance with the Bangladesh Constitution until a new President is elected.

"I can't make any official comment on the resignation until the Speaker receives the letter," the spokesman said.

Mohammed Shahabuddin. FILE

His resignation comes amid speculations that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's government was uncomfortable with the largely titular head of the state, according to media reports.

A 1971 Liberation War veteran and former lower judiciary judge, Shahabuddin had taken the oath in April 2023 for a five-year term. He was elected to the highest office by the previous parliament and is the only person still holding his constitutional position, long after the violent 2024 student-led street protest that toppled Hasina's Awami League government.

UNESCO adds West Bank site, Lebanese castles to Heritage List

Associated Press
Seoul, July 24

UNITED NATIONS committee voted Friday to inscribe a major archaeological site in the West Bank and a set of castles in southern Lebanon as World Heritage sites, despite objections from Israel, which had urged the committee to reject the bids.

The decision at a UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization meeting in South Korea came days after Israel's Foreign Ministry urged committee to reject efforts to designate the small West Bank town of Sebastia and the Lebanese castles, calling nominations a "weaponization of cultural heritage."

At their meeting in Busan, members of the UNESCO committee decided to place Sebastia and five castles in Lebanon's Mount Amel area on both the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger after reviewing the nominations on an emergency basis, citing ongoing conflicts in West Asia.

Sebastia, a hilltop town about 10 kilometers (6 miles) northwest of Nablus in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, is identified by scholars as ancient Samaria, capital of the biblical Kingdom of Israel.

The five castles in Mount Amel are recognized for their layered architectural heritage, combining Crusader, Ayyubid, Mamluk and local influences, reflecting the evolution of fortified architecture over nine centuries, as per UNESCO description.

• LIGHTERS ARE SHARED BY DOZENS OF FAMILIES, PASSED FROM TENT TO TENT UNTIL THEY BREAK FROM CONSTANT USE

In Gaza's tent camps, a cigarette lighter becomes a lifeline

Haseeb Alwazir & Nidal Al-Mughrabi
Cairo, Gaza, July 24

IN THE sprawling tent camps of southern Gaza, a disposable cigarette lighter has become an unlikely luxury item, as essential to daily survival as food, water and fuel.

For displaced mother-of-four Nisreen Abu Saada, lighting a cooking fire can be a daily struggle in a territory where gas remains scarce and families rely on burning cardboard, plastic and scraps of wood to prepare meals. "There's no gas, and we're lighting fires 24 hours a day, which means a lighter is very essential," she told *Reuters*.

Before the war, three lighters cost one shekel ($0.33). Now, a single lighter costs 100 shekels ($32.55), something Abu Saada, 38, cannot afford. She was sitting beside a makeshift cooking area outside her tent in Khan Younis.

Nearly three years into the Gaza war, shortages of basic goods have transformed everyday objects into prized possessions. Lighters are shared among dozens of families, passed from tent to tent before breaking under constant use.

"When I want to light a fire, I wait for someone else to light one, or I go to where someone has lit a fire, take a piece of cardboard, light it, and bring it back," Abu Saada said.

The scarcity has created a niche trade for Hassan Abu Latifa, a displaced father of three who repairs broken plastic lighters at a small kiosk.

Palestinian repairman Hassan Abu Latifa tests a repaired lighter at his kiosk in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, on Thursday. REUTERS

"Repairing lighters is not really a profession, but because of the suffering, people's need for them, and our need to work, we were compelled to take it up as one," said the 35-year-old, who worked as an agricultural engineer before the war.

Surrounded by boxes of damaged lighters and salvaged spare parts, Abu Latifa said soaring prices have forced families to repair lighters rather than replace them. The war has devastated Gaza's economy.

UN agencies say unemployment in Gaza exceeds 80%, while poverty has approached 100% after the conflict wiped out most economic activity and destroyed infrastructure across the enclave.

A US-brokered ceasefire in October halted major fighting but failed to end attacks by Israel, which says it has targeted Hamas and other Gaza militants posing an imminent threat.

Hamas blames Israeli attacks and border restrictions for the lack of progress to reach a broad agreement to end the conflict.

Aid levels remain disputed. The Hamas-run Gaza government media office says supplies entering have fallen far short of needs, while COGAT, the Israeli military body responsible for humanitarian affairs says food deliveries have exceeded World Food Programme requirements.

For Iftikhar al-Kafarna, a displaced mother-of-six who bakes bread in a traditional oven to earn money, the small tool has become critical to her livelihood.

"If there is a lighter, there is work. If not, the work stops, and I can sit for three or four hours without work," she said. REUTERS

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Happening today

- **A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT** team will visit flood-hit Assam to review the rapidly deteriorating situation. The deluge has so far killed 47 people and affected over 7.21 lakh people across 11 districts in the state.
- **THE WEST BENGAL** government will table all pending Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports in the state Assembly and recommend registration of FIRs wherever the audit findings establish corruption.

TRACK THESE AND MORE ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

BILL LIKELY IN PARLIAMENT MONDAY; PM THANKS PEOPLE FOR 'POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS'

Jail up to 10 years, Rs 10-cr fine for exam leak: Nod for tough new law

Statutory backing for fast-track courts, 5 months for probe, trial

Damini Nath, Harikishan Sharma & Jatin Anand
New Delhi, July 24

A DAY after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced fast-track courts and a tough new law to punish those involved in exam paper leaks, the Union Cabinet Friday approved a draft Bill with provisions for a jail term up to 10 years, penalty up to Rs 10 crore, statutory backing for fast-track courts and a five-month timeline for investigation and trial of cases, official sources said.

Hours later, in an Instagram post, Modi thanked everyone for the responses and positive suggestions received on his Thursday midnight video in which he announced the government's decision.

"Thank you, friends. I got the opportunity to talk to you at midnight. The way you have responded to my video, positive suggestions given by you, thanks to everybody. Your love will continue to flow; our relations will continue with more bonding. Thank you, thank you friends," he said in the new video message.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Union Ministers J P Nadda and Jitendra Singh with CJP's Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, Friday. ANI

Pradhan resignation non-negotiable, says CJP; more talks today: Centre

Sophiya Mathew & Liz Mathew
New Delhi, July 24

REPRESENTATIVES OF the Cockroach Janta Party, spearheading the protest at Jantar Mantar over examination paper leaks, told the Centre Friday that their key demands for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, compensation for the families of students who ended their lives following the NEET paper leak, and no legal action against the protesters were not negotiable.

Union Minister J P Nadda, who along with his colleague Jitendra Singh met CJP spokespersons Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das for nearly two hours at the Constitution Club of India, not far from the protest site, told reporters that the CJP demands and suggestions had been noted and there would be another meeting Saturday afternoon.

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THE BIG PICTURE

Meet the protesters: Young, angry and very Gen Z PAGE 9

Using discarded wrappers, cops trace outlets sending food to Jantar Mantar

Aanchal Magazine & Soumyarendra Barik
New Delhi, July 24

USING DISCARDED wrappers and packaging from the Jantar Mantar protest site, Delhi Police is allegedly tracking down restaurants and cafes and asking them to stop supplying free food or making bulk deliveries to the venue.

The owners of several cafes and restaurants told *The Indian Express* that Delhi Police officers visited them and went through the records of the orders placed and the deliveries made over the last few days. Some eateries were asked to furnish proof of the paid orders, including bulk deliveries, as well as the food sent by the outlets for free. Some restaurants and cafes claimed they were also summoned to police stations.

The owner of a restaurant, which has supplied 800 pieces of food items daily on an average to Jantar Mantar over the last three days, said Delhi Police officers reached their South Delhi store Thursday, enquiring about those running it and asking why its food was available at

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SECTION 301 FORCED LABOUR PROBE

India attracts 10% US tariff, lower rate after policy shift

12.5 per cent for Vietnam, China: Trump administration redraws tariff architecture

Ravi Dutta Mishra
New Delhi, July 24

THE US Friday imposed 10% tariffs on India, lower than the 12.5% rate proposed in March when the United States Trade Representative (USTR) identified 60 countries under Section 301 of the US Trade Act, citing import of goods produced with forced labour.

This comes weeks after the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) announced prohibition of import of goods produced using forced labour, along with parallel negotiations for a trade deal with the US.

In the new tariff regime enforced Friday, the European Union and Taiwan received the most favourable rates — the Section 301 tariff is applied on goods from these two economies only if the product's existing most favoured nation (MFN) tariff is less than 10%. If the product from the EU or Taiwan already has an MFN tariff of 10% or higher, the Section 301 tariff is zero.

India has been placed in the

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

E. EXPLAINED

Bar on import of forced-labour goods

Ahead of the US tariffs, India barred the import of goods made using forced labour. On July 13, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade had inserted a new paragraph in the Foreign Trade Policy regarding 'forced labour', stating that import of goods produced or manufactured, 'wholly or in part', through the use of forced labour is 'prohibited'.

SC bars court hearing clips on social media without approval

Direction by three-judge bench led by CJI Surya Kant

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, July 24

IN AN interim order Friday, the Supreme Court barred the recording and circulation of courtroom proceedings without prior permission of the court concerned. It concerns over alleged misuse on social media but clarified that the curb will not affect news reporting.

A three-judge bench, led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, said, "As an interim measure, we direct that there shall be no posting, reposting, extraction, modification, dissemination, monetisation, recording or review of the live-streamed proceedings of this court on social media or any other digital platform without the prior permission of the concerned registrar and the secretary general of this court and registrar general of high courts."

Directing the secretary general of the Supreme Court and registrar general of high courts to display this order on their court websites, the bench said, "This order shall have no bearing on news reporting."

The bench, also comprising Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana, was hearing a PIL by journalist Harshita Grover highlighting "increasing misuse of audiovisual recordings of judicial proceedings through selective clipping, editing, decontextualised

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HC: OpenAI's use of copyrighted material to train ChatGPT 'fair'

Sohini Ghosh
New Delhi, July 24

THE DELHI High Court has held that OpenAI's training of its large language models (LLMs) on original retrieved copyrighted works constituted fair dealing, and did not amount to infringement of copyright.

The interim ruling Friday by Justice Amit Bansal extends a measure of legal cover to developers of artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots such as OpenAI to continue training on Indian-origin content without licensing agreements, and also interprets broadly what constitutes "fair use" of copyrighted works.

The suit, the first of its kind in Indian jurisdiction, was moved by news agency ANI Media Pvt Ltd in 2024 against OpenAI Inc and OpenAI OpCo LLC, seeking an injunction against the use of its copyrighted content in the training of LLMs.

California-based OpenAI is the developer of the ChatGPT series of generative AI models. Open AI OpCo LLC is the commercial arm of the organisation.

"...in my prima facie view, Open AI's acts of storage of the literary works of ANI for the training of its LLMs would fall under Section 52(1)(a) of the Copyright Act (fair dealing) and hence, would not amount to infringement," Justice Bansal ruled.

He took into consideration that OpenAI's use of the copyrighted works for training its LLMs is "completely an internal process" and does not involve providing the copyrighted material to any third party.

"I am also of the prima facie view that the outputs generated

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BEYOND SONAM: PROTEST SHOWS NO SIGNS OF ABATING

2024 ANTI-PAPER LEAK ACT: HOW THE HOUSE PASSED IT

NTA sacks 47 officials, Govt starts recruitment for reform overhaul

Four General Managers and 16 young professionals to be engaged: Ministry

Vikas Pathak
New Delhi, July 24

IN A sweeping internal crackdown following the NEET-UG paper leak and amid protests led by the Cockroach Janta Party, the National Testing Agency (NTA), which is the nodal autonomous body that conducts entrance tests to higher educational institutions, has "terminated the services" of 47 officials, sources told *The Indian Express*.

Sources said the agency would also initiate "legal and criminal action" against the officials to send a "strong message". These are "only the initial steps" in reforming the functioning of the agency, and "several more stringent and reform-oriented measures" are likely to follow, the sources said.

In a separate statement signalling wider reforms within the NTA, the Education Ministry said it has issued advertisements for the appointment of senior professionals at the level

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Business as Usual
By EP UNNY

EXPRESS special

Lawyer who fought Wangchuk's NSA case, three days of talks: The nudge that convinced activist to end fast

Sonam Wangchuk with wife Gitanjali J Angmo and MPs Vivek Tankha, Sagarika Ghose and John Brittas at Medanta Hospital, Gurgaon. ANI

Deeptiman Tiwary
New Delhi, July 24

THREE DAYS of negotiations, the government softening its stand, and intervention by Sonam Wangchuk's lawyer and leaders from Ladakh driven by concerns about his health. That's what it took to nudge the activist, the face of the ongoing Jantar Mantar protests, to reconsider his position and break his fast late on Thursday night.

Sources said the government began making attempts to reach out to Wangchuk by the evening of July 20 when the protests ran into lathicharges and tear gas fired by the police during the march to Parliament. It is learnt that Vivek Tankha who was among the lawyers who fought Wangchuk's National Security Act (NSA) case in the Supreme Court — and is known to be close to the activist — played a significant role in persuading him to end the fast. A source said Tankha's intervention was driven purely by his concern for Wangchuk's failing health due to the prolonged hunger strike. "He had lost more than 11 kg and those around him were concerned," the source said.

Sources said that after speaking to Tankha, who is a Congress MP, Wangchuk issued an open letter to Nadda in

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13 DEAD AS FALLING BOULDERS CRUSH MOVING VEHICLE IN HIMACHAL
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ANOTHER INDIAN SAILOR KILLED IN UKRAINE-RUSSIA WAR: MEA
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UNION MINISTER BITTU QUITS, TO FOCUS ON 2027 PUNJAB ELECTION
PAGE 5

POLITICS PAGE 5

CJI: COCKROACH REMARKS ONLY FOR FAKE LAW DEGREE HOLDERS

• ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION IN SOME OF STATE'S MOST INACCESSIBLE VILLAGES

Rivers rising, BLOs in Punjab's border areas take boats to meet SIR deadline

Kanchan Vasdev
Chandigarh, July 24

PAGE 1 anchor

FOR MOST Booth Level Officers (BLOs), revising electoral rolls means walking from one house to another with forms in hand. For some in Punjab's remote border belt, it has meant rowing across rivers, waiting out floodwaters and, on occasion, relying on Army boats to return home.

As the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls gathers pace, BLOs posted in some of Punjab's most inaccessible villages have been navigating swollen rivers and flood-prone terrain to ensure that even the state's last voters, living on the edge of the India-Pakistan border, are not left out.

In Gurdaspur district, Vikram Singh's workday begins not on a road but on the Ravi. To reach Bharyal village, he boards a small country boat at Makaura Pattan, near the confluence of the Ravi and Ujh rivers. Villagers ferry him across to a settlement that remains cut off from the mainland for months every year.

"With rains lashing Jammu and Kashmir and the river getting into spate, it becomes difficult. I had to go daily. I wanted to finish my work before the monsoon. I have been able to identify 60 percent of the voters. It was not an easy task," Singh told The Indian Express, adding that SIR is still underway.

Bharyal, which has 369 voters, is inundated almost every year. Many of its residents temporarily move to 15 neighbouring villages during the flood season.

"I had to map each one of them. Like today, it is raining and I cannot go," Singh said.

Bharyal and neighbouring Toor village, covered under Polling Station Nos. 1 and 2 of the Dinanagar (SC) Assembly constituency, are among Punjab's most isolated habitations. Pakistan lies on one side, the Ravi on the other, while the international border is barely 8 kilometres away.

BLOs Pushpa Grover and Darshan Singh cross the Sutlej on a boat to reach Kaluwala village in Punjab's Ferozepur district. EXPRESS

Of Punjab's 12,500 villages, 50 are considered remote because they are located along the international border and have poor road connectivity.

For part of the year, a temporary pontoon bridge connects the villages with the mainland. During monsoon, the bridge is dismantled as the river swells, leaving boats as the only means of transport.

"These villages are cut off during monsoons but that doesn't happen every year," one official said.

Gurdaspur alone has 15 such villages. "The Ajnala, Dharamkot and Bhoa Assembly segments also have such remote villages," Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Congress MLA from Fatehgarh Churian in Gurdaspur, told *The Indian Express*.

For BLOs, this means crossing the swelling river multiple times during the exercise — from house-to-house enumeration and mapping, and follow-up rounds that involve revisiting locked houses and identifying ineligible voters, to sitting at local polling booths to process forms.

Singh recalled one such day when a routine visit nearly turned into a rescue operation.

"The water level was manageable when I went to Bharyal. But by the time I had to return, flash floods in Rajouri had affected the river here too. Then the Army boat helped us come back," he said.

"When the river is in spate, village boats stop operating because it becomes risky. The Army takes over with boats, life jackets and all necessary arrangements."

He said residents had urged authorities to keep the pontoon bridge in place this year, but rising water levels made that impossible.

Boat to Kaluwala

Nearly 150 km away, a similar story is unfolding in Ferozepur district.

Kaluwala village, under Polling Station No. 7 of the Ferozepur Urban Assembly constituency, is often called Punjab's island village. Encircled by the

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Bhagwat: Knowledge on Hindu gods should be part of school textbooks

Divya A
New Delhi, July 24

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat at an event in Delhi, Friday. ANIL SHARMA

RSS CHIEF Mohan Bhagwat on Friday batted for inclusion of knowledge on Hindu gods in school textbooks.

Addressing a programme organised by the RSS on the topic of 'Contemporary Motherhood', he said that the new generation seeks logic in everything, and believes in discussion, not dictation. "Sometimes, children ask these questions, especially abroad, why this god with a monkey face and why does this god have an elephant face? They come home and ask these questions but the father doesn't know, the mother doesn't know. This should be part of textbooks, even as children can't be left to textbooks alone," he said.

At the beginning of his address, he said, "Being asked to speak on the subject of motherhood is, in itself, a contradiction... In a way, it is women's right, and it is not appropriate for men to speak about it." Even as he said that today everyone thinks more as an individual than as part of society, which leads to disintegration, he advocated that women of today must be given opportunities and empowered.

The audience — largely women and several male Sangh functionaries and BJP leaders — also included Union Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi and Rajasthan Deputy CM Diya Kumar sitting in the front row along with BJP MPs Kangana Ranaut, Swati Maliwal and Bansuri Swaraj; besides Mallika Nadda and Lakshmi Puri, spouses of Union ministers J P Nadda and Hardeep Puri, respectively. BJP veteran Murli Manohar Joshi, who had a day earlier, expressed concern over the students' protests and handling of the youth, was also present at the event.

Bhagwat said, "Being in accordance with the times is also a subject of motherhood that does not require discussion. It happens on its own. Human beings change all their ways according to time." However, he said that since the focus of the family unit is the mother, she ought to be "*sanskari* and *vichaarsheel* (visionary)". "It is the mother's role to shape the perspective of her children, and not only their career," he said.

He said parents should spend more time with their families and maintain open communication with children. He stressed that children learn more through observation than instruction, making it important for parents to lead by example. He said parents should continue to expand their knowledge so they can address their children's questions and curiosity. The three-hour event, organised by Vishwa Mangalya Sabha, also had the RSS chief interacting with women leaders in a brief question and hour session. The next such session will be held in Hyderabad later this month.

MEA pushes back on Wang's remark attributed to Jaishankar

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, July 24

TWO DAYS after China claimed that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had told Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi that India's positions on issues concerning Taiwan and Xizang (Tibet) have not changed, and that India respects China's sovereignty, Delhi pushed back on Friday, clarifying that what Jaishankar actually said was "when it comes to sovereignty issues, it is actually India that should be and is raising them".

Jaishankar and Wang met in Manila, The Philippines, on July 22 on the sidelines of the ASEAN and East Asia foreign ministers meeting, where the Indian minister had 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.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry readout in state-run news agency *Xinhua* had stated, "Jaishankar said that India's positions on issues concerning Taiwan and Xizang have not changed, and India respects China's sovereignty."

Responding to questions about the readout, the MEA's official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "Yes. External Affairs Minister said that when it comes to sovereignty issues, it is actually India that should be and is raising them. India does not violate China's sovereignty in any manner and has been consistent. But China is in illegal occupation of Indian territory in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh since 1963, where India's right is officially acknowledged even by China. Also, there are Chinese projects on territories in Jammu and Kashmir that belong to India, and we object to that."

On July 22, Jaishankar had said, "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." This was a reference to the India-China agreement on disengagement, after a four-year border standoff in eastern Ladakh, which was agreed in October 2024 and completed in November 2024.

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

New law

The Cabinet, sources said, approved a proposal to amend The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024. Under Section 10 of the Act, the punishment for individuals resorting to unfair means is imprisonment of three to five years and a fine up to Rs 10 lakh. Section 11 provides for imprisonment of five to 10 years and a fine of at least Rs 1 crore for those involved in organised crime.

Without specifying if it would be applicable to individuals or organised crime, sources said the Bill would increase the imprisonment term up to 10 years and a fine up to Rs 10 crore.

Among the proposed amendments in the Bill is a time-bound investigation and trial of paper leak cases within five months. According to sources, the proposed amendments in the law provides a two-month time frame for investigation of paper leak cases and three months for completion of trials of such cases. Thus, the paper leak cases will be fast-tracked and will be taken to conclusion within five months, the sources said.

The fast-track courts to be set up for such cases would be given statutory backing through the Bill, the sources said.

The existing law that came into effect on June 21, 2024 aimed to curb leaks, malpractices as well as organised malpractices in public examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, the Staff Selection Commission, the Railway Recruitment Board, the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection and the National Testing Agency which, among others, conducts the NEET exam.

Sources said the amendment Bill is likely to be brought in Parliament Monday, as announced by the Prime Minister Thursday.

Earlier Thursday, Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said the fast-track courts would be set up in the High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh where cases pertaining to the NEET paper leak are ongoing.

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CJP-Govt

The meeting took place hours after activist Sonam Wangchuk, who had backed the CJP demands, ended his 26-day hunger strike Thursday night at Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon in the presence of Nadda and Singh. Ranka said, "The government has asked for time until tomorrow afternoon on our demand for Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation. We hope the government will remove him soon."

He said there was "in-principle approval" from the government on the demands relating to compensation and the withdrawal of FIRs and legal cases against students.

The CJP also sought a public apology from the Centre, the head of the Rapid Action Force and the Delhi Police Commissioner to students assaulted during the protests.

Nadda said, "Today, we had come here to discuss the issues of the agitating people, and the conversation lasted for almost two hours. From the government's side, Dr Jitendra Singh Ji and I participated in the conversation. We listened to their points. The discussions took place in a cordial atmosphere, and from many perspectives. All matters were thoroughly discussed in every way."

"Their main demands were three, and from the perspective of reforms, there were five suggestions for the examination. We have told them that we will meet with you again tomorrow afternoon, and then whatever further discussion or conversation takes place, we will inform you about it," he said.

The CJP representatives also sought a response from the Centre to their five-point charter on examination reforms: compensation for students affected by paper leaks; mandatory backup re-examination within 72 hours in case of examination disruption; paper checking for exams on paper; automatic extension of age limit if an examination is delayed; and, mandatory independent technology audits of examination systems.

Das said, "We told them that if we don't see any movement towards a resolution by tomorrow, then either tomorrow or the day after, we will give a nationwide call for an even larger protest than the one on July 20."

While the CJP and the Opposition are insisting on Pradhan's resignation, the general view in the government, sources said, is that the minister should not resign on NEET paper leak issue, especially when it is all set to table a tough new Bill in Parliament to punish those involved in examination paper leaks.

Any such move, a source said, could set a new precedent. "The government cannot be seen as succumbing to pressure from protesting forces or groups. Tomorrow, another group may come up and demand the resignation of others," the source said. Another source said the government has indicated it is ready to accept CJP demand that there be no punitive measures against protesting students. The government, the source said, is also ready to look into ways to compensate families of NEET aspirants who died by suicide following the paper leak. "The government will look at the rules and procedure for providing compensation in these circumstances. DMs have been asked to look at the details of each family. The government has to see it does not create any wrong precedent... It should withstand judicial scrutiny too," the source said.

Wrappers

the protest site in large quantities. The staff were told the store was tracked through the packaging material found at the protest site.

"We were not at the store when the officers came. They asked for details from our staff and, via them, summoned us to the police station," the owner said, adding that they went to the police station the same night.

"The inspector there told us that many anti-social elements present at the protests were availing of our food and essentially asked us to refrain from sending more stuff. They also asked us about any bulk orders that we received through online platforms like Swiggy and Zomato, and then told us that such orders should raise red flags for us and we shouldn't service them. Since then, almost everyone in our family has advised us not to send food to the protests, and I guess that's the police's whole point, to create that kind of an intimidating environment," the owner said.

Apart from volunteers bringing and distributing free food at Jantar Mantar since the protest started on June 20, supporters from across India and overseas have been sending meals, snacks and bottled water through delivery apps. Many local eateries also sent free food to the protest site, besides posting social media announcements offering "a place to pause, take shelter" and "free refreshments" at their premises.

A staff member at one such cafe told The Indian Express they deleted their social media post "after the Delhi Police officers came to our premises".

"They (police) told us that our food packaging was found at the protest site and asked us details about our orders sent there. We had to show them details of the deliveries we had made for orders booked through the food delivery apps. We were asked about free orders also and were asked to refrain from sending those," the cafe employee said.

Queries sent to the Delhi Police remained unanswered until press time.

However, in a "traffic advisory" posted on X, Delhi Traffic Police said: "In view of the prohibitory orders under Section 163 BNSS, 2023, citizens are advised to avoid unnecessary travel to the notified area and use alternate routes wherever possible. App-based mobility, ride-hailing, food delivery, logistics and e-commerce platforms are advised to regulate operations in the restricted area for the duration of the prohibitory orders to support public safety and maintain law & order."

In another post on X, Delhi Police said: "Rumours are circulating on social media claiming that Delhi Police has imposed a ban on food delivery app services across the New Delhi area. This claim is completely false, baseless, and misleading. Delhi Police has not imposed any ban on food delivery services in the New Delhi area."

OpenAI

by ChatGPT using the RAG (retrieval-augmented generation) technique does not amount to infringement under the Copyright Act since the outputs generated by OpenAI were not substantially similar to ANI (inputs)," he said.

Justice Bansal said ANI had "failed to satisfy" the court "that any memorisation or regurgitation" of ANI's copyrighted works happened through the responses generated by ChatGPT". The "balance of convenience" was in favour of OpenAI, the judge said — "irreparable injury would be caused not only to OpenAI but also to the public at large" if any interim injunction was granted in favour of ANI.

Two district courts in the US took a broadly similar line in two closely watched copyright cases that were decided within days of each other in June 2025. A group of writers had filed a class action complaint against Anthropic, the company behind the Claude family of LLMs; in the second case, a group of authors had sued Meta Platforms, whose research division Meta AI has developed the chatbot Llama.

The judges held that AI works did not substitute for the original works; rather, they generated something new from them. The ruling in the Meta case underlined that the plaintiffs had not shown that the training measurably harmed the market for their books. Both US verdicts have been relied upon by the Delhi High Court in its ruling.

Several media and publishing organisations and associations such as the Federation of Indian Publishers, Digital News Publishers Association, and the Indian Music Industry had joined as parties to ANI's suit and raised similar objections to OpenAI's training model.

On Friday's ruling, IP lawyer Amit Kumar Panigrahi, partner at Kochhar & Co., said the verdict, apart from being a boost to developers, is likely to prompt copyright owners to revisit their contractual frameworks, including licensing models and AI-specific restrictions in content access and use agreements.

Three days of talks

which he put forward his conditions for ending the fast. He requested 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". This was a climbdown from the collective demand of the protests that Pradhan must resign.

"The government did not approach me for this. They were talking to Gitanjali (Angmo, Wangchuk's wife). Yes, I helped Gitanjali and Sonam in the whole process as they were consulting me throughout. I was also trying to convince him to break his fast. Sonam ending his fast is separate from the ongoing movement. The movement of the youth continues. But his health was deteriorating. It was important to save his life. He is an inspiration to the youth in the country. He was to end his fast on July 20 itself. But the government treated him badly. So, he continued his fast," Tankha told *The Indian Express*.

On July 21, Union Ministers J P Nadda and Jitendra Singh met Wangchuk at Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon. The two are learnt to have assured him that issues raised by him would be taken up for discussion in Parliament and urged him to end his fast. Singh had spoken to Gitanjali Angmo earlier too, it is learnt.

On July 22, a delegation of MPs led by Tankha met Wangchuk and Angmo. They appealed to the activist to withdraw his fast, saying the struggle for a fair and transparent examination system had become a national cause.

Several other MPs also tried to meet Wangchuk at the time but were not allowed. The delegation also handed over a letter signed by MPs cutting across party lines, among them Shashi Tharoor, Tiruchi Siva, Ram Gopal Yadav, Kapil Sibal, John Brittas, and Sagarika Ghose.

By late night on July 23, Nadda and Singh arrived at Medanta with a written assurance from the government. It said, "Government is positive on not registering cases against those protesting peacefully at Jantar Mantar in Delhi and those participating in the march to Parliament..."

The assurances included a discussion in Parliament and "suitable compensation" for suicide victims following the NEET paper leak. PM Narendra Modi had already announced by then that a new Bill would be introduced in Parliament to deal with paper leaks.

Sources said that while Wangchuk was hesitant to end the hunger strike, his wife told him that he had to keep his word to the government. "His wife finally persuaded him to end the fast." said a minister.

Sources close to Wangchuk said his decision was entirely informed by his concern for the well-being of protesters who he felt could face serious legal trouble in future. Sources said Wangchuk was likely to stay in the hospital for the next few days to complete his recovery. He is likely to meet youth leaders at Jantar Mantar before going back to Ladakh.

In parallel, civil society leaders from Ladakh arrived in Delhi from Leh on July 21. Their attempts to meet Wangchuk were unsuccessful on July 21 and 22. On July 23, however, the leaders were allowed to meet Wangchuk in the morning, accompanied by an Intelligence Bureau official.

The Ladakh leaders too urged Wangchuk to end his fast. "By the time we met him, an understanding had already been reached between the government and him about ending his fast. We need him in Ladakh to spearhead our own negotiations with the government on issues concerning our region," a leader in the Ladakh delegation told *The Indian Express*.

— WITH INPUTS BY LIZ MATHEW

SC clips

circulation, and commercial exploitation on social media and digital platforms".

The plea said, "Isolated courtroom exchanges, oral observations, and preliminary remarks are frequently extracted from lengthy hearings and circulated without the factual or legal context in which they were made. Such clips are often accompanied by misleading captions, sensational commentary, and clickbait headlines designed to maximise public engagement and commercial gain."

It said unchecked circulation of such content had exposed judges, advocates and litigants to unwarranted criticism, trolling, vilification, and reputational harm. "More importantly, it risks undermining public confidence in the administration of justice by creating distorted and incomplete narratives regarding judicial proceedings," it said.

The bench asked the various high courts to submit reports on the adoption of its livestreaming guidelines. It also asked the Centre to appraise which minis-tries could implement the reliefs sought.

Appearing for Grover, Senior Advocate Vikas Singh expressed apprehension on clips of hearings being edited and circulated on social media.

"I personally don't see any problem with livestream," he said, referring to the recent instance of a hearing before a bench wherein the petitioner threw files and used abusive words, going viral on social media. "Adding words and showing clips is also happening," he said.

Justice Bagchi said that once such live streams are uploaded on digital platforms, it becomes difficult to manage their circulation. "Regulating data is one of the biggest challenges in digital space... so we should ensure limited access and therefore restrict livestream itself. Parties must expressly make a prayer that they want to see. It can't be a 24/7 entertainment channel by court... That belittles the justice system," he said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta pointed to the dangers of AI and said some tools can alter the words spoken by someone while preserving the lip movements.

10% tariff

second tier where the US has imposed a standard 10% tariff rate on 17 economies — others in the category are Argentina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom.

"Based on the findings in the investigation of India, including India's adoption of a forced labor import prohibition subsequent to the publication of the June 5, 2026 FRN, and considering the public comments and testimony, the advice of the Section 301 Committee, as well as the advice of advisory committees, and in accordance with the specific direction of the President, the Trade Representative has determined to impose 10% tariffs on products of India," the USTR said.

The standard 10% tariffs on India are similar to those on ASEAN countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia but better than Vietnam which now falls under the least favourable countries with 12.5% tariffs alongside China, Russia, Brazil, Australia, the Philippines, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

Under the new tariff design, Japan, South Korea and Switzerland are placed better than countries such as Vietnam and China, as they are subject to a 12.5% rate net of MFN.

Similar to the EU and Taiwan mechanism, their duty is determined by MFN plus Section 301, capped at 12.5%. If their MFN rate is already 12.5% or higher, the Section 301 duty is zero, according to the USTR.

The USTR has also established textile tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) for Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia under which these economies would import US cotton and textile goods for final manufacturing. No such TRQ has been announced for India.

Bangladesh, being one of India's top competitors and a large importer of Indian cotton and fibre, could now begin sourcing input items from the US.

The USTR said that the TRQs will allow a specific volume of textiles and apparel from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia to enter the US free of Section 301 tariffs. However, these TRQs will have an initial duration of three years and imports to the US would then begin attracting a 10% Section 301 tariff.

The list of goods exempted from the Section 301 additional tariffs includes aircraft (other than military), engines, ground flight simulators and their parts or components. In the agriculture and food category, certain animal products (used for animal or pet food), seeds for planting, vegetable products (like coconut coir and jute burlap), unflavored instant coffee, and in-quota sugar products would remain exempted.

In the materials and minerals category, pig iron, certain ferrous/aluminum scrap waste, aluminium hydroxide and ash containing precious metals were kept out of Section 301 tariffs.

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BLOs

Sutlej on three sides and the India-Pakistan border fence on the fourth, it sits barely a kilometre from the international border. The village has little permanent infrastructure and is accessible largely by boat. Temporary Army pontoon bridges are erected only during emergencies. Repeated floods and its location on the border have forced many residents to move away, leaving behind a population of about 200.

For Darshan Singh and Pushpa Grover, teachers at Government School, Tendiwala, carrying out the SIR has meant making repeated boat journeys across the Sutlej.

"There are 150 voters. I have completed 82 percent of my work," Darshan Singh said. "Some residents who have gone out of the village will return after planting paddy. Earlier, I used to go every day. The villagers are adept at rowing boats and we have been using them."

Pushpa Grover said, "I have also been taking the boat to reach the village. The pontoon bridge is no longer there... I live in this area, so it is not a hardship for me. I have completed 90 per cent of my work. The rest will be done soon."

Despite their isolation, villages such as Kaluwala have consistently recorded high voter turnout.

Punjab Chief Electoral Officer Anindita Mitra said the exercise had highlighted the dedication of BLOs working under difficult conditions. "The BLOs have shown tremendous professionalism in carrying out the SIR in Punjab. They took whatever route was available. They are the praiseworthy partners in the SIR and have done commendable work," she said.

NTA

of General Manager in the agency to oversee key functions such as its network of centres, operations, information security and vigilance.

The Ministry also said it would engage 16 young professionals in various units of the NTA through the Pratibha Setu portal of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

The portal is a Government initiative that allows "verified employers — including ministries, PSUs, autonomous bodies, and private organizations — to access details of non-recommended willing candidates who cleared all stages of UPSC exams but didn't make it to the final merit list".

These appointments, the Education Ministry said, will mark "the first concrete step in the institutional rebuild of NTA" being implemented in line with the recommendations of the high-level committee of experts chaired by former ISRO chief K Radhakrishnan.

The Indian Express had first reported on July 7 that the Government is all set to overhaul the NTA, covering its organisation, infrastructure, technology and processes.

According to the Education Ministry, four contractual positions of General Manager — each for an initial term of three years — have been notified: Test Centre Network and Operations; Information Security; Vigilance, Investigation and Forensics; and Assessment Research and Development and Psychometrics.

The General Manager (Test Centre Network and Operations) will lead the NTA's nationwide test-centre footprint, spanning over 500 cities and select international centres. The GM will be responsible for empanelment standards, capacity planning, centre quality, accessibility for candidates with disabilities, hygiene and amenities, exam-day operations, and coordination with states.

The General Manager (Information Security), who will be designated as NTA's Chief Information Security Officer, will head cyber-security and be responsible for all agency systems, applications, networks and data.

The position will also specifically be responsible for compliance with related laws and norms, including Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, Information Technology Act, 2000, and directions of the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), as well as running a round-the-clock Security Operations Centre.

The post requires 12 years of information-security experience, including at least five at a senior leadership level.

The GM (Vigilance, Investigation and Forensics) will head the agency's internal probe and digital forensics functions, including leading probes into suspected malpractice, building an in-house digital forensics capability, and coordinating with Central and state investigative agencies. The position requires 15 years of experience, including five years at a senior level in investigation, vigilance or law-enforcement.

The GM (Assessment Research and Development and Psychometrics) will head the agency's academic and measurement-science function and will be responsible for item banks or digital repositories of questions, normalisation methodology, equating and calibration procedures, and pilots on computer-adaptive testing and AI-assisted assessment.

As for the 16 young professionals, the Ministry said: "The engagement is open to candidates who have appeared in the Civil Services Examination and are on the Pratibha Setu portal, with 12 positions in academic research, two in legal research and two in finance and accounts."

SEVERAL SCHOOLS SWITCH TO ONLINE & HYBRID MODE

'Students stuck in buses for hours': Parents fret as stir hits schools near Jantar Mantar

Sophiya Mathew
New Delhi, July 24

Protesters at Parliament Street in Delhi on Friday. GAJENDRA YADAV

"WHY DISTURB parents mentally everyday?" "How will we manage to take students from school?" "Children remained stuck in buses for hours?" These have been among the concerns of the parents whose children have been studying in schools in Central Delhi where daily commute has been affected amid the protest at Jantar Mantar against NEET paper leak,

Amid uncertainty, several schools have shifted to online or hybrid mode as Metro services and mobile connectivity remain affected and barricades choke arterial roads. Among the schools that are close to the protest site are Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Raghubir Singh Junior Modern School, Modern School at Barakhamba Road, and St Columba's School.

Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood told *The Indian Express* on Friday that the government is not interfering in how school administrations handle the ongoing stir even as he recently convened a meeting with all Deputy Directors of Education to review broader school safety and general concerns.

On Monday, during the 'Sansad Chalo' march, which saw the use of batons and tear gas to curb the agitation, schoolchildren were stranded in school buses for four to five hours, claimed some parents.

A parent of a student from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan said he had to wait until around 5 pm to know whether his child had reached their home in Bengali Market.

A father of a five-year-old child, who studies at Raghubir Singh Junior Modern School, recounted the ordeal faced by his wife. "*Baccha hai, school intezaam karega. Rehne do unko school me.* (The child is in school; the school will make the arrangements. Let them remain in school)," she was told by a security personnel, according to him.

The school on Friday said that it has shifted to online classes.

After a school bus carrying students from Sardar Patel Vidyalaya in Lodhi Estate was reportedly stuck on the road for three hours, the school switched to online mode on Tuesday before adopting a hybrid mode on Wednesday and resuming physical classes from Thursday. The school also issued advisories to parents, asking them to remain in touch with bus attendants, as traffic restrictions continued.

The school transitioned to online mode for its junior wing on Friday. Meanwhile, exams for senior sections have been postponed, as per an official circular by the school and teachers instructed to hold hybrid classes for Classes 6-12.

At Modern School on Barakhamba Road, a Class 10 student said that the aftermath of tear gas use at the protest site was felt at the school campus this week. Even as the school held physical classes on Thursday, the attendance remained low, the student claimed.

Queries sent to the school related to academic disruptions by *The Indian Express* did not elicit a response.

At St Columba's School, regular classes have continued, but the school, in a notice, underlined that it delayed its inter-school festival — Columban Mélange — "in view of the prevailing situation".

Vishal Sharma, whose child is in Class 9 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, said the school has been operating in a hybrid mode.

"The school is just five to seven minutes from Jantar Mantar, it made us (parents) deeply anxious about sending our boys to classes. Despite the chaotic environment and the unexpected scale of the protest, the management handled everything very efficiently by dispersing classes in a staggered manner through six separate gates. Students were only released after parents called the class teachers to confirm arrival. While some parents organised carpools, the situation was still tense on Wednesday." Sharma said. He added that the school bus services especially to the inner Connaught Place and other parts of Lutyens' Delhi had to be rerouted.

The situation has also raised questions about how schools are dealing with conversations around the ongoing protests, said Aparajita Singh, head of Delhi Parents Association. "The schools need to be sensitive to the circumstances students are navigating and ensure that their safety and emotional well-being are not overlooked amid the ongoing disruption," she said.

A principal of a school in West Delhi's Dwarka said political discussions were not permitted on campus. A senior teacher, who did not wish to be named, however, said that the uncertainty surrounding the disruption was difficult to ignore, particularly for senior students concerned about their future.

A Delhi-based collective of mothers has also raised concerns over the reported use of expired tear-gas ammunitions during the police action.

In a representation to the Central Pollution Control Board on Wednesday, Warrior Moms said there were credible reports that expired tear-gas shells may have been used against protesting students and citizens and sought an independent scientific and environmental investigation.

17 Metro stations shut for third day, roads closed, markets see heavy dip in footfall

Gayathri Mani & Devansh Mittal
New Delhi, July 24

Sarojini Nagar Market also saw a dip in footfall on Friday.. EXPRESS

THE IMPACT of the CJP protest is spreading beyond Connaught Place, with traders across Sarojini Nagar, Chandni Chowk, Khan Market, Janpath and Palika Bazaar reporting a sharp drop in footfall, as closed Metro stations and traffic restrictions keep shoppers away.

For the third consecutive day on Friday, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation kept 17 stations in Central Delhi closed from 7.30 am. These included Rajiv Chowk, Janpath, Central Secretariat, ITO, Delhi Gate and Khan Market. New Delhi Metro station was later added to the list before entry gates at Mandi House and Central Secretariat were reopened in the evening. Fifteen stations, however, remained shut until further orders.

A day after most shops, restaurants and offices in Connaught Place shut in the evening, traders at Sarojini Nagar said they may also pull down shutters early from Saturday if the protest continues at Jantar Mantar.

Ashok Randhawa, president of the Sarojini Nagar Mini Market Traders Association, said they will take a final call on the matter on Saturday. "We will take a call tomorrow if the CJP protest continues. As of now, we have told the shopkeepers that if they want, they can shut their shops early," he added.

Many shopkeepers closed their shops by 7 pm at Sarojini Nagar market, he further said.

According to Randhawa, in the last few days, business at the market has seen a dip of nearly 70%. "The situation will worsen if the protest continues because a large number of customers take the Metro to come to the market. With Metro stations closed and traffic jams across the area, customers are simply not coming," he added.

Connaught Place is not faring any better.

Manpreet Singh, who runs Zen Restaurant, said the parking area outside his restaurant, which usually sees around 500 cars, has seen barely 30-40 vehicles over the last few days.

"Business is down 95%. People are scared of getting stuck in traffic because roads are being closed without prior information," he said, adding that congestion around Jantar Mantar had worsened because of barricades, security deployment and vehicles parked along the roads.

Atul Bhargava, president of the New Delhi Traders Association, estimated that businesses in Connaught Place were operating at only about 25% of capacity. "Usually, Friday, Saturday and Sunday are the best days for us, but today has been the worst, with people not coming to Connaught Place at all," he said.

"Our staff has to walk long distances to reach the stores," he added.

Traders said nearby markets, including Gole Market, Yusuf Zai Market, Janpath and shops near Indian Oil Bhawan, had also witnessed a sharp decline in customers. Even the posh lanes of Khan Market are witnessing significantly less footfall. "People are scared... when roads will be blocked," said Sanjiv Mehra, president of the Khan Market Traders Association. He estimated that stores were making only about 25% of their usual sales.

In Chandni Chowk, traders claimed daily footfall had fallen from around 1.5 lakh to about 50,000. Sanjay Bhargava, president of the Chandni Chowk Traders Association, said, "We urge the government either to earmark a separate venue for the protest or restrict the number of protesters. Traders have placed orders for new stock and have payments to make, but transportation disruptions and traffic congestion have severely affected business."

"The wedding season is approaching and business will be severely affected if the protest continues. We will soon write to the Prime Minister, the Lieutenant Governor and the CM raising the issue," he added.

20-yr-old dies as car veers off slippery road, falls into drain

New Delhi: A 20-year-old student died and a woman, who was travelling with him, was injured after the car he was driving allegedly lost control, plunged into a drain and overturned in South West Delhi on Friday morning, said police.

The driver, identified as Yashvendra, had sustained serious injuries in the crash. He was rushed for medical treatment but succumbed to the injuries.

Preliminary enquiry revealed that while taking a sharp turn near the Nangal Dewat red light, Yashvendra allegedly lost control of the vehicle because of the slippery road surface. Police said the two had spent the previous night at a friend's house and were on their way to drop the woman home when the accident took place. Investigators found that the vehicle belonged to the woman while it was being driven by Yashvendra.

Yashvendra and the woman were students of the same institution in US, where they became friends. They were in India for a break. He was the son of an Indian Army officer.

The woman is a resident of Vasant Kunj. Her father works with a private firm. ENS

JNU, Jamia caution students against protest participation

New Delhi: A day after Delhi University (DU) cautioned students against participating in the CJP protests, two more central universities – Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Jamia Millia Islamia – on Friday issued advisories asking students to stay away from demonstrations around Jantar Mantar.

The advisories come amid growing concern among university administrations over the spillover of the nationwide protests. Videos circulating on Friday show students marching through DU's North Campus carrying flags and placards.

JNU issued a public advisory asking members of its "epistemic community" to "act responsibly and prioritize their personal safety". It also cautioned students to "exercise responsibility on social media", warning that violations could invite legal consequences."

Jamia Millia Islamia, in a message to students, appealed to them to remain focused on their studies and avoid activities that could jeopardise their future. It addressed many first-year students who recently joined the university, ENS

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Unaudited / Reviewed Financial Results (Standalone & Consolidated) for the Quarter ended 30th June 2026

₹ in Lakh

Sr. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Year ended
		30.06.2026 (Reviewed)	30.06.2025 (Reviewed)	31.03.2026 (Audited)	30.06.2026 (Reviewed)	30.06.2025 (Reviewed)	31.03.2026 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations (Net)	22,52,847	20,51,829	85,03,554	22,71,228	20,67,762	85,64,956
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4,08,748	2,91,330	13,94,566	4,33,099	3,02,341	14,28,854
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4,08,748	2,91,330	13,94,566	4,33,099	2,50,461	13,76,974
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	3,06,790	2,25,212	10,52,715	3,30,258	1,82,956	10,30,630
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	Refer Note 3			Refer Note 3		
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	4,55,341	4,55,341	4,55,341	4,55,341	4,55,341	4,55,341
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year			75,47,654			77,38,068
8	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -						
	1. Basic (in ₹):	6.74	4.95	23.12	7.25	4.02	22.64
	2. Diluted (in ₹) :	6.74	4.95	23.12	7.25	4.02	22.64
9	Net Worth	76,94,034	66,86,230	75,27,811	78,90,859	68,36,318	77,05,575
10	Paidup Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt *	28.60%	19.46%	27.82%			
11	Debt Equity Ratio *	0.71	0.57	0.78			

₹17,55,699 Crore 16.57% YoY — Business Mix

₹9,57,924 Crore 14.90% YoY — Total Deposits

₹7,97,775 Crore 18.64% YoY — Gross Advances

₹3,92,833 Crore 19.75% YoY — RAM Advances

₹3,068 Crore 36.23% YoY — Net Profit

Gross NPA 1.81% -111 bps YoY

Net NPA 0.51% -24 bps YoY

* Debt represents borrowings with residual maturity of more than one year. Outstanding Debt represents total borrowings of the Bank.

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Yearly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange(s) websites (BSE:https:// www. bseindia.com and NSE: https://www.nseindia.com) and the website of the Bank (https://www.bankofindia.bank.in). The same can be accessed by scanning the QR Code provided here.
2. For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s) (National Stock Exchange and Bombay Stock Exchange) and can be accessed on the URL (NSE: http://www .nseindia.com and BSE:http://www.bseindia.com).
3. Information relating to Total Comprehensive Income and Other Comprehensive Income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to banks.

Sd/- (Pramod Dwibedi) Executive Director | Sd/- (Rajiv Mishra) Executive Director | Sd/- (Subrat Kumar) Executive Director | Sd/- (P. R. Rajagopal) Executive Director | Sd/- (Rajneesh Karnatak) Managing Director & CEO | Sd/- (M.R.Kumar) Chairman

Place : Mumbai | Date : 24.07.2026

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Protesters and security personnel at Jantar Mantar on Friday. TASHI TOBGYAL & ABHINAV SAHA

Speeches made since Sonam's removal to be examined: Police

Sakshi Chand & Pragynesh
New Delhi, July 24

THE DELHI Police will assess all the speeches made at the protest called by the CJP at Jantar Mantar since activist Sonam Wangchuk was removed from the site on July 18 to examine if any inflammatory comments were made to trigger the demonstrators, sources told *The Indian Express*. A police officer also said that the speeches would include the ones given by celebrities and political leaders.

A total of 15 FIRs have been registered so far following the 'Sansad Chalo' march on July 20, said officers, adding that first one registered at Parliament Street police station — after the first reports of stone pelting came from the 'Selfie Point' area in Connaught Place — will have sections of criminal conspiracy added to it.

"Around 2,500 people have been found to be involved in violence and 100-200 protestors are suspected to have been involved in inciting the crowd and getting involved in stone pelting and creating ruckus," an officer said. A source said that the police have over 5 terabyte of related data, and will conduct a detailed investigation in the coming days.

Police had earlier said that they are examining encrypted chats on the Bitchat app, which works over Bluetooth mesh networks; locality and college-based WhatsApp groups; social media posts; CCTV camera footage; mobile phone data and facial recognition records.

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.

The other challenge: 15,000 kg of garbage daily at protest site

Mishal Mussaddique & Tabshir Shams
New Delhi, July 24

AT JANTAR Mantar, the crowds are growing every day. So is the garbage. Plastic bottles, paper plates and food packets line the protest site, accompanied by a constant stench.

"There is no standard waste management protocol when more than 5,000 people gather every day," said an official from New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), in charge of managing waste in the area.

"Earlier, we collected around 500-600 kg of waste from Tolstoy Marg, Sansad Marg and Jantar Mantar Road. Now we lift nearly 15,000 kg of waste every day."

To manage the waste, the NDMC has deployed extra workers in three shifts. About 50 workers clean the area in the morning, 15 in the afternoon and 20 in the evening.

"We also use gobblers — battery-operated, eco-friendly litter-pickers — and vacuum devices designed to rapidly collect solid waste. Fogging machines and disinfectant sprays are also used in regular intervals. Further, auto-tippers and garbage trucks come to the protest site in coordination with the police," the official said.

Still, garbage piled up over the last few days, especially next to an abandoned building opposite Kerala House.

"The NDMC had not collected garbage from the protest area for many days. Today we called them, and they cleared the heap," said Gyan (35), one of the protesters.

As per NDMC officials, they could not enter the area because police permission had not been granted. "We didn't have clearance from the district commissioner of police to clear waste for the last couple of days. As soon as we got permission, the entire area was wet cleaned," said the official.

MISHAL MUSSADDIQUE

Four portable toilets —three for women and one for all — were installed on Tolstoy Road, Friday.

Many protesters, meanwhile, have taken it upon themselves to keep Jantar Mantar clean.Near the protest site, on Tolstoy Road, opposite The Imperial Hotel, Amaldeep Singh (26) — who had travelled from Malout in Punjab for the protest — was seen collecting waste off the footpath amid the sea of people. "This is seva (service). When I came here last night, I saw some children clearing waste. I thought why can't I do this too? Whatever I collect, I put it near the barricade opposite McDonald's," he added.

Priya (25), a UPSC aspirant, feels that collecting waste gives her a sense of responsibility.

"I want to show that we youth are not here to have fun, we can also take some responsibility... Many are littering without any hesitation. What is the kind of message that we are trying to send out there?"

NDMC officials said such volunteers have made their work easier."We can't deny it. The children have been really helpful and have coordinated with us throughout to make our work easier," said the official.

However, not everyone collecting waste is a volunteer.

Thirteen-year-old Janisar and his uncle Nasim, who collect scrap for a living, have been visiting the protest site for the last few days to gather discarded plastic bottles. The two sell them to a scrap dealer on Minty Road.

"We have been coming here for the last three-four days. We keep walking around collecting bottles. We eat the free food distributed here and sleep at the protest site," said Nasim, adding that they earn around Rs 800-900 a day.

Outside the The Imperial Hotel, meanwhile, stood four portable toilets — three for women and one for all. The Sachkhand Foundation, whose members are volunteering at the protest site, got them installed on Friday.

This comes amid reports that many protesters are complaining of headaches and sore throats at Jantar Mantar.

Volunteer doctors present at the site report that the overcrowding and open-air living conditions have left a large number of people grappling with viral infections, dehydration, and other health issues.

Speaking to *PTI*, Dr Shilpa from Punjab's Five River Heart Association said a large number of people are approaching her with complaints of sore throats, headaches and high fever.

Many are sleeping on the ground in the open, increasing the risk of infection, said Shilpa, who is providing free medical care to protesters at Jantar Mantar.She said that by Wednesday evening, over 200 people had been administered paracetamol and other related medications.

Another doctor from Patiala, requesting anonymity, said due to the large crowds, the infection is spreading through coughing and sneezing.

'To maintain law & order', liquor shops in Delhi to shut by 8 pm until Sunday

Gayathri Mani
New Delhi, July 24

FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS from the Delhi Police Special Branch, the Excise department directed that liquor shops in the city will be shut by 8 pm on three days — Friday to Sunday. Currently, liquor shops in the city closes at 10 pm.

"The revised timings have been implemented from today. A formal order is on the way in the regard. The decision has been taken following directions from the Delhi Police," a senior Excise department official said

"While students are protesting peacefully, some anti-social elements are trying to disrupt the protest by drinking and creating ruckus. As this can lead to untoward incidents, police requested us to revise the timings of liquor shops... it has been done," the official added.

Officials said that the Special Branch, on Friday, officially wrote to Principal Secretary (Home and Finance) Santosh D Vaidya requesting that the the order be immediately implemented. "It is submitted that credible intelligence inputs indicate the likelihood of certain anti-social and disruptive elements attempting to exploit the prevailing situation to create disturbances affecting public order at various locations in the National Capital Territory of Delhi," read the letter undersigned by Ankit Chauhan, DCP, Special Branch.

It added that the available inputs further "indicate that such elements may resort to consumption of liquor during the evening hours and thereafter indulge in hooliganism, unruly and disorderly conduct, breach of peace, acts of violence, damage to public property, obstruction of public ways and other unlawful activities, thereby posing a potential threat to public safety, security and maintenance of law and order".

According to the police, continued operation of liquor vends up to 10 pm may facilitate easy access to liquor during the critical evening period and "increase the possibility of intoxication-induced incidents capable of escalating into serious law and order situations, requiring substantial police intervention and deployment."

"...as a preventive measure aimed at maintaining public order, ensuring public safety and denying opportunities to anti-social elements to exploit the prevailing situation, it is requested that directions may kindly be issued for closure of all liquor vends/shops in the National Capital Territory of Delhi by 2000 hrs... for the next three days...," the letter read.

The police have also told the government that if the current situation prevails, it may extend the further extend the time restrictions beyond three days. "The requirement for continuation of the above arrangement, if warranted by the prevailing situation, shall be communicated," the letter issued with the approval of Commissioner of Police, said.

Currently, the city has 700 government liquor shops run by four corporations.

An official from one of the corporations said, "The directions have been verbally issued... all the vends and corporations will implement it immediately. An official order will be issued to all shops soon."

Delhi Police forms STF to probe paper leaks, public exam offences

Sakshi Chand
New Delhi, July 24

TO STRENGTHEN probe into alleged irregularities in the conduct of public examinations, the Delhi Police on Friday constituted a Special Task Force (STF) within its Crime Branch to investigate paper leaks and other offences under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, officers said.

According to a statement issued by Delhi Police on Friday, the STF has been constituted with the approval of the Commissioner of Police and will conduct probe into offences related to public examinations conducted by agencies including the UPSC, Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs), Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS), National Testing Agency (NTA) and recruitment examinations conducted by Union Government, besides any other authority notified by the Centre.

As per officers, the STF will also coordinate with prosecuting agencies to ensure speedy prosecution of such cases.

The unit will be headed by the DCP, Crime Branch, while the Special Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch will exercise overall supervision and administrative control over its functioning, an officer said.

Training of RAF personnel postponed; 10 more CRPF companies for Capital

Express News Service
New Delhi, July 24

THE CENTRE has directed the airlifting of 10 more CRPF companies from Chhattisgarh to deploy in Delhi to bolster security measures in view of the student protest underway, officials said on Friday. The CRPF headquarters has also postponed one of the training sessions of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) due to the ongoing protests at Jantar Mantar, they added.

According to an official communication, the RAF personnel were set to undergo training from July 27 to August 8 in Meerut. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) officials said that orders have been issued to sanction only emergency leaves to its Delhi Metro unit as maximum manpower is required at the stations owing to the security situation.

According to officials, a security review meeting held in Delhi on Thursday required all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) units scheduled to be stationed in the Capital ahead of Independence Day to report early. They said that about 150 CAPF companies will be deployed in Delhi over the next few days. A CAPF company has about 100 personnel. About 100 such companies are already in Delhi assisting the local police with law and order duties, officials said.

Earlier this week, the Centre airlifted 20 CRPF companies from West Bengal to deploy in Delhi. Followed close in its wake was the induction of three RAF units and several other CAPF units, such as the SSB, BSF, and ITBP.

HC refuses to order NIA probe into foreign funding claims

Sohini Ghosh
New Delhi, July 24

THE DELHI High Court on Friday declined to entertain a plea seeking a probe by the NIA into the allegations of foreign funding and assault of police personnel tied to CJP-led march to Parliament on July 20 to protest the NEET paper leak and other related issues.

Even as the government suggested that the court can issue a notice, a bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia noted that Supreme Court judgements have already dealt with the procedure to be followed when officers are injured, and public and private property suffers damage during such cases of "unlawful assembly".

Addressing Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was representing the government and the petitioner , the HC said, "Are you saying you're not following (laid down mandate.... to need court directions)? There is every authority available to you to deal with such situations. Do that. You're under a mandate (to act according to laid down law)."

Satish Kumar Aggarwal, ex-vice president of Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, who had moved the petition, withdrew it after the HC indicated that it is not inclined to entertain the petition. Aggarwal, in his petition, wanted the court to direct the NIA or any other specialised probe agency to probe the alleged attempts at blocking Parliament and alleged stone pelting at police personnel on July 20 during the 'Sansad Chalo' march of the CJP.

Aggarwal sought the HC intervention to direct the authorities to "identify persons responsible for acts of violence, vandalism, obstruction of emergency services, damage to public and private property,"

While Aggarwal's counsel stressed that the ' "fundamental rights" of citizens are being denied owing to the disruption in livelihoods, including due to the shutdown of some Metro stations, the High Court said that there is an alternate remedy available to air these grievances.

The court opined that Aggarwal can approach the government with a representation, and the government can take a decision on it accordingly.

The court made the remarks even as SG Mehta urged the court that Aggarwal's petition can be heard along with two other petitions that deal with police excesses on protesters, and the government's response can be called for.

The court also disposed of a petition by NGO Save India Foundation which was implorring the court's intervention on alleged attack on security officers. The court permitted the outfit to make its representation to the government.

The HC also dealt with a third petition by former JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh, objecting to the continuous and indiscriminate surveillance at the protest site, which it will hear on July 27.

● ACTIVIST ENDED HIS 26-DAY FAST EARLY FRIDAY

Beyond Sonam Wangchuk: At Jantar Mantar, the protest shows no sign of abating

Akriti Kanodia
New Delhi, July 24

AS LONG queues waited to enter Jantar Mantar, volunteers distributed food and water, slogans gave way to songs and protesters prepared for another long night, activist Sonam Wangchuk unexpectedly ended his 26-day hunger strike following talks with the Centre early Friday.

Many at the protest site did not immediately know that Wangchuk had ended his fast. With mobile Internet data suspended within a 1.5-km radius of Jantar Mantar, many learnt of it only when they stepped outside the area.

"We went to Jama Masjid to eat," said Avik, a student.

"We got network there and saw what had happened. Then we came back."

Wangchuk had been on an indefinite hunger strike since June 28 at Jantar Mantar, where the CJP has been demanding Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over the NEET paper leak.

Around 12.45 am on Friday, he broke his fast in the presence of Union Health Minister J P Nadda and Union Minister Jitendra Singh.

For many who returned to the protest site after hearing the news, Wangchuk's decision did not change the reason why they were there.

"I think the limelight should shift away from a centralised personality to the issues, because it is the issues that matter," said a working professional at the protest.

"People can come and go, but this is about people's lives. It is about the 21 lives who are not here with us anymore."

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke at Jantar Mantar on Friday. ABHINAV SAHA

Referring to images of Wangchuk being offered a drink by Nadda, she added, "People who understand politics know what that means."

Krishna Yadav, one of the volunteers coordinating supplies, said donations from across the country had kept the protest running. "Some people sent medicines, some sent food," he said.

Asked whether Wangchuk ending his fast would change anything, he said the protest would continue regardless: "We are here 24 hours."

Supplies, however, have thinned.

At one point, an exhausted volunteer tried to stop a group of boys from entering the packed venue. "There's no point going inside now," he said.

One of the boys replied, "It's okay, we will be here tomorrow too."

Not all agreed on what would happen next.

Some said the focus had shifted from Pradhan's resignation to a broader demand for accountability; others said the original demands stood unchanged.

"We have given you a chance to raise your voice in a democracy," said Vikant, a protester and medical volunteer.

"If we are asking, revert with the answer. Say sorry, at least. Come out and say, 'I made a mistake.' Then fix it," he added.

Avik admitted that the protest may now slow down with Wangchuk ending his hunger strike. He, however, maintained: "But the protest has become bigger than one person. Everyone is a face. Everyone is a leader."

Bill criminalising insult to Vande Mataram introduced in House

Nikhil Ghanekar, Asad Rehman & Anonna Dutt
New Delhi, July 24

Congress MPs Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi, along with TMC MP Sagarika Ghose and others raise slogans seeking the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan during the Monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi, Friday. PTI

AMID CONTINUED demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the first week of the Monsoon Session ended in a washout on Friday, with the exception of the introduction of The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, in the Rajya Sabha.

The Bill seeks to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, to make insults to National Song Vande Mataram a criminal offence, punishable with imprisonment up to five years.

Proceedings in both Houses on Friday began with paying homage to members of the Armed Forces killed during the Kargil War, ahead of the Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26 (Sunday).

Soon after, the Opposition MPs resumed their protest against the NEET paper leak, resulting in both Houses getting adjourned until 12 noon.

When the Lok Sabha met again, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said, "If we don't have a discussion and make excuses, then it is not a good message. I request (Leader of Opposition) Rahul Gandhi ji that he should make the Congress MPs understand. Other party MPs have put their views that there should be a discussion. Why can't we have a good discussion?"

LoP Rahul Gandhi sought to speak after Rijiju's remarks, but BJP's Jagdambika Pal, who was presiding over the House, said he would allow him time to speak after papers are laid on the table. The Opposition members started raising "istifa do" slogans, and Pal adjourned the proceedings till Monday.

Speaking to reporters in the Parliament complex, Gandhi said, "Rijiju ji gave a statement that they want our MPs to hold a discussion. The normal protocol is that if someone names a person, he or she is allowed to respond. When I wanted to reply, the mic was taken away from me. I was not given an opportunity," he said. Gandhi reiterated the Opposition's stance that they will not have a discussion or conversation on NEET until Pradhan is sacked.

In the Rajya Sabha, proceedings were adjourned till 2 pm. When the business resumed, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai proposed to introduce 'The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026'.

The Bill seeks to make intentionally preventing the singing of the National Song or causing disturbance to any assembly engaged in such singing an offence with a maximum punishment of five years, or fine, or both. It also seeks to accord the same statutory protection to the National Song as the National Anthem.

As the Opposition benches protested the Bill's introduction, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh allowed CPI(M) MP John Brittas and CPI MP Sandosh Kumar P to speak on the Bill. "The Constituent Assembly, after nearly three years of exhaustive deliberation, consciously refrained from placing the National Song and the National Anthem on the same constitutional footing. Had the framers of both intended to enjoy identical legal consequences, they would have expressed and so provided," Brittas said.

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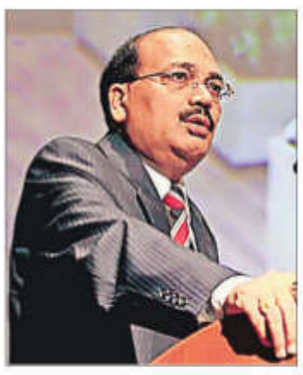
CJI reiterates: Cockroach remarks only for fake law degree holders, not all youth

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, July 24



CJI Surya Kant

CHIEF JUSTICE of India Surya Kant on Friday reiterated that his remarks about cockroaches at a hearing in the Supreme Court in May this year was only in the context of those who had gained entry into the legal profession using fake degrees and not all youth for whom he had great respect.

The CJI told *The Indian Express* that the issue of fake law degree holders had been flagged by none other than the Bar Council of India in the past and it was only in this background that he made those comments. "It was about the lawyers who have entered profession through backdoor based on mostly fake degrees. Issue was about fake law degrees and how to clean up. It was in that context that I commented," he said.

The CJI said that when he travels, many youth come forward to meet him. "I am drawing my force from the youth of the country."

He said the Supreme Court's doors are always open to every citizen and "whatever in terms of constitutional principles or law of the land allows, will redress the grievance".

"If the country's youth have any grievance which they want to be redressed through the judicial forum, then the Supreme Court's doors are always open for them," he said.

> ***If the country's youth have any grievance which they want to be redressed through the judicial forum, then the Supreme Court's doors are always open for them***
>
> **SURYA KANT,**
> CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

The CJI's remarks on May 15 during a hearing likening unemployed youth in law to cockroaches had led to an uproar culminating in the creation of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), with many interpreting it as comments targeting the entire youth community and not just the legal profession.

A day later, the CJI stated that he had been "misquoted" by sections of the media and that his criticism was directed solely at those who had entered professions through fake or bogus degrees.

"I am pained to read how a section of the media has misquoted my oral observations made during the hearing of a frivolous case yesterday. What I had specifically criticised were those who have entered professions like the Bar (legal profession) with the aid of fake and bogus degrees. Similar persons have sneaked into the media, social media, and other noble professions as well, and hence, they are like parasites," the CJI had said in a statement.

"It is totally baseless to suggest that I criticised the youth of our nation. Not only am I proud of our present and future human resource, but every youth of India inspires me. It is not an exaggeration to say that Indian youth have great regard and respect for me, and I too see them as the pillars of a developed India," he had said.

Bittu resigns from Union Cabinet, will focus on poll-bound Punjab

Press Trust of India
Chandigarh, July 24

Ravneet Singh Bittu's tenure in Rajya Sabha ended on June 21

WITH PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu accepting his resignation from the Union council of ministers, BJP leader Ravneet Singh Bittu on Friday said he will now shift his entire focus on poll-bound Punjab as his party is eyeing to form the government in the border state.

Bittu is likely to contest the 2027 Punjab assembly elections from Ludhiana. He had been holding the charge as Union Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries.

A prominent Sikh face of the BJP, Bittu said he had tendered his resignation on June 21, when his Rajya Sabha term ended. In June, Bittu had expressed his desire to work for Punjab in the Vidhan Sabha after spending nearly 17 years in Parliament. He had then said that the BJP made him the minister even though he had lost the 2024 parliamentary elections.

On the 2027 Assembly polls, Bittu expressed confidence that the BJP would form the government in Punjab. "People of Punjab are fed up (with other parties). People are very much aware of development and progress taking place in other (BJP-ruled) states and they want prosperity in Punjab as well," Bittu said.

The grandson of former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh, who was assassinated in 1995, Bittu joined the BJP ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

He remained Lok Sabha MP for three terms on Congress ticket. He was elected an MP for the first time from Anandpur Sahib in 2009. Later, he was elected from Ludhiana twice in 2014 and 2019.

After joining the BJP, he unsuccessfully contested from Ludhiana seat in 2024. He was defeated by Congress' Amrinder Singh Raja Warring.

Mrityunjay Tiwari jumps ship from RJD to BJP

Yuvraj Singh
Patna, July 24

FORMER RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwari on Friday joined the BJP in the presence of the party's state unit president, Sanjay Saraogi. The move comes a week after Tiwari severed ties with the Opposition party in Bihar, bringing a formal end to his nearly 20-year association with the RJD.

Tiwari was inducted into the party during an event at the state BJP headquarters in Patna.

Addressing BJP workers after joining the party, Tiwari cited alignment with national goals as his main reason for switching sides. "I was inspired by the party's vision of Viksit Bharat... the BJP is working in the nation's interest. More people are joining the BJP because they identify with its ideology and vision."

On quitting the RJD, he said: "I no longer found myself aligned with the party's leadership despite having worked there for nearly two decades."

Tiwari's crossover follows his resignation from the RJD on July 16, when he publicly cited growing friction with party leadership and alleged that there was "no space for dedicated and loyal workers" in the RJD's organisational structure.

As the RJD's spokesperson for over a decade, Tiwari was often seen leading from the front in defending the party and pushing its viewpoints before the media. His exit deprives the Opposition party of a familiar, articulate defender.

Writer is an intern with The Indian Express

CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY
(Established by an Act of Parliament)
56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
Website: www.sanskrit.nic.in

Advertisement No. 05/2026 Date: 24.07.2026

NOTIFICATION FOR ONLINE INTERVIEW

The Central Sanskrit University, Delhi is inviting online applications from eligible Indian Nationals for engagement of full-time faculty of **Assistant Professor** [(Law) (06 Position) & (Dharamshastra) (02 Positions)] purely on contractual basis in the Department of Indian Jurisprudence, Jaipur Campus, Jaipur in compliance with Bar Council of India rules of legal education, **2008**. Detailed information regarding online interview schedule, eligibility criteria, qualifications, age limit, reservation, engagement process, online application procedure, selection process and other essential requirements is available in the detailed advertisement no. 05/2026, available at CSU's website **www.sanskrit.nic.in** under **recruitment/notification** head. All interested candidates are strictly advised to go through the detailed advertisement before appearing in the online Interview.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR I/c

BEFORE THE HON'BLE MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL, ALAPPUZHA
O.P (M.V) No. 873/2023

(1)CHITRAN,S/o.Narayanan,Pappaliveli, S N Puram.P.O, Mararikulam North, Alappuzha - 688582
(2) KANAKA, W/o. Chithran, do - do
(3) KAVITHA. C.P, W/o. Ajikumar. A, Pathiyachira,Kanichukulangara.P.O, Mararikulam North, Alappuzha-688582

1st Respondent
P.S. Varghese, S/o. P.O. Skariah, House No. 5-C/54, NIT Faridabad, Haryana State - 121001

Notice to 1st Respondent
That the above case was filed by the petitioners for the death of Sreejith. C.P in a motor vehicle accident occurred on 07.03.2023. the said petition is posted to 7/09/2026 at 11 am before this Tribunal for the appearance of the 1st respondent either in person or through pleader or agent and to submit objection if any, failing which the above petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Alappuzha
16.07.2026 Sd/- JOSE Y JAMES
Counsel for the Petitioners

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(भारत सरकार का नवरत्न उपक्रम)
(A NAVRATNA UNDERTAKING OF GOVT OF INDIA)
Regd. Office & Investors Relation Centre: CONCOR Bhawan, C-3, Mathura Road, Opp. Apollo Hospital, New Delhi – 110076.
CIN : L63011DL1988GOI030915, e-mail : investorrelations@concorindia.com,
Tel. Nos. : 41673093-96, 41222300/600/700, website : http://www.concorindia.co.in

NOTICE OF RECORD DATE FOR INTERIM DIVIDEND FOR FY 2026-27

Notice is hereby given that 4th August, 2026 (Tuesday) has been fixed as the Record Date for the purpose of determining the entitlement of members to Interim Dividend @32% (₹1.60 per share on equity share of ₹5/- each), declared by the Board in its meeting held on 24.07.2026 for the financial year 2026-27. Further, Interim dividend will be paid:

(i) to those Members whose names will appear in the Register of Members of the Company, after giving effect to all valid Share Transfers in physical form lodged with the Company and its Registrar on or before 4th August, 2026; or
(ii) in respect of Shares held in electronic form, to those "deemed members" whose names appear on the Statements of beneficial ownership furnished by National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) and Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL), at the end of business hours on 4th August, 2026.

In order to avail the facility of payment of dividend through Electronic Clearing Service (ECS), members of the Company, holding their shares in Demat mode are requested to submit the duly filled in ECS mandate form to their Depository Participant and those holding physical shares to Company's Share Transfer Agent and Registrar: *M/s Beetal Financial & Computer Services (P) Ltd., BEETAL HOUSE, 3rd Floor, 99, Madangir, Behind Local Shopping Centre, Near Dada Harsukhdas Mandir, New Delhi – 110062.* ECS instructions once furnished by the member will supersede all his/ her previous bank mandates/details. ECS mandate form is available on Company's website: www.concorindia.co.in.

Shareholders holding shares in dematerialized mode are requested to update their records such as tax residential status, and permanent account number (PAN), mobile numbers and other details with the relevant depositories through their depository participants. Shareholders holding shares in physical mode are requested to furnish details to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, M/s Beetal Financial & Computer Services (P) Ltd at concor@beetalfinancial.com.

Shareholders are also requested to register/ update their E-mail ID with company at investorrelations@concorindia.com/ their Depository participants/ Company's Registrar & Share Transfer Agent at concor@beetalfinancial.com which will be used for sending official documents through e-mail in future.

Shareholders are requested to claim their unpaid/ unclaimed dividend, if any by writing to company at its Registered office or email or to its R&TA. Dividends if remained unpaid or unclaimed for a period of seven years shall be transferred by the company to the Investor Education and Protection Fund. Further, all shares in respect of which dividend has not been paid or claimed for seven consecutive years or more shall be transferred by the company in the name of Investor Education and Protection Fund.

For Container Corporation of India Ltd.
sd/-
(Harish Chandra)
PED (Finance) & Company Secretary

Place: New Delhi
Date : 24.07.2026

Government of India
Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals
ENGAGEMENT OF TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

The Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals invites applications for engagement of three Technical Consultants i.e. two Mid-level and one Entry-level -on a contractual basis.

2. Detailed vacancy circular dated 01/07/2026 and 27/05/2026 are available on the website **https://chemicals.gov.in/recruitments**. Interested candidates may submit their applications in the prescribed format within 21 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News to the following address:

Deputy Secretary (Admin),
Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals
Room No. 23051, 3rd Floor,
Kartavya Bhawan - 02, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road,
New Delhi-110001
CBC-02101/11/0005/2627

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)
(An Autonomous Body of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun - 248 006

Advt. No. 1-45/2009-ADG (EM)/Project Personal/ICFRE – Vol. III Dated: 23.07.2026

Walk-in-Interview

Walk in interview for temporary positions, purely on contractual basis under the following consultancy projects of EM Division will be held **on 12.08.2026 in the committee room of EM Division, ICFRE H.Q. Building from 11.00 AM** onwards:

S. N.	Name of Projects	Name & No. of posts	Duration
1	Assessment of Environmental Damage resulting from Unauthorized Use/Diversion of Forest Land for Setting up Integrated Steel Plant in Bokaro District, Jharkhand', M/s. ESL Steel Ltd.	Project Associate - 01	08 Months
2	Post Impoundment Environmental Study of Vyasi Hydroelectric Project (120 MW) on Yamuna River in Uttarakhand	Project Associate - 01	01 Year

Willing candidates may see the details of Ad including requirement of qualification, work experience, terms of conditions of engagement at ICFRE website **www.icfre.org** - Recruitment (Home page).

Assistant Director General (EM)
ICFRE, Dehradun

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S TATHASTU REALTY PRIVATE LIMITED
(CIN U70109HR2022PTC123262)
Registered Office: 10th Floor, Tower-B, Vatika Towers, Golf Course Road, Sec-54, Gurgaon, Haryana, India- 122011
E-mail: - cs@gangarealty.com, Phone No.:0124-4544650

Whereas M/s Tathastu Realty Private Limited is in the process of developing an Affordable Group Housing Colony namely **"TATHASTU 35"** situated in Village Mohammadpur Gujjar, Sector-35, Tehsil Sohna, District Gurugram over an area measuring 9.90625 Acres under Licence No. 131 dated 2023 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 108 of 2023 dated 04.12.2023.

And Whereas M/s Tathastu Realty Private Limited (hereinafter referred "Company") has applied for change in Bank Account from ICICI Bank Limited to Indusind Bank Limited and accordingly Company has obtained Deficiency Letter for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurgaon. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/ informed that the following changes in bank accounts.

Particulars	Previous Bank Accounts	New Bank Accounts
Bank Name	ICICI Bank Ltd	Indusind Bank Limited
IFSC Code	ICIC0007390	INDB0000005
Master Collection Account No. (100%)	739005000523	256000500161
RERA Account No. (70%)	739005000524	256000500162
Promoter Free Cash Flow Account No. (30%)	739005000520	256000500163

Date: 24.07.2026
Place: Gurugram
Sd/-
M/s Tathastu Realty Private Limited

EXPRESS Careers

Advertisement No. 83/2026
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board invites applications for the post of Director (Human Resources)
in
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)
Last date of submission of application by applicants is by 15:00 hours on 11th August, 2026
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is by 17:00 hours on 20th August, 2026.
For details login to website **https://pesb.gov.in**

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

Language No Bar

THE CONGRESS'S social media team, led by senior party leader Supriya Shrinate, had a tough task at hand on Friday – to translate Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi's newspaper article on the "education system's collapse" into different regional languages. The social media team didn't rely on Artificial Intelligence for the translations and asked its teams in different states to do the needful. Some senior leaders in the Delhi team also lost their cool when some of the state teams did not give a prompt response. The article by Sonia Gandhi was translated into 11 regional languages, including Telugu, Gujarati and Punjabi, and shared on social media handles in the states.

Rare Coffee Table Book

FORMER COMPTROLLER and Auditor General (CAG) of India Vinod Rai got nostalgic at a gathering on Thursday after being presented with a coffee table book chronicling his life and public service. Authored by B S Chauhan — a 1983-batch Indian Information Service officer who is serving as the media advisor to the current CAG, K Sanjay Murthy — the book is said to be the first coffee table book dedicated to a former CAG. It offers a glimpse into the life and career of Rai, a 1972-batch Kerala-cadre IAS officer who retired in 2013. Chauhan also presented a copy of the book to the current CAG.

No Network

SEVERAL REPORTERS who came to the National Media Centre in the Capital on Friday afternoon to attend the much-anticipated Cabinet briefing — in the wake of PM Narendra Modi's midnight message indicating crucial steps to prevent paper leaks — were disappointed to learn that mobile Internet services were down at the venue. Officials then managed a Wi-Fi connection to salvage the situation.

Will monitor NEET overhaul steps, take those extra miles: SC

Problems being monitored and supervised at highest level: SG

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, July 24

AMID THE ongoing protest in Delhi against paper leaks, the Supreme Court said Friday it would closely monitor the Centre's overhaul of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), cautioning that a shift to computer-based testing alone would not eliminate the risk of paper leaks.

The Centre, meanwhile, assured the top court it was going "10 extra miles" to safeguard the NEET process.

A bench presided by Justice P S Narasimha, and also comprising Justice Alok Aradhe, was hearing pleas seeking reconstitution of the NTA following the alleged NEET-UG 2026 question paper leaks.

"We will monitor it, we will see. We will take those extra miles... We cannot let this go on... We will see that this is completely institutionalised and how it works, not just the commencement. We will follow it up throughout the year and see that complete and total institutionalisation takes place," Justice Narasimha said.

At the outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta sought more time to file an affidavit in the matter, explaining what is being done to secure the process, and said he will present a "holistic view".

"Children's problems will have to be addressed without any reservations. I can assure you from my personal knowledge, it is being monitored, supervised, and everything is being done at the highest executive level," Mehta said.

This comes a day after PM Narendra Modi announced forming fast-track courts to ensure swift justice in paper leak cases.

Referring to the recommendations of the high-powered committee constituted in 2024 under the former ISRO chairman K Radhakrishnan Committee to overhaul NTA to make the NEET foolproof, the top court then highlighted some points which it said the Centre's proposed affidavit should reflect.

"Last time, we mentioned the Radhakrishnan Committee's recommendations. It specifically refers to the governing board. Your affidavit should indicate exactly what has been done with respect to the board. And this would comprise transparency of the test, nominations and stakeholder equations," Justice Narasimha said.

"So far as the domain-specific requirement... You have indicated that IITs, UGC, and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sanghatan have been considered, but then it doesn't indicate what progress has been made with respect to the domain experts," Justice Narasimha added.

Justice Narasimha said, "We are focusing on institutionalisation. Ad hocism has troubled us for years." He said the government should also address the aspects of printing and transportation of papers. "I am aware a similar issue arose two years back and we had explained, right from printing to when students get the paper, what the system is in place."

Justice Narasimha referred to the government's decision to deploy the IAF to transport question papers this time, saying, "that is only an ad hoc situation, not a permanent one."

Mehta said, "I can assure that with children, there cannot be any adversarial approach. The Radhakrishnan Committee (recommendations) is fully accepted. But we are going beyond that."

Justice Narasimha asked how data would be kept safe when NEET switches to digital mode. "That's very important because when you shift to this, leaks could occur, making data unsafe. And the entire thing breaks down," he said. Mehta said there has been no such instance as of now, but they will have to be careful.

Real Creator IAS Edition https://t.me/+2RvD_RGf9mljMzg1

Real Creator IAS Edition https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F

TOP COURT TO HEAR ON JULY 27 PLEAS AGAINST POLICE EXCESSES ON STUDENTS

The Supreme Court will hear on July 27 two petitions alleging police excesses against students protesting at Jantar Mantar and other places in the country since Monday against the alleged NEET question paper leak. CJI Surya Kant, presiding over a three-judge bench, told Senior Advocates Gopal Sankaranarayanan and Shyam Divan, "Let it be listed, we will entertain." Sankaranarayanan told the bench, also comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, that there are two petitions dealing with the violence that took place across the country. "There is urgency because this is happening on a daily basis." He said the "police are using excessive force against children". "It is just going on unabated. Some controls are necessary. The court stands between us and the police." Sankaranarayanan said he was waiting for the court's Registry to grant diary numbers before he could mention the same for an urgent hearing. "We didn't want to mention (the matter) until we got the diary numbers. We have diary numbers and properly constituted petitions. The states are parties," he submitted. **ENS**

Not a single page related to protests filed on July 22: CJI

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi. July 24

CHIEF JUSTICE of India Surya Kant on Friday dismissed as "reckless reporting" that he had denied listing of a plea on July 22 against crackdown on protesters during 'Chalo Sansad' march on July 20, and said that "not a single page has been filed" and "only a representation was received".

During the mentioning hours, CJI Kant, presiding over a three-judge bench, said, "In the last two days, a completely false statement was made that a matter has been filed. And the media is absolutely free from all responsibility, falsely reporting that the Chief Justice refused to list the matter." The remarks came when Senior Advocate Shoeb Alam sought listing of an unrelated matter.

"Until 10 am, I tried to find out, no case had been filed... Not a single page has been filed in the Supreme Court. It was one representation... How can I treat the representation as a writ petition? And people start recklessly reporting this," the CJI said.

LoP Rahul Gandhi with Sahil Lochab in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

Pellet-hit student by his side, Rahul slams Pradhan, says PM must apologise

Asad Rehman
New Delhi, July 24

CONTINUING TO up the ante against the Centre and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Friday addressed reporters along with a student protester who had suffered pellet gun injuries in police action amid the protest in the national capital against paper leaks on July 20.

Gandhi said Pradhan must be removed, action must be taken against the personnel who shot at protesters with pellet guns and lathicharged them, and PM Narendra Modi should apologise to students.

"My brother was struck by a pellet gun when he was peacefully protesting with a Tricolour," said Gandhi, pointing to 19-year-old Sahil Lochab while addressing reporters outside CPP chief Sonia Gandhi's 10, Janpath residence.

Gandhi lifted Sahil's T-shirt to show his injuries to the media and said the teenager also risked losing vision in an eye damaged by pellets. "This has happened to thousands of youth. They have been shot at with pellet guns and have been beaten up in lathicharge," Gandhi said.

Sahil, who was allegedly hit by the pellet gun in his right eye, said he demands justice.

The LoP said Sahil had written an exam for recruitment in the police force but the question paper was leaked. "His (Sahil's) parents, from their hard-earned money, had got him this opportunity (to appear for the exam). The government must stop lying. It has attacked our future," he said.

"They (protesters) are saying three things — the Education Minister, because of whom the students are protesting and paper leaks happened, must be removed; action must be taken against those who have fired at our future and beat them with lathis; and Narendra Modi... should apologise to students," Gandhi said. "Stop assaulting and threatening our students."

Later, in a post on X, Gandhi wrote: "Sahil is a student at Delhi University. He drives a car part-time to support his family. Like thousands of others, he too is a victim of paper leaks — the SSC Delhi Constable exam in 2025. Now he's worried that the SSC has chosen the same vendor again, and that the paper might leak again."

NEET protests sweep states; agitators, cops clash in Kolkata

ENS & PTI
Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, July 24

PROTESTS AGAINST the NEET paper leak spread to several states Friday, a day after the CJP called for nationwide demonstrations, with youth condemning the Delhi Police crackdown on July 20 and demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

The Congress directed its state units to organise a candlelight march and 'satyagraha' in each district on Saturday evening in protest against "irregularities in NEET and CBSE exams and the subsequent repressive actions by the Narendra Modi government".

Massive crowds poured onto central Kolkata Friday as clashes broke out in Esplanade's Dorina Crossing, with protesters allegedly pelting stones and hurling shoes at the police, and the latter resorting to lathicharge. Some members of the media were also injured after a few agitators allegedly beat them up.

CM Suvendu Adhikari met the injured journalists and said, "Those mediapersons who are injured should file an FIR. We will take action. The culprits will not be spared. Is this a protest against NEET? Those who have attacked journalists will be punished... We have identified them. They have no connection with NEET protests."

The Kolkata stir, organised by the SFI, saw participation from even the TMC's Chhatra Parishad and the Youth Congress. After being refused permission to organise an independent march, the CJP also extended its support to the SFI-led march.

Police officers claimed that some protesters began fighting among themselves following rumours that "outsiders" had infiltrated the rally. The situation escalated into a tense stand-off.

In Mumbai, thousands gathered at Shivaji Park as part of a 'Tiranga Morcha' organised by Shiv Sena (UBT). Party leader Aaditya Thackeray said he has urged CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke not to return to Maharashtra until the demands are met.

In Nagpur, the mother of a NEET aspirant who died by suicide in May addressed a protest event and sought the resignation of PM Narendra Modi and Pradhan.

Several parts of Karnataka witnessed protests and counter-protests, with police detaining the protesters, preventing rival groups from clashing and stepping up security at multiple locations. BJP held protests against the attack on its leaders during their agitation near Congress office in Bengaluru Wednesday.

In Chandigarh and Kaithal, the students were joined by farmers, lawyers and activists.

Carrying placards with slogans like 'Take Responsibility, Save Students', 'Enough is Enough', 'Raise Your Voice' and 'Please Save My Future', the protesters expressed solidarity with the agitating youths. In Kerala, Youth Congress activists held a march in Kollam in support of CJP and the student stir in Delhi.

In Tamil Nadu, protests against NEET continued, with hundreds of students demanding its scrapping and resignation of Pradhan. The sit-in at Balan Illam, which began on a small scale, gained momentum, leading to over 500 people, including film personalities, taking part. They even made a vain attempt to take a march to Lok Bhavan in Guindy, but were stopped by police.

Protest in Mumbai's Shivaji Park on Friday. SANKHADEEP BANERJEE

Video of cop 'grabbing' woman misinterpreted: Mumbai Police

Express News Service
Mumbai, July 24

A DAY after a Mumbai Police constable was transferred over a viral video in which he allegedly threatened protesters with a false narcotics case, another video involving a police officer has sparked controversy, with Opposition leaders demanding action.

The latest video, widely circulated on social media, purportedly shows a plainclothes officer grabbing a woman protester as police personnel disperse a crowd.

Mumbai Police rejected allegations of misconduct, saying the video was being misinterpreted. DCP (Operations) Akbar Pathan said senior officers reviewed the footage. "The video in reference is being irresponsibly misinterpreted. The officer was trying to hold on to a male protester and a woman stepped in while he was looking away," Pathan said.

Congress MP Varsha Gaikwad shared the video on X, tagging CM Devendra Fadnavis, and asked why a male officer was physically handling a woman protester. NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar also demanded strict action. BJP spokesperson Navnath Ban accused Pawar of trying to malign Mumbai Police for political gain. Ban said the video showed officers rushing to catch a man in a blue shirt and argued there was no evidence the officer had deliberately misbehaved with the woman.

Govt orders GitHub to block Bitchat app that works without Internet

Soumyarendra Barik
New Delhi, July 24

AMID REPEATED mobile Internet shutdowns around Delhi's Jantar Mantar, the site of the ongoing students' protests, the government has directed GitHub to disable access to repositories hosting Bitchat, an offline messaging application developed by Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey.

"The government of India does not like technologies like Bitchat and wants it taken down," said Jack Dorsey, platform's co-founder. Dorsey also shared a copy of the blocking order by Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the MHA, issued to GitHub on July 23. According to the order copy shared by Dorsey, I4C said the app could be used to evade lawful surveillance and coordinate unlawful assemblies during restrictions on Internet services.

The order invoked Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act, 2000, along with Rule 3(1)(d) of the IT Rules, 2021, and asked GitHub to disable access to three repositories linked to Bitchat within three hours. The URLs include the app's main source-code repository, its Android repository and a page used to distribute its Android installation file.

Bitchat is an open-source, decentralised messaging app that can allow users located near each other to communicate without mobile data, Wi-Fi, phone numbers or centralised servers. Its offline mode uses Bluetooth Low Energy to connect nearby phones, with each device capable of relaying messages to others and thereby extending the network's reach.

The order, shared by Dorsey, said the app's design "creates a substantial risk of misuse by anti-national elements, terrorist organisations, organised criminal groups, and cybercriminals seeking to evade lawful detection" despite "legally imposed restrictions". Queries sent to Home Ministry remained unanswered until publication.

Suspended constable hands over his badge to Dipke, 'resigns'

Aiswarya Raj
Dehradun, July 24

SAYING HE was extending solidarity with the protesters, a police constable from Uttarakhand "resigned" from his post while on the stage at Jantar Mantar Friday. Uttarakhand Police, however, said later the constable had already been placed under suspension earlier.

The constable, Sher Singh, alleged that the question paper for a patwari post was available at grocery stores. He was referring to reports of exam leaks in Uttarakhand since 2021.

"This is Bhagat Singh's country; revolution doesn't come through bombs or pistols... we will tackle these thugs. Revolution comes from ideas and ideas never die," he said, removing his badge and handing it over to CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke.

IG Nivedita Kukreti said Singh was posted in Pithoragarh and suspended on July 20 for his absence from the force since June 28. She said an FIR was registered in Haridwar last year and he was arrested on September 15 in connection with alleged land encroachment cases and involvement with organised crime. Process for his dismissal was ongoing, she said.

Delhi court denies bail to doctor accused in NEET paper leak case

Nirbhay Thakur
New Delhi, July 24

A DELHI court on Friday denied bail to paediatrician Manoj Shirure, one of the accused in the 2026 NEET-UG paper leak case, noting that the leak had caused "disrepute to the nation".

"It is widely known that the paper leak of NEET-UG 2026 has severely impacted millions of NEET aspirants in India and abroad. In case the allegations against the accused persons... as presented till date are taken on their face value, the same would prima facie show that in order to satisfy their greed and to gain illegal wealth, they not only sabotaged the entire process of [the]...exam which was supposed to be conducted fairly and flawlessly but by their aforesaid illegal acts, they have also brought disrepute to the nation," Special Judge Ajay Gupta of Rouse Avenue Court said in his order dated July 24.

The allegation against Shirure was that Siddhivinayak Hospital, which he ran in Latur, Maharashtra, was used to "facilitate access to a chemistry question paper in April 2026", ahead of the exam scheduled on May 3.

With bipartisan support, how House passed 2024 anti-paper leak Act

Vikas Pathak
New Delhi, July 24

Barely two-and-a-half months before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the then Narendra Modi government brought the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, in Parliament, which sought to prevent "unfair means" in order to "bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility to the public examinations system".

These exams include common entrance tests and government recruitment exams conducted by "public examination authorities" such as the UPSC and NTA, among others. The Bill was passed by both Houses in February 2024 during the Budget Session.

Amid its current standoff with students and protesters led by the CJP, the Modi government is planning to amend the 2024 Bill to make it more stringent.

Piloting the Bill in Lok Sabha on February 6, 2024, Union Minister Jitendra Singh underlined that while the Bill seeks to punish officials or organisations that indulge in various exam malpractices, including leaks of question papers and tampering of answer sheets, students or candidates will not come under its purview.

While the Act stipulates a prison term of three to five years and a fine up to Rs 10 lakh for any person resorting to unfair means in exams, it provides for a jail term up to 10 years and a fine over Rs 1 crore, in cases of "organised" paper leaks.

The Bill had bipartisan support in both Houses.

Introducing the Bill in LS, Singh flagged media reports about 18-year-old Niharika Solanki, a JEE aspirant from Kota, who had died by suicide two days before exam on 31 January 2024. The minister quoted from the girl's suicide note: "Mummy, papa, please forgive me. I cannot do it. I am the worst daughter."

Singh had said the government was taking steps to serve the youth just months after it had passed a constitutional amendment legislation, 2023, to provide for one-third reservation for women in LS and Assemblies.

"In all provisions made for the youth in the last 10 years, it has been seen that there is transparency and that the youth get opportunities in keeping with their talent (*pratibha*), ability (*yogyata*) and hard work (*parishram*)," Singh had said.

He noted that most of the exams were now computer-based to ensure transparency.

Singh pointed out that there have been complaints in recent years that question papers have been leaked, citing instances of impersonation and papers being solved outside the exam centres. He gave such examples from the then TMC-ruled West Bengal in 2022, the then Congress-ruled Rajasthan during 2018-2022, and J&K between 2017 and 2022.

Supporting the Bill, Congress MP K Suresh had urged the government to use the latest technology to ensure that there were no exam irregularities. Then Congress leader in LS, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, had said that the Bill "lacks preventive measures to reduce such acts".

DMK MP D M Kathir Anand also said that the Bill "only talks about imprisonment, punishment and fine", adding that it has "not said anything about how these malpractices can be controlled".

In his reply, the minister said that "punishment itself is a deterrent meant for prevention".

While supporting the Bill, NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule asked what difference it would make. "There is a system in place. If there is any scam, people do get caught. Then... what are you bringing in today in the Bill that didn't exist in the past?"

TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee said the categories of offences mentioned in the Bill were already covered in IPC and BNS 2023. The deficiencies, he noted, were not in the absence of laws, but in their implementation.

Replying to the debate, Singh said: "This is a specific legislation because in the existing BNS, offences like these are not specifically mentioned, and therefore, we have identified and tried to define 'unfair means' in the conduct of exams to the best of our ability." "If the magnitude of the crime goes beyond an extent, it will fall in the domain of the BNS or the erstwhile IPC."

In Rajya Sabha, the Bill was taken up on February 9, 2024. Jitendra Singh again cited the Kota girl's suicide note, saying that "We have huge stakes in the youth who comprise over 70% of India's population and, therefore, none of us would like vital youth energy and youth power to be sacrificed at the altar of a handful of selfish interests." Congress leader Digvijaya Singh backed the Bill in principle, but added that the biggest of such scams was the Vyapam scandal in BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh. He said while those who gave bribes were jailed, those who took it were "roaming free". He alleged that the online exams had become a major source of corruption, suggesting that all exams be held offline.

Backing the Bill, BJP MP Prakash Javadekar praised the NTA formed under him, saying it was set up since PM Modi wanted "purity" in exam system. Significantly, it was under NTA that the 2024 and 2026 NEET-UG paper leaks took place.

Then AAP MP Sandeep Pathak, who defected to BJP in 2026, said there were 70 paper leaks in seven years prior to 2024. Pathak suggested that the guilty in such cases be given life imprisonment and their property confiscated. Singh quipped that as per his proposal, the property of all AAP leaders in jail should be confiscated. After the minister's short reply, the Bill was passed.

Commercial vessel attacked in Black Sea, Indian killed

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, July 24

AN INDIAN seafarer was killed in an attack on a ship while it was reportedly transiting Russian territorial waters in the Black Sea on July 18, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

This came to light days after four Indians were among 10 killed in an attack on a commercial vessel off the coast of Ukraine on July 19.

"It has come to our attention that on July 18, the commercial vessel MV OMORFI was attacked while transiting the Black Sea, reportedly in Russian territorial waters. At the time of the incident, there were 10 crew members on board, including three Indian nationals," the MEA said.

"As per available information, one Indian national tragically lost his life in the attack. We extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved family of the deceased. The other two Indian nationals on board are reported to be safe," MEA said.

It said the Indian mission in Russia has reached out to the relevant authorities and is making efforts to extend all possible assistance to the affected family.

"India unequivocally condemns such attacks targeting commercial shipping and placing the lives of innocent civilian crew members at risk. It is a matter of serious concern that the freedom of navigation and international commerce is facing increasing threats," the MEA said. "India calls upon all concerned parties to uphold international obligations to ensure the safety and security of maritime navigation and uninterrupted flow of global commerce."

On Tuesday, New Delhi had summoned the Russian charge Charge d'affaires following the killing of the four Indians in the strike on the MV Golden Leo vessel on July 19.

In response to Moscow indicating that the ship in Black Sea was targeted for carrying military supplies for Ukraine, India on Friday said that the vessel was carrying "grain" as cargo.

During a weekly briefing, the Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, while responding to Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov's comments, said: "As per information made available to us from the Directorate General of Maritime Administration, India, MV Golden Leo, the Guinea-Bissau-flagged commercial vessel involved in the tragic incident in the Odesa port, had loaded grain as cargo prior to departure on 19 July 2026..."

Boulders roll down on taxi in Lahaul-Spiti, infant among 13 killed

Saurabh Parashar
Shimla, July 24

ALL 13 occupants of a taxi, including a six-month-old child, were killed as massive boulders suddenly fell from a hill and crushed the moving vehicle in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul and Spiti on Friday, police said. The overloaded taxi, a Tata Sumo, also caught fire in the incident that took place near Kuddu Nala on the Udaipur-Killad road, they said.

Wreckage of the vehicle in Lahaul-Spiti on Friday. PTI

While Deputy Commissioner, Lahaul and Spiti, Kiran Badana confirmed that 13 people have died in the accident, local MLA Anuradha Rana said 10 victims deceased belonged to Pangi in Chamba district, while three, including a woman and her infant, were from Lahaul and Spiti.

According to the preliminary information, the passengers had remained stranded overnight at Tindi as the Udaipur-Killad road was closed for traffic the previous day. They set off for Pangi in the morning after the road reopened.

Apart from the infant, the victims include seven men and four women. They were identified as Bir Singh, Buthi Singh, Bir Singh, Kamla Kumari, Anil Kumar, Rekha, Saurabh Singh, Anjana, Soman Angmo, Aaru (the infant), Sanjay Kumar and Hans Raj, DC Badhana said.

MLA Rana said, "The weather was clear, but there were reports of shooting stones in the area. All the bodies were recovered from the mangled vehicle and taken to the Civil Hospital at Udaipur for post-mortem examination."

Rana said there was no telecom signal at the accident spot and she used a satellite phone to reach out to SP (Lahaul-Spiti) Shivani Mehla for carrying out rescue and relief operations.

Personnel from the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) reached the spot as did police teams from Lahaul and Tindi, and officials from Udaipur administration and other emergency agencies.

Expressing grief, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu directed that all possible assistance be provided to the next of kin of the deceased.

In a separate incident, a woman died and seven people were injured in a landslide in Mandi.

The Shimla Met office, meanwhile, issued an orange warning of heavy to very heavy rain state from July 27 to 29.

Ken-Betwa stir claims its first win, activist suspends fast

Anand Mohan J
Bhopal, July 24

EIGHTEEN DAYS after beginning an indefinite hunger strike against alleged irregularities in the rehabilitation of families affected by the Ken-Betwa Link Project in Madhya Pradesh, Jai Kisan Sangathan leader Amit Bhatnagar on Friday suspended his fast, saying the agitation had achieved its "first success" after the state agreed to conduct fresh village-level surveys to identify families left out of compensation and rehabilitation.

Bhatnagar, who has been leading the Ken-Betwa Chita Andolan, said he was ending only the indefinite fast and not the movement itself.

"After achieving the first success of this 18-day indefinite fast, I am suspending my hunger strike today. But this struggle has not ended. From today, I am taking a pledge of 'Nyay Satyagraha'. Until the last eligible person receives justice under the project, I will not rest. I will go from village to village, lead this movement, cooperate with every positive step taken by the administration and monitor every promise. If required, the next phase of the agitation will also begin," he said.

The rehabilitation process concerns villages falling within the Daudhan Dam submergence zone. Bhatnagar had alleged that hundreds of eligible families were excluded from rehabilitation lists, that compensation assessments were flawed, and that Gram Sabha proceedings contained irregularities.

According to Bhatnagar, district authorities have agreed to form joint teams comprising officials and representatives of the Jai Kisan Sangathan to conduct fresh village-by-village surveys in Chhatarpur district and include every eligible family that had been left out.

• BRIEFLY

Devotees during the Bahuda Yatra in Puri on Friday. ANI

ODISHA

Devotee dies of 'suffocation' in Puri amid massive procession rush

A DEVOTEE died of suffocation amid a big rush of people who attended the Bahuda Yatra, or the return chariot procession, of Lord Jagannath in Puri on Friday, officials said. According to health department officials, the 57-year-old man from Cuttack collapsed in the crowd while pulling the chariot. He was immediately rushed to the nearby health centre and then to the Puri district headquarters hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Officials said that as per a preliminary report, the deceased had high blood pressure. More than 100 people suffered health issues amid the big rush and humid conditions during the Bahuda Yatra on Friday. "Most of the patients were discharged from hospital after preliminary treatment," an official said. ENS

Boy falls off auto, dies after being run over by lorry

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD boy died after falling from an autorickshaw while returning from school and being run over by a lorry in Kerala's Kozhikode district on Friday, police said. The deceased was identified as Amal, a Class 2 student. According to police, the incident occurred around 4 pm when Amal was returning home in an autorickshaw. When the vehicle reached Pulparamba, its door accidentally opened and the child fell onto the road, police said. A lorry travelling behind the autorickshaw ran over the boy, killing him on the spot, they said. PTI

2 workers killed in factory blast in Saharanpur

TWO MIGRANT workers were killed while two others went missing after an explosion took place at a fireworks factory in Saharanpur district in UP on Friday. Twenty three labourers from Madhya Pradesh were employed at the factory in Gangoh area, police said. The deceased were identified as Deepraj Devde, 23, and Sandeep, 25. Their bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination. The factory premises have been sealed. With no trace of the two missing workers, police suspect they may have fled the scene out of fear following the blast. ENS

Shah dials kin of policeman killed in Anantnag terror attack

Naveed Iqbal
Srinagar, July 24

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah Friday dialled the family of the policeman who was killed in Anantnag on July 22. Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, a resident of Budgam, who was posted with the Indian Reserve Police and attached with the Special Operations Group, was on Amarnath Yatra duty.

The J&K Police said that a militant fired at Qureshi from point blank range near Lalchowk in Anantnag.

BJP's Sunil Sharma, Leader of the Opposition in the J&K Assembly, visited the family on Friday to offer condolences. During the visit, the LoP facilitated the call between Qureshi's son Absar and the HM during which Shah offered his condolences to the family. Qureshi is survived by his wife and three children.

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also visited Beerwah to meet the family members of Qureshi. Sinha paid tribute to the policeman and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family. He said the entire nation is proud of the braveheart "whose courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty will remain etched in our collective memory."

He assured the family that the administration stands firmly with them and will ensure their well-being and dignity. The LG also assured full support to the family until Qureshi's son finishes his studies and becomes eligible for a compassionate government appointment.

EXPRESS special

Now Bengal: Led by BJP leader, prayers held outside 650-year-old mosque

Ravik Bhattacharya
Kolkata, July 24

A MANDIR-MASJID row is brewing now in West Bengal as a Hindu right-wing group, led by a BJP leader, conducts prayers near a 650-year-old mosque which it claims was once a temple, in Malda district. On the coming Monday, the 'Adinath Puratan Shiv Mandir' organisation plans to install a big Shiva Lingam outside the mosque.

Built in 1373 AD by Sikandar Shah, the Adina Masjid in Pandua, Malda, is considered by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to have been the biggest mosque in medieval times in the entire subcontinent. However, Hindu groups and the BJP have been claiming that it came up in the place of an 'Adinath Temple', dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Kajal Goswami, the chief patron of the Adinath Puratan Shiv Mandir and a convenor of the BJP's 'Good Governance Wing' for North Bengal, says: "There are Hindu and Buddhist statues in the so-called mosque. The Adinath Temple was destroyed to build a mosque on it."

The organisation claims many Hindu and Buddhist motifs are present in the mosque, apart from a Shiva Lingam, and says it will approach the Calcutta High Court soon seeking an ASI report on the issue.

"Our aim is to restore the temple and place the Shiva Lingam inside it," Goswami says. A 3.6-ft-high Shiva Lingam, weighing 1.5 tonnes, is being brought from Tarakeshwar, 289 km away, for installation near the mosque.

The Adina Masjid in Malda was built in 1373 AD. SOURCE: ASI

"But we will follow the law," Goswami stresses. "We do not want a law and order problem. We have already held a meeting with representatives of the ASI and police, and they told us to do puja outside the mosque area."

Calling the mosque "a historic monument", a senior ASI official confirmed to *The Indian Express* that their representatives had held a meeting with the organisers of the prayers. "Nothing will be allowed inside the monument. Police deployment has been increased. We are also increasing our staff strength." No prayers are currently held inside the mosque.

Recently, the Malda district police issued an advisory saying it had heard about social media posts claiming that "certain individuals intend to visit Adina Monument and perform religious rituals, including puja and other ceremonies". 'The general public is hereby informed that Adina Monument is a Centrally Protected Monument of National Importance under the Archaeological Survey of India and is governed by the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act). No religious rituals or any other unauthorized activities are permitted within the protected monument premises," the statement added, warning strict legal action in case of any violation.

It was on December 5, 2025, that – months to go for the West Bengal Assembly elections – BJP Rajya Sabha MP and current Bengal president Samik Bhattacharya scaled the issue up, to Parliament.

In his statement in the House, he said: 'The Adina Mosque... was constructed in 1373 AD by Sultan Sikandar Shah of Bengal Sultanate. This mosque was built using material from pre-existing Hindu and Buddhist structures. Local traditions and historical accounts suggest that the site was originally home to Adinath Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu. The presence of Hindu iconography within the mosque and architecture supports this assertion."

Adding that "the Adinath Temple needs to be protected at any cost", Bhattacharya said: "It is one of those thousands of temples which, following the invasion of West Bengal, were destroyed by the invading hordes... I hope that the Government of India, the Archaeological Survey of India, will look into the matter seriously."

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, BJP Rajya Sabha MP and former West Bengal chief Rahul Sinha compared the dispute to the Ayodhya Babri Masjid row. "A lot of emotions and religious sentiments prevail in connection with the Adinath Temple. Like Ram Mandir and other temples, it was also destroyed and a mosque built on it... The religious sentiment surrounding the temple should not be ignored, and truth must prevail."

CPI(M) state secretary and Politburo member Md Salim said it was a familiar playbook of the BJP. "The BJP or RSS, whenever they get a foothold, they start this. In the first stage, they bring in religious activities. Then they create conflict and division. The Adina Mosque is the latest example."

4 killed after car falls into drain as Gujarat reels under monsoon fury

Aditi Raja & Ritu Sharma
Vadodara, Ahmedabad, July 24

FOUR MEN were killed and two others were rescued after their car skidded off a rain-soaked highway and plunged into a drain in Gujarat's Kheda district late Thursday night, as incessant monsoon showers continued to wreak havoc across the state.

The victims were residents of Ahmedabad. Preliminary investigations suggest the driver lost control of the vehicle while negotiating a sharp bend amid heavy rain. The car overturned and was swept into a fast-flowing drain, trapping those inside.

According to officials, two occupants seated in the front managed to survive and were rescued after an extensive operation, while the four passengers in the rear seats drowned.

The victims were identified as Raj Rathod, 26, Mustakim Rajput, 19, Mayur Panchal, 34, and Virendrasinh Shekhawat, 26.

Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel interacts with people in Ahmedabad on Friday. EXPRESS

Meanwhile, Ahmedabad was inundated by 295 mm of rain in the 24 hours ending 6 am Friday, marking the city's fourth-highest single-day rainfall ever, according to IMD records. The weather bureau said Ahmedabad received 294.6 mm of rain between 6 am Thursday and 6 am Friday. This is the highest rain seen in the city in a single day since 2000.

The deluge left several parts of the city under water, with residential societies, roads, and underpasses remaining submerged early Friday morning. Several cars and two-wheelers were spotted abandoned on roads.

The affected areas, some of which Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel visited on Friday, included the Sentossa Park on Ambli Road, Iscon Greens and Hariom Villa areas — all of these being luxurious apartment and bungalow schemes in the Bopal area.

Residents of Sabarmati, Chharanagar, and Rabarivas were stranded on their rooftops after water entered their homes. The Ahmedabad Fire and Emergency Services rescued nearly a dozen people.

"People had climbed onto the rooftops to save themselves. We rescued them," a civic body official said.

• ONE OF THE CONVICTS, A JUVENILE AT THE TIME OF THE 1999 ATTACK, HAS EMBRACED CHRISTIANITY, SAYS 'IT BROUGHT ME INNER PEACE'

Village where Staines was killed lives with regret, fears Dara Singh's return

Sujit Bisoyi
Manoharpur (Keonjhar), July 24

MANOHARPUR LIVES with regret — regret of the fire that killed Australian Christian missionary Graham Staines and his two minor sons 27 years ago in this Santhal village of Odisha. The possibility now that the main accused, Ravindra Pal alias Dara Singh, a former Bajrang Dal member who is serving a life term, may get premature release has brought the memories back.

Along with apprehension of what it might mean for the village that, on the face of it, is a long way from that night of January 22-23, 1999 — dotted by pucca houses and roads; marked by a police station that came up after the Staines killings, and has not seen any communal violence since; and home now to many more tribals who have embraced Christianity, among them a juvenile who was convicted in the murders.

Laxmi Hansdah, in her 60s, says: "That night will stay with me until I die. Why are you asking about it now?"

Dara, lodged in Keonjhar District Jail, moved the Supreme Court in 2024 seeking remission, appealing that he had spent 24 years in prison and that he repented acting as he did, in "a fit of youthful rage". The SC has directed the Odisha government to take a call on the matter within a month.

Dara, who was 37 when arrested, belongs to UP and it is not clear where he will choose to settle down if released.

Another accused in the case who was also serving life, Mahendra Hembram, came out on parole last year.

A villager, who does not want to be named, says he was a child in 1999 but remembers what happened enough to dread a repeat. "We are living in harmony... Whether Dara is released or not is up to the government and court, but it should not trigger problems in the village."

Ojen Hansdah, who was convicted for the Staines killing and spent six years in jail before being acquitted in 2005, is also repentant, though he claims he was framed. Partially paralysed, Hansdah says: "I don't know what exactly happened. It shouldn't have happened..."

Hansdah's nephew was the only juvenile convict in the case and spent nine years in a juvenile home before being freed in 2008. Now 38 and a father of two, he talks of "regret" too, while asserting that he was an unwitting participant in the attack. "A mob came and started attacking the vehicles."

• In Odisha's Keonjhar

At Manoharpur village, where Graham Staines and his two minor sons were killed in 1999

Earning a living from a small patch of farm, he converted to Christianity around two years ago. "It brought me inner peace," says the 38-year-old, adding: "Nobody influenced or pressured me. It was my own decision, stemming from grief and introspection..."

Asked about allegations of forcible conversion, including by Staines, Chetan Murmu, the pastor at a newly built church-cum-prayer house in the village who knew the missionary well, suggests the numbers say it all. Only seven of the over 250-households in the village were Christian when Staines and his sons were killed. "Now 41 families follow Christianity."

Talking about how Staines, who ran a centre for leprosy afflicted, helped his daughter, Murmu, 60, says releasing Dara would set a wrong precedent. "Staines was a victim of hate crime and his killers should not be allowed to walk free... And why did they kill his two innocent children?"

While he was in the Opposition, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who represents the Keonjhar Assembly constituency, had supported the demand for Dara's release.

Keonjhar BJP MP Aananta Nayak also supports it, saying Dara has already received his punishment.

Hembram, who was given life for Staines's killing and was released in April last year on grounds of "good behaviour", says he himself has "no regrets". "Staines was a missionary, who was invading our culture and forcing people to convert. The attack happened in a fit of rage by an angry mob."

Then just 21 and a final-year student doing his graduation, Hembram says he once dreamed of becoming an official "to serve the community". "It's all over now," he says, adding that no one in the village wants to associate with him since his release. He lives at his late elder brother's home and gets by on the Rs 10,000-Rs 15,000 monthly given by the 'Dara Sena', a little-known self-confessed fighter for Hinduism and for Dara Singh.

Hembram, 48, says he too is fighting for the release of Dara, "my elder brother", and visits him regularly in jail.

Staines arrived in Mayurbhanj in 1965. In 1999, he drove down with sons, 10 and 6, for the annual jungle camp in Manoharpur. On January 22, Staines and his sons went to sleep in their station wagon. Around midnight, the camp was attacked.

Hembram says he has one regret. "We were not aware his (Staines's) kids were inside the station wagon."

ED searches 9 locations in Punjab, J&K in narco-terror funding case

Express News Service
New Delhi, July 24

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) raided nine locations in the Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday in connection with an ongoing money laundering probe into alleged narco-terror funding.

The searches were carried out in multiple areas, including near the Line of Control, in connection with cases registered by the Jammu & Kashmir Police and the Punjab Police.

The investigation has revealed an alleged "well-organised and multi-layered" narco-terror funding network operating between Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. "The network involved Punjab-based handlers, including Satnam Singh and Manjit Singh alias Maan, and Kupwara-based operatives, including Safeer Ahmed and Kafeel Ahmed," said an ED spokesperson.

"Probe has revealed that heroin consignments were allegedly smuggled from Pakistan through handlers linked to the terrorist organisation Hizbul Mujahideen. These handlers allegedly coordinated with Kashmir-based accused persons, including Safeer Ahmed and Kafeel Ahmed, to smuggle heroin into India through the Amrohi border and the adjoining LoC areas," the spokesperson said.

According to an agency statement, they have allegedly retrieved 35 packets of heroin, five of which were "distributed or retained locally, while 30 packets were concealed inside a truck tyre for transportation to Srinagar".

The ED has alleged that the Punjab-side network, headed by Satnam Singh and Manjit Singh alias Maan, used forged documents, fake vehicle papers, concealed cavities, multiple vehicles and cash transactions to transport and distribute heroin.

Rajasthan: 2 die of Chandipura virus, state steps up surveillance

Parul Kulshrestha
Jaipur, July 24

TWO GIRLS from Rajasthan have died while undergoing treatment in Gujarat after testing positive for the Chandipura virus (CHPV), prompting the Rajasthan Health Department to step up surveillance in Dungarpur, Sirohi and Udaipur districts.

A six-year-old from Dungarpur's Ratanpura village died at the Civil Hospital in Himmatnagar, Sabarkantha, and a two-year-old from Sirohi district died at a hospital in Banaskantha, Gujarat.

As of July 24, nine confirmed Chandipura virus deaths have been reported in the current outbreak, of which seven are from Gujarat and two from Rajasthan.

Chandipura virus infection spreads through the bite of infected sandflies, small insects commonly found in rural areas.

The virus belongs to the Rhabdoviridae family and can cause inflammation of the brain.

Children, particularly those below 15 years of age, are considered more vulnerable. Symptoms include high fever, vomiting, seizures and altered consciousness, and the infection can become severe quickly.

Cases are generally reported during the monsoon season. The virus was first identified in 1965 in Chandipura village in Maharashtra, from where it gets its name.

The six-year-old fell ill on July 12 and was taken to hospitals in Simalwara, Dungarpur, and Meghraj and Modasa in Gujarat before being admitted to the Civil Hospital in Himmatnagar on July 14.

She died around 5 am on July 15, with a test report from the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre later confirming the infection.

Following the report, health teams visited Ratanpura village and surveyed 75 households, screening children for symptoms, but no suspected case was found, said Dungarpur Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Alankar Gupta.

"We have started fogging the area and creating awareness regarding the virus in the district," he added.

E. EXPLAINED

Children below 15 years vulnerable

CHANDIPURA VIRUS spreads through the bite of infected sandflies and small insects. The virus belongs to the Rhabdoviridae family and can cause inflammation of the brain. Children, particularly those below 15 years are considered more vulnerable.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1st Corrigendum to E-Tender Notice No. 08-EL-BKN-E-Tender-26-27

It is hereby informed that corrections have been made to the items in the Tender Schedule, and the corresponding Tender Specification has been amended accordingly. It is hereby informed that corrections have been made to the items in the Tender Schedule, and the corresponding Tender Specifications have been amended accordingly. All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer / G Bikaner
1080-DO/26

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-49
कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
(उ0 प्र0 सरकार का उपक्रम)
ई-6, प्रियदर्शनी नगर, निकट बी.डी.ए. ऑफिस, बरेली-243122 प्रधान कार्यालय टी.सी.-38-वी, विभूति खण्ड, गोमतीनगर, लखनऊ-226010
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Mob.9412665716

निविदा सूचना सं.: 1220/कार्य-15/255
दिनांक: 24.06.2026

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम, की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा जनपद बरेली में मण्डलीय संयुक्त निदेशक (प्रशि./शिक्षु.) के नवीन कार्यालय भवन का निर्माण कार्य, अनुमानित लागत रू. 118.55 लाख (जी.एस.टी. रहित एवं लेबर सेस सहित) हेतु सी. एण्ड डी.एस. में यथोचित श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से दिनांक 10.08.2026 को 15.00 बजे तक ई-निविदाएं आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 25.07.2026 से दिनांक 10.08.2026 को 15.00 बजे के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की **e-procurement** वेबसाइट **https://etender.up.nic.in** से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते है तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 10.08.2026 को 17:00 बजे सी.एण्ड डी. एस. यूनिट-49, उ.प्र. जल निगम (नगरीय), बरेली 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 प्रोक्योमेन्ट पोर्टल **https://etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र **(Corrigendum) https://etender.up.nic.in** पर ही अपलोड किये जायगें, **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।

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM-5

For and on behalf of President of Republic of India, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Construction-II) North Western Railway, Jaipur issues following corrigendum in EPC Tender No. EL-C-EPC-TRD-JP-T01-25-26 "Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 132KV/2X25KV Traction Sub Stations (Scott Connected Transformer) with associated Switching Posts for 2 x 25 KV AT feeding system & SCADA in Jaipur - Sawaimadhopu section of Jaipur Division of North Western Railway." **Published details:-** EPC Tender document, **Corrigendum details:-** Reply of Pre-Bid meeting dated 20.07.2026 corrigendum-5 is available on IREPS website **www.ireps.gov.in.** All other terms and conditions will remain same.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ (Construction-II), Jaipur
1079-DO/26

EAST COAST RAILWAY

1. Tender No. eT-M-CD-BBS-OBHS-2026
Name of Work: ON BOARD HOUSEKEEPING SERVICE AND LINEN DISTRIBUTION IN BHUBANESWAR BASED TRAINS OF COACHING DEPOT, BHUBANESWAR FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.
Advertised Value: ₹66,64,99,339.55, EMD: ₹34,82,500.00, Tender Document Cost: ₹29,500.00, Period of Completion: 36 Months.

2. Tender No. eT-M-CD-BBS-MCC-2026
Name of Work: MECHANIZED COACH CLEANING AT COACHING DEPOT, BHUBANESWAR FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.
Advertised Value: ₹17,20,33,232.15, EMD: ₹10,10,200.00, Tender Document Cost: ₹11,800.00, Period of Completion: 24 Months.

Bidding Start Date: **27.07.2026** (For Sl. No. 1 & 2)
Tender Closing Date & Time: 10.08.2026 at 15.30 Hrs. (For Sl. No. 1 & 2)

Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

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

Coaching Depot Officer/ Bhubaneswar
PR-318/R/26-27

AP POWER GENERATION CORPORATION Ltd., VS, VIJAYAWADA-520004
(A Govt. of A.P Undertaking)
APGENCO
NIT No: 610002340
Name of the work:- "Upgradation of electrical system of Stacker/Reclaimer-I of. CHP, Dr.MVR.RTPP" through e-procurement. Schedule available Date & Time : **20.07.2026** - 18.30 Hrs onwards. Bid submission Closing Date & Time: **12.08.2026** - 14.00 Hrs. For other details visit the website: www.apgenco.gov.in (or) https://etender.apgenco.gov.in/irj/portal.
No: 5282PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt: 24/07/2026

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	07 (A,B)/26-27/WE	
Name of work with its location		
(A)	Maintenance and operation of firefighting system of Block CK-06,07 & 08 at Chanakya Rail Enclave for 36 months in the S/o SSE/W/HNZM under ADEN/E-III.	
(B)	Construction of Road from Block 30 to 37 Laxmi Bai Nagar Railway Colony in the S/o SSE/W/HNZM under ADEN/E-III.	
Approx. cost of work	(A) Rs. 14999908.26	(B) Rs. 11273532.02
EMD amount	(A) Rs. 300000.00	(B) Rs. 225500.00
Completion period of work	(A) 36 Months	(B) 06 Months
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Closing date of tender on **19.08.2026** at **15:00 hrs.**	
Website particular notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on website i.e. **http://www.ireps.gov.in**	

No. 128-W/269/O.E.T/NIT No.07 (A,B)/26-27/WE/ Dated : 23.07.2026 2554/2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Limited
Notice Inviting e-Tender Date :- 23/07/2026

NIT No. & Date	Description of Work
e-Tender no. RSMM/CO/GGM(Cont) Cont-13/2026-27 dated 22.07.2026 UBN No. MML2627SLOB00088	"Manual Loading of RAJPHOS bags into trucks, Transportation from Grinding unit, Jhamarkotra Mines to Railway siding, Unloading, Proper Stacking and Loading into Railway Wagons at Railway Siding, Udaipur." Contract value Rs. 330.00 lakh, EMD Rs. 6.60 lac., Tender Fees Rs. 4720/-

Other terms & conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit us at our website **www.rsmm.com** or **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** or **eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or contact SM (Contract) on above address.
Raj.Samwad/C/26/7588 DGM (P&A)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM
INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM
Tender Notice No. 82255077 **Date : 24.07.2026**
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	82255077	Robotic Surgery System (As per attached Specification)	01 No.	07.08.2026

NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for details.
2. No Manual offer will be entertained. **2552/26**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
No.: Misc/Goods/DRM-C/AGC/2026 Date: 23.07.2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
On behalf of the president of india, The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager-North Central Railway-Agra invites **IREPS** tender no:- 2026-BDU-AGRA, Date: 23.07.2026 as per details given as under:-
IREPS Tender No.:- 2026-BDU-AGRA
Tender Details: Engagement of consultancy agency to identify Railway Business Development Plan over Agra Division.
Bidding Start Date: 03.08.2026
Tender Closing Date / Time: 17.08.2026 / 15:00
Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit **IREPS** Portal website **(https://ireps.gov.in)**. The above mentioned **IREPS** Bid details are available therein under the above mentioned **IREPS** tender no. **1695/26 (PH)**
North central railways @CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(See Section 82 Cr. P.C./84 BNSS)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused **Devender Singh** S/o Lakha Singh R/o Chauhdary Sant Ram Complex, 3rd Floor, Gali No.-1, Mahilpur, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 507/2015 U/s 420/468/471/120B IPC, PS Daryaganj, Delhi** and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Devender Singh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Devender Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that **Devender Singh** in **FIR No. 507/2015 U/s 420/468/471/120B IPC, PS Daryaganj, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **25.08.2026**.
By order
Dr. Raj Kumar Singh
Judicial Magistrate First Class-05 (Central)
Central District, Room No. 241
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
DP/9085/CD/2026

Gujarat Biotechnology University
Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat. Near GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382355.
Email: purchase@gbu.edu.in
Procurement of Scientific Instruments through GeM
Gujarat Biotechnology University intends to procure various scientific instruments through Government e-Marketplace (GeM). Interested vendors are advised to visit University website (**https://gbu.edu.in/tenders/**) and GeM Portal (**www.gem.gov.in**) for complete details and Gem bid documents.
INF-960-26-27 **Registrar**

KERALA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Transport Bhavan , Fort P.O, Thiruvananthapuram-695023
E-TENDER NOTICE

Name of Item	Last Date of Bid submission
Hiring of Non AC Segment Buses (Diesel Fuelled) On Wet Lease for Sabarimala Service Operation Pre-bid meeting: 27.07.2026, 03.00 pm	07.08.2026, 06.00 PM
Retro fitment work of AC conversion of 12 Mtr Non AC Super Fast buses Pre-bid meeting: 29.07.2026, 03.00 pm	17.08.2026, 06.00 PM

For the detailed tender document visit: www.etenders.kerala.gov.in, www.keralartc.com/tenders/purchase, e-mail:mngrmw@kerala.gov.in
sd/-
Chairman & Managing Director
24.07.2026

OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GWALIOR
WORKSHOP DEPARTMENT
File No. 01/26x4/19/WS/2026-27 **Date : 18/07/2026**
अनुसूचित RO क्रमांक 517 **DETAILED NOTICE INVITING TENDER** दिनांक 24-07-2026
Online tenders are invited on behalf of Gwalior Municipal Corporation.

Sr. no.	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract	Tender ID no.	Date of release of Tender	Last date for purchase online tender dated
1	Supply of 05 Nos. 3DX (6 in 1) Excavator Cum Bockhoe Loader Vehicle as per attached Specifications and Tender Conditions to workshop Department GMC.	2,07,50,000 (with GST)	2026_UAD_498854_3	15-07-2026	31-07-2026

Further details can be seen at **http://mptenders.gov.in**
Nodal Officer, Workshop, Nagar Nigam Gwalior

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, Building, The Mall Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Contact No. 96461-22955, 96461-18773)
TENDER ENQUITY No: QQ-2380/PO-P
Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistory Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for Procurement of 9 Mtr. long PCC Poles having 200 kg working load (as per REC design) & as per PSPCL specification no. QQ-2380/PSPCL/PO-P.For detailed NIT & tender specification, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 27.07.2026 onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
No. 13650/PSPCL **C 746/26**

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala - 147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-55525)
E-Tender Enq. No. 751/P-3/EMP-13401 Date. 22.07.2026
Dy.Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites **E-Tender ID No. 2026_POWER_172490_1** for Refurbishment /Reconditioning works of ID Fan impellers
For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from date 23.07.26/03:00 PM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
No. 13647/PSPCL **RTP 74/26**

रावतभाटा राजस्थान साईट Rawatbhata Rajasthan Site
अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (EOI)-सह-निविदा आमंत्रण
Expression of Interest-cum-Invitation for Bids
ईओआई आमंत्रण संख्या, आरआरसाईट/सीएसआर/2026-2027/1
EOI Invitation number, RR Site / CSR/2026-2027/1
शुद्धिपत्र CORRIGENDUM
दिनांक 10/07/2026 को प्रकाशित ईओआई को रद्द करना
CANCELLATION OF EOI PUBLISHED ON 10/07/2026
एतद्द्वारा यह सूचना दी जाती है कि आरआरसाईट के 16 किमी के दायरे में विभिन्न स्थानों पर AWCS (आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों) के लिए लाइट गेज स्टील फ्रेम (LGSF) प्रौद्योगिकी के माध्यम से मॉड्यूलर संरचना के डिजाइन, आपूर्ति, निर्माण, स्थापना और कमीशनिंग के कार्य के लिए ईओआई संख्याः आरआरसाईट/सीएसआर/2026-2027/1 के माध्यम से आमंत्रित किया गया था। इस ईओआई को तकनीकी कारणों से तत्काल प्रभाव से रद्द किया जाता है। एक नया संशोधित निविदा नोटिस / ईओआई नियत समय में अलग से जारी किया जाएगा। अपडेट के लिए हमारे आधिकारिक ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल पर जाएँ।
Notice is hereby given that the EOI invited vide EOI No: RR Site / CSR / 2026-2027/1 for the work of "Design, Supply, Construction, Erection and Commissioning of Modular Structure through LGSF (Light Gauge Steel Frame) Technology for AWCs (Aanganwadi Centers) at Various Locations in the 16Km radius of RR Site." is hereby CANCELLED with immediate effect due to technical reasons. A revised fresh tender notice/EOI shall be issued separately in due course. For updates, visit our official e-procurement portal.
CBC 48157/11/0002/2627

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (DME), MEGHALAYA PASTEUR HILLS, SHILLONG
Email ID: pasteurinstituteshili@gmail.com/dmeshillong@gmail.com
Tel No. 0364-2591510/94851 06663
No.DHSME&R/SMC/Tender/VI/45/2026/4246
Dated; Shillong, the 23rd July, 2026
CORRIGENDUM
In partial modification of the NIT No: DHSME&R/ SMC /TENDER/ VI/22/2026/ 3872 dated 7th July, 2026 issued by the Directorate of Health Services Medical Education & Research (DME), Meghalaya, for **"Supply and Installation of set of Equipment/Items for Department of Microbiology, Pathology, Pharmacology & PSM as per NMC at Shillong Medical College, Shillong",** the following corrigendum is hereby notified:
"The last date and time for submission of the bid document is hereby extended from 27/07/2026 up to 1500 Hrs to **04/08/2026** up to 1500 Hrs."
All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged.
Sd/-
Director of Health Services
Medical Education & Research (DME)
Meghalaya, Shillong
DIPR No.: 1169
Dated: 23.7.2026

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tendering Tender Notice
Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.
E-Tender No. : JHS-ENGG-HQ-2026-180 **Approx Cost : 30052394.11**
Description of work : Jhansi/East: Horticulture work of east colony like redevelopment of lawns, parks, adding new landscaping, plantation of etc. under ADEN HQ-II for five year.
Earnest Money. : 601100.00 **Date of closing Tender. : 17.08.2026 at 15:00 hrs**
Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter. : 60 Months.
• Tender online can be submitted **up to 15:00 hrs on 17.08.2026** • For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in** 1693/26 (C)
North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Date : 24.07.2026
E-Tendering Tender Notice
Dy. Chief Engineer/workshop/Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through On Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.
E-Tender No. : DY-CE-JHSW-100
Description of work : (A) Renovation Work of CMLR Officer Rest House. **(B)** Construction of well for rainwater harvesting at CMLR Workshop, Jhansi.
Approx Cost Rs. : 6721749.72 (Sixty Seven Lakh Twenty One Thousand Seven Hundred Fourty Nine Rupees and Seventy Two Paisa Only)
Earnest Money Rs. : 134400/- **Cost of Tender Form Rs : NIL**
Date of closing of Tender : 18.08.2026 At 15:30 hrs
Date of Completion/Period from issue acceptance letter : 06 Months
For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in** 1701/26 (C)
North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

U.P. Power Transmission Corporation Limited
Invites e-auction bids for SALE OF SCRAP At
Various Sub Stations under ETD-II,Bareilly & Distt. Bareilly/Pilibhit
- E-auction to be done on 'as is where is' basis in separate lots Through M/s M.S.T.C.

1. Proposed Dates of E-auction 28.07.2026
❖ **Scrap Details -** 15 MVA T/F-I
❖ **Sites of Scrap :** 132 KV S/S Dohna, Bareilly.
❖ **Details of E-auction:** Auction No. MSTC/LKO/UTTAR PRADESH POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED/13/ BAREILLY/26-27/21430
2. Proposed Dates of E-auction 28.07.2026
❖ **Scrap Details** 15 MVA T/F-II -
❖ **Sites of Scrap:** 132 KV S/S Dohna, Bareilly.
❖ **Details of E-auction:** Auction No. MSTC/LKO/UTTAR PRADESH POWER -TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED/ 14/BAREILLY/ 26-27/21431
3. Proposed Dates of E-auction 28.07.2026
❖ **Scrap Details** 20 MVA T/F
❖ **Sites of Scrap:** 132 KV S/S Bisalpur, Pilibhit.
❖ **Details of E-auction:** Auction No. MSTC/LKO/UTTAR PRADESH POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED/16/ BAREILLY/26-27/21433
4. Proposed Dates of E-auction 31.07.2026
❖ **Scrap Details** 100 MVA T/F
❖ **Sites of Scrap :** 220 KV S/S Amariya, Pilibhit.
❖ **Details of E-auction:** Auction No. MSTC/LKO/UTTAR PRADESH POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED/15/ BAREILLY/26-27/21432
❖ Auction catalogue and all auction related information and corrigendum, if any, shall only be uploaded on **www.mstcecommerce.com** & **www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/elv**
❖ Contact Details of Concerned Officers: **eeetdbly@upptcl.org** / Mobile No. 9412738894

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Electy. Trans. Division-II U.P. Power Trans. Corpm. Ltd. Barelly-243001
RO No. 675/ETD-II(B) & Dt. 24.07.2026

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/EIA/ETND-EC-02/2285/2026-27 Dated:24.07.2026
SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER TO PROVIDE CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR OBTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE (EC) (Through KPP Portal Only)
KIADB invites tenders under two cover system for **Providing Consultancy Services for preparing EIA, SIS studies etc., to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) from State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority(SEIAA) Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and Consent for Establishment (CFE) from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and submission of Half-yearly compliance Report for all the conditions of EC & CFE for 3 years for Dobaspet Industrial Area 8th Phase at Nelamangala Taluk, Sompura Hobli, Kambalu, Machenahalli, Ghantehosahalli & Kasaraghatta Villages, Bengaluru Rural District in** an extent **of 486A-27½G.**
Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **11.08.2026 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

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-DPR-02/2287/2026-27 Date: 24.07.2026
SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)
KIADB invites tender from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for project mentioned below:
Name of the work: **Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) Including Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan, Design, Preparation of Estimates, Cost Structure, etc., for the proposed Nandagudi Industrial Area at Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. (Extent 996 A-24.12G)**
Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **11.08.2026 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

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:-

1	Name of Work with its Location	Replacement of G-Jumper & PG Clamps in GZB-SRE & SPR sections.
2	Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 49,96,730.00/-
3	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 99,900/-
4	E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	03.08.2026 (00.00 Hrs.) to 17.08.2026 (15:00 Hrs.)
5	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	17.08.2026 (15:00 hrs.)
6	Fund Allocation	07041032
7	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

E-Tender No.: 24-TRD-NDLS-2026-27 Dated: 24.07.2026 2558/2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

U.P. Power Transmission Corporation Limited
Invites e-auction bids for SALE OF SCRAP At
220 KV S/S Faridpur & 132KV Sub Stations Faridpur under ETD-I, Bareilly, District Bareilly
- E-auction to be done on 'as is where is' basis in separate lots Through M/s M.S.T.C.

1. Proposed Dates of E-auction 30.07.2026 (11:30 to 15:30Hrs)
- **Scrap Details-**100MVA, 220/132/11KV Transformer without oil & T/F Bushing.
- **Sites of Scrap:** 220 KV S/S Faridpur
- **Details of E-auction:** Auction No. MSTC/LKO/UTTAR PRADESH POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED/6/BAREILLY/26-27/21700

2. Proposed Dates of E-auction 30.07.2026 (11:30 to 15:30Hrs)
- **Scrap Details** 20MVA, 132/33KV Transformer without oil & T/F Bushing.
- **Sites of Scrap:** 132 KV S/S Faridpur
- **Details of E-auction:** Auction No. MSTC/LKO/UTTAR PRADESH POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED/7/BAREILLY/26-27/21724
- Auction catalogue and all auction related information and corrigendum, if any, shall only be uploaded on **www.mstcecommerce.com**
- Contact Details of Concerned Officers: eeetdbly@upptcl.org / Mobile No. 9412738891

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Electricity Transmission Division
UP. Power Transmission Corporation Ltd
Bareilly -243001
पत्रांक : 830/ वि०पा०ख० (ब०) /दिनांक : 24/07/26

उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) कॉरपोरेट आईडी नं. U40109UP2001SGC025867/2358
विक्टोरिया क्रॉस विजेता गबर सिंह ऊर्जा भवन, कांवली रोड, देहरादून
ईमेल : it@upcl.org., वेबसाईट: www.upcl.uk.gov.in दूरभाष : 0135-2763672-75, , Ext : 170, 250
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
(निविदा सं० 03/आई०टी०/यूपीसीएल/2026-27 दिनांक 23/07/2026)
उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लि०, देहरादून के **"डेस्कटॉप कंप्यूटर और सहयोगी उपकरणों की खरीद जिसमें उपकरणों की बायबैक भी शामिल है।"** हेतु पात्र निविदादाताओं से निविदा आंमत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा संख्या	03/आई०टी०/यूपीसीएल/2026-27 दिनांक 23.07.2026
निविदा का मूल्य/ निविदा शुल्क	रु0 2360.00 (2,000.00+360.00) जीएसटी सहित @ 18%
धरोहर धनराशि	रु0 72,500.00 (रुपये बहत्तर हजार पांच सौ मात्र)
निविदा जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय (ऑनलाईन एवं ऑफलाईन मोड)	06 अगस्त 2026, समय 17:00 बजे
तकनीकी निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि एवं समय	07 अगस्त 2026, समय 12:30 बजे
वित्तीय निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि एवं समय	बाद में अधिसूचित की जायेगी।

विस्तृत दस्तावेज, पात्रता मानदण्ड और निविदा जमा करने का निर्धारित प्रारूप दिनांक 24 जुलाई 2026 से वैबसाईट **https://uktenders.gov.in** एवं **https://upcl.uk.gov.in** पर उपलब्ध रहेगा। उपरोक्त तिथियों में से किसी भी दिन अवकाश होने की दशा में अंतिम तिथि अगले कार्यदिवस पर उसी समय लागू होगी। उपरोक्त निविदा में भविष्य में कोई भी संशोधन/शुद्धिपत्र केवल **https://uktenders.gov.in** एवं **https://upcl.uk.gov.in** पर ही अपलोड किया जायेगा।
No. 545/EE(cm) /UPCL/A-2 Date 23.07.2026 अधिशासी अभियन्ता (आई०टी०)
"राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें" बिजली बचाने हेतु एल0ई0डी0 बल्ब का प्रयोग करें। (टोल फ्री नं0 1800 419 0405 अथवा 1912)
"विद्युत बिलों के 24x7 ऑनलाईन भुगतान हेतु www.upcl.org पर जाऐं"
(विद्युत चोरी सूचना टोल फ्री नं0 1800 180 4185/फैक्स संख्या 0135-2760911 पर दें)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM-4
For and on behalf of President of Republic of India, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Construction-II) North Western Railway, Jaipur issues following corrigendum in EPC Tender No. EL-C-EPC-TRD-JP-T01-25-26 "Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 132KV / 2 x 25KV Traction Sub Stations (Scott Connected Transformer) with associated Switching Posts for 2 x 25 KV AT feeding system & SCADA in Jaipur - Sawaimadhopur section of Jaipur Division of North Western Railway." **Published details:-** EPC Tender document, **Corrigendum details:-** EPC Tender Document corrigendum-4 is available on IREPS website **www.ireps.gov.in** All other terms and conditions will remain same.
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ (Construction-II), Jaipur
1078-DO/26

They sang, took selfies, shouted till their voices went hoarse, and flooded social media with memes. As Delhi witnesses an unprecedented youth-led protest, THE INDIAN EXPRESS hears from the new protester

BY DRISHTI JAIN, VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA, TRISHA MUKHERJEE & DEVANSH MITTAL

MEET THE PROTESTER AT JANTAR MANTAR

YOUNG, ANGRY & VERY GEN Z

ILLUSTRATION: SUVAJIT DEY

AS THEY made their way through the heaving crowd at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, Shivam, 21, held his mother close, his arm in a tight grip around her shoulder.

For the last two days, the mother and son from an East Delhi neighbourhood have been parking their two-wheeler at Shivam's father's office nearby, and walking down to Jantar Mantar, the site of one of the biggest youth-led protests in Delhi in recent times.

A student of Electronics and Communication Engineering at a university in Noida, Shivam says he turned up for the protest because he has been anxious about job prospects. "Honestly, I'm very scared. Many of my seniors have not been able to find jobs. Some of them work as Blinkit delivery partners or drive for Rapido," he says. "My parents keep hoping I'll get a good job. But if I end up as a Rapido driver, it will break their hearts."

Holding on to Shivam in the crowd, his mother says, "Every parent dreams that their child will study hard, earn a good living, and live with dignity. But now I am scared when I read about children committing suicides when they don't get into colleges or don't get jobs. Look at all these children... It breaks my heart to see them sleeping on stone slabs, and in tents without fans."

After nearly three weeks of protests by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) seeking the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the recent NEET paper leak, on July 20, as protesters stormed the heart of Delhi, police pushed back with force, using *lathi*s and tear gas.

With that, what started as an exam controversy has turned into an agitation against stacked up grievances of the country's youth — from shrinking employment opportunities to stagnant real incomes.

Initially, the response was lukewarm and it looked like the CJP protest would go the way many others at Jantar Mantar have in the past, too insular for an indifferent city. But that changed when social activist Sonam Wangchuk, who was on hunger strike at the site, was moved to hospital. Suddenly, the tide changed. A generation often accused of being too apathetic, too entitled, looked up from their screens. This was no longer about one exam, one paper leak.

Yogendra Yadav, member of Swaraj India and national convenor of Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan, says the crowds at Jantar Mantar are forcing older generations to confront their own misconceptions about young Indians. "Those of us with grey hair, we tend to somehow believe that people younger to us are no good, especially about politics. Our general impression has been that they are given to comfort...they are non-political, which is a lot of misunderstanding of the new generation, and also a lot of rose-tinted picture of our own generation. The problem is not that the younger generation does not have its own understanding of politics...it is that we have not made an effort to tune into their grammar of politics," Yadav says.

Cautioning against reading the protest simply as middle-class mobilisation, he says what stands out to him is the visible participation of Dalit and Ambedkarite organisations — "not merely as representatives of Scheduled Castes or reservation politics, but as people claiming the right to shape the country's larger conversation on education and the future".

'Feels like doors are closing'

Twenty-year-old Ayush, who recently graduated with a Bachelors in Engineering from a private university in Kanpur, starts his first job in Gurgaon in a week. But far from being excited, he says, he is gripped by a sense of anxiety.

The youngsters came armed with posters — some acerbic, others peppered with one-liners — and phones on which they shot selfies and recorded their friends

"About 30 seniors from my college were let go within a year of being hired. The average salary has stayed around Rs 30,000 for years, with more roles turning out to be internships. AI is automating entry-level jobs, government exams are either leaked or delayed for years. It feels like all doors are closed to us," says Ayush.

So on May 16, when he saw CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke's first tweet — "What if all cockroaches come together?" — Ayush immediately followed him on social media and has, since then, been watching his every reel.

"Coincidentally, the time in June when I came to Gurgaon from Kanpur for a job interview was when CJP was also organising their first protest at Jantar Mantar. That was the first time I was attending a protest, because our college doesn't allow protests," he says.

Since then, Ayush has kept coming back: he has visited the protest site around four times so far.

Anil Raj is not a NEET aspirant, he clarifies. Yet, for five days now, he has been coming to Delhi's Jantar Mantar to protest against the "country's education system". At 30, the graduate from Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh, senses a ticking clock — he is still without a job.

"I wanted to be in the police. I worked hard for the UP Police recruitment exam and appeared for the exam in 2024, but the paper was leaked. Then, I appeared for the Home Guard exam in Agra in 2025, but then too, there were allegations that the paper was sold for about Rs 48 lakh before it reached the exam hall," says Raj, who is now studying B.Pharm "as a backup".

On July 19, he took a train to Delhi to join the protests at Jantar Mantar. "I have rented a room for Rs 7,000 a month in Gurgaon and have been staying here for the past five days. I will stay here until Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigns," he says. "My parents gave up their dreams to give me an education. I can't let that go to waste by not speaking up," he says, wiping his face with a sweat-soaked *gamcha*.

The frustrations voiced by Shivam, Ayush and Anil are reflected in India's labour market. According to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the share of working-age Indians (15 years and above) with a job has fallen from 42.7% in 2016-17 to 38.7% by March 2026.

While the number of people employed increased from 406 million to 438 million over the period, the additional employment has failed to keep pace with a much faster growth in the country's working-age population.

'Not just about exams now'

Even for Delhi, a city that has witnessed some of the most defining political protests, including the more recent India Against Corruption agitation in 2011 and the 2020-21 farmer protests, the current one brought out a new side of the city and its people.

In the days since July 18, protesters have been pouring into the road adjacent to the 18th century observatory to express their solidarity. Many of the youngsters, even among those from Delhi, were there for the first time. They came armed with posters — some acerbic in the way youngsters can be, others peppered with witty one-liners — and, of course, their precious phones on which they shot selfies and recorded their friends, the slogans, the speeches. Once the protests wound down, they would sit hunched over their phones to create memes, that baffling combination of video, irony and word play that has become the movement's unofficial language.

There were also those who came in solidarity.

For over a week, Nundrisga Wakhloo, a 34-year-old documentary filmmaker, has been visiting the protest site, mostly during the nights with her friends. "Here, I feel safer than ever, even at night. It is beautiful to see so many people come together," she says. "This is not just about exams anymore. It's about not being heard for so many years. Young people are beginning to vote, beginning to ask questions. If this generation feels unheard, what have we really got?"

Listing the slow buildup of anxieties among youngsters, from unemployment to a shrinking space for dissent in educational institutions, she says, "Education is the first place where narratives are shaped. When you change education, when truth itself begins to feel negotiable, this protest becomes about much more than one incident. I don't think most people at the protest site have anything to do with the NEET exam. People have been coming to stand with the students because they recognised something of themselves in what was happening."

The daughter of architect parents, who graduated from Delhi University's Gargi College, identifies herself as "somewhat privileged" in many ways.

"But my privilege gives me the ability to show up. It would be easier to sit at home and say this isn't my fight. All that people endured... it is reduced to nothing if we don't come back," she says.

Sanjay Srivastava, anthropologist and sociologist and Distinguished Research Professor at SOAS University of London, says the current protest changes how Delhi's spaces are experienced. "Delhi is historically a very exclusionary city. It was designed by the British to be deeply segregated. An ironic consequence of the traditionally political gathering is that it reinforces the segregated nature of the city, one that mimics Indian society itself: Dalit causes are mainly championed by Dalits, Sikh ones by Sikhs and religious ones by followers of those religions. In the current protests, what makes people show up is the fact that each can invent their own reasons for being there as, beyond the idea of an economic future, there are no other defining ideologies."

'I am not scared anymore'

This time, unlike in past protests, there is a different kind of solidarity. Many of the youngsters came with their parents — a mother from Ballabgarh in Haryana who had accompanied her daughter and friends who were volunteering at the site, a young father who stood with his son perched on his shoulders, a single parent with her 22-year-old daughter.

But Samreen, 24, from a Northeast Delhi neighbourhood, had to be at Jantar Mantar on her own. Her parents wouldn't have approved, so she told them that she was going to the library and headed to the protest site instead. The second of five siblings, Samreen graduated from Jamia Millia Islamia with a Master's degree in History six months ago. It's a milestone that has come after several arguments over marriage with her parents — her father is an electrician and mother, a homemaker. "I have held off for so long. I keep telling my parents, let me first secure a future, then I'll think of marriage," she says.

But it's getting difficult to hold on to that position, says Samreen. She took the UGC-NET examination for the second time this year. Like her first attempt, this one too was marred by allegations of paper leaks. "Even with a degree from a good university, I'm still struggling to achieve my dreams," she says.

Unlike in past protests, there is a different kind of solidarity. Many of the youngsters came with their parents — a mother from Ballabhgarh, a young father

Like Samreen, many of the women who had turned up for the protest carried with them a natural resilience, honed by their daily struggles.

Pratishtha, 40, from Thane, Maharashtra, is in Delhi on work — "at least that's what my family thinks," she laughs. Her medicine supply business often brings her to Delhi, but this time, she has spent more time at the protest. "I have been here for 22 days," she says outside Kutty's, the popular dosa joint near Jantar Mantar, during a break from the protest. Her husband and two children, one in Class 10, the other in Class 8, are back in Thane.

"My parents allowed me to study, but once marriage and kids happened, I had to give up a lot. But hopefully, my sacrifices will amount to something," she says.

Pointing to the many women at the protest site, she says, "How times have changed. Look at all these girls. After all these years, I am not scared anymore. As a mother, I am here to protect my children's future, what they grow up to be is in my hands."

'Never attended a protest'

On July 20, hours after protesters clashed with police in Delhi, at Jantar Mantar, 16-year-old Raj Kumar, from Saidabad in Prayagraj, stood on a ledge holding a placard. It's a wobbly platform, so Sajid, 34, stands at the other end to balance it.

Raj says he "ran away from home" to participate in the protest and informed his parents only after he arrived at Jantar Mantar. The call was made from Sajid's phone. Since then, Sajid has taken the teenager under his wings, looking out for him in the crowd, ensuring he has eaten and has a space to sleep at night. "He is like my child. I have two boys back home in Ajmer (Rajasthan) — a four-year-old and a 15-month-old. I miss my children, but Raj inspires me to keep going," says Sajid, stopping to ask a woman not to lean on the ledge, worried Raj might fall.

On the pavement to the right of the stage, Harsh Swamy, 26, and Ujjwal Yadav, 20, huddle under the tarpaulin to shelter their backpacks from the rain. "Neither of us had attended a protest before, and I was just telling *bhai* what an experience it has been," says Ujjwal.

Harsh had arrived from Jaipur the previous night and Ujjwal that morning from Etah in UP. "We started talking because both of us are UPSC aspirants, and we soon connected over how distressing this NEET paper leak has been. What if it happens with UPSC as well?," says Harsh.

Elsewhere at the protest site, Pushpa Kumari, a former corporate employee, sits with Anjali Saini, a homemaker, and Neetu Singh, who sells hair accessories and everyday essentials for a living. They met each other on the mat below the stage, where they now rest and sleep, at different points during the course of the past 20 days.

Neetu was the first to arrive with her 14-year-old daughter and nine-year-old son Vaibhav from Agra. Then, came Anjali, who has been at the site for nearly a week, from Darjeeling; Pushpa joined four days ago. Nearly 96 hours and a *lathi* charge later, the three women now finish each other's sentences. "It is because of her that my son didn't get hurt," says Neetu, pointing towards Pushpa. "The police were charging at him with a *lathi* and she pulled him back," says Anjali.

ADVERTORIAL

BIHAR GOVERNMENT

100 DAYS of SEVA SANKALP SAMARPAN

BUILDING TOMORROW'S BIHAR

FASTER GROWTH, BETTER GOVERNANCE, BRIGHTER FUTURE

SAHAYOG SHIVIR TRANSPARENT & CITIZEN-CENTRIC GOVERNANCE

- State-Level Sahayog Shivir launched to ensure transparent, impartial, and time-bound grievance redressal, with citizen satisfaction as the key measure of success.
- Application Receipt Centre and Sahayog Path inaugurated to strengthen public access to grievance redressal services.
- During the inaugural camp, 129 applications were received, with 100 grievances resolved on the spot, demonstrating responsive governance.
- Officials directed to ensure quality disposal of complaints within 30 days, with strict action against delays or negligence.

- SDOs, DCLRs, District Magistrates, Divisional Commissioners, and departmental secretaries tasked with regular monitoring to strengthen administrative accountability.
- Departments instructed to expedite pension approvals, allow applicants to submit missing documents, accelerate post-monsoon road works, and ensure citizens are treated with dignity and respect.
- With nearly 90% of grievances already resolved under the Sahayog initiative, Bihar is advancing transparent governance, stronger accountability, and efficient delivery of public services.

BIHAR ACCELERATES DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION WITH LANDMARK AI PARTNERSHIPS

Bihar has taken a major step towards becoming an AI-powered state by signing landmark MoUs with indigenous AI firms Sarvam.AI and BharatGPT. Signed in the presence of Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, the partnerships aim to build a citizen-centric AI ecosystem that enhances governance, strengthens digital infrastructure, and improves public service delivery.

The initiative will enable government departments to use India-developed AI models, making services faster, more transparent, efficient, and accessible. It will also promote AI research in Indian languages and regional dialects to address local needs.

A strong focus has been placed on AI skill development, with training programmes for government employees and youth to build future-ready talent.

The collaborations will further support AI startups through mentoring and institutional partnerships, positioning Bihar as a leader in innovation, digital inclusion, and technology-driven governance while setting a benchmark for other states.

BIHAR REVIVES SUGAR SECTOR, BOOSTING FARMERS' INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

- Bihar Sugarcane Industry Investment Promotion Policy–2026 approved to attract investment in integrated sugar complexes comprising sugar mills, distilleries, co-generation power plants, and Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) units, boosting industrial growth and employment.
- Pending sugarcane dues cleared to revive the Sasamusa Sugar Mill (Gopalganj), benefiting thousands of farmers and creating new livelihood opportunities.
- 266 acres of the closed Motipur Sugar Mill (Muzaffarpur) reclaimed for a modern sugar mill, sugarcane research centre, and other industrial projects.
- State-wide programmes for seed development, mechanisation, and sugarcane nurseries to provide disease-free high-yielding seeds, modern farm equipment, free sugarcane seeds, technical support, and improved cultivation practices.
- MoUs signed with the Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Vasantdada Sugar Institute, and IIT Patna to promote advanced sugarcane varieties, modern technologies, and AI-based crop management, strengthening Bihar's long-term sugar economy.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- 11 new satellite townships planned across Patna, Sonepur, Gaya, Darbhanga, Saharsa, Purnia, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Chhapra, Bhagalpur & Sitamarhi, featuring modern roads, parks, affordable housing, commercial & institutional zones, and EWS infrastructure to drive planned urbanization.
- Rs. 4,750 crore World Bank-backed urban infrastructure initiative approved to strengthen drinking water supply, underground sewerage, solid waste management, urban beautification, and digital municipal governance across Bihar.
- Focus on scientific land-use planning and transit-oriented development to support sustainable urban expansion and improve civic services.
- Patna Metro construction has been accelerated, with the initial metro network already expanded, integrating housing, transport, and public utilities while reducing traffic congestion and improving urban mobility.
- Plans to extend Metro connectivity to Gaya, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, and Bhagalpur, supporting the next phase of Bihar's rapidly growing urban centers.

BIHAR'S HELI-TOURISM

INITIATIVE GIVES NEW WINGS TO TRAVEL AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Rs.15,422 per ticket; 10-minute Patna joyrides available for Rs. 2,100.

- Introduction of 20-seater aircraft services to Valmikinagar Tiger Reserve and helicopter connectivity to Rajgir and Kaimur to strengthen eco-tourism, heritage, and spiritual tourism.
- Government promoting homestays, local handicrafts, folk culture, regional cuisine, rural tourism, tourism circuits, hotels, and PPP-based infrastructure to create livelihoods and attract private investment.
- By combining modern air connectivity with Bihar's rich Buddhist, Jain, wildlife, and cultural heritage, the initiative aims to drive sustainable tourism and inclusive economic growth.

- Bihar Heli-Tourism & Air Tourism Service Scheme 2026 launched to improve connectivity, boost tourism, generate employment, and position Bihar as a global tourism destination.
- From 18 July 2026, subsidised helicopter services connect Patna, Rajgir, Valmikinagar, and Kaimur every weekend, with government support of up to

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION FOR A FUTURE-READY BIHAR

- 211 new degree colleges inaugurated, ensuring higher education reaches every block of Bihar and expanding access to quality education statewide.
- Announcement of an Artificial Intelligence & Computer Science University (Bhagalpur), an Architecture & Civil Engineering University (Muzaffarpur), and approval for 4 new private universities to strengthen higher education and innovation.
- Under Saat Nischay-3 (2025–30), Saraswati Vidya Niketan model schools to be established across all 534 blocks, with 155 government and aided schools upgraded in line with NEP 2020.
- Model schools will offer smart classrooms, science & ICT labs, libraries, digital learning, weekly assessments, remedial classes, and NEET/JEE coaching, bringing quality education closer to students.
- Focus on academic excellence, digital integration, skill development, and equitable access, creating a modern, inclusive, and future-ready education ecosystem for Bihar.

DRIVING INDUSTRIAL GROWTH & BUILDING AN AI-ENABLED BIHAR

- The government is creating an investment-friendly ecosystem by accelerating industrial approvals, expanding industrial land availability, strengthening MSMEs, and promoting employment-intensive sectors.
- Priority sectors include Manufacturing, Food Processing, Textiles & Leather, Electronics, Renewable Energy, and Biofuel industries to drive industrialisation and job creation.
- A new Unified Industrial Policy is being developed to integrate multiple sectoral policies into a single, simplified investment framework for investors.

- Within three months, the government announced 11 Mega Industrial Parks and a 50,000-acre industrial land bank to meet future investment and industrial infrastructure requirements.
- Alongside industrial expansion, Bihar is pursuing an AI-driven IT agenda focused on AI adoption, digital governance, IT investment promotion, technology skill development, and positioning Bihar as an emerging AI-enabled technology hub.

STRENGTHENING BIHAR'S PUBLIC HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

- Statewide patient referral reform launched to ensure timely, transparent, and quality treatment at the nearest appropriate government healthcare facility while eliminating unnecessary referrals.
- Under the vision of "Accessible Healtlhcare, Secure Lives," Community Health Centres are being upgraded into Speciality Hospitals and District Hospitals into Super Speciality Hospitals to bring advanced care closer to people.
- BHAVYA Portal integrated with ABHA to digitally manage patient registration, prescriptions, referrals, treatment history, and Electronic Health Records (EHR), ensuring seamless and technology-enabled healthcare delivery.
- All district hospitals to provide 24×7 ICU, emergency, pathology, and X-ray services, with mandatory digital registration of doctors, paramedics, duty rosters, and patient records; referrals to require medical justification and ALS/BLS ambulance support.
- District-Level Monitoring Committees and state-level weekly reviews introduced to monitor referrals, prevent unnecessary patient transfers, and ensure an accountable, patient-centric public healthcare system.

POWERING BIHAR WITH CLEAN & RENEWABLE ENERGY

- PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana is being rapidly implemented to make rooftop solar power affordable and accessible, reducing electricity bills and promoting clean energy across Bihar.
- Launched on 14 June 2026, the programme is being executed through the Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) Model across NBPDCL and SBPDCL service areas for hassle-free rooftop solar installation.
- 492 rooftop solar systems installed so far, including 317 under NBPDCL and 175 under SBPDCL, enabling households to generate clean electricity at home.
- The mission is expanding renewable energy infrastructure, reducing carbon emissions, and promoting energy self-reliance through technology-driven, citizen-centric implementation.
- Bihar's Rooftop Solar Mission is laying the foundation for a greener, sustainable, and energy-secure future, positioning renewable energy as a key driver of long-term development.

CITIZEN-CENTRIC GOVERNANCE IN BIHAR-DOORSTEP PROPERTY REGISTRATION

- Under Saat Nischay-3 – "Sabka Samman, Jeevan Aasaan", Bihar has introduced doorstep property registration for citizens aged 80 years and above, ensuring dignity, convenience, and ease of living.
- Eligible senior citizens can register land, flats, and other immovable properties from the comfort of their homes, eliminating the need to visit registration offices.
- Appointments can be booked through the e-Registration Portal, after which a Mobile Registration Unit visits the applicant's residence with biometric authentication, Aadhaar verification, webcams, and internet-enabled digital systems.
- The entire registration process is completed securely at home, with digitally signed documents delivered instantly via SMS in PDF format.
- A paperless property registration system featuring automatic fee calculation, e-Challan, e-Stamp, Aadhaar-based e-signatures, and GIS-enabled property verification has made property transactions faster, transparent, and more secure.

The Samrat Government has established four degree colleges in my region—Laxmi pur, Khaira, Aliganj, and Jamui. Opening degree colleges across 211 blocks is transformative, especially for women and underprivileged students. Smart online classes are a modern initiative benefiting future generations."-

-ARYAN

Under the Samrat Choudhary-led Bihar Government, law and order has improved significantly. The healthcare system is witnessing steady progress, reducing the need for patients to travel outside their districts for referrals. The government is also modernising education by developing an advanced and future-ready learning model.

-PUNIL KUMAR

Under the Samrat Choudhary Government, investor-friendly industrial policies are being introduced. Free medicines are strengthening healthcare, pending projects are being completed, roads are being widened, and development is visible across sectors. The AI Summit at Urja Auditorium showcased Bihar's growing focus on technology and innovation.

-SARITA SINGH

Samrat Choudhary is a dynamic Chief Minister. Under his leadership, healthcare services have expanded, law and order has improved, and industrial reforms such as the Single Window System have replaced cumbersome licensing, accelerating investments and giving fresh momentum to Bihar's economic development.

-NEELAM SHAHI

PR.No.DIS/BIHAR/DIS/2026/7

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IN 1932
BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

PM promise, Sonam step back, show the way

THAT SONAM Wangchuk has ended his 26-day hunger strike is enormously welcome. So is the Centre's decision, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's imprimatur, to institute fast-track courts and bring a tougher law against those who compromise the integrity of the public examination system. These steps create space for engagement on the concerns raised by Wangchuk, the CJP and the young protesters. Their campaign has given voice to a crisis of confidence in an examination system dogged by paper leaks, cheating syndicates, and administrative failures. Wangchuk and the CJP have succeeded in placing a systemic crisis on the public agenda, prodded the Centre to respond, rallied the Opposition to their side. Now, a longer battle begins, which will not stop at examination reforms. It must go beyond them, to explore more structural transformations in the education and skilling system. These will need political will, resources, hard spadework — not orders by fiat.

Much-needed conversations towards repair and renewal will need to begin and the government must decide: Will it move ahead with Dharmendra Pradhan as its Education Minister? The leak of the NEET exam papers, which became the trigger for the protests, happened on his watch. So did the last one in 2024. The CJP and the Opposition have made his exit a key demand — going ahead, both the accountability agenda and the reform agenda call for someone who inspires trust. Much work lies ahead, which will need negotiations at multiple levels, and for which the government will need to show humility and openness, not just crisis management skills. Most importantly, the road to enduring reform will have to pass through Parliament. The movement mounted by the restive and energetic young has played a seminal role in making the government see the crisis staring the country in the face. It is time now for the people's elected representatives to play their role in hammering out the shape of change.

Dedicated judicial mechanisms could become an important part of the broader accountability framework. As an investigation by this paper has shown, trials in paper leak cases have progressed at a snail's pace after charges were framed. The challenge lies in ensuring that investigations are swift and interventions are made before irregularities surface. The recurring exam fiascos also expose deeper structural flaws that criminal law cannot address. India's examination ecosystem is unforgiving. For millions of young people, years of schooling, coaching, emotional investment and family savings often culminate in a single examination that determines admission to a prestigious institution or entry into a secure government job. India's young need a more spacious system, with institutions that help them spread their wings and pursue opportunities, while functioning transparently. Forging such a system will require patient discussions with stakeholders — students, teachers, education experts and people's representatives. Over the past days and weeks, the young have made it possible for that process to begin, they have set the stage.

Trump's Saudi nuclear gambit marks a shift

WASHINGTON'S DECISION to sign a civil nuclear cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabia marks an important shift in Middle East geopolitics — and highlights the growing role of advanced technologies in the regional power balance. The agreement will face close scrutiny in the US Congress, along with opposition from Israel's supporters and the non-proliferation community. The deal will help Riyadh build a civilian nuclear energy programme and reduce its dependence on hydrocarbons. Washington wants American companies to build Saudi reactors and secure a long-term position in its nuclear infrastructure.

The main controversy is the possibility of a uranium enrichment facility in Saudi Arabia at a time when Washington seeks to roll back Iran's nuclear capabilities. Yet that contradiction also points to the strategic rationale behind the agreement — the need to address Saudi concerns about the regional nuclear balance. The growth of Iranian power relative to its Arab neighbours has already encouraged the UAE to establish a civilian nuclear programme. A Saudi enrichment facility would be built by American companies and operate under US supervision. Such arrangements could reduce proliferation risks while giving Riyadh a measure of strategic parity with Tehran. Washington is also linking the nuclear deal to Saudi recognition of Israel. Riyadh has so far resisted joining the Abraham Accords. The nuclear agreement could therefore become part of a wider triangular negotiation among Washington, Riyadh and Tel Aviv over regional security, Palestinian statehood and the future of Arab-Israeli relations.

India is largely absent from the emerging nuclear industrial competition in the Middle East. This reflects decades of resistance in Delhi and Mumbai to reforming the atomic energy sector. The US-Saudi agreement should accelerate the implementation of the SHANTI Act and help prepare Indian industry to participate in the export of nuclear technologies across the Middle East. Politically, Delhi should support the US-Saudi agreement, underwritten by ironclad non-proliferation safeguards, and offer assistance to Riyadh's civilian nuclear programme.

Shine on, Dick Parry

THE BRILLIANTLY crafted sax lines by Dick Parry, who passed away at 83 this week, were rarely the first thing one noticed in a Pink Floyd song. But imagine the songs stripped of his saxophone and the incompleteness will reveal what he brought to them. In his aching solo on 'Shine on, you crazy diamond', written in memory of Syd Barrett, one can feel the instrument channelling the collective grief of the band. In 'Us and Them', the band's anti-war masterpiece, the saxophone wails. It is interesting, therefore, to note that Parry was never officially a part of Pink Floyd: He was a session artiste whose talent transformed some of the greatest works of the rock giant.

Raised in Suffolk, Parry was a 17-year-old playing the local music circuit when he met David Gilmour, later the lead guitarist of Pink Floyd. It would be the beginning of a lifelong friendship that would lead Parry to the band.

When it comes to rock, it is usually the guitarists, the charismatic frontmen and the songwriters who are elevated to demigod status. The saxophone — often thought to belong in jazz clubs and to gloss pop — has had a somewhat uneasy relationship with the genre. Once central to its early rhythm-and-blues roots, it ceded ground to the electric guitar quite early. But even amid Gilmour's riffs, Roger Waters' words and Richard Wright's keys, Parry's saxophone held its own with a rare artistry.

India has ridden out crisis of Iran war, but a much bigger challenge is upon it

KANTI BAJPAI

DONALD TRUMP'S foreign policy in his second term has been uncomfortable for India. But it has revealed a pressing reality: The country faces a 1991 challenge and more in economics and geopolitics.

In 1991, India faced its most serious economic crisis since Independence. Its finances put it in danger of sovereign default. On the back of the 1990-91 Gulf War, India's import bill ballooned. Delhi was forced to get an IMF loan and send gold shipments to the UK, Japan, and Switzerland to tide over the foreign exchange crisis.

The year 1991 was also the end of the Cold War. To India's shock, its security backstop against China and the US disappeared along with the Soviet Union. Falling massively behind the Western countries economically, plus the failures in Afghanistan, irreparably strained the Soviet political system.

India faced a third challenge with US pressures on nuclear proliferation, on human rights (in Kashmir, Punjab, and the Northeast), and on India's closed economy.

A fourth challenge was China. Twelve years into its economic reforms, China was rising rapidly. It grew at 9 per cent per annum over the 12 years from 1979, and its GDP stood at $380 billion. India grew on average at about 5 per cent after 1979. With a GDP of $270 billion, it was already falling behind.

Finally, in 1991, Pakistan was triumphant. It had partnered the US and China to drive the Soviets out of Afghanistan and felt it was on the winning side in the Cold War (in comparison with India).

In 2026, 35 years later, we find ourselves at a strikingly similar conjunction.

The Indian economy once again faces huge challenges. Clearly, its financial position in 2026 is far more robust than in 1991. On the other hand, the rupee depreciated against the dollar and FIIs moved capital out of India. As in 1991, a Gulf war impacted India, this time leading to energy shortages and inflation. Worryingly, growth remains at 6 per cent, consistent with the 30-year average, but well below the 8 per cent benchmark.

The problem today, though, is not so much in the macro-economy. The problem is in four Cs — commerce (manufacturing), critical minerals/rare earths, computer chips, and computer software and infrastructure for AI. The challenges here are far greater than in 1991. In 1991, a series of structural reforms fixed the crisis and set India on a new growth path — relatively simple to do.

The challenge of the four Cs is much greater. Manufacturing is stagnant despite 30 years of encouragement. We have critical minerals/rare earths but have not sufficiently mapped and mined them; processing is another challenge altogether. Meanwhile, dependence on China ranges from 50 per cent to nearly 100 per cent across minerals and metals. On chips, NITI Aayog estimates that 90-95 per cent of India's demand until 2035 will be met by imports. And in AI, India has strengths in adoption and talent, but not much of a presence in the AI value chain.

> In 1991, the US pressured India on nuclear proliferation, human rights, and its economy. In 2026, US pressures are on Indian exports, trade-related labour and other standards, and imports of Russian oil

Geopolitically, too, India faces a situation arguably more difficult than in 1991. Today, the US is retreating from its alliances. And the special relationship with India is over: India is just another transactional opportunity, not a partner. In effect, India's backstop against China has disappeared, with the added threat that Washington is eyeing a G-2 accommodation with Beijing.

In 1991, the US pressured India on nuclear proliferation, human rights, and its economy. In 2026, US pressures are on Indian exports, trade-related labour and other standards, and imports of Russian oil — hardly trivial areas.

By 1991, China was rising but its GDP was only slightly bigger than India's. In 2026, it has a $20 trillion economy. At 3 per cent growth rates, China's economy will double by 2050. India's GDP is $4 trillion. At 6 per cent growth rates, India's GDP will be $16 trillion in 2050. The current $16 trillion GDP gap will become $24 trillion in 2050.

As for Pakistan, it is once again triumphalist. It feels it did well in the fight with India in 2025. It is integrated deeply with the Chinese military. It is on good terms with China, the US, and Russia, and in 2025, signed a defence agreement with Saudi Arabia. It was also one of the key mediators between the US and Iran in 2026.

What does all this mean for India's grand strategy?

The economy needs a Manhattan Project on the four Cs, nothing less. Otherwise, India will be stuck at 6 per cent growth rates. And if India does not progress on the four Cs, averaging 6 per cent could become challenging.

Geopolitically, India's approach to the US and China needs serious thought. Are we content with a "hide-and-bide" strategy with both superpowers where we stay out of their way and concentrate on reforms in our economic journey? Is motoring along in our own lane enough? Should we simply avoid any more bumps with the US and focus more on China? Is "doing a China on China" the answer — using Chinese imports, investment, and innovation to drive India's growth, as the Chinese did with the US after 1972? Will China indulge us, like the Americans indulged China, without a more fundamental reset with Beijing? What would a more ambitious reset with China mean?

To conclude, India has ridden out the immediate economic crisis of the Iran war and shifting geopolitics of the past year, but a much bigger challenge is upon it.

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Dwindling space for dialogue, not disagreement, is the problem

SAVITA JHA

A CONVERSATION with my daughter brought all my certainties into question. "Mom, why aren't you at Jantar Mantar?" I replied that I do not necessarily agree with the politics or methods of those leading the current protest. She sounded disappointed.

Then I realised that we were having two different conversations. I was thinking about the politics of the protest. She was thinking about the reason for it. For her, the real issue was not who stood at the front of the march, but the children whose lives have been shattered because the state failed to ensure an examination process that is secure, transparent, and accountable. On that, I cannot disagree with her. Children have an extraordinary ability to cut through ideology and ask the simplest, hardest questions: If the system failed them, shouldn't we all care? Perhaps that is the conversation we should be having.

The Kathopanishad reminds us that civilisations do not progress by silencing uncomfortable questions; they progress by engaging with them. While talking of Indic culture, what has been our defining political instinct? India's has never been conquest; it has been conversation. At a time when democracies across the world are becoming increasingly polarised, India faces a quieter but perhaps more profound crisis — the gradual death of dialogue. Protests are met with suspicion. Social media has become so politically consequential that governments contemplate restrictions. The judiciary increasingly performs the role that politics once did: Creating space for dialogue.

That should concern us all. Our foundational texts are conversations, not proclamations. The Bhagavad Gita unfolds as a dialogue. It begins with Arjuna's doubts. Krishna responds by expanding the horizon of inquiry. The Upanishads are conversations between teacher and seeker. Buddhist councils institutionalised debate. Jain philosophy celebrated *anekantavada* — that truth may possess multiple dimensions. Gandhi's *Hind Swaraj* is structured as a dialogue between editor and reader. Gandhi understood that persuasion produces more enduring political legitimacy than coercion ever can. Dialogue, therefore, lies at the heart of the Indic intellectual tradition.

> At a time when democracies across the world are becoming increasingly polarised, India faces a quieter but perhaps more profound crisis — the gradual death of dialogue

Yet contemporary politics appears increasingly uncomfortable with this inheritance. Across the political spectrum, firmness is often projected as leadership, while dialogue is caricatured as indecision or weakness. The hardening of the state's position becomes a political performance in itself. Consider the recurring crises surrounding public examinations. Every year, paper leaks, procedural irregularities, delayed recruitment, or flawed evaluation systems generate widespread anxiety. One may disagree with particular protests but dismissing protestors cannot erase institutional failures. India today speaks confidently about AI, digital governance, and becoming a global technology leader. Governments have access to some of the country's finest scientific and technical minds. Yet examination systems affecting millions remain vulnerable to failures that students themselves are often able to identify. If technology, expertise and resources exist, where does the problem lie?

The answer may be less technological than political. Institutions improve only when they are willing to listen. A system that assumes criticism is hostility eventually stops learning from its own failures. Technology cannot compensate for administrative indifference. Algorithms cannot substitute for accountability. The larger danger lies in a political calculation that these failures carry only temporary electoral consequences. History offers a different lesson. No democracy can indefinitely govern through narrative management alone. Governance is ultimately measured not by the ability to shape public perception but by the willingness to correct institutional shortcomings. India's greatest political thinkers understood this. Gandhi insisted that disagreement was not an obstacle to nation-building but one of its essential conditions. It reflected faith that truth could withstand scrutiny.

Perhaps that is the question confronting India today. Can a republic that invokes Gandhi, celebrates the Bhagavad Gita, and speaks of its civilisational continuity afford to abandon the principle that animates all three — the belief that conflict must culminate in conversation? If dialogue dies, institutions may continue to function, elections may continue to be held, and governments may continue to command majorities. But something far more fundamental begins to erode. The tragedy is not that India faces disagreement. The tragedy would be if the world's oldest continuing civilisation forgot that its greatest strength has always been its ability to turn disagreement into dialogue.

The writer teaches history at Delhi University

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Trump's tariff mania is inextricable from his politics

DEEPANSHU MOHAN

ANKUR SINGH

AS THE legal door on temporary tariffs imposed under one section of US trade law is likely to expire, the Trump administration seems to be shifting to another statutory provision to preserve import duties on almost all of America's trading partners. The legal justification has changed but the politics, sans any economic rationale, has not. Washington under Donald Trump's tariff mania remains convinced that indiscriminate tariffs can restore industrial strength, independent of what evidence suggests. It is an idea with enduring political appeal for Trump's electoral base where imports apparently threaten domestic jobs. Taxing them appears to protect domestic workers. The story is simple and intuitive. Economics, however, has rarely rewarded simple stories. Few economic policies have been studied as extensively as tariffs over the past decade, especially in the last two years.

Broad import duties raise costs across the economy, disrupt supply chains and create uncertainty for businesses. Their contribution to reviving manufacturing has been far more limited than political rhetoric suggests. The biggest misconception surrounding tariffs is also the most persistent. They are often presented as a penalty imposed on foreign producers. In practice, they function largely as a domestic tax. Research by economists including Mary Amiti, David Weinstein and Stephen Redding shows that most tariff costs are ultimately borne by American businesses and consumers through higher prices. Modern manufacturing explains why. Components cross multiple borders before reaching consumers. More than half of global trade consists of intermediate goods used to produce other goods. Tariffs imposed on steel, electronics or machinery therefore raise costs for the manufacturers they are intended to protect, making domestic production less competitive.

The same disconnect appears in America's trade deficit. Despite successive rounds of tariffs, the US continues to run a record merchandise trade deficit. Trade balances are shaped by deeper forces such as national savings, investment and consumption. Tariffs can redirect trade from one country to another. They cannot change those fundamentals. This helps explain why supply chains have adjusted more quickly than factories. Production has increasingly shifted through countries like Vietnam, Mexico and other intermediary economies rather than returning to the US. Businesses adapt to incentives with remarkable speed. They reorganise sourcing, reroute shipments and redesign supply chains before they rebuild factories. Protection may change the geography of trade. It rarely changes the economics of production.

> Every successful political narrative needs three ingredients. Someone to blame, someone to protect and a visible action that signals resolve. Tariffs provide all three

If tariffs repeatedly disappoint as economic policy, why do they continue to dominate political debate? The answer lies beyond economics. Tariffs have evolved from an economic instrument into a political language. Every successful political narrative needs three ingredients. Someone to blame, someone to protect and a visible action that signals resolve. Tariffs provide all three. Foreign producers become the villain, domestic workers the beneficiaries. Governments appear decisive. Structural reforms demand patience, political consensus and years before their benefits become visible. Tariffs create headlines overnight.

Mohan is dean and professor of Economics, O P Jindal Global University (JGU). Singh is a research analyst with Centre for New Economics Studies, JGU

40 YEARS AGO

July 25, 1986

INDIAN EXPRESS

Summary trials to curb riots: Buta
Advance intelligence lacking

10 die as epidemic sweeps Ahmedabad

31 die as blast rips Lanka bus

Summary trials to curb riots

HOME MINISTER Buta Singh outlined a series of measures to prevent communal violence, including the summary trial of offenders by special courts, barring sectarian organisations from getting any state patronage, holding the district administration responsible for maintaining communal harmony and regulating religious processions. Singh also emphasised the need for codes of conduct for political parties and the press.

31 killed in Sri Lanka blast

THIRTY-ONE people were killed and 13 injured when a bomb exploded in a central transport bus in Issinbessagala, two miles from Madawachiya in north-central Sri Lanka. This is the second time a bus has been blown up within three days, and the blasts have together claimed 68 lives. Most of the victims are believed to be members of the majority Sinhalese community. The bomb is believed to have been placed in the middle of the bus.

Stormy zero hour

REPORTS ABOUT the high connections of Hamam Singh Toofan, the man wanted by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence following a $3 million hashish haul near Delhi, led to a stormy zero hour in the Lok Sabha. While those in the ministerial benches played dead bat to many of the posers from the opposition benches, Speaker Balram Jakhar ruled everything said by the agitated members off the record. The Opposition wanted a statement from the government on the reports' veracity. Flaunting a copy of *The Indian Express*, CPI(M) member Amal Datta repeatedly asked the Speaker if he had read the report.

Iran threatens King of Morocco

IRAN'S PRIME Minister and Syria's state-controlled press said that King Hassan II of Morocco will be assassinated for meeting the Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres. "I believe that the same fate that befell the annihilated Sadat is also awaiting the Shah of Morocco," the Iranian premier, Mir-Hossein Mousavi, was quoted as saying by Tehran's official news agency.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

It cannot be left to younger generations to pick up the pieces of a broken social model which should have been renewed and redesigned. — *The Guardian*

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I was asked to sing with an AI band. Here's why I said no

SONA MOHAPATRA

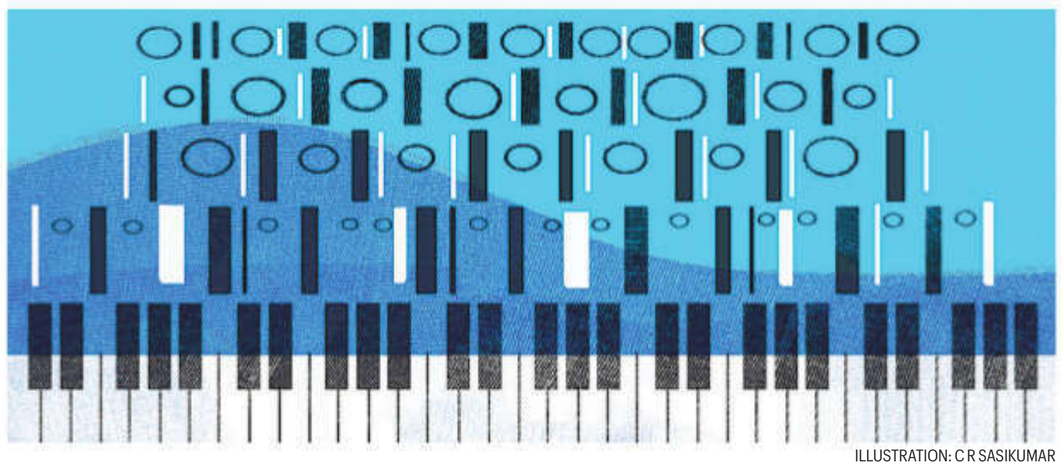

ILLUSTRATION: C R SASIKUMAR

LAST EVENING, I found myself facing a decision I had not anticipated. I had been approached to sing an Odia bhajan — 'Aahe Nila Shaila' — for a band called Trilok. I have always believed that artistes who have acquired visibility, like me, should occasionally lend that visibility to younger musicians. An Odia bhajan, new talent, a cultural collaboration in the month of the Rath Yatra, it seemed like something I would naturally want to support.

Then I did a little research.

I discovered that Trilok was not a band in the sense in which most of us understand the word. Its members were virtual identities. It now has some men with painted faces to play live stages. The project had been developed as an AI-led "spiritual rock band" by a talent-management and media company, not by four musicians who had met, rehearsed, disagreed, failed and finally found a sound together.

I would have appreciated being told this at the very beginning. The fact that this was an AI-generated band with fictional identities was not a minor production detail. It was central to the nature of the invitation and materially changed my decision about whether I wished to associate my voice with it. I gave my answer the same night. It did not come easily, because I am not opposed to technology. In fact, I had to examine my own recent choices before arriving at it.

Every generation of musicians has feared some new machine. When synthesisers entered studios, many instrumentalists believed their livelihoods would disappear. The anxiety was understandable: Why hire an orchestra if a keyboard could imitate one? Why call a drummer when a machine could keep perfect time?

But the synthesiser did not bring music to an end. It became another instrument. Drum machines did not eliminate rhythm; they altered its vocabulary. Sampling, digital recording, Auto-Tune and home-production software all provoked similar alarm. Each was eventually absorbed into music. So it would be simplistic to declare that any use of AI is automatically an attack on art.

I recently released 'Ghane Bhadra', an original song whose video combines a live green-screen shoot of me performing with AI-assisted imagery. I am bodily present in the video. I sang the song. Human musicians played on it. AI helped us enlarge the visual canvas. It did not invent the artiste, replace the performance or conceal the people who made the music. That distinction matters to me.

Independent musicians in India work within an increasingly punishing economy. We write and produce original songs, pay for recordings, musicians, mixing, mastering, styling, shoots, editing, publicity and distribution without the machinery of a major film studio or record label. We then place that work on social-media platforms that depend on our content to hold audiences but do not pay most of us meaningfully for it. A new technology that allows us to tell a more ambitious visual story without waiting for a label's permission or budget can feel liberating.

This is why I had to ask myself an uncomfortable question: Was I being inconsistent? How could I use AI in my own video and then refuse to sing for an AI band?

The answer became clearer when I stopped treating all uses of AI as though they were the same.

There is a meaningful difference between an artiste using a machine and a corporation using one to manufacture the appearance of artistes. One begins with human authorship and uses technology to extend its reach. The other can create an entire synthetic identity around which a catalogue and business may be built. One helps a financially constrained artiste complete a labour of love. The other can produce material at a velocity no human musician can possibly match. One acknowledges the people at the centre. The other risks making them invisible.

> There is a meaningful difference between an artiste using a machine and a corporation using one to manufacture the appearance of artistes. One acknowledges the people at the centre. The other risks making them invisible

When I examined the Trilok project, what troubled me was not simply that the members were digital avatars. It was the larger proposition. Devotional music is among the most enduring and commercially powerful musical traditions in India. The songs come with faith, familiarity and an audience already attached to them. A synthetic act built around beloved bhajans can rapidly create a catalogue without undergoing the slow, uncertain process through which musicians develop a voice.

Except for the guest collaborator, a known name used presumably to expand reach and gain credibility, all Trilok uploads just credit "Trilok" as the performer. That makes the question of authorship even more important. The point is not that no human work exists behind an AI output. Of course it does. But if human beings perform the labour while fictional identities receive the fame, where will value eventually accumulate?

And what happens when a recognised human singer is brought in?

My voice could give such a project something an avatar cannot manufacture: History, credibility, cultural location and emotional trust. My participation could tell listeners that this synthetic band had been accepted by a working artiste. Even unintentionally, I might help normalise a model that could ultimately reduce the space available to the world I come from. That was the ethical and moral line. Would I cross it?

There is another unresolved question. Generative music systems learn from large bodies of existing material. Around the world, creators are asking whether copyrighted work has been used for training with consent, transparency or compensation. The legal position is still contested. Technology has always learned from human knowledge. Artistes, too, learn from other artistes. But artistes do not ingest a million recordings at machine scale and then produce a competing catalogue within days. Scale changes the ethical character of the act.

I do not believe the answer is panic, prohibition or romantic speeches about returning to some pure pre-technological past. But artistes need to ask harder questions before lending their names and voices to synthetic acts. Who owns the resulting work? Who is credited? Was the training material licensed? Can a voice be cloned later? Is the human guest artiste helping build their own replacement? Is technology reducing the cost of expression or reducing the need to compensate creators? Is the audience being told clearly what it is hearing? And the final question: Where is the human being in this, and are we being invited to see them?

After thinking through, I knew I could not participate.

My use of AI in 'Ghane Bhadra' may still be questioned. That is fair. Artistes should not demand exemption from scrutiny simply because our intentions are good. I am also learning where my boundaries lie. But this experience clarified one of them. I will use technology to help human expressions travel further. I cannot knowingly lend my voice to make the human artiste disappear.

That is not fear of the future. It is a choice about the kind of future I am willing to help create.

The writer is a singer, producer and live performer

Young have spoken. They must now engage with government

RAM RAJYA

BY RAM MADHAV

IN NON-DEMOCRATIC systems, people resort to clandestine protests in the form of sabotage or violence to express their dissent. But dissent in a democracy must be disciplined. Because, unlike other systems, democracy recognises dissent as a constitutional right. Article 19 (1) (a) of the Indian Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression, which also includes the right to peacefully disagree and critique the government. It is this fundamental right that the agitating students in Delhi are entitled to enjoy. However, they must also keep in mind that this right comes with reasonable restrictions in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, public order, decency and morality, etc. They are expected to uphold the discipline of democratic dissent.

The core issue raised by the agitating students concerns the conduct of examinations by the National Testing Agency (NTA). The NEET-UG paper leak that led to the cancellation of the exam a couple of months ago, causing enormous agony to a large number of students, was a genuine issue. There were widespread protests over the leak, and the government promptly acted and handed over the case to the CBI. Thirteen accused have been arrested and legal proceedings are ongoing against them. Subsequently, the exam was reconducted without any glitch, and over 20 lakh candidates participated. The results were declared on schedule, with over 11 lakh students qualifying. Ideally, the matter should have ended with that. But it didn't. It is understandable if the agitators demanded reform and overhaul in the conduct of the competitive examinations. But their demand is limited to the removal of the education minister. Accountability is an important argument, but it should be about reforming the system and punishing those involved in malpractices. Both have been effectively addressed by the government.

Over the course of a month of the agitation, the assembly at the designated protest site near Jantar Mantar has acquired critical mass and momentum with the joining of several other sections of people. When a movement acquires that momentum, vested interests, professional "*andolan jeevis*" and political parties also jump in. We are witnessing that now. Several objectionable slogans began to be raised at the venue. Violence and attacks on security personnel, too, were reported.

ILLUSTRATION: TANUSHRI MITRA

The plunge taken by the opposition parties, led by Congress, cannot per se be objected to, but their refusal to use the constitutional platform of Parliament to discuss the matter points to an anarchist streak. This was evident when a group of MPs led by Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi indulged in a sudden sit-in protest outside the Prime Minister's residence, knowing well that it was against the rules and public order. On the one hand, Rahul Gandhi demanded accountability for paper leaks from the government, but on the other, he himself publicly refused to be accountable to the law, claiming it to be his "prerogative". The government expressed its willingness to debate the issue in Parliament. But the Opposition is running away from it because it knows the consequences of such a debate. Paper leaks are not happening for the first time in the country. Not a single year passed during the UPA regime without accusations of that nature confronting the government. Yet, not a single minister ever resigned, nor was anyone held accountable and punished. This exposes the Opposition's duplicity and their reticence to debate the matter in Parliament.

The government is sympathetic to the agitating students' legitimate concerns. The Modi government enacted the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act 2024, the first ever law to tackle paper leaks and other unfair means, prescribing strict punishments including fines up to Rs 1 crore. Respecting the sentiments of the students, the Prime Minister has announced fast-track courts and stringent punishments to tackle these cases.

The government is also sincere in engaging with the leaders of the agitation to address their concerns. Two central ministers were deployed to speak with them. The ball clearly is in the court of those young leaders. It is good that Sonam Wangchuk, the social activist supporting the agitation, decided to end his fast. He understood that with the entry of various interests into the movement, there is the danger of it losing its way. Wangchuk and the agitating students succeeded in making their views heard across the country. It is time now to work towards a resolution through active engagement with the government. The movement for a genuine cause should not be allowed to turn into the "grammar of anarchy", to quote B R Ambedkar, when a sincere government and secure constitutional methods are available.

The writer, president, India Foundation, is with the BJP

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Read the room

WHILE THE media across the nation was showing visuals of police brutality against thousands of largely peaceful protesters, the unemphatic remarks of the country's chief justice in response to a plea for an urgent hearing were ill-timed, in bad taste, and contrary to people's expectation of the top court as their ultimate protector against state excesses ('Due process is not a waste of anyone's time,' *IE*, July 24). They only give the impression that CJI Surya Kant is still guided by his earlier remarks about "cockroaches and parasites". There are multiple instances in which he agreed to urgent listings of less significant matters, such as his assurance of an urgent intervention regarding the closure of the Supreme Court metro station. Such selective treatment only shakes people's faith in the judiciary.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

Before the water rises

EVERY MONSOON, Assam braces for overflowing rivers, mass displacement, damaged crops and loss of life. Despite decades of embankment construction, river management projects and disaster preparedness, the cycle continues ('Flood shifts course. State response is static,' *IE*, July 24). Turning floods from recurring disasters into manageable natural events remains the state's biggest challenge.

S S Paul, Nadia

ASSAM'S FLOODS are no longer unpredictable acts of nature but failures of foresight. ('Floods shift course. State response is static,' *IE*, July 24) The Brahmaputra's shifting course and rising riverbed are well known, yet authorities still rely on outdated embankments and reactive relief instead of scientific planning and interstate coordination. The tragedy demands a unified river management system that treats rivers as shared ecosystems. Early warnings, sediment control and joint action across states must replace complacency.

Veda Chidanand, Bengaluru

Opposition amplifies, not captures, citizens' voice

MANOJ KUMAR JHA

YOUTH MOVEMENTS across the world are concerned with matters well beyond their immediate aims. The immediate concern of the young people protesting in Delhi is fair examinations. They have shown ample understanding that irregularities deepen inequalities of class and identities. The protest expresses a sense of betrayal among students, aspirants, and parents. The moral language of protesting youth has helped add urgency to wider grievances about the quality and experience of democracy itself.

Movements do not appear in a political vacuum but are a product of the political environment in which collective action develops. Whether some people like it or not, opposition parties are an important part of this process. Where a regime restricts protest or raises the costs of dissent, opposition parties can play an important role in expanding the space available to a movement.

Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Mallikarjun Kharge, Akhilesh Yadav and other parliamentarians pressed for both a parliamentary debate and ministerial accountability. They carried the students' demands from Jantar Mantar to the vicinity of the PM's residence, and were detained. Opposition MPs, CMs and ex-CMs met with protesters and condemned the police action. Opposition representatives also provided food and other practical support, and offered legal assistance.

> A march towards the PM's residence expresses the shared conviction that responsibility for institutional breakdown ultimately resides with the highest executive office

These actions are significant because repression isolates protesters by raising the personal costs of participation. The physical presence of recognised political leaders makes violence more visible, gives detained participants access to institutional assistance and ensures that demands enter legislative debate. The youth have not rejected party politics; they want parties to perform their representative function. The intervention of opposition CMs and regional leaders also enlarges the meaning of the mobilisation.

Against this, the BJP's response has combined coercion with politically hollow and morally reprehensible rhetoric. The use of barricades, prohibitory orders, detention, tear gas, pellet guns and baton charges treated a crisis of public confidence as a problem of crowd control. The subsequent attempt by Dharmendra Pradhan to portray Rahul Gandhi as "exploiting" students or staging a political spectacle evaded the elementary democratic point that opposition parties are expected to politicise failures of government and demand accountability. By attacking the legitimacy of Opposition involvement, the ruling party seeks to leave citizens facing the state as isolated individuals. The Opposition's task is to protect the movement's autonomy while giving its demands institutional endurance, federal reach and consequences within Parliament and electoral politics.

What began as a campaign around a specific policy failure has undergone frame extension. The movement has successfully connected examination irregularities with wider anxieties about unemployment, institutional decay, arbitrariness and the shrinking space for democratic dissent. It is this capacity to broaden its moral appeal that explains why students, parents, teachers, workers and citizens with no direct stake in competitive examinations increasingly recognise themselves in the movement.

Popular mobilisation creates pressure from below; parties, legislatures and federal institutions translate this into sustained scrutiny, legislative intervention and electoral accountability. Opposition involvement need not be understood as the capture of a citizens' movement but as a mechanism through which democratic institutions become responsive to popular demands. A march towards the PM's residence expresses the shared conviction that responsibility for institutional breakdown ultimately resides with the highest executive office. Whether the state chooses to hear these voices or merely police them will determine not only the future of this agitation but also the health of India's democratic imagination itself.

The writer is Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Rashtriya Janata Dal

No victory, no deal, no exit for Trump in Iran

RAJAN KUMAR

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump is trapped in a strategic deadlock with Iran with no clear options. His strategy is unlikely to deliver a decisive military victory or a negotiated peace. And political and strategic constraints will not allow the US to withdraw either. Therefore, the US is likely to remain engaged in a prolonged low-intensity confrontation.

Negotiations remain the most viable option, but Trump's negotiating strategy suffers from inconsistency, inexperience and ineptitude. That bombing and negotiations can run in parallel is an inherently flawed and futile logic. In his negotiating team, there are three states and two individuals: Oman, Qatar and Pakistan; and Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff. They were chosen for their loyalty to Trump rather than for real experience in strategic affairs.

A negotiation requires trust-building and neutrality. However, in the ongoing negotiations, negotiators are running with the hare and hunting with the hounds. Oman and Qatar are US allies, while Pakistan carries little political weight. They are not neutral, and their legitimacy is highly suspect. On the other side, Witkoff and Kushner are unable to restrain Trump from making provocative statements. Thus, the ongoing negotiations have achieved nothing substantial, besides an episodic ceasefire.

If Trump's negotiating strategies are flawed, his war strategy is no better. A victory requires full political and military commitment, entailing high economic cost. Trump lacks the political or economic capital to risk a full escalation. His ratings are declining, his loyalists are jumping ship, and his party fears losses in the November midterm elections, in which 435 seats in the House of Representatives, 35 seats in the Senate, and 36 state governor seats are at stake. The Democrats have a modest edge in the election for the House of Representatives.

Further, the US's ability to project power beyond the region faces serious constraints. The cases of Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria clearly illustrate this limitation. But Trump seems to have little regard for strategic constraints.

> Trump wanted regime change in Iran, but he cannot even keep the Strait of Hormuz open. He wanted a decimation of the Iranian military, but is incapable of protecting US allies

Essentially, Trump has drawn the US again into a Middle Eastern quagmire. He began with the goal of regime change, but is unable to keep the Strait of Hormuz open. He desired a decimation of the Iranian military, but he is unable to protect the US's allies in the region. He sought to restore American hegemony in the region; instead, he has driven the Gulf states to deepen their ties with China.

At the global level, the Iran war has damaged the reputation of the US as a rational and capable superpower. Allies no longer view Washington as a reliable partner in winning a war, striking a deal or securing peace. NATO refused to endorse Trump on Iran, the Gulf countries are cautious, and the Global South views the US as imperious, hegemonic and erratic. A Pew Research survey of 36 countries found that China is viewed more favourably than the US in 25 countries. The trend is likely to accelerate.

Trump's Iran strategy has reached a cul-de-sac where every option — war, withdrawal or deal — entails high strategic costs. In the short term, a further escalation involving other regional states is the most likely outcome. The leading countries of the Global South must step forward to broker a ceasefire and advance a de-escalation process. Strategic silence today may result in high strategic costs tomorrow.

The writer is professor, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES CIRCLE PALI

Notice Inviting Bid (NIB No - 02/2026-27)

Notice inviting Bid for The work ग्राम जीवंद कंला में नदी तटबंधन मय सुरक्षा दीवार कार्य Sanctioned in Budget Announcement year 2026-27 Amounting to Rs 454.95 Lacs in the State of Rajasthan India invited from interested bidders' Date of online downloading and Uploading of tender documents from 31.07.2026 on 01:00 PM to 31.08.2026 upto 06:00 PM. Bid will be opened on 01.09.2026 at 3:00 PM. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the http://sppp.raj.nic.in and http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in of the state; and Water Resources department Rajasthan website.

NIB No.: WRD2627A0181
UBN No.: WRD 2627WSOB00399

Superintending Engineer
Water Resources Circle Pali

DIPR/C/12923/2026

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 04/2026-27 **Dated: 22.07.2026**

E-Procurement Tender Notice

On behalf of the President of India, Senior Divisional Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Jhansi, invites the E-procurement tender for following item.

Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Tender Opening Date
92266603	Supply of 03 Phase InductionTraction Motor for HHP Locomotives without Pinion	12 Nos.	18.08.2026

Note: The complete information of above E-Procurement is available on IREPS website i.e. **https://www.ireps.gov.in.** Please visit this website regularly for any changes/corrigendum in the tender. No separate corrigendum will be published in the newspaper. **1680/26(K)**

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

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 26.08.2026 from 10 am onwards.

JHANSI DISTRICT - JHANSI: 4479000342, 4479000344, 4479000372, 4479000380, 4479000382, 4479000387, 4479000392, 4479000402, 4479000457, 4479000477, 4479000516, 4479000524, 4479000526, 4479000528, 4479000531, 4479000550, 4479000555, 4479000564, 4479000565, 4479000567, 4479000592, 4479000599, 4479000627, 4479000646, 4479000687, 4479000688, 4479000703, 4479000825, 4479000855, 4479000872, 4479000913, 4479000937.

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 07.09.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at JHANSI DISTRICT - JHANSI: UPPER GROUND FLOOR, PLOT NO:457/458, NEAR JHANSI POLICE LINE, TESHSIL-JHANSI, PRAGANA -JHANSI, UTTAR PRADESH- 284001 .The bidders are requested to produce photo id card ,Pan card .The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS.

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD

U.P. STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

UPSIDA Complex, A-1/4 Lakhanpur, Kanpur-208024

Notice for Public Objection/Suggestion on Layout Plan of Industrial Estate Loni Ghaziabad by which open space plot (area 2990.23 sqm.) has been sub-divided and created a new plot ESS-1 (area 1500.00 Sqm.) for electrical substation.

1. (a) The Layout Plan of ESS-1, **Industrial Estate Loni Ghaziabad**, of Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) situated in District **Ghaziabad** has been prepared.
   (b) A copy thereof will be available for inspection at the Regional Manager of the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority, Industrial Area C-2, Fourth Floor, Mahaluxmi Mall, RDC, Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad between 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on all working days till the date mentioned in Para 3 hereafter as well as **website:www.onlineupsida.com**
2. Objections and Suggestions are hereby invited with respect to the Draft Amended Layout Plan.
3. Objections and Suggestions shall be sent in writing to the office of Regional Manager, C-2, Fourth Floor, Mahaluxmi Mall, RDC, Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice mentioning subject as **"Regarding Public Suggestions/Objections on Draft Development Plan of Industrial Estate Loni Ghaziabad."** Any person making the Suggestions or Objections should also give his/her full name, address, email ID and contact number. **(Regional Manager)**

U.P. State Industrial Development Authority

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, U. P. LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Gokaran Nath Road, Badshah Bagh, Lucknow-226007
Email ID: upldb@rediffmail.com, Website: https://upldb.up.gov.in

Reference No. 726(3) Date: 24.07.2026

Vigyapti For Contractual Appointment

Applications are invited for the post of "I.T. Resource Person" for the State Project Management Unit (SPMU) established at UPLDB, HQs Lucknow under the National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM) from those engineering graduate/postgraduate applicants who have a background in Computer Science or I.T. and have at least 2 years of experience.

- ✔ For application format visit UPLDBs' website
- ✔ Age Limit: Minimum 25 years
- ✔ Salary Package (per month) Consolidated Remuneration negotiable on the basis of experience & project sanction.
- ✔ Duration: As per GOI Guidelines.

Information:

1	Number of Positions	2
2	Last Date of Submission of Application	By Registered Post till 10.08.2026, 06:00 PM
3	Address for submission of application	Chief Executive Officer, U.P. Livestock Development Board, Gokaran Nath Road, Badshahbagh, Lucknow-226007

Nature of Job: MIS Reporting, preparation for GOI meeting, Minutes of Meeting (MOM), Social Media Handling, Dashboard Preparation, Project digitalization & other related works given by CEO, UPLDB.

Disclaimer:

+ Board reserves the right to cancel/modify the advertisement without assigning any reason.
+ Further terms & conditions will be followed as per mutual agreement.

Dr. Pramod Kumar Singh
Chief Executive Officer

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location	89-SRDEE-G-DLI-2026-27 Strengthening of Power Supply distribution system with replacement of old and obsolete LT panel/Feeder pillar with other associated works at Old Delhi station.
Approx. cost of the works in	Rs. 36726132.00/-
Address of the office	Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/General, DRM Office, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi, 110055
Earnest Money	Rs. 734500.00/-
Last Date & time of submission of tender	17/08/2026, 16.00 Hrs
Opening of tender	17/08/2026, 16.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2555/26

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 26.08.2026 from 10 am onwards.

Auction Date: 26.08.2026 - CHHATARPUR DISTRICT - CHHATARPUR: 4411000061, 4411000687, 4411000698, 4411000703, 4411000707, 4411000709, 4411000820, 4411000840, 4411000846, 4411000869, 4411000879, 4411000888, 4411000914, 4411000935, 4411001001, 4411001155, 4411001243, 4411001260, 4411001343, 4411001348. **Auction Date: 26.08.2026 - SAGAR DISTRICT - BINA-SAGAR:** 4363001435, 4363001572, 4363002052, 4363002106, 4363002167, 4363002327, 4363002342, 4363002394, 4363002411, 4363002422, 4363002426, 4363002538, 4363002547, 4363002561, 4363002620, 4363002679, 4363002722, 4363002842. **SAGAR-MADHYA PRADESH:** 2651000916, 2651000930, 2651000961, 2651000962, 2651000966, 2651000988, 2651001035, 2651001057, 2651001060, 2651001096, 2651001129, 2651001139, 2651001151, 2651001155, 2651001156, 2651001157, 2651001164, 2651001167, 2651001187, 2651001214, 2651001219, 2651001235, 2651001246, 2651001251, 2651001264, 2651001273, 2651001283, 2651001290, 2651001303, 2651001310, 2651001311, 2651001318, 2651001327, 2651001358, 2651001471, 2651001488, 2651001505, 2651001513, 2651001514, 2651001536, 2651001602, 2651001663, 2651001707, 2651001708, 2651001762, 2651001767, 2651001773, 2651001783, 2651001784, 2651001788, 2651001789, 2651001822, 2651001864, 2651002021, 2651002035, 2651002089. **Auction Date: 26.08.2026 - TIKAMGARH DISTRICT - TIKAMGARH:** 4429000934, 4429000941, 4429000964, 4429000967, 4429000968, 4429000978, 4429000992, 4429000998, 4429001003, 4429001019, 4429001039, 4429001048, 4429001067, 4429001068, 4429001089, 4429001100, 4429001102, 4429001104, 4429001113, 4429001115, 4429001118, 4429001128, 4429001133, 4429001135, 4429001136, 4429001137, 4429001142, 4429001151, 4429001165, 4429001192, 4429001197, 4429001203, 4429001231, 4429001236, 4429001249, 4429001254, 4429001256, 4429001276, 4429001302, 4429001304, 4429001330, 4429001337, 4429001350, 4429001377, 4429001405, 4429001434, 4429001439, 4429001449, 4429001458, 4429001490, 4429001510, 4429001512, 4429001530, 4429001551, 4429001574.

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 07.09.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at CHHATARPUR DISTRICT - CHHATARPUR: GROUND FLOOR, HOUSE NO 67 DOOR NO 1NEAR ICICI BANK, JAWAHAR MARGCHHATARPUR, MADHYA PRADESH-471001 .The bidders are requested to produce photo id card ,Pan card .The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS.

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD

टेलीफैक्स:- 05946-264331 ई-मेल : pmbridculhld@gmail.com

BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल) CIN No. : U45203UR2008SGC032591

ब्रिज, रोपवे, टनल एण्ड अदर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉरपोरेशन ऑफ उत्तराखण्ड लिमिटेड

(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड राज्य अवस्थापना विकास निगम लिमिटेड

परियोजना ईकाई-हल्द्वानी, ईकाई कार्यालय : रौतेला कॉलोनी, छोटी मुखानी, पो०ऑ०-बड़ी मुखानी, हल्द्वानी, नैनीताल-263139

पत्रांक : 1409/ब्रिडकुल/रा0अ0गृ0/2026 दिनांक : 24.07.2026

वृक्षो के पातन एवं निस्तारण हेतु नीलामी सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि जनपद चम्पावत के टनकपुर में राज्य सम्पत्ति विभाग के नियन्त्रणाधीन नवीन राज्य अतिथि गृह के निर्माण कार्य मे विद्यमान खतरनाक वृक्ष को "जैसा है जहाँ है" आधार पर पातन कर निस्तारित किया जाना है, जिनका विवरण निम्नवत् है।

क्र0 सं0	वृक्ष की प्रजाति एंव संख्या	न्यूनतम लागत (जी0 एस0टी0 एवं अन्य टैक्स अतिरिक्त)	धरोहर राशि (रु0)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रु0)	नीलामी की तिथि समय एवं स्थान
1.	आम-07 सं0, अशोक-15 सं0, नीम-01 सं0, सहतूत-01 सं0, पाखड़-01 सं0, सागौन-05 सं0, जंगली जलेबी-02 सं0। कुल वृक्षों की संख्या-32 नग।	5,18,226.00	1,00,000.00	5000.00 + 18% G.S.T.	तिथि:-06.08.2026 समय:-13:00 स्थान:-कार्यालय परि0 प्रबन्धक, ब्रिडकुल, रौतेला कालोनी, हल्द्वानी।

उपरोक्त कार्य हेतु नीलामी प्रपत्र दिनांक 27.07.2026 से 05.08.2026 तक किसी भी कार्यालय दिवस में निर्धारित शुल्क, डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट जो कि परियोजना प्रबन्धक, स्थापना खाता, ब्रिडकुल, हल्द्वानी के नाम से जारी किया गया हो अथवा नकद रूप में जमा कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

नोट:- उपरोक्त कार्य हेतु इच्छुक व्यक्ति/फर्म द्वारा नीलामी प्रपत्र को क्रय किए जाने हेतु अपना जी0एस0टी0 प्रमाण-पत्र, आधार कार्ड, पैन कार्ड आदि की प्रति जमा की जानी होगी। नीलामी की शर्तें तथा निर्धारित प्रारूप निविदा प्रपत्र के साथ संलग्न रहेंगे।

परियोजना प्रबन्धक

STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND
Government of Jharkhand

e-procurement Notice inviting Request For Proposal for Authority Engineer

RFP No: SHA/Tech/AE/Jaina more to Phusro/2026 /567 Date: 23.07.2026

1. State Highways Authority of Jharkhand, Ranchi invites Request of Proposal for services of **Authority's Engineer for Supervision of Widening & Strengthening work of Jainamore (Tilka manjhi chowk) to Phusro (Nirmal mahato chowk) (MDR-077) from 2 lane to 2 lane paved shoulder ON EPC MODE.**
2. The interested consultancy firm who have experience in services of similar works and required technical & financial strength may obtain Request of Proposal (RFP) document from e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in **from 29.07.2026 (15:00 hrs) to 20.08.2026. (15:00 hrs).**
3. The complete RFP Application shall be submitted online by **20.08.2026 (upto 15:00 hrs)** on e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in as per instruction in RFP-Instruction to Bidder for e-tendering. All the details regarding this RFP will be available on the above mentioned website.
4. To participate in the bidding, it is mandatory for the applicants to get registered their firm with **e-tendering portal of http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in to have user ID & password.**
5. The consultancy firm are required to submit non-refundable document **fee of Rs. 30,000/- (Rs. Thirty thousand only) & Bid Security (EMD) of Rs. 1,00,000.00 (Rs. One Lakh) only. Tender fees and Earnest money Deposit (EMD) shall be deposited online as per Information Technology & E-Governance Department order no 120 dated 03.10.2023.** The undersigned will open the received bid online on **21.08.2026** at **15:30 hrs.**

Note: ***No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.***

Sd/-, Member (Technical)
State Highways Authority of Jharkhand
Deen Dayal Nagar
(Near Office of Executive Engineer, NH Division, Ranchi)
Booty Road, Ranchi-834008. Ph.: 0651-2361306
E-mail: membertechnical.shaj3@gmail.com

PR 385749 State Highway Authority of Jharkhand(26-27)#D

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.

O/o SE (TD), 604, Investment Building, LalKothi, Tonk Road, Jaipur

E-TENDER NOTICE: TN-22(RVU2627GLOB00812)

Online tenders are invited for Procurement of Sulphuric Acid for various power projects of RVUN i.e. CTPP-O&M, CHHABRA/CSCTPP, CHHABRA/ KSTPS KOTA/KATPP, JHALAWAR/SSTPS-O&M, SURATGARH/SSCTPP, SURATGARH/ RGTPP, RAMGARH/DCCPP, DHOLPUR/GLTPP, Barmer. Tender details are available on **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl** & **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/26/7589 RVUN/PR-4430 Superintending Engineer (TD-III)

DIRECTORATE OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY, HARYANA & HAREDA

Akshay Urja Bhawan, Institutional Plot No. 1, Sector-17, Panchkula - 134109
Phone: 0172-2585733, 2585433
Email: hareda@chd.nic.in | Website: www.hareda.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITING COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS ON THE DRAFT HARYANA COMPRESSED BIOGAS (CBG) POLICY, 2026

The New and Renewable Energy Department, Haryana/ HAREDA has prepared the Draft Haryana Compressed Biogas (CBG) Policy, 2026. The draft policy is available on the website at www.hareda.gov.in under the "What's New" tab on the Homepage.

Comments/suggestions are invited from the general public, project developers, stakeholders, Industrial associations and other concerned organizations. Clause-wise comments/ suggestions, indicating the relevant clause number, may be submitted in the prescribed format within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, by email at hareda@chd.nic.in

Sd/-
Director
New and Renewable Energy Department, Haryana & HAREDA, Panchkula

No. 47506-HR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Open Tender No: JHS-RCNK-M-NTU-26-27-10 **Dated:** 23.07.2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited by Chief Workshop Manager, Rail Coach Naveenikaran Karkhana, Jhansi from experienced and interested contractors on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work :-

Name of Work: Toilet Upgradation in LHB NAC Coaches.

Cost of work: ₹ 6,78,62,984.25 (Including 18% GST)

Earnest Money Deposit/Bid Security: ₹ 13,57,300.00

Time of completion: Twenty-Four Months

Online tender closing date and time: 20.08.2026 at 11:00 Hrs.

Detailed information about tender and tender format is available at website **www.ireps.gov.in.** **1689/26(A)**

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

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2025-26-22-RT. The details are as under:

1.	Name of work	Repairing, dismantling, cleaning, testing and fitting of Main Brake Cylinder (PBAC) Parking Brake Cylinder (PBACF) of pneumatic brake system of WAP5 and Brake Cylinder (PBAC) of WAP7/WAG9 locomotives and replacement of defective pneumatic pipeline, fittings and clamps during Major Schedule (TOH/IOH) and unscheduled locomotives and fitment of manual release Spindle in FTRTIPL PBACF (Parking Brake) in WAP5 locomotives' for a period 36 months at Electric Loco Shed-Ghaziabad.
2.	Approx. cost of work:	₹ 35,52,036.00
3.	Earnest Money to be deposited:	₹ 71,100.00
4.	Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender	14.08.2026 (15:00 Hrs.)
5.	Date & Time of opening of tender document:	14.08.2026 (After 15:00 Hrs.)
6.	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen:	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: (i) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for participating in e-tender system. **(ii)** For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. **(iii)** No manual offers are acceptable. **(iv)** Cost of Tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. 230-TRS-GZB-2025-26-22-R1 Dated: 17.07.2026 2551/26

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

राज्य पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन,

(एस.डब्ल्यू.एस.एम.), उ०प्र०
नमामि गंगे तथा ग्रामीण जलापूर्ति विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश शासन

पत्रांक: **1622/W-314(ID)/DEPU.SELECTION-III)/2023** दिनांक: 22 जुलाई, 2026

संशोधित पत्र

राज्य पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन के पत्रांक 1100/W-314(ID) /DEPU-SELECTION-III /2023 दिनांक 23 जून, 2026 में किये गये अनुरोध के क्रम में तकनीकी संवर्ग एवं लेखा संवर्ग के कतिपय अधिकारियों एवं कर्मचारियों को प्रतिनियुक्ति पर लिये जाने के सम्बन्ध में समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित कराये गये विज्ञापन की तिथि दिनांक 15.07.2026 को राज्य पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन की वेबसाइट www.swsm.up.gov.in पर दिनांक 05.08.2026 की सायं 5:00 बजे तक बढ़ा दी गयी है।

(जोगिंदर सिंह)
अधिशासी निदेशक

UPID-254060 Date: 23/07/2026
www.upidadv.gov.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PROVINCIAL DIVISION, P.W.D BIJNOR

Letter No.2100/E-Tender/26-27 **Dated: 15.07.2026**

(E-Tender)

1. The Executive Engineer Provincial Division, U.P.P.W.D. Bijnor on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved Contractors registered in Building Works with UP PWD, class A,B,C,D The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.
2.

SL No	RICTDIST	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. In Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs. In Lakhs)	Cost of Bid Document	Time of Completion	Address of Executive Engineer of the Executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Bijnor	Repair of Transit Hostial in District Bijnor.	6	0.60	854/- (Tender Cost be accepted only by Net banking)	09 Months	Provincial Division, P.W.D. Bijnor	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	Chief Engineer Moradabad Zone P.W.D. Moradabad
2	Bijnor	Repair and Maintenance of Government Residential Building in District Bijnor.	11.00	1.10	854/- (Tender Cost be accepted only by Net banking)	09 Months	Provincial Division, P.W.D. Bijnor	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	Chief Engineer Moradabad Zone P.W.D. Moradabad

- ➢ The Rate adopted in the BOQ include all Other taxes but excluding GST.
- ➢ Tender cost should be deposited online through Net Banking as per Column No. 5 & 6 in the table.

Bids must be downloaded online from 10:00 AM on date 30.07.2026 to 12:00 PM on dated 04.08.2026 and the technical bids will be opened online on date 04.08.2026 at 12:30 PM in Office of Executive Engineer Provincial Division PWD Bijnor and Financial bids of the qualified bidders will be opened on date & time as notified. According to the provisions of Government Order no. 1/2018/3070/78-2-2018/42 IT/2017 (22) Date 03-01-2018 after opening of the technical and financial bids, the qualified bidder has to submit original documents personally in department/ office. In the event of non submission of original documents by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of G.O.

All terms & conditions can be seen on website http:/etender.up.nic.in

Executive Engineer
Provincial Division, PWD, Bijnor
Ph. 01342-262776 | Email - pdbijnor@gmail.com

UPID-254030 Dt. 23/07/2026
www.upidadv.gov.in

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 26.08.2026 from 10 am onwards.

Auction Date: 26.08.2026 - PANIPAT DISTRICT - PANIPAT: 0842001752, 0842001793, 0842001904, 0842001992, 0842002003, 0842002007, 0842002030, 0842002068, 0842002098, 0842002111, 0842002113, 0842002129, 0842002146, 0842002163, 0842002174, 0842002176, 0842002197, 0842002204, 0842002206, 0842002209, 0842002224, 0842002227, 0842002264, 0842002276, 0842002285, 0842002314, 0842002322, 0842002339, 0842002367, 0842002468, 0842002575, 0842002587, 0842002591, 0842002598, 0842002643, 0842002719, 0842002742, 0842002792, 0842002803, 0842002837, 0842002840, 0842002844, 0842002850, 0842002879, 0842002895, 0842002904, 0842002929, 0842002991, 0842003009, 0842003188, 8000140842, 8000340842. **PANIPAT-MODEL TOWN:** 2870001604, 2870001605, 2870001646, 2870001668, 2870001716, 2870001729, 2870001741, 2870001754, 2870001756, 2870001788, 2870001802, 2870001838, 2870001930, 2870001941, 2870001953, 2870001956, 2870001961, 2870001962, 2870001965, 2870001970, 2870001976, 2870001978, 2870002007, 2870002009, 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**PANIPAT-SANAULI ROAD:** 2668000657, 2668002890, 2668002922, 2668002936, 2668002942, 2668002988, 2668003028, 2668003040, 2668003050, 2668003073, 2668003090, 2668003095, 2668003136, 2668003182, 2668003343, 2668003364, 2668003435, 2668003523, 2668003560, 2668003569, 2668003613, 2668003628, 2668003649, 2668003672, 2668003682, 2668003688, 2668003702, 2668003729, 2668003748, 2668003777, 2668003781, 2668003795, 2668003811, 2668003818, 2668003822, 2668003855, 2668003858, 2668003859, 2668003867, 2668003882, 2668003886, 2668003900, 2668003918, 2668003925, 2668003959, 2668003975, 2668004023, 2668004025, 2668004033, 2668004037, 2668004062, 2668004073, 2668004078, 2668004086, 2668004089, 2668004093, 2668004099, 2668004106, 2668004107, 2668004115, 2668004121, 2668004129, 2668004135, 2668004140, 2668004146, 2668004170, 2668004172, 2668004192, 2668004193, 2668004221, 2668004232, 2668004244, 2668004248, 2668004254, 2668004264, 2668004280, 2668004287, 2668004293, 2668004315, 2668004323, 2668004332, 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2613001936, 2613001945, 2613001964, 2613001965, 2613001970, 2613001975, 2613001991, 2613001996, 2613002050, 2613002057, 2613002082, 2613002093, 2613002095, 2613002118, 2613002119, 2613002128, 2613002136, 2613002144, 2613002181, 2613002196, 2613002215, 2613002216, 2613002218, 2613002244, 2613002245, 2613002251, 2613002263, 2613002264, 2613002283, 2613002307, 2613002332, 2613002365, 2613002369, 2613002373, 2613002374, 2613002402, 2613002403, 2613002405, 2613002414, 2613002415, 2613002418, 2613002421, 2613002434, 2613002446, 2613002447, 2613002449, 2613002461, 2613002473, 2613002474, 2613002477, 2613002478, 2613002480, 2613002496, 2613002499, 2613002500, 2613002503, 2613002505, 2613002512, 2613002515, 2613002520, 2613002521, 2613002524, 2613002530, 2613002535, 2613002536, 2613002539, 2613002540, 2613002551, 2613002557, 2613002558, 2613002562, 2613002567, 2613002568, 2613002570, 2613002571, 2613002578, 2613002593, 2613002597, 2613002631, 2613002648, 2613002651, 2613002679, 2613002680, 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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 07.09.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at PANIPAT DISTRICT - PANIPAT-SANAULI ROAD: GROUND FLOOR, NANAK SINGH , MUTHOOT FINCORP LIMITED DOOR NO. 345/46, WARD NO.9, SANAULI ROAD, NEARKANSHIGIRI MANDIR , PANIPAT, HARYANA , 132103 .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.

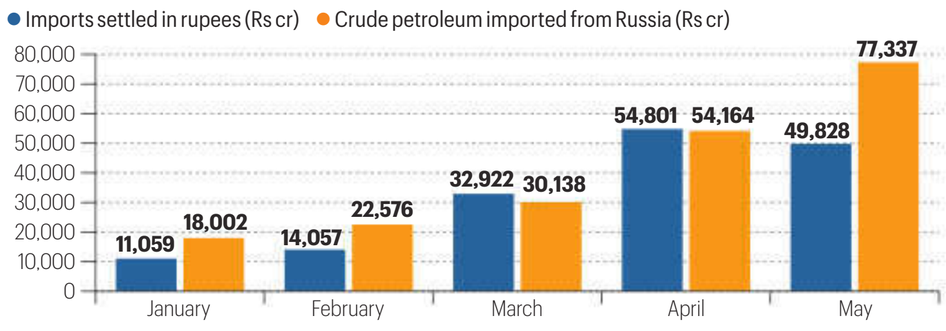
Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company , which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so for in spite of repeated notices will be auctioned on 27.08.2026 from 10 am onwards.

Auction Date: 27.08.2026 - GWALIOR DISTRICT - DABRA: 2236000431, 2236001435, 2236001497, 2236001592, 2236001610, 2236001622, 2236001632, 2236001666, 2236001672, 2236001698, 2236001733, 2236001738, 2236001745, 2236001752, 2236001756, 2236001760, 2236001774, 2236001785, 2236001790, 2236001797, 2236001806, 2236001827, 2236001830, 2236001834, 2236001841, 2236001851, 2236001852, 2236001866, 2236001893, 2236001926, 2236001940, 2236001943, 2236001944, 2236001949, 2236001958, 2236001988, 2236001997, 2236002018, 2236002023, 2236002025, 2236002028, 2236002029, 2236002049, 2236002051, 2236002074, 2236002086, 2236002089, 2236002094, 2236002105, 2236002181, 2236002183, 2236002205, 2236002253, 2236002275, 2236002292, 2236002321, 2236002342, 2236002352, 2236002376, 2236002401, 2236002437, 2236002443, 2236002458, 2236002459, 2236002471, 2236002507, 2236002519, 2236002534, 2236002541, 2236002545, 2236002548, 2236002560, 2236002564, 2236002644, 2236002657, 2236002687, 2236002702, 2236002720, 2236002725, 2236002739, 2236002781, 2236002795, 2236002811. **GWALIOR HAZIRA:** 4419001836, 4419001936, 4419002042, 4419002045, 4419002077, 4419002086, 4419002109,

AS RUSSIAN OIL PURCHASES SURGED

India paid $15 bn of imports in rupees in March-May

• RUSSIAN OIL PURCHASES & PAYMENT FOR IMPORTS IN RUPEES



NOTE: DATA ON SETTLEMENT OF IMPORTS IN RUPEES IS FOR ALL MERCHANDISE GOODS, SOURCE: RBI, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

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Siddharth Upasani
New Delhi, July 24

EVEN AS the value of the rupee tumbled to multiple all-time lows following the onset of the war in West Asia, India used its domestic currency to pay for nearly $15 billion worth of imports in March, April, and May.

The payment in rupees may have been for oil bought from Russia, whose share in India's oil imports surged after the US and Israel's attack on Iran in late February led to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

According to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) this week, imports worth Rs 1.38 lakh crore were paid for in rupees during the three months in question, calculations by *The Indian Express* showed. This accounted for 7.1% of India's merchandise imports in the three months and is approximately equivalent to $14.6 billion at the average exchange rate of 94-per-dollar that prevailed during March-May. In the previous three months — December 2025 to February 2026 — imports worth Rs 42,506 crore were settled in rupees, equal to 2.4% of total inbound shipments.

"The rupee's depreciation will only explain a small part of this increased rupee settlement of imports," said Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist at Bank of Baroda, instead pointing to the sharp rise in India's purchases of Russian oil starting March.

The imports paid for in rupees during March-May is far more than before and exceeds the total for 2023-24 (Rs 99,680 crore) and 2024-25 (Rs 1.13 lakh crore). In 2025-26, the rupee was used to pay for imports worth Rs 1.72 lakh crore.

Supplies from Russia

First announced on March 12, the US' sanctions waiver on buying sanctioned Russian crude oil led to a big jump in purchases by India in the face of soaring global energy prices, with around 40% of India's oil needs met through flows from the Strait of Hormuz.

After the US' first waiver expired on April 11, another was issued on April 17. Once that expired on May 16, a final waiver was announced on May 17, which ended on June 17. There has been no renewal since then.

With the waivers in place, India stepped up its purchases of Russian crude oil to record levels. According to commerce ministry data, India imported Russian crude petroleum to the tune of $17.13 billion in March-May, up 30% year-on-year.

In February, India's Russian oil imports amounted to $2.49 billion.

Settling trade in rupees

To be sure, this would not be the first time that India has paid for Russian oil in rupees, with the RBI in mid-2022 announcing a framework for the settlement of international trade in rupees. As a net buyer of goods and services from abroad, India's import bill is often at the mercy of the rupee's performance — if it weakens, it would lead to more money being paid by importers for a fixed dollar amount.

In 2025-26, India had a trade deficit of $119 billion. As such, paying for imports in rupees can reduce the outflow of foreign currency and ease the pressure on the exchange rate which has been under pressure over the last year due to foreign capital outflows from domestic financial markets and global geopolitical developments.

Rupees are also being used by other countries to pay for Indian goods and software exports. From Rs 15,195 crore in February, Indian exports that were paid for in rupees more than doubled to Rs 41,373 crore in March, before declining to Rs 10,218 crore in April and Rs 8,289 crore in May. The jump in March may have again been on account of Russia.

"With India paying for Russian oil in rupees, it makes sense for Russia to use those rupees to pay for what products it can from India," an economist said, requesting not to be named.

Except for March 2026, payment received in rupees by India for its exports constitutes a small portion of total exports: Rs 1.75 lakh crore in 2023-24 (3.56% of total exports), Rs 1.69 lakh crore in 2024-25 (3.21%), and Rs 1.87 lakh crore in 2025-26 (3.22%). In the first two months of 2026-27, it has been a mere Rs 18,507 crore (1.82%).

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Renewed war erases Russian oil discounts

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, July 24

DISCOUNTS ON Russian oil for Indian refiners have vanished again amid the resurgence of conflict in West Asia and the sharp drop in energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz, a senior official with government-owned refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) has said.

Amid all this, the demand for oil from other regions has shot up once again, leading to erosion of discounts on Russian oil — the mainstay of India's oil imports.

BPCL's Director (Finance) Vetsa Ramakrishna Gupta said that while Indian refiners are not receiving any discount offer for Russian crude in the prevailing market conditions, there is ample availability of Moscow's oil and crude from other sources in the market to keep India well-supplied.

Given the tightness in global energy supplies, Indian refiners are prioritising oil supply security over price considerations.

As for the US allowing its sanctions waiver on Russian oil purchases to lapse, Gupta said that the move has had no notable impact on buying behaviour as there are enough non-US-sanctioned suppliers of Russian oil in the market.

The sanctions waiver, which was issued by the US to keep the global oil market well-supplied, lapsed on June 17, the same day on which the US-Iran MoU was inked.

"Russian oil was never sanctioned, only some vessels, service providers, and certain other entities were sanctioned (by the US). But if you are purchasing from other entities, you can very well continue to buy... We are buying completely from the non-sanctioned entities," Gupta told *The Indian Express* Thursday.

He added that the non-sanctioned sources of Russian oil supplies were more than adequate to meet India's demand and supplies till August-end were already tied up, with

"Volumes are available, only the price fluctuates. At times it (Russian oil) even commands a premium, instead of (the usual) discount, but enough volumes are available. In fact, because Russian refineries got impacted (due to Ukrainian attacks), surplus Russian oil volume was available for exports," he said.

Ever since the Russia-Ukraine war broke out in February 2022, Russian crude usually traded at a discount as numerous countries, predominantly in the West, shunned Moscow's oil.

• DIMINISHING GAINS

AFTER THE June 17 US-Iran MoU, energy flows through the strait started recovering, with hope in the market that supplies through the chokepoint would normalise steadily

THE OPTIMISM led to a fall in oil prices. Discounts on Russian oil at Indian ports had also widened to over $10 per barrel to benchmark Brent crude in early July, as per industry estimates

HOWEVER, THE recovery in energy flows from West Asia lasted about three weeks, after which attacks on ships in the region resumed and tanker traffic crashed again

Highly import-dependent Indian refiners, however, were quick to step up their purchases of Russia's discounted barrels, catapulting Moscow to the position of New Delhi top source of crude within a few months. Before the Ukraine war, Russia was a peripheral oil supplier to India, with less than 2% share in India's oil import basket.

But amid the West Asia war, as vessel movements through the Strait of Hormuz — which usually accounted for a fifth go global oil flows — effectively came to a halt, refiners in India and even other parts of the world scrambled for oil from alternative sources, leading to discount erosion and even premium on Russian oil.

After the June 17 US-Iran MoU, energy flows through the strait started recovering, with hope in the market that supplies through the chokepoint would normalise steadily.

The optimism led to a fall in oil prices; discounts on Russian oil at Indian ports had also widened to over $10 per barrel to benchmark Brent crude in early July, as per industry estimates. However, the recovery in energy flows from West Asia lasted about three weeks, after which attacks on ships in the region resumed and tanker traffic crashed again. Amid the West Asia crisis, as oil flows from the Gulf dried up, Russian crude became India's strongest energy security hedge.

As per Kpler data, India's Russian oil imports rose to around 2.6 million barrels per day (bpd) in June, accounting for over half of New Delhi's total crude imports. July arrivals are also tracking at healthy levels and could match or even exceed June's volumes, as per estimates. India depends on imports to meet over 88% of its crude oil needs, and over 40% of that was met by oil that came via the Strait of Hormuz.

In the months preceding the West Asia war, oil imports from Russia had reduced notably as the US imposed sanctions on Russian oil majors Rosneft and Lukoil, and amid trade pact negotiations with New Delhi and Washington.

The US made a meaningful reduction in Russian oil imports a prerequisite for scrapping its 25% additional penal tariff on India. But as supplies from West Asia dwindled due to the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, Russian oil came to India's aid and volumes surged to historic highs.

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NEW UNITED STATES TARIFFS

India well positioned, but textile input sourcing a worry: Exporters

Ravi Dutta Mishra
New Delhi, July 24

AS THE US imposed fresh tariffs of 10% on India after a Section 301 investigation, Indian exporters said the country is better positioned than most of its competitors, particularly China and Vietnam.

But Indian textile exporters said that due to new textile tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) for Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Malaysia, based on their imports of US cotton, sourcing of cotton, yarn and other intermediate goods from India could be reduced.

SC Ralhan, President of The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), said that Indian exporters largely retain their relative competitiveness in these sectors, as competing suppliers will face a similar duty incidence in the US market. "More importantly, Indian exporters could benefit from trade diversion in several product segments where competing countries are subject to the higher 12.5% tariff. Even a differential of 2.5% can influence sourcing decisions in highly competitive markets, particularly where Indian exporters can offer quality products, reliable deliveries and stable supply chains," he added.

The textile challenge

The USTR has established textile tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) for Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Malaysia under which these economies would import US cotton and textile goods for final manufacturing. No such TRQ has been announced for India.

Bangladesh, being one of India's top competitors and also a large importer of Indian cotton and fibre, could now begin sourcing input items from the US, as USTR said that the TRQs will allow a specific volume of textiles and apparel from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Malaysia to enter the United States free of Section 301 tariffs. These TRQs will have an initial duration of three years, and imports to the US would then begin attracting a 10% Section 301 tariff. Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) Chairman Ashwin Chandran said that the tariff imposition on the issue of forced labour is unfortunate as it does not indicate an expiry date, causing reputational risks, and CITI looks forward to the Indian government taking up this issue with the US given the detrimental impact it could have on textile and apparel exports from India.

"A window has been opened for textile and apparel exports from these countries to enter the United States free of the Section 301 tariffs. This differential treatment risks diverting sourcing orders for textile and apparel items away from India," Chandran said.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Address genuine grievances of taxpayers fairly: FM to tax officers

Aanchal Magazine
New Delhi, July 24

Asking tax officers to "serve with humility", Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the honest taxpayers should be given the opportunity to correct bona fide errors, while "firm consequences" should be ensured for those who engage in deliberate tax evasion.

Speaking at the 167th Income Tax Day, Sitharaman in her message to the gathering of tax officials also said that the duration of processing timelines needs to be reduced further along with focusing on shifting from "litigation management" to "litigation prevention" as a long-term objective.

Spelling out five Rs — recognise, respond, redress, reflect and reform — to the tax officers, Sitharaman said tax officials need to recognise every taxpayer's concern promptly, acknowledging that all grievances need timely attention; response with clarity, courtesy, empathy ensuring taxpayers receive meaningful communication at each stage.

They should address genuine grievances fairly and within defined timelines, deliver timely and recent solutions; reflect on the root causes of grievances using complaints as an opportunity for institutional learning.

The FM also said that the officers should also reform the processes, systems and procedures continuously so that similar grievances become increasingly rare. "But sometimes we make the error of treating honest taxpayers with deliberate evaders and everybody goes home unhappy with this. We have to be intelligent. We have to be discreet...the authority conferred by tax law must always be exercised with humility," she said.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

SEBI bars ex-Axis MF chief dealer from market for 7 yrs, 20 others too face ban

ENS Economic Bureau
Mumbai, July 24

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred former Axis Mutual Fund chief dealer Viresh Joshi from accessing the securities market for seven years, saying that he orchestrated a front-running scheme using confidential information about the fund house's impending trades.

The regulator also barred 20 others from the market for 3-7 years in its final order in the front running case.

SEBI also slapped Rs 3 crore penalty on Joshi and a total of Rs 7.4 crore from 21 persons involved in the case. Front-running in a mutual fund is an illegal trading practice in which an insider — such as a fund manager, dealer or broker — uses material non-public information about a large pending trade on behalf of the mutual fund or a client to execute personal trades ahead of that order, intending to profit from the price movement that occurs when the fund's trade is executed. During the investigation after the fraud was detected in 2022, it was found that Joshi shared non-public information about impending orders of a big client to an external co-conspirator, Prijesh Kurani. Prijesh on the instructions of Viresh would place orders in certain conduit/mule accounts of 15 others, the SEBI order said.

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• BRIEFLY

Manipal Hosps to use IPO money to repay debt & fund acquisitions

Mumbai: **Manipal Hospitals is set to come out with one of the biggest IPO in India's healthcare industry next week, aiming to raise around up to Rs 8,000 crore through fresh issue of shares. The issue, which opens for subscription on Wednesday, also comprises an offer for sale (OFS) component of around Rs 1,275 crore. Funds raised via fresh issue are used for a company's growth, while that via OFS goes into the pockets of promoters and selling shareholders.** ENS

India to roll out common customer ID for banks & insurers

Mumbai: **Indian banks and insurers will launch a common customer identification system in August, with asset managers joining later, two regulatory sources and industry executives said, allowing customers to access financial products without separately submitting identification documents. The new system, known as Central Know-Your-Customer 2.0 (CKYC), will only require the customer's consent for these institutions to fetch data stored at a central registry when opening an account or updating their details.** REUTERS

HCL, Sarvam AI to set up AI data centre in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: **The Odisha government on Friday signed two MoUs with HCL Technologies and Sarvam AI for setting up an AI data centre and a global delivery centre in Khurda district, involving a proposed investment of more than Rs 15,000 crore over the next five years. The state's Electronics and IT Department signed one MoU with HCL Technologies and another jointly with HCL Technologies and Sarvam AI in the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. HCL Technologies, with support from Sarvam AI, will establish its first AI data centre in Odisha.** PTI

• MARKETS

Sensex	NIFTY	Gold ▼	US Dollar ■
76,059.77	23,767.45	₹1,43,781	₹96.57
-331.62	-102.15	Silver ▲	Oil ▲
-0.43%	-0.43%	₹2,22,721	$103.33

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER INDIA BULLION AND JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION GOLD PER 10G, SILVER PER 1 KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF JULY 23, 2026

• SEBI HAS PROPOSED ALLOWING PORTFOLIO MANAGERS TO INVEST IN OVERSEAS LISTED EQUITY & DEBT SECURITIES, SECURITIES THAT ARE YET TO BE LISTED AND A LIMITED EXPOSURE TO UNLISTED DEBT INSTRUMENTS

PMS overhaul: What SEBI has proposed and what it means for investors

George Mathew
Mumbai, July 24

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a sweeping review of the SEBI (Portfolio Managers) Regulations, 2020, seeking to modernise the framework governing portfolio management services (PMS).

The SEBI consultation paper, released on July 23, comes against the backdrop of rapid expansion in the PMS industry and changing investor preferences. According to SEBI, assets managed by portfolio managers have more than doubled over the past six years, prompting the need for a fresh regulatory framework. For investors and market participants, the PMS reforms, including mutual fund only category and permission to invest in overseas securities and to-be-listed securities, signal SEBI's broader approach of adapting regulations to the growing complexity of India's capital markets while ensuring that investor interests remain at the centre of the regulatory framework.

What is PMS?

Portfolio management service (PMS) is registered under the SEBI (Portfolio Managers) Regulations, 2020. It is a professional investment service where a qualified fund manager takes charge of the equity, debt and other securities portfolio of a customer — who is a high net-worth investor.

Only corporate entities, companies, or LLPs with SEBI registration can legally offer these services in India. SEBI mandates that no PMS provider can accept less than Rs 50 lakh per client. The assets under management (AUM) of the PMS industry reached Rs 42.61 lakh crore as on May 2026 from Rs 18.07 lakh crore as on April 2019.

The total number of clients as of May 2026 stood at 2.19 lakh from 1.5 lakh in April 2019. The total number of portfolio managers has also increased from 226 in the year 2020, when PM Regulations were revamped, to 515 as on May 31, 2026, an increase of more than two times from 2020.

Wider investment universe

One of the biggest changes proposed is the expansion of investment avenues available to portfolio managers. Currently, PMS providers face restrictions on investing in certain asset classes that are accessible to other regulated investment vehicles. SEBI has proposed allowing portfolio managers to invest in overseas listed equity and debt securities, securities that are yet to be listed and a limited exposure to unlisted debt instruments. The move is intended to align PMS regulations more closely with those governing mutual funds and alternative investment funds (AIFs). The regulator has also proposed to expand the permissible investment universe to permit investments in "to be listed' securities. This would enable investors to gain exposure to broader market opportunities. Further, SEBI'ss consultation paper has proposed that a portfolio manager offering discretionary portfolio management services (DPMS) may be permitted to invest up to 10% of its client's AUM in investment grade unlisted debt securities. The regulator believes that broader investment flexibility would enable portfolio managers to design more diversified and customised portfolios for high-net-worth clients. The proposals also acknowledge growing investor demand for global diversification and access to a wider range of investment opportunities.

Assets managed by portfolio managers have more than doubled over the past six years. REUTERS

Currently, PMS portfolio managers are not permitted to invest client funds in foreign securities. However, resident Indians are allowed to invest in foreign securities under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), subject to an overall limit of USD $250,000 per financial year.

New MF-only category of portfolio managers

SEBI has proposed a simplified "Mutual Fund-only" PMS framework with lowered entry barriers. This proposed framework aims to effectively serve mass-affluent investors who seek professional portfolio management services for their mutual fund investments.

This framework is introduced to enable portfolio managers intending to exclusively manage client investments only in direct plans of mutual funds schemes including Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) and Specialized Investment Funds (SIFs). PMS managers will have to obtain a separate registration as a MF-PMS. It has proposed that the minimum client investment requirement should be reduced from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 25 lakh. It has also proposed that the minimum net worth required for applicants may be reduced from Rs 5 crore to Rs 2 crore. A mutual fund distributor (MFD) registered under the MF-PMS framework will be required to maintain arm's length relationship between its activities as an MFD and a MF-PMS through a separately identifiable department or division. The MF-PMS will be required to have client level segregation for its services as an MFD and MF-PMS. The same client will not be offered both services by the same entity under MFD and MF-PMS, Sebi says.

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• LEGAL

Puri temple the only 'Jagannath Dham': Odisha's trademark move

Sujit Bisoyi
Bhubaneswar, July 24

FIVE TRADEMARK applications submitted by the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), the statutory body that administers the 12th century temple in Puri, have cleared the second round of examination by the Trade Marks Registry and been approved for publication in the upcoming Trademark Journal.

SJTA chief administrator Arvind Padhee said Thursday that the Registry had approved names such as "Jagannath Dham", "Shree Kshetra", "Mahaprasad", "Nilachakra" and "Koili Vaikuntha" — associated with Jagannath culture and the shrine. SJTA has filed a total of 29 such applications so far.

Political confrontation

SJTA's decision to secure trademark registration of words and logos associated with the temple came last year after it locked horns with West Bengal's then Trinamool Congress government, which built a Jagannath temple in Digha and named it Sri Sri Jagannath Dham Cultural Centre in April 2025, triggering a confrontation.

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, in a letter last May to then Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, said that using "dham" for the Digha temple "dilutes the distinct heritage of Puri", and added that it hurt the sentiments and emotions of millions of pilgrims and devotees. He said that the Puri shrine holds unparalleled religious, spiritual and cultural significance not just for the people of Odisha but for devotees worldwide, and that the name "Jagannath Dham" holds a unique identity linked to Puri.

Puri's erstwhile royal and chairperson of Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee, Dibyasingha Deb, said that using the word "dham" for the Digha shrine amounted to violation of the "scriptural injunctions and long-established tradition" of Lord Jagannath. The controversy ended last month after Suvendu Adhikari, the new Chief Minister of Bengal's BJP-led government, said that using "dham" for the Digha temple was not in accordance with "Sanatan culture" and removed it from the name.

Trademark registration

Trademark registration is the legal process of protecting a unique brand — like a name, logo, symbol or slogan — associated with any organisation. Established in 1940, India's Trade Marks Registry administers the provisions of the Trade Marks Act, 1999, and the Trade Marks Rules, 2017. The Registry is a resource and information centre and facilitates matters relating to trademarks in India.

The Act aims to provide for the registration of trademarks relating to goods and services, ensure better protection and prevent their fraudulent use.

Publication of these words in trademarks journals amounts to preliminary approval, as final certificates are issued if no objections are received within three months.

SACRED NAMES

- 'Jagannath Dham' and 'Shree Kshetra' are sacred words associated with Puri, 'Mahaprasad' refers to the food offered to the deities and 'Nilchakra' is the eight-spoked metal wheel atop the temple.
- 'Koili Vaikuntha' refers to the sacred garden inside the shrine where the deities are made from the sacred wooden logs and old deities are buried after consecration of new idols.

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Karol Bagh	22 जुलाई | शाम 6:00 बजे	28 July | 6:00 PM
Noida	29 जुलाई | सुबह 11:30 बजे	29 July | 8:30 AM
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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• GLOBAL

New US tariffs leave India better off than competitors

US says the Section 301 tariffs target countries importing 'forced labour' goods. The real aim may be to force them to reduce dependence on China

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA

THE Donald Trump administration has begun its efforts to reconstruct its International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) tariffs that were declared illegal by the US Supreme Court in February.

Starting Friday, the administration began imposing new tariffs under Section 301 of the US Trade Act of 1974 on the grounds that the 60 countries it targets — all major exporters to the US — have failed to take measures to stop imports of goods manufactured through forced labour.

According to the US Trade Representative (USTR), countries that import goods made by forced labour get an artificial cost advantage while exporting goods, forcing American workers to compete on an uneven field. The main target, however, is clear: China. These tariffs are largely meant to force countries to cut their dependence on China, which the US is in a trade war with. The US State department says the country uses forced prison labour to make goods and injects these into international supply chains.

The new US architecture is yet to fully take shape. Only the first set of tariffs has been imposed, and multiple other Section 301 tariff investigations are still ongoing.

India, as of now, faces 10% tariffs, down from the 12.5% when the USTR first proposed the tariffs in March. The Trump administration is expected to announce the results of another Section 301 investigation, this one focusing on excess manufacturing capacity. The lower rates for Indian goods come with New Delhi engaging in negotiations with the US for over a year, stepping up energy imports from Washington and lowering duty for some US goods.

On June 14, India also amended its foreign trade policy to explicitly ban the import of goods produced using forced labour. The USTR considered this an improvement, placing India in the lower-tariff category alongside 16 other economies.

India's grouping

The USTR's stated reason for imposing the new Section 301 tariffs is the import of goods made by forced labour.

But the four-tier tariff structure — ostensibly bracketing countries based on their measures to curb imports of forced labour goods — suggests that they were imposed along geopolitical lines. All 60 countries under investigation were found guilty — the most favoured countries or groupings remain the European Union (EU) and Taiwan, and the most unfavourable Vietnam and China.

The USTR explained that for a product of the EU or Taiwan, where the product's most-favoured nation (MFN) tariff is less than 10%, the US shall impose a Section 301 tariff in a way that the sum of the MFN tariff and the Section 301 tariff shall be 10%. In cases where a product's MFN tariff is greater than or equal to 10%, the section 301 tariff would not be imposed.

In trade parlance, MFN rates are duties that countries use across the board for all countries. As per World Trade Organisation (WTO) norms, MFN rates are the standard, non-discriminatory tariff or tax levels that a WTO member country promises to apply to imports from other WTO members.

The second-most favourable rate has been offered to India and 16 other countries, where a flat addition of 10% has been imposed. This would mean that the Section 301 rate of 10% would be added to the current MFN rate. Countries in this bracket include Argentina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the UK, and Trinidad and Tobago. Notably, when the investigation began in March, Pakistan had lower tariffs than India.

Higher rates on competitors

The third-most favourable grouping includes Japan, Korea and Switzerland. These countries had, in earlier tariff structures, received better rates than India. The USTR said these three countries will now face a 12.5% rate. However, just like countries in the first category, the overall tariffs will be capped at 12.5% itself if the MFN tariff is less than that level.

"...where such product's MFN tariff is greater than or equal to 12.5%, the Trade Representative shall impose a Section 301 tariff of zero," the USTR said in its finding.

The least favourable group had 38 countries, including top Indian competitors such as Vietnam and China. The USTR said these countries, like the second category, face a flat 12.5% rate, which means 12.5% over and above the MFN rates. These two countries have not only been hit with higher tariffs under the "forced labour" category but are also facing more Section 301 tariffs than India. Exporters said that with Vietnam and China facing steeper rates than India, sourcing requirements could shift to India.

'No credible alternative'

In the wake of the tariff measures imposed by the US since early 2025, a significant decline in India's merchandise exports was widely anticipated. But trade data from the Ministry of Commerce reveals that India's exports to the US actually grew 0.9% (or $801.7 million) from $86.5 billion to $87.3 billion, an Indian Council for Research on International Economic Research (ICRIER) report released in July said.

This, however, was driven by exports of products in the exclusion list, which primarily included pharmaceutical and electronic goods. "In 2025-26, exports of products covered under the exclusion list rose sharply by 24.5%, climbing from $29.4 billion to $36.6 billion. Exports of non-excluded products, by contrast, fell by 11.2% over the same period, declining from US$ 57.1 billion to US$ 50.7 billion - a contraction that reflects the true effect of the tariff measures imposed by the United States," the ICRIER report said.

Even as India aggressively scouts for newer markets through free trade agreements, the report pointed out that the capacity of alternative markets to absorb India's US export losses is "highly uneven... for some product categories, partial for others, and altogether absent for several".

• The four-tier US tariff structure

Brackets countries based on measures they have taken to prevent imports of products made through forced labour

	Section 301 tariffs	Number of countries
Most favourable group	10% net of MFN tariff rate	EU, Taiwan
Second-most favourable group	Flat 10% (on top of MFN tariff rate)	17 (including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Canada, Mexico)
Third-most favourable group	12.5% net of MFN tariff rate	3 (Japan, South Korea, Switzerland)
Least favourable	Flat 12.5% (on top of MFN tariff rate)	38 (including China, Vietnam, Russia, Brazil)

SOURCE: GLOBAL TRADE ALERT, USTR; NOTE: MFN REFERS TO MOST-FAVOURED NATION

- USTR took action against 60 countries in a forced-labour Section 301 investigation
- Exemption given to Scotch whisky, medical devices, semiconductors

Rebuilding the tariff regime

The new US tariff architecture — meant to reconstruct the IEEPA tariffs struck down by the Supreme Court — is yet to fully take shape.

•

Only the first set of tariffs has been imposed, and multiple Section 301 investigations are still ongoing.

US President Donald Trump at the White House on Thursday. AP

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• AVIATION

Can airport operator own airline? Concerns over fair access

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, July 24

THERE IS talk that the Centre may be weighing policy relaxations that could allow airport operators to own airlines, with preliminary internal discussions being underway as per sources. While nothing is concrete yet, such a move could pave the way for airport operators like the Adani group and the GMR group to enter the airline business.

Earlier, there were indications that initial discussions on cross-ownership in airport operators and airlines followed the Adani group's request for an enabling policy environment, but Adani Enterprises on Friday denied that it was evaluating any proposal to enter the airline business.

The government, on its part, has been calling for more airlines in the Indian skies, given the duopoly of IndiGo and the Air India group, which have a cumulative domestic market share of over 90%. The objective of the discussions to allow airport operators to also run airlines is to foster more competition in the sector, sources said.

Currently, there are stringent restrictions on airport operators having stakes in airlines. For instance, operators of India's largest airports at Delhi (GMR has 74%) and Mumbai (Adani group has 74%) are barred from owning more than 10% in a scheduled carrier. The converse is also true, with strict limits on airlines' ownership in airports.

Conflict of interest

But a move to allow airport operators to run airlines is bound to face resistance from existing carriers and other aviation stakeholders. IndiGo Managing Director Rahul Bhatia on Thursday said that any such move will create a "massive conflict of interest" and will be against the interest of consumers.

Globally, aviation and competition regulators have viewed this type of vertical integration with abundant caution, as airports are natural monopolies and provide critical infrastructure for the aviation ecosystem. This implies that they must facilitate fair market access to carriers. If an airport also owns an airline, there are bound to be questions about competition, fair play and non-discriminatory market access.

"One can see where the instinct (of allowing airport operators to own airlines) comes from. India's entry problem is capital. New airlines... cannot afford to lose money for seven years against a carrier with two-thirds of the market. Adani and GMR can," said Anupam Manur, professor of economics at the Takshashila Institution. "There is even an efficiency argument: airport profits increasingly come from footfall, so an airport that owns an airline wants more flights at lower fares, not fewer at higher ones. But, obviously problems abound — both economically and ethically."

The most obvious concern is conflict of interest in important decisions like slot allocation to airlines. If the airport operator is the slot coordinator, there will be an inherent conflict if its own airline was competing with others for prime slots. Even if discrimination doesn't actually occur, experts believe that it still will be a concern for stakeholders. Generally, anti-trust policies focus on maintaining a level-playing field and not just on instances of actual discrimination.

Airlines depend on airports for critical infrastructure such as parking bays, check-in counters and aircraft stands. As an airport usually controls them, they are expected to be neutral infrastructure and service providers. Any difference on these counts between airlines, even owing to differences in commercial agreements, could lead to allegations of anti-competitive practices. So, regulatory confidence in airport neutrality is important to prevent even subtle forms of preferences or discrimination.

Global trends

Aviation and competition regulators worldwide have largely preferred keeping airports and airlines operationally independent. Even in the few cases of common ownership, like in the major hub airports in West Asia, the government ultimately owns both airlines and the airports. Dubai airport and Emirates are government-owned but are separate corporate entities. So are Etihad and the Abu Dhabi airport, and Qatar Airways and Doha airport.

Similarly, Singapore's Changi Airport and Singapore Airlines are linked through the Singapore government investment ecosystem, but have distinct management structures and regulatory oversight.

Moreover, all these examples involve large hub airports in territories that have virtually non-existent domestic air traffic, and primarily operate as pure-play international airports serving as hubs for airlines owned by the respective governments. Domestic airline competition is also absent.

But in India, all airlines — except regional carrier Alliance Air — are in the private sector, and a growing number of major airports are being operated by private firms. That makes India's aviation market more like Europe than West Asian states or Singapore.

Necessary safeguards

- If India does allow airport operators or entities affiliated to them to also run an airline, experts say that a watertight regulatory and competition oversight system is required.
- Safeguards should include structural separation between airport and airline businesses, independent boards and management teams, protection of carriers' commercially sensitive information, independent airport slot coordinators, and transparent gate and terminal allocation policies.

• ECONOMY

Alongside Centre, states' education expenditure too declined over past 12 years

GRAPHS, DATA, PERSPECTIVES
BY UDIT MISRA
WEEKLY ECONOMIC AND POLICY INSIGHTS USING DATA

THE ONGOING youth protests at Jantar Mantar in Delhi and in several other cities, demanding the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and seeking education reforms, have brought attention to the state of education in India.

The Indian Express had recently explained how the Education Ministry's share of the Union Budget had sharply declined over the past 12 years — from 4.6% in 2013-14 (the last year that the Congress-led UPA government was in power) to 2.5% in 2025-26. The fall suggests that the BJP-led NDA government reduced emphasis on education.

As a subject of policymaking, however, education is not the sole preserve of the Union government.

Common subject

Education falls under the Concurrent list in the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

The schedule essentially divides powers and responsibilities between the Union and state governments through three lists — Union, State and Concurrent. Both the Centre and state governments can legislate on subjects under the Concurrent list.

So, how do states act on the subject of education and what policy significance do they attach to it? A broad marker of priority is to examine the share of a state's total expenditure on education. The table and chart alongside provide a glimpse of where things stand.

Apart from providing an average for all states and Union Territories, the table also looks at a selection of states to provide a geographically and politically diverse sample for the country.

For some context about the status of education, while many variables could be chosen, the table shows data on gross enrolment ratio (GER) at the secondary education level (Classes 9 to 12). The GER is the total number of students enrolled in a specific level of education — regardless of their age — divided by the total population of the official age group for that level, multiplied by 100. A look at the GER in the second column confirms the long-held notions of which states are better educated and which are laggards.

For instance, Bihar's GER is 45 while that of Kerala is 94. A low GER also reveals the distance any state has to cover to achieve a better level of education. This is especially relevant given the population difference in states such as Bihar and Kerala. In essence, it gives a sense of the need for the state government to spend on education.

The first column in the table shows states' expenditure on education as a percentage of total expenditure. Bihar and Delhi stand out.

To be sure, both states were spending even higher than this in the years preceding 2025-26. In the same period, states such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu have shares below the national average. Longer-term data — going back to 2008-09 — shows that Tamil Nadu has largely tracked and then fallen just behind the national level. Kerala used to allocate a higher share than the national average until the Covid-19 year of 2020, and has lagged since then. Gujarat, too, has lagged behind the national average more often than not.

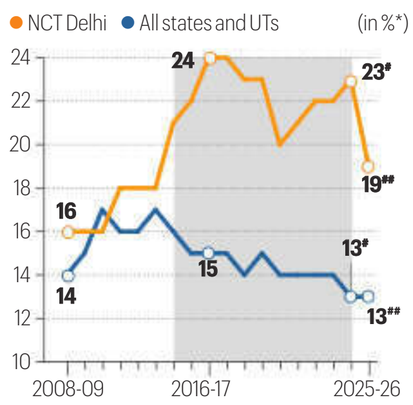
What is concerning is that the national average of all states and UTs itself has been trending down, as the chart alongside shows. After staying at around 17% in 2013-14, the average share of expenditure on education has gradually fallen. This fall is crucial, since it mirrors the fall in the share of money spent by the Union government as well.

There are exceptions to this trend, though. Take the Union Territory of Delhi under the Aam Aadmi Party government, which initially made health and education the key pillars of its pitch to voters. Between 2014-15 and 2024-25, education's share went up sharply, in contrast to the falling trend of the national average.

• State of education expenditure

State/Union Territory	Expenditure on education (2025-26)*	State-wise gross enrolment ratio (2024-25)**
Bihar	20	45
Gujarat	13	61
Kerala	12	94
Tamil Nadu	12	89
West Bengal	14	75
NCT Delhi	19	92
All states and UTs	13	69

• AAP effect on education spend



*AS PERCENTAGE OF AGGREGATE EXPENDITURE **FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION #2024-25 (RE) ##2025-26 (BE) **SOURCE:** RBI
NOTE: INCLUDES EXPENDITURE ON SPORTS, ART AND CULTURE UNDER REVENUE EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL OUTLAY

Real Creator IAS Edition https://t.me/+2RvD_RGf9mljMzg1

The Shape of Us

Shubhra Gupta

A FILM made four years back, releasing only now, suddenly feels current. Mention of protests and placards woven into the plot around an unravelling couple makes you feel that it's reflecting the times we are passing through. But then, who is to say that thorny relationships and problem-ridden times aren't the story of us, decade upon decade?

Max (Siddharth Menon) and Min (Medha Shankr), a pair whose relationship is heading south, find themselves connecting over their cat. Or is it just the handsome creature that draws Min back to Max, especially when things aren't quite as smooth with the new man in her life? The feelings are relatable: if you've been together for a while, parting is never easy, and could perhaps encompass residual warmth alongside resentment and sadness.

The Max-Min conflict initially feels a little too talky, not enough feely. But the film rescues itself by building upon the connections and gives the characters a few tics

The elements surrounding them feel refreshingly life-like as well. Bad dates we are desperate to get out of. Parents with whom we are in constant, guilt-ridden conflict. How we deal with those things defines who we are, and by the end of this film, we do get to know the contours of its characters, and that's the best part of the film, which begins a little clunkily, and then settles down into its groove, as we go along.

The most interesting character here is Mahesh aka Max's near-estranged father, Ramesh (Adil Hussain), a well-to-do businessman. The latter's brusqueness comes from a broken childhood that is acknowledged when he begins loosening up under the patient ministrations of his therapist, Dhaara (Mandira Bedi, appearing in a series of distractingly gorgeous linen saris). Mahesh's own father (Nassar), now living in an old age home, was always a distant figure, busy with his career as a successful Carnatic classical singer; reconciliation and healing become a key aspect of the thing between the trio, representing three generations.

A cat called Meowzaki just because the two interfaith (Hindu-Muslim) lovers love Miyazaki, is too cutesy for words, but is handsome enough to be forgiven his name. The Max-Min conflict initially feels a little too talky, not enough feely. But the film rescues itself by building upon the connections and gives the characters a few tics: Max finds it hard to sleep; his sleeplessness finds an echo in a cat-sitter (Vidhatri Bandi), whose grandmother (Nafisa Ali) is in an advanced stage of Alzheimer's. And as we see them begin leaning on, and into each other, we begin to lean into the easy warmth the film is trying to build.

There are also the unexpected touches which lift the film, especially in the way a lesbian relationship is slipped in quietly, adding to the texture. Menon is a constant presence, and does well as the coming-of-age young man. It is Hussain, as the man who takes the longest, most difficult steps towards self-awareness, who holds this film: despite a few places where the emphasis on the Tamilian vowels is evident — Dhaara becomes Daara — his Ramesh Mahadevan is pitch perfect.

MAX MIN & MEOWZAKI
★★★
DIRECTOR: Padmakumar Narsimhamurthy
CAST: Siddharth Menon, Medha Shankr, Adil Hussain, Vidhatri Bandi, Mandira Bedi, Nassar, Nafisa Ali

When Every Lesson Is a Lecture

Shubhra Gupta

THIS SEVEN-PART series reminds me a little of *Maamla Legal Hai*, the show set in a lower Delhi court in a part of the national Capital far away from the swag and smoothness of Central Delhi. *Adarsh Baal Vidyalaya* functions in the same mould: this is a sarkari school in the fictional mohalla of Tinki Toli, whose students come from a certain section of society, with parents working low-rung jobs, whose only way out of the rut is education.

It's quite ironic that the show is out at a time when student protests are ringing out in Delhi and in other parts of the country, demanding accountability and the reset of an education system which has been systematically devalued over time. And it's even more ironic that for a show which wants to do the right thing — picking up topics which are relevant and timely — it goes about it in such an overstated manner. Everything is underlined; very little is left to the imagination.

Gyanseshwar Tripathi (Kay Kay Menon) is the principal of ABV, where he spends much of his time playing cricket with his students, when not dashing his head against the intractable wall of 'no money, no resources' which stops his wards from doing well in exams. And that's a factor which prevents him from taking off to a foreign jaunt which he has set his heart upon, not just for himself, but for his loyal wife (Prachee Shah), who has stood by him all these years.

Over seven episodes, around 25-35 minutes each, such issues as corruption, honesty, respect for an older generation, as well as jobs that are considered beneath your dignity, sex education by a shrinking female teacher (Annapurna Soni), and others, are brought up for an airing, and kept aside after being neatly resolved. Not much is left hanging, because that would make things complex, and that wouldn't do, would it?

The able Naveen Kasturia plays a counsellor raising his teenage daughter — who attends the same school — and learning on the job. Abhimanyu Singh, breaking from his usual grey roles, pitches in as the burly teacher who learns better than using force to get the students to fall in line: the fact that he has a second job to augment his meagre salary — moonlighting as a mehendi artist to make ends meet — makes for an interesting layer.

Archana Puran Singh, shilling for a local MP (Deven Bhojani), keeps coming in the way of the principal and his undeniable affection for his students. Prasanna Bisht is a newbie who adjusts to the ways of an ill-funded government-run school without losing sight of why she wanted to be a teacher in the first place: she speaks up against the labelling of kids as *malaai* vs *khurchan*, telling us every child has the right to an education.

The premise is solid, and in between all the preachiness, there's an attempt to showcase the difficulties faced by overburdened and underfunded *sarkari* institutions. But that keeps disappearing in the pile of cliches: how a *sanskari* teacher is reluctant to use the word penis in a sex ed class is such an old one. I also wasn't very sure about a North Eastern actor playing the stereotyped role of a canteen cook rustling up spicy chowmein, even though he is held up as a role model in passing. Kay Kay does his best, staying consistently watchable, but that's nothing new. That a teacher can be dyslexic is a good touch, but the clear intention of inserting low-hanging laughs at every step dilutes the impact.

One line cracked me up, though. An act of eating-and-spitting paan is called peek detailing, hehe. Now why wasn't there more from where that came?

ADARSH BAAL VIDYALAYA
★★
DIRECTOR: Himank Gaur
CAST: Kay Kay Menon, Naveen Kasturia, Abhimanyu Singh, Ajitesh Gupta, Prasanna Bisht, Archana Puran Singh, Annapurna Soni, Deven Bhojani, Prachee Shah
STREAMING ON: Prime Video

No Kick to the Blend

Shubhra Gupta

A THREE-WAY modern romance set in a small town. That's the pitchline of *Musafir Cafe*, based on a novel of the same name by Divya Prakash Dubey and created by Sharanya Rajgopal and directed by Ruchir Arun. The eight-part show takes the memo very seriously indeed. Chander and Sudha — someone here is evidently a fan of Dharamveer Bharati's classic novel of the same name — meet and ignite in Bhopal.

Having quit his software job in the US, he works in a dull government office, nursing a dream of opening his own cafe in the hills, while meeting suitable girls with a view to marriage.

She is your ambitious girl who never hides anything she's thinking, outspoken in the way Bollywood *chulbulis* are: Sudha, like that other girl in the train, is her own favourite, and doesn't care who knows it.

There's passion. There's a bit of sex — yes, really — too. Small town people aren't squeamish like that, okay? All is well until ambition rears its ugly head. So, a rift in the lute. Time elapses. And then, bingo, there comes that picturesque cafe, blue skies, misty hills, and a generous-hearted girl called Preeti.

But, but, is that that? Will Chander and Preeti live happily ever after? Even though good-looking guests make puppy eyes at Preeti, knowing full well that her heart beats for another? And even though she knows, yes, she does, that Chander hasn't forgotten his first love?

Musafir Cafe is that rom com that is aiming for sweet and winsome, which should have left you with the warm fuzzies. But it doesn't quite get there. Not because the actors aren't up for it. Not because they don't try. Not because the plot doesn't have room for all of them. But because it ends up being more performative than felt.

Vikrant Massey as Chander tries his best to be believable and he really does come close to it. Mahima Makwana as the steady third wheel is commendable too, even though she gets short shrift when it comes to a backstory. It is the spritely Vedika Pinto, who acts out her part, for no fault of hers: the writers keep putting her in front of a man whose jaw keeps dropping at her carefree airs: '*kya ho tum*,' he says in amazement, not once, but twice, and maybe thrice. And by then, our Sudha believes in it too: that she's too cool for school, and certainly for the sedate Chander.

There are also a bunch of excellent actors with very little to do but play out ropes: Anubha Fatehpuria as Chander's mother, Loveleen Mishra as Sudha's mother, and Adil Hussain and Sadiya Siddiqui as the still madly in love silver-haired couple as Chander and Preeti's mentors and well-wishers.

Why does it take eight stretched episodes to tell a tale that would have been better told in half the time? Why is the serene city of Bhopal such a fleeting presence — the famed lake glimpsed from a terrace cafe — even though it is named frequently through the show? Those are also questions which this could-have-been-a-*pyaari-prem kahani* doesn't answer well enough.

MUSAFIR CAFE
★★½
DIRECTOR: Ruchir Arun
CAST: Vikrant Massey, Vedika Pinto, Mahima Makwana, Rajeev Siddhartha, Anubha Fatehpuria, Loveleen Mishra, Sadiya Siddiqui
STREAMING ON: Netflix

Lost in Translation

Yashaswini Sri

THIS WAS meant to be Vijay's send-off — a farewell marking the end of a remarkable three-decade career spanning more than 60 films. And yet, watching Vijay light up the screen one last time while the film around him struggles to keep pace, the feeling is not one of celebration but of a missed opportunity. Vijay delivers exactly what his fans expect and even more. Unfortunately, the film squanders the chance to give the star the farewell he deserved.

Directed by H Vinoth, it is a hat tip to Anil Ravipudi's Telugu hit *Bhagavanth Kesari* (2023). While foundation of the film remains the same, the story is reworked into a political action thriller. On paper, that sounds like a filmmaker adopting a solid emotional core and building it into something bigger. On screen, it plays like two different films stitched together, neither of which fully works.

JANA NAYAGAN ★½
DIRECTOR: H Vinoth
CAST: Joseph Vijay, Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol, Mamitha Baiju, Prakash Raj, Gautham Vasudev Menon

The story follows Vetri Kondan, a former police officer played by Vijay, who is drawn into conflict when a young girl close to him, played by Mamitha Baiju, faces a threat that traces back to a powerful international arms dealer named Phoenix, played by Bobby Deol.

Vinoth constructs an elaborate backstory involving civil wars in Africa, terrorist attacks from Pakistan, drone warfare, robots fighting humans, and a confrontation between the villain and his own alter ego. The VFX in these sequences is poor given this is a big production that had three years to get it right. The AI-generated visuals look unfinished; the action sequences that are supposed to establish Phoenix as a global threat end up making him look like a character from a video game.

Where the film works, and it does work in stretches, is where Vijay is allowed to be himself. Mamitha Baiju brings real weight to her scenes and delivers one of the more affecting performances in the film. Pooja Hegde as Kayal does what the script allows, which is not much. Prakash Raj and Gautham Vasudev Menon add texture in their supporting roles, though neither is given enough screen time to fully register.

The deeper problem with *Jana Nayagan* is not any single bad decision. It is the weight of trying to be everything at once. This is a film that wants to be a women empowerment drama, a political thriller, a modern warfare spectacle, a family sentiment piece, a mass action entertainer, a campaign video, a farewell tribute, and a statement about Indian democracy.

Vijay deserved better. His fans, who waited six months through a censor battle, a court case, a nationwide leak and an A-certificate, deserved better.

STREAMING WATCHLIST

Protector
LIONSGATE PLAY

IN A new town, Nikki has built a quiet life with her teenage daughter, determined to keep her safe from everything she once was. But when Nikki wakes up in an abandoned factory with no memory of how she got there, her daughter has vanished. What follows is a race through the criminal underworld that Nikki navigates the only way she knows how: with the full force of a military career she never fully walked away from. Directed by Adrian Grünberg, the cast includes Milla Jovovich, Matthew Modine and Isabel Myers.

Watson
JIOHOTSTAR

SIX MONTHS after the apparent death of Sherlock Holmes at the hands of Moriarty, Dr John Watson (Morris Chestnut) returns to medicine, taking charge of a clinic dedicated to treating rare and unusual disorders. But his past refuses to stay buried as Moriarty resurfaces, pulling Watson into a new battle of wits. Blending medical drama with investigative suspense, the series created by Craig Sweeny reimagines one of literature's most iconic characters, shifting his focus from solving crimes to unraveling complex medical mysteries.

Aga Aai Aaho Aai
ZEE5

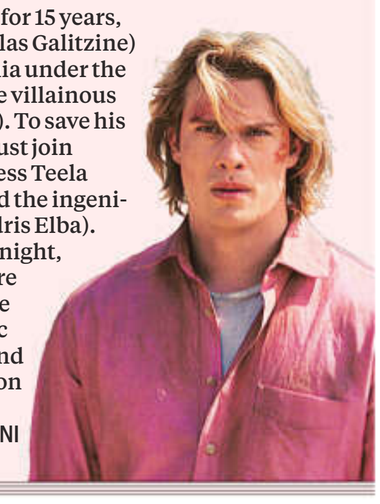
AGA AAI Aaho Aai is a heartwarming Marathi family drama that celebrates the unique bond between a daughter, her mother, and her mother-in-law, showing how love deepens when families come together. Directed by Varun Narvekar and written by Kalyani Pandit, the series stars Hruta Durgule, Renuka Shahane, and Nirmiti Sawant.

72 Hours
NETFLIX

THE MOVIE 72 Hours follows a 40-year-old executive (Kevin Hart) who hopes to revive his faltering career by tagging along on a chaotic three-day bachelor party after he's mistakenly added to a group chat of 20-somethings. Directed by Tim Story, the comedy also stars Mason Gooding, Marcello Hernández, Ben Marshall, Zach Cherry, Kam Patterson, and Teyana Taylor.

Masters of the Universe
PRIME VIDEO

AFTER BEING away for 15 years, Prince Adam (Nicholas Galitzine) returns to find Eternia under the tyrannical rule of the villainous Skeletor (Jared Leto). To save his homeland, Adam must join forces with the fearless Teela (Camila Mendes) and the ingenious Man-at-Arms (Idris Elba). Directed by Travis Knight, the fantasy adventure combines large-scale action with nostalgic appeal. It is the second live-action adaptation of the franchise.



ALAKA SAHANI

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Vartika W/O, Parvesh Kumar R/o 44, Skippetts Garden, Basingstoke, United Kingdom-rg213by have changed my name to Vartika Shivaji. 0040867945-1

I, Mohammad Junaid S/o Khaleel Ahmad R/o H.No.-12A/47E,Jamalu ka Bagh Maujpur, Bhajan Pura, Delhi, my father name is wrongly written as Khaleel Ahmed in my 10th, 12th Class educational documents and Passport no. S2336211.my father actual name is Khaleel Ahmad. 0071049942-1

I,ASHISH GARG,S/o SUBHASH CHAND GARG, R/o-B-102,3RD FLOOR, B BLOCK,VIPUL-SQUARE, SUSHANT-LOK,PHASE-1, Sikanderpur Ghosi(68), Gurgaon,Haryana-122002,have changed the name of my minor son NIRRVEIR, aged about 3-years,and he shall hereafter be known as NIRRVEIR GARG. 0040868067-8

It is for general information that I,UMAR MOHAMMAD NOORANI, S/o Noor Ahamad,R/o H.No.C-78,Main Nala-Road,Chand Bagh, Karawal Nagar,PO: Karawal Nagar, DIST:North-East Delhi, Delhi-110094 declare that name of my father and my mother has been wrongly written as Noor Ahmed and Saira Khatoon in my school record.The actual name of my father and my mother are Noor Ahamad and Sayra Khatoon, respectively,which may be amended accordingly 0040868072-11

I, Manik Sharma, W/o Rakesh Bakshi, resident of LA Residentia Flat 1004 Tower-3 Plot GH-06A Tech Zone -4, GR. Noida West, Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P), have changed my name from "Manik Sharma" to "Manik Bakshi". Henceforth, I would be known by the name of "Manik Bakshi" for all future purposes. 0130067226-1

I,Sunil kumar s/o Ved parkash,r/o F-2/27-28,sector-11 Rohini Delhi-110085, have changed my name to SUNIL GARG for all purposes. 0040868072-4

I Bharat Bhushan S/o Ganga Ram R/o WZ-87, G.F., Virender Nagar, Janakpuri B-1, S.O., West Delhi, Delhi-110058 have changed the name of my minor son from Devansh to Eviyan for all purposes. 0040867937-1

I R.D. Painter S/o Mahavir Prasad R/o A-4/165, New Kondli Mayur Vihar, Phase-3, Delhi-110096 have changed my name from R.D. Painter to Ram Dayal Gupta. henceforth I would be known by the name of Ram Dayal Gupta for all future purposes. 0071049849-1

I Salony D/o Sunil Datt R/o F No-401, A Block, 3rd Floor, Ribhya Residency, B.V College, DIST: Patna, Bihar-800014, have changed my name to Salony Datt 0071049946-1

I,Renu,W/o Jitender Singh,R/o RZ-689B,gali no.2,Indra-Park, Palam Colony,South-West Delhi-110045,Have changed my name to Renu Singh 0040868067-10

I,Parul Aggarwal, W/o Samir Agrawal, R/o F-1, First-Floor, 27 Block-B, Ramprastha-Colony, Chander-Nagar, Dist:Ghaziabad, UP-201011, have changed my-name to Parul Agrawal. 0040868078-2

I, Sushma Devi W/O. Manoj Prasad, resident of B-603, Migsun Green Mansion, HRA-14, Site-C, Surajpur, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar-201306, have changed my name from Sushma Devi to Sushama. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Sushama for all future purposes. 0071049865-1

I Laxminarayan S/o Lachhimnath Nag R/o Kumharpara, Nagarnar, Bastar, Chhattisgarh - 494001, have changed my name to Laxminarayan Nag 0071049934-1

I,Anju Devi,M/o-Sanjay Kumar, resident of,Village- Sukhia,PO-Mohania Chakla PS-Banmankhi Dist-Purnia, (Bihar)-854102,have changed my name from Anju Devi to Anju Kumari,vide-affidavit dated-23/07/2026. 0040868067-12

I,Dayal Singh Patwal,S/o-Laxman Singh Patwal,R/o-D-158,Gali No.9,New Ashok Nagar,Vasundhra-Enclave,East Delhi-110096,declare that Dayal Singh Patwal,and Dayal Singh, both name are same and one person. Shall hereafter be known as Dayal Singh Patwal, for all future purposes. 0040868078-4

I, Ex Risaldar JC103069K Mahavir Singh Resident of Vill-Kalyanpur, P.O. Karanpur, Khair, Aligarh, U.P., Presently residing at House No. 2926, E2/69, Molarband Extn. New Delhi-44 have changed my daughter's name from LAJJAWATI to SHIMLA DEVI for all future purposes. 0071049847-1

I,Parteet Kaur Suri,D/O Satinder Pal Singh,R/o A/99,Lajpat Nagar-1, Delhi-110024,have changed my name to Parteet Kaur. 0040868067-5

I Sumit Sehgal, S/o Shri Kuldeep Kumar Sehgal, R/o Flat No. 803, Kamadgiri Apartment, Kaushambi, I.E., Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, hereby declare that my father's name is mentioned as "Kuldeep Sehgal" in my Passport, whereas in my other records it is mentioned as "Kuldeep Kumar Sehgal". Both names refer to one and the same person. Henceforth, my father's correct name shall be known and recognized as "Kuldeep Kumar Sehgal" only. 0071049853-1

It is for general information that I, Yash Ashtikar S/o Avinash Ashtikar R/o M D D 102, Phase-1, Kabir Nagar, Raipur, Sondonagri, Talibandh, Bindrawangarh, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492099, declare that name of mine, my father and my mother has been wrongly written as Yash Asithkar, Avinash Asithkar and Sunita Asithkar respectively in my Secondary & Senior Secondary Marks Statement Cum Certificate. The actual name of mine, my father and my mother is Yash Ashtikar, Avinash Ashtikar and Rani Ashtikar respectively, which may be amended accordingly. 0071049940-1

I,SANJAY DUBY ALIAS SANJAY KUMAR DWIVEDI S/o BHOLA NATH R/o 562, UDHOG NAGAR T-HUTS, GALI NO-1, PASCHIM VIHAR, PEERA GDHI, SUNDER VIHAR, DELHI-110087 have changed my name to SANJAY KUMAR DWIVEDI. 0071049907-1

I, BHUPINDER KOUR W/o Ajeet Pal Singh, 5-D-74, JNV Colony, Bikaner, Rajasthan-334001, have changed my name to BHUPENDRA KOUR. 0071049900-1

I,hitherto known as Lakshay,S/o-Shri Sandeep,R/o Village-Dulehra(56) ,Post Office-Dulehra, Bahadurgarh,Distt Jhajjar(Haryana)-124507,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known Lakshay Deswal. 0040868072-8

I, AMAR KUMAR S/o RAMPHOOL R/o 125, G/F Sainik Enclave, Sector-2 Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059, have changed the name of my minor daughter DIRRA aged 2 years and she shall hereafter be known as DIRRA KUMAR. 0071049889-1

I, MOHD NAFIS, S/o ABDUL GANI, R/o 2495, Gali Kareem Baksh, Shardhanand Marg, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to MOHD NAFEES, S/o ABDUL GHANI, for all purposes. 0040867948-1

I,REETU SHARMA W/O CHANDER PRAKASH SHARMA,R/O HNO.WB-171A GANESH-NAGAR-II SHAKARPUR,DELHI-110092.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RITU SHARMA. 0040868067-3

I,ASHA WADHWA,W/O-YASH PAL,R/O-HOUSE NO.6 (1/2)1ST FLOOR OPP POWER HOUSE MALKAGANJ,DELHI-110007,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHA FOR FUTURE 0040868072-6

I,Surendra Sharma,S/o Ramesh Chandra Sharma R/o F-107,Sector-17, Vasundhra, Sahibabad,Ghaziabad,U.P-201010 have changed my name to Surendra Kumar Sharma. 0040868072-1

I,Kuldip Raj,S/o Durga Das Mahajan,R/o-1014,Tower 3,Ashiana Upvan, Indirapuram,Ghaziabad-201014,have changed my name from Kuldip Raj to Kuldip Raj Mahajan,for all future purposes. 0040868080-1

I, MOHAN PANDEY s/o BHAWANI DATT r/o Flat No.-198, SFS, Pocket-1, Sector-6, Dwarka, Delhli-110075 have changed my name MOHAN CHANDAR PANDEY permanently. 0040867941-2

I, Ankur Tomer S/o Yashveer Singh R/o A-3/402 East Gokal Pur, Amar Colony, Distt- North East, Delhi - 110094, have changed my minor Daughter's name from Kavya Alias Aadhiya Alias Kavya Chaudhary Aged 05 Years to Aadhya Chaudhary forever. 0071049938-1

I,NEENA KALRA,W/O-LATE SH.KRISHAN KALRA,R/O-4311,PLOT.NO-3,TOWER NOVA-EAST,SUPER TECH SUPERNOVA,DISTRICT-GAUTAM BUDDHA-NAGAR, PO NOIDA,U.P-201301,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME,FROM NEENA KALRA TO MEENA KALRA,FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSES 0040868072-10

I,Satish chander budhiraja, S/O Ram wadhaya, HOUSE.NO-A-110 ground-floor,Vivek vihar phase-1,delhi 110095,HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO Satish chander, PERMANENTLY 0040868067-7

I, Praveen Bisht /Praveen Kumar Bisht /Praveen Singh Bisht S/o Jagat Singh Bisht R/o J-120/1, Gali No-1 , Kartar Nagar, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Praveen. 0071049893-1

It is for general information that I, AJAY KUMAR, S/o HARISH CHAND, R/o A-552, Mahavir Enclave-II, Street No. 15, New Delhi -110059, declare that name of mine, my wife and my daughter has been wrongly written as AJAY, VANDANA and SIDDHI in my daughter's namely SIDDHI JAISWAL in her school records. The actual name of mine, my wife and my daughter are AJAY KUMAR, BANDANA JAISWAL and SIDDHI JAISWAL respectively, which may be amended accordingly. 0040867995-1

I,Renu Bala w/o Sunil Garg , r/o F-2/27-28,sector-11,Rohini Delhi-110085,have changed my name to RENU GARG for all purposes. 0040868072-3

I, K B MALHOTRA S/o N N Malhotra R/o-B-33,Sangam Apartment Plot No.23,Sector-9, Rohini,Sector-7,Delhi-110085,have changed my name to KUL BHUSHAN MALHOTRA 0040868078-1

I, Kulsuma Ajaz, W/O-No-9111231Y,Ex Sep Ajaz Ahmad Mir,R/O-Maidanpora Lolab, District-Kupwara. In my husband's service record my D o B has been wrongly mentioned as15th March 1982 instead of 5th March 1982.It needs correction, vide affidavit No-IN JK38273377824234Y dated-20th July 2026 before Judicial Magistrate Kupwara. 0020517101-1

I,Anil Kumar s/o Gulshan Lal R/o-B-546,Sudershan Park, Delhi-110015,have changed my name to Anil Kumar Dutta Permanently. 0040868067-2

I,YASHPAL WADHWA,S/O-JAGDISH,R/O HOUSE.NO.6 (1/2)1ST FLOOR OPP POWER HOUSE MALKA GANJ,DELHI-110007,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO YASH PAL FOR FUTURE 0040868072-5

I, Meetu,W/o Sh.Navin Arya,R/o-H.No.996,Sector-16,Faridabad,Haryana-121001,declare that "Meetu" and "Kum.Meetu Rani" are one and the same person.My father's name is wrongly-mentioned as "Nemi Chand Garg" in my 10th-Certificate. The correct name is "Nem Chand" My correct name is Meetu, and these names shall be used,for all future purposes. 0040868021-1

I, POONAM W/O SH. SHIV LAL R/O 16/85, GEETA COLONY, DELHI -31, POONAM & POONAM GUPTA IS ONE & THE SAME PERSON. I HAVE CHANGE MY NAME POONAM GUPTA TO POONAM FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE. 0040867935-1

I, Kamal Choudhary S/o Rohtash Singh R/o H No-81, Bankauli, Bakoli, North West Delhi-110036, I have changed the name of my minor Son Kabir Singh to Avyukt Singh aged 5 years. 0071049948-1

I,ASHISH GARG,S/o SUBHASH CHAND GARG, R/o,B-102,3RD-FLOOR,B BLOCK,VIPULSQUARE, SUSHANT LOK, PHASE-1, Sikanderpur Ghosi(68), Gurgaon,Haryana-122002,have changed the name of my minor son NIRRVAAN,aged about 3-years,and he shall hereafter be known as NIRRVAAN GARG. 0040868067-9

I, R K GAUTAM, S/o RAMESHWAR DAYAL GAUTAM, R/o- H.No.45, 6th Floor, Pocket-2,DDA MIG Flats, Tower-A, Triveni Heights, Sector-16-B, Dwarka, Delhi-110078, have changed my name to RAJENDER KUMAR, for all purposes. 0040868067-1

I,parwati prajapati,mother of,Lakhan prajapati,residing at Village Kumda-post Pipliya kulmi ps machalpur,Kumda, rajgarh,Pipliya-kulmi, Madhya Pradesh, Pin-465693, have changed my name from Parwati prajapati to Pari Bai, vide-affidavit dated..23-July-2026. 0040868067-11

I,Yajvender Singh S/o Ishwar Singh,R/o WZ-170,Basaidarapur, Ramesh-Nagar,West Delhi,Delhi-110015,have changed my minor son's name Hitesh to Hitesh Baghel. Aged-13-years. 0040868078-3

I,MANJIT SINGH/ MANJEET SINGH,S/O DARSHAN SINGH,R/O B-10,BLOCK-B OLD QUARTER,RAMESH NAGAR,DELHI-110015.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANJEET SINGH OBEROI. 0040868067-4

I,HARSHIT WADHWA,S/O-YASH PAL,R/O-HOUSE NO.6,(1/2) 1ST FLOOR OPP POWER HOUSE MALKAGANJ,DELHI-110007,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARSHIT,FOR FUTURE. 0040868072-7

I Sandeep Kumar Talwar S/O, Late Sudarshan Kumar Talwar R/o C 186, Jal Vayu Vihar, Sector 21 Noida have changed my name to Sandeep Talwar for all purposes. 0040868016-1

I,Shajiya Malik W/o Sultan Faisal,R/o-M-60,Street No.14,Brahampuri,New Seelampur,Delhi-110053,have changed my name to Shazia,for all purposes. 0040868072-9

I,Rishab Jain S/o Sh. Sunil Jain,R/o House.No.173, Sector-15,Near D.A.V School, Sonipat,Haryana-131001,have changed my son's name from Rihaan Jain to Aviraj Jain (Date-of-Birth:07.11.2023),for all future purposes. 0040868078-6

I Sachin Kalley alias Sachiinn Kumaarr S/o Vijay Kumar R/o A-746/1, Block-A, Shastri Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052 have changed my name to Sachiin Gupta for all purposes. 0040867937-2

I,Poonam Dixit,W/O Ravi Dixit,HOUSE.NO-A5A/328 janta-flats janak puri new delhi-110058,HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO Poonam Kashyap PERMANENTLY. 0040868067-6

I, KANWALJEET KAUR SACHDEVA alias KAWALJIT KAUR SACHDEVA w/o GURMEET SINGH SACHDEVA r/o 7A/75, Third Floor, Channa Market, WEA, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 have changed my name to KAWALJIT KAUR permanently. 0040867941-1

I,Renu Rani W/O Suresh Kumar Gupta R/O-H.No.115, Vasundhara Apartment, Sector-9,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Renu Gupta. 0040868080-2

I, Lokesh Kumar S/o Harpal Dixit R/o-89 Gyasri, URF Gadhi-2, Janpad, Baghpat have changed my name to Lokesh Dixit. 0071049888-1

I, Nisar W/o Shamim Ali R/o 7200, Lambi Wali, Beri Wala Bagh Azad Market, Delhi- 110006, have changed my name to Nishat Begum for all future purposes. 0040867992-1

I,MAMTA DEVI,W/o-ARUN KUMAR R/o-H.NO.-260,GALI NO.-4,SHANKER GARDEN LINE PAR,BAHADURGARH, HARYANA-124507 have changed my name to MAMTA for all purpose 0040868072-2

I, GULERANA W/o AMAAN ALI, R/o H.NO- 73/2, 3RD Floor, Kishan Kunj Extension, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to GULERANA ALI 0071049811-1

LOST & FOUND

I, Sanjay Kumar Goel, S/o Shri Jagdish Prasad Goel, R/o C-245, Lohia Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, hereby inform that the Original Registered Sale Deed of a residential vacant plot admeasuring 62.70 Sq. Mtrs., forming part of Khasra No.351M, situated at Village Hasanpur Bhowapur, Pargana Loni, Ghaziabad, Regn. No.47901 dated-31.12.2012, has been lost somewhere. Finder may kindly contact Mob.9810371978. 0071049912-1

Lost My ?Original DDA Allotment Letter 5th & Final Installment Electric & Water NOC, Site Possession, Transfer Letter etc. of the DDA FLAT No.C-335, on SECOND FLOOR, CATEGORY-MIG, BLOCK-C', `SAKET', NEW DELHI-110017, vide File No. F-32(237)74/LAB(H).?(TARUN KAPOOR) R/o C-335, DDA MIG FLATS, GOLF VIEW APARTMENT SAKET, NEW DELHI-110017, Mo-9810267981 0071049872-1

PROPERTY

ESTATE & PROPERTY

Artificial Intelligence Powered Property Search Tricity Chandigarh Panchkula Zirakpur Mohali Pinjore Kalka Parwanoo hobosapience.com 9811158486 0040867513-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that my clients Rakesh Mann and Smt. Om Wati, were the lawful owners and persons in possession of Khasra No. 411, (300 Sq. Yards), situated at Vill. Khera Khurd, Delhi. On 25.02.2010, after receiving the full sale consideration, we voluntarily sold, transferred and handed over vacant, peaceful and physical possession of the aforesaid property to Mrs. Kavita Sehrawat/Kavita Arya, W/o Sh. Kapil Deo, through GPA (with consideration and stamp duty), Agreement to Sell, Possession Letter, Affidavit, Will and other documents, without any force, fraud or coercion. The property formed part of our exclusive share, and we had full legal right and authority to transfer the same. That all other family/co-sharers had already received possession of their respective plots and demarcated them by constructing separate boundary walls. Mrs. Kavita Arya got the property registered in her favour through a Registered Sell Sale Deed on 07.07.2026 before the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Narela, Delhi. Accordingly, neither we nor our legal heirs, successors or representatives have any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever over the said property. If any person, bank, financial institution or authority has any lawful objection, claim, lien or encumbrance regarding the aforesaid property, the same may be submitted with supporting documents before the purchaser or the concerned Sub Registrar within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that no such objection exists. Mobile No.9773740852

PAWAN KUMA (Advocate)
Enrl.No.D/3378/23 KUMAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all that my Client **Girish Chandra** S/o Late Sh. Govind Vallbh R/o 440-A, Nyay Khand-2, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014 has severed all his relation with his daughter **Pooja.** Being not dutiful and obedient, she is beyond the control of my client, therefore, my client disowned her from all his movable & immovable properties. Hence public is hereby put to notice that she is not legally competent to represent herself as legal heir of my client. Anyone choosing to deal with her either individually or jointly, would be doing so on his/her own risk and consequences as my client would not be held responsible for out of her acts.

Sd/-
Deepak Rikhari
Advocate
Ch. No. 109, (First Floor), Western Wing
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sanjiv Harish, S/o. Late Sh. Suresh Kumar Harish, R/o. C-58/30B, Janakpuri, N.D-58 being alloted vide DDA File No. F-32(926)74/HB dt 4.3.74 have lost their Original Possession Letter & NOC Stp of Water and Electricity Connection issued by DDA favoring Shri Suresh Kumar Harish for aforesaid property has been lost. A F.I.R. LR. No. 476885/2026 dated 24.7.2026 to this effect has been lodged to police station. Any person found in possession of original documents may write/contact the above named person at above address within one month from the date of publication of this notice and can personally contact Shri Sanjiv Harish or Sh. Navin Harish, R/o. C-58/30B, Janakpuri, ND-110058. Ph.: 9790889861, 9999966103

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known my clients **ANITA SONI** W/O SH. KANWAL SONI AND KANWAL SONI S/O SH. LACHMAN DASS SONI BOTH R/o B-4/38, IST FLOOR, KRISHNA ENCLAVE, SECTOR-17, ROHINI, DELHI-110089 have disowned and severed all their relations with their son namely **SAHIL SONI** AGE 29 YEARS and his wife **HIMANSHI SHARMA** and debarred them from their movable and immovable properties/assets due to their misbehavior, unfamiliar activities, intolerable act, misconduct and going against my clients and my clients donot want to keep any relation with them. Anybody dealing with them in financial, civil and criminal matter shall be doing at his/her/their own risk, cost and responsibility and my clients and their family shall not be liable for their any act.

Sd/-
KAMAL SINGH
Advocate
Enrl.No. D/748/2014

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN Notice is hereby given as caution by, Ms. Veena Dua, W/o Late Naveen Dua, to reiterate that she is the sole, absolute, lawful owner & possession holder of the complete property bearing no. A-1/32, Mianwali Nagar, Paschim Vihar, Delhi – 110087. The collaboration & development agreement dated 13.02.2026 entered into along with Mr. Amit Soni S/o Ashok Soni, R/o B-1/13, Mianwali Nagar, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087; also operating at AASONI Constructions Pvt. Ltd., Office at NS-32 (basement), Mianwali Nagar, Delhi – 110087 has been terminated via legal notices dated 16.06.2026 & dated 18.07.2026 owing to inter alia the material breach & abandonment of the project by Mr. Amit Soni. It is made clear that Mr. Soni never possessed such right to create any kind of third party interest in the said property, regardless of the recent termination of the agreement. Ms. Veena Dua has never consented to creating any third party rights till the present date. Any transaction entered into by the public with Mr. Amit Soni or AASONI Constructions Pvt. Ltd., in respect of the said property is void and the concerned person has shall bear their own risk, cost, and consequences, as such transaction is not binding upon Ms. Veena Dua. **Sahil Ghai (Adv.), A/26, LGF, Jangpura Extn., Delhi-110014.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the original documents of Orient Electronics Private Limited (CIN: U31200DL1986PTC025229), including the Certificate of Incorporation, MOA, AOA, statutory records, balance sheets and other company documents, have been lost/misplaced and are not traceable despite diligent search. An online NCR No. 470603/2026 has been lodged with the Police. Any person finding or possessing the said documents is requested to return them to the undersigned. Any unauthorized use or dealing with the said documents shall be at the sole risk and responsibility of the person concerned.

For ORIENT ELECTRONICS PVT LTD.
Sd/-
Director/Auth. Signatory
Sudhanshu Shekhar Sharan @ Sudhanshu Shekhar
Director, Orient Electronics Private Limited
(CIN: U31200DL1986PTC025229)
Office at-30, Todar Mal Road, Delhi-110001

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients **Chandra Tripathi** S/o Lt. Ram Tirth Tripathi & Kiran Tripathi W/o Chandra Tripathi Both Resident of B-73 Block-B Lal Kuan Badarpur New Delhi-110044 have disowned their son namely **Shashank Tripathi,** daughter-in-law namely **Poornima Tripathi,** grand daughter namely **Tripti Tripathi** from all their properties (Movable & Immovable) from today onwards and severed relations from them. If anybody deals with them then it will be his/her/their own risks and cost and our clients and their other family members will not be liable for the same.

Sd/-
MOHD. NASEEM KHAN
Advocate
Ch. No. 870, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi-110017

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Mr. KULBIR SINGH S/o Late Shri Harbans Singh Intend to sell his Property being Muncipal No. 184-A, area measuring 160 Sq.Yds., Kh. No.777/171, PADAM NAGAR, KISHAN GANJ, Delhi-110007, any person or person having any right title or interest by way of inheritance of claim against the said property should send his/her/ their claims in writing to the undersigned alongwith the documentary evidence in support of the said claim thereof within may contact with above named person at above address/ phone No. 9899134002, 9899870626 with 15 days of publication on the said Notice, failing which claims if any shall be deemed to have been waived.

KAMAL SINGH (Advocate)
Enrl.No. D/748/2014

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे मुवक्किल श्री जगदीश कुमार शर्मा पुत्र श्री मुख्तियार सिंह एवं श्रीमती विमला शर्मा पत्नी श्री जगदीश कुमार शर्मा दोनों निवासी 134 BUU-ब्लाक पीतमपुरा दिल्ली–110034 ने अपने पुत्र अश्वनी कांन्त एवं पुत्रवधू मोहिनी को उसके गलत संगत एवं गलत आचरण के कारण अपनी समस्त चल–अचल सम्पत्ति आदि से बेदखल कर सारे संम्बध समाप्त कर लिया हैं। कोई भी व्यक्ति जो अश्वनी कांन्त एवं मोहिनी से किसी भी प्रकार का कोई लेन–देन या संबन्ध इत्यादि रखता है वह उसके लिए स्वंय जिम्मेवार होगा, भविष्य में अश्वनी कांन्त एवं मोहिनी के किसी भी प्रकार के सिविल एवं क्रिमिनल कार्य आदि के लिए मेरे मुवक्किल जिम्मेदार नहीं होंगें।

SANJEEV JAIN (Advocate)
Enrl. No. D/226/1991

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 5/2026)
MOHD ASIF .....PETITIONER
V/s
JAY RAM .....RESPONDENT
TO,
SH. JAY RAM S/O SH. KANHAIYA LAL
9135/4, 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 **02 day of 06 2026.**
Sd/-
Additional Rent Controller (2) Central Room No. 36 Tis Hazari Courts Delhi
Seal

"IMPORTANT"
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कार्यालय नगर विकास न्यास, अलवर (राज.)

क्रमांक :- लेखा/2026/3479 - 83 दिनांक :- 22/07/2026

NOTICE INVITING NIT – 10/2026-27

Maintenance, Cleaning And Security Of Park , Construction Of Nallah, Bala kila Development Work 27-07-2026 to 07-08-2026 3.00 PM. Technical bid Will be opened 07-08-2026 at 4.00 PM. particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in** of the state and **www.uitalwar.in.** The approximate Value of the procurement is Rs. 274.59 lakhs.

UBN No. : UAL2627WSOB00103 To 00106
Executive Engineer UIT, Alwar
Raj.Samwad/C/26/7548

कार्यालय नगर निगम, उदयपुर

टाउनहॉल लिंक रोड, उदयपुर (राज.) 313001
दुरभाष स.0294-2421255, 2420013, Helpline no. 0294-2426262 वेबसाइट. www-udaipurmc.org

क्रमांक : निविजा/2026–27/ई –19 दिनांक :– 22.07.2026

(ई–भुगतान) बोली आमन्त्रण सूचना संख्या – ई 19/2026–27

नगर निगम कार्यालय उदयपुर द्वारा "Operation and Maintenance Work for Seven Sewerage Pumping Stations (Naganagri Pumping Station, Lal Ghat Pumping Station, Maharaja Ghat Pumping Station, Pipli Ghat Pumping Station, Nathi Ghat Pumping Station, Near Hotel natural Lake Pumping Station, Sisarma Pumping Station) For 5 years in Municipal Corporation Udaipur Area" राशि रु0 330.45 लाख के कार्य हेतु इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से निर्धारित निविदा प्रपत्र में ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया के तहत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है निविदा के कार्यो की प्रारम्भ तिथि 23.07.2026 एवं अंतिम तिथि 12.08.2026 तथा निविदा खुलने की तिथी 13.08.2026 रहेगी निविदा से संबंधित अन्य समस्त विवरण इंटरनेट साईट **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखे जा सकते है।

UBN No. UNP2627WSOB00070
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता नगर निगम, उदयपुर
राज.संवाद/सी/26/7593

बीकानेर नगर निगम

नगर निगम मार्ग, बीकानेर (राजस्थान) फैक्स :– 0151–2226906, फोन :– 0151–2226902, 0151–2226905
E-Mail Address :- nagarnigambikaner@gmail.com, Web Site :- www.bikanermc.org

Sr.No./SBM_EVC Station/2026-27/6875 Date: 21.07.2026

NOTICE INVITING BIDS
NIB NO. 53/2026-27 Date
(UBN Number DLB2627SLOB10924)

Online bids are invited electroically on behalf of the Municipal Corporation Bikaner for the work Procurement of Service For "Request for Proposal (RFP) for **"DEVELOPMENT OF EVC STATION AT URBAN AREA IN BIKANER MUNICIPAL CORPORATION- CIRCLE-5"**, from enlisted /eligible bidders of appropriate class of the department organization.

The complete Bidding Document may be seen or downloaded from the website of State Public Procurement Portal **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**, e-procurement portal **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and **https://bikanermc.org/**.

Tender Cost :- 250.00 Lacs
Commissioner Bikaner Municipal Corporation
Raj.Samwad/C/26/7577

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI PROJECT, RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
e-Procurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in
(Second Call)

System Tender No. 195703/NIT No.: 04/SAC/26-27 Dated: 21.07.2026

Online Tenders are invited for the following work up to 07.08.2026 at 17.30 Hours.
Name of work - Strengthening and Rehabilitation work of Ravishankar Sagar Dam under Mahanadi Project Dhamtari District.

Probable Amount of Contract: Rs. 388.32 Lakhs (Excluding G.S.T.)
(As per S.O.R Enforced from Dated 01.05.2025 and amended on dated 08.08.2025 of C.G. W.R.D., S.O.R Enforced from Dated 01.01.2015 of C.G. P.W.D. Building and S.O.R. Enforced from Dated 01.06.2020 of C.G. P.W.D. E&M).
The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) from Date 28.07.2026, at 17.31 Hours. (IST) onwards.
NOTE:- All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process. Prequalification Certificates issued by Water Resources Department whose validity is upto 30.09.2026 is applicable in this tender.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Water Management Division, Rudri, Code No. 38 For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Project Raipur (C.G.)
RO No. 262702270/5

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

BORDER SECURITY FORCE

CONSTABLE S C BISWAS 22 BN BSF 02.06.1967 – 25.07.1993

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable S C Biswas on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal bullet injuries while fighting with militants in Srinagar area, J&K and later succumbed to his injuries at 92 base hospital.

LANCE/NAIK RAJ VARDHAN 96 BN BSF 08.03.1966 – 25.07.1992

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Lance/Naik Raj Vardhan on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he made ultimate sacrifice while on operational duty in Srinagar area, J&K.

CONSTABLE SANJAY PANDITA 61 BN BSF 04.01.1972 – 25.07.1996

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Sanjay Pandita on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal bullet injuries while fighting militants in area of FDL Old Munger Kalan, Kupwara (J&K) and later succumbed to his injuries.

CONSTABLE VINOD KR BISHT 113 BN BSF 29.12.1969 – 25.07.1994

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Vinod Kr Bisht on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal bullet injuries, while fighting militants in Padyarna area, Srinagar (J&K) and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

NAIK PYARE LAL 141 BN BSF 14.01.1950 – 25.07.1991

CONSTABLE VIJAY KUMAR 141 BN BSF 15.06.1968 – 25.07.1991

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawans Constables Naik Pyare Lal and Constable Vijay Kumar on their Balidan Diwas. On this day, they sustained fatal bullet injuries, while fighting militants in Srinagar area, J&K and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

Veer Balidani Constable Kurada Ram 83 Bn 2-10-1972 To 25-7-1994

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable Kurada Ram of 83 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating insurgents during guard duty in Imphal, Manipur on 25 July 1994. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

Veer Balidani Constable P. T. Kandhare 45 Bn 25-2-1970 To 25-7-1999

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable P. T. Kandhare of 45 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating insurgents during an operation in Imphal, Manipur on 25 July 1999. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

Veer Balidani Constable Awadh Kishore Singh 24 Bn 25-6-1972 To 25-7-2001

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable Awadh Kishore Singh of 24 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while countering an ambush by insurgents in Dhubri district, Assam on 25 July 2001. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

CORPORATE BRIEFS

NIOS The National Institute of Open Schooling in collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare & NHSRC, organised a two-day national training programme to strengthen the implementation of the ASHA Certification Programme. NIOS Chairman Prof. Akhilesh Mishra highlighted quality training and certification as the foundation of a strong primary healthcare system, while officials shared that over 1.65 lakh ASHA workers have already been certified across the country. Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Neelima Mishra, Director, National Institute of Biologicals, described ASHA workers as the frontline of India's public healthcare system.

MPP Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, called for a comprehensive review of pension regulations to ensure that evolving social realities are adequately reflected in government policies, stating that many pension disputes arise because existing rules have failed to keep pace with changing societal needs. During the event, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the Compendium of Case Laws on Pension Litigation, a Flyer on Pension Litigation, & the Special Campaign 3.0 of the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare aimed at strengthening litigation management, improving service delivery and promoting citizen-centric pension administration. He said such reforms demonstrate the Government's commitment to making pension policies more humane, inclusive and responsive to contemporary societal requirements.

UCO BANK reported a strong performance for the quarter ended recently, posting a net profit of Rs 656 crore, up 8.05% year-on-year. Total business rose 15.53% to Rs 6.05 lakh crore, with advances growing 21.18% & deposits 11.28%. Asset quality improved, with Gross NPA at 2.08% & Net NPA at 0.25%. The bank's capital adequacy ratio stood at 19.03%, reflecting robust financial stability. UCO Bank's network spans 3421 Domestic Branches, as well as overseas in Hong Kong, Singapore & a representative office in Iran.

PNB reported a robust Q1 FY'27 performance with net profit surging 214% year-on-year to Rs 5,253 crore. Global business rose 10.2% to Rs 29.98 lakh crore, while advances grew 12.7% and deposits 8.5%. Asset quality strengthened with GNPA improving to 2.78% and NNPA to 0.28%, alongside higher RoA, NIM and capital adequacy, reflecting strong financial resilience.

DWCD In collaboration with Sangath, successfully organised an orientation & felicitation programme under the NAMASTE Programme, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening ECD services across the National Capital Territory. The programme focused on promoting early identification & timely intervention for children with developmental delays & disabilities through a community-based screening approach. The orientation session sensitised Anganwadi functionaries & supervisory staff on the objectives, implementation framework, & significance of the NAMASTE Programme. The event was graced by Rashmi Singh, Hon. Secretary, Department of Women & Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi.

BHARAT TAXI Bharat Taxi & Department of Information Technology & Electronics, Govt. of West Bengal entered into an MoU to strengthen the Yatri Sathi Partnership to focus on operational support, driver welfare, technology interoperability, platform growth, and service expansion across West Bengal, Kolkata on 19th July. Yatri Sathi is a state-developed digital taxi aggregation platform owned by DITE, providing cab & taxi services to passengers across West Bengal. Through this partnership, STCL will act as DITE's strategic and preferred Growth & Welfare Partner for Yatri Sathi.

GDA Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for Ghaziabad Development Authority projects worth approximately Rs 596.40 crore during his Ghaziabad visit on July 17. The projects included the inauguration of four completed works worth Rs 91.29 crore and the foundation laying of 19 new infrastructure and public welfare projects worth Rs 505.11 crore, providing a significant boost to the district's development.

GMC Ghaziabad Municipal Commissioner Vikramaditya Singh Malik presented the city's integrated solid waste management initiatives to Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, highlighting waste segregation, recycling, composting, real-time waste collection monitoring and public participation. The CM also unveiled the Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation's coffee table book showcasing its cleanliness and environmental initiatives over the past two-and-a-half years and commended the Corporation's efforts to build a cleaner, greener city.

BOB AGRA Bank of Baroda's Regional Office, Agra celebrated the bank's 119th Foundation Day with a series of events, including a walkathon, tree plantation drive, free health check-up camp and a cultural-cum-felicitation programme. The evening programme, held at Rao Krishna Pal Auditorium, featured cultural performances by employees and children. Paisalo Digital Limited Executive Director and CFO Harish Singh attended as the chief guest, while Regional Head Dhananjay Kumar, Deputy Regional Manager Anuj Chitransh, RRB Agra AGM Avinash Palod and former Bank of Baroda General Manager S.P. Bhanot were among the distinguished guests. Retired officers and employees were felicitated during the event.

NBT The third Chinar Book Festival at SKICC continued to draw enthusiastic participation with engaging literary and cultural sessions. The day began at the Authors' Corner with an engaging session titled 'From Soil to Soul: Culinary Traditions and Sustainability'. The session was moderated by Tripurari Singh in the presence of Chef Yaseen Reshi, Rajni. Wanchoo & Khair Ull Nissa Sheikh. A key highlight was the landmark discussion, 'Theatre in Kashmir: Reviving a Living Tradition', which brought together playwrights, actors, directors, scholars and theatre practitioners to reflect on the region's theatrical heritage and future. Opening the session, Dr. Farooq Fayaz traced Kashmir's rich theatrical legacy to its ancient Sanskrit traditions, citing the Nilamata Purana and Rajatarangini as evidence of its vibrant history of drama and playwriting.

CTD Reaffirming the Government of India's commitment to Swasth Bharat, Viksit Bharat, & a TB-Mukt Bharat, The CTD, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, organised an Ayushman Arogya Shivir at Kartvya Bhawan - I in collaboration with the Delhi State TB Cell, the NTEP & the SNA Division. Aradhana Patnaik, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Health Mission inaugurated the Shivir. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation with services including blood pressure, blood sugar, haemoglobin and BMI assessments. The initiative reflects the government's continued focus on strengthening preventive healthcare and a TB-Mukt Bharat.

CPM The Delhi Gujarati Shwetambar Murtipujak Jain Sangh will mark the Chaturmas Pravesh Mahotsav with the launch of the year-long 'Jeevdaya Year' campaign, promoting compassion, non-violence and the welfare of all living beings. The initiative will include animal and bird welfare, cow protection, environmental conservation, tree plantation, veterinary assistance and public awareness programmes, aiming to develop Delhi as a "City of Jeevdaya". During Chaturmas, devotees will also participate in religious discourses, scriptural study, devotional activities and spiritual programmes centred on self-discipline and compassion.

ALLEN NEET ALLEN Career Institute delivered an outstanding performance in NEET-UG 2026, with five students securing places in the top 10 and 46 featuring in the top 100. Aryan Gupta secured AIR 1 and Panshul Bansal AIR 2 with 715 marks each, followed by Ayush Bhalotia (AIR 4), Aryan Dubey (AIR 7) and Gaurav Singh (AIR 9).

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C. / 84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Sanjay Dayal S/o Ganesh Dayal R/o H. No. B-317, Jawahar Mohalla, Patparganj, Delhi also at Ward No. 7, Gaushala Road Mokama, P.S. Mokama, Distt. Patna, Bihar** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 213/2021 U/s 279/338 IPC, P.S. Jaitpur, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sanjay Dayal** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sanjay Dayal** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sanjay Dayal** of case **FIR No. 213/2021 U/s 279/338 IPC, P.S. Jaitpur, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **16.11.2026.**

By Order
Dr. Raj Kumar Singh
Judicial Magistrate First Class -11
South East, Court Room No. 09, Main Building
Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

DP/9886/SE/2026 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Theingam Shimrah, S/o:** Late Ashok Shimrah, **R/o:** H.No. 106, Humayunpur Village, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi; also at: Village View Land Zone-I, Ukhrul, Manipur has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 176/2021, U/s 33 Delhi Excise Act, P.S.: Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Theingam Shimrah** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Theingam Shimrah** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Theingam Shimrah** accused of offence in case **FIR No. 176/2021, U/s 33 Delhi Excise Act, P.S.: Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi** and is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **02.09.2026**.

By Order
Ms. Devanshi Janmeja
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03 (South)
Room No. 212, Saket Court, New Delhi

DP/9705/SW/2026 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 CrPC/84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Dhruv S/o Anil R/o B-3, 4/5, Bhatta Sahib Road, Vishnu Garden, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 155/2024 U/S 279/338 IPC, PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest their upon issued that the said accused **Dhruv** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Dhruv** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Dhruv** of **FIR No. 155/2024 U/S 279/338 IPC, PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **30.01.2027 at 10:00 am.**

By Order,
Ms. Shagun
Judicial Magistrate First Class-06
North West District, Room No. 109, 1st Floor
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/8231/RD/2026(Court Matter)

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.

PSPCL

Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala- 147001
Phone No. 96461-18774, Email id:-semeteringpatiala@gmail.com
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in

Tender Enquiry No. MQP-267/2026-27/PO(M) **Dated 23.07.2026**

Chief Engineer/Metering. C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites e-tender for Supply. Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Reading. Analysis, integration with billing system and 1 year O&M of Power Quality Meters complying to IEC 61000-4-30 class A.

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 23.07.2026, 11:00 AM onwards.

Note: - Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

No.13644/PB C 744/26

PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

pstcl

Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala. 147001
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033814 www.pstcl.org
O/o: Dy. CE/ TS (Design), Telefax: 0175-2207774, E-mail:setrd@pstcl.org

Notice Inviting E-Tender

Tender Enquiry No. STQ-7100 (SHORT TERM OPEN TENDER)

For manufacture, testing, supply & delivery of 780 nos. SCADA compatible 11KV VCB Panels.
1. Last date & time for downloading of tender- 07.08.2026 upto 11:00AM
2. Last date & time for submission of tender- 07.08.2026 upto 11:00AM
3. Date & time for opening of tender- 10.08.2026 at 11:00 AM

Detailed NIT/specification may be downloaded from Punjab Govt. e-tendering website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.nicgep/app. Corrigendum, if any, will not be published in newspapers. As such the website may be visited regularly for updates.

NO. 13623/PSTCL **Dy. CE/TS (D), PSTCL, Patiala.**

HARYANA REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

New Mini Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Sector-1, Panchkula.

E-mail: hrerapkl-hrv@gov.in, officer.rera.hrv@gmail.com
Website: www.haryanarera.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

For kind attention of allottees of the Real Estate Project namely "Devrachna Lok" an Affordable Residential Plotted Town Planning Scheme under DDJAY-2016 being developed by M/s Tilak Cotton Industries over an area measuring 6.864 acres situated in Sector-10, Residential, Fatehabad.

1. The above-mentioned project was registered with HRERA Panchkula vide Registration No: HRERA-PKL-FTB-540-2024 Dated: 16.01.2024 valid upto 30/06/2026.
2. The promoter has requested the Authority that instead of revoking the registration on its expiry, the Authority may permit it to remain in force for one more year subject to such further terms and conditions as it thinks fit to impose in the interest of the allottees and any such terms and conditions so imposed shall be binding upon the promoter.
3. The Authority is considering the application of the promoter to permit continuation of registration for one more year under section 7(3) of the Act for this project. However, the first right of refusal for carrying out of the remaining development works is that of the association of allottees. Therefore, the Authority hereby invites objections from the association of allottees in particular and any other concerned persons in general.
4. The objections shall be filed in the registry of the Authority by 07.08.2026 which will be considered by the Authority under section 7(3) of the Act.

Secretary (Acting)
No. 47490/HR **HRERA Panchkula**

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 **Taj Khan S/o** Md. Rafiq **R/o** 332, Gali No.-3, Bhagya Vihar, Delhi, **Also at:** 125A, Vidyapati Nagar, Inder Enclave, Ph.-2nd, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 451/2020, U/S 33/58 Delhi Excise Act, PS Prem Nagar, Rohini Distt., Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Taj Khan** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Taj Khan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that **Taj Khan** the said accused of **FIR No. 451/2020, U/S 33/58 Delhi Excise Act, PS Prem Nagar, Rohini Distt., Delhi,** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.08.2026.**

By Order
Ms. Shagun
Judicial Magistrate First Class,
North West, Court No. 109, 1st Floor,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/10160/RD/2026 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82(2) (ii) Cr. P.C./84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita

Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused persons namely **Mihir Das @ Pukai S/o** Gopal Das **R/o** H.No. C-3/678, Gali No. 11, 2nd Pusta, Soniya Vihar, Delhi have committed (or is suspected to has committed) the offence under **FIR No.1526/2025 U/s 316(4) Bharatiya Nagarik Sanhita**., has been registered at **PS: Karol Bagh, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, **Mihir Das @ Pukai** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Mihir Das @ Pukai** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, **Mihir Das @ Pukai** of under **FIR No.1526/2025 U/s 316(4) Bharatiya Nagarik Sanhita**., Registred at: **PS: Karol Bagh, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **30.09.2026**.

By Order
Sh. Nishant Bangarh
JMFC-01 (Central), Room No. 180
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/10177/CD/2026 (Court Notice)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Monu @ Shankar Shikander, S/o Santosh Shikander, R/o WZ-65/55, Indra Camp No. 03, Vikas Puri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 27/2020, U/s 33/38 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Vikas Puri, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Monu @ Shankar Shikander** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Monu @ Shankar Shikander** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Monu @ Shankar Shikander** accused of **FIR No. 27/2020, U/s 33/38 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Vikas Puri, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **07.09.2026.**

By Order - Sh. Sh. Vinod Kumar
Judicial Magistrate First Class-05, South-West District
Room No. 09, Dwarka Courts, New Delhi

DP/10130/WD/2026

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.

महा मेट्रो PUNE METRO

(A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT- PHASE 2
Metro Bhavan, 04th Floor, D. I. Metro Station, Nyaymurti Ranade Path, Shivaji Nagar, Pune-411005. Tel. : 020-26051072/74
E-mail: pdtender.pmrp@mahametro.org | www.punemetrorail.org

Tender Notice No: P1PD-60/2026 **Date: 25/07/2026**

Name of Work: Licensing Internal Advertisement Rights of Corridor-01 Metro Stations of the Pune Metro Rail Project for a Period of 15 Years.

Interested bidders may visit the Pune Metro Rail website **www.punemetrorail.org** to view this Tender Notice (NIT) and can download the tender documents and obtain further details regarding the tender from e-tender portal of Govt. of Maharashtra **https://mahatenders.gov.in. from 17:00 Hrs. on 27/07/2026 to 16:00 Hrs. of 27/08/2026.**

General Manager (TP & Procurement - PD)
Maha-Metro Rail Corporation Limited

Pune Metro : City's Transport Solution

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82(2) (ii) Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Ashutosh S/o Sh. Abhay Kumar R/o M-98, Meer Vihar, Madanpur Dabas, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CR. No. 533019/2016, U/s 394/34 IPC, PS Kanjhawala, Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Ashutosh** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Ashutosh** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Ashutosh** of case **CR. No. 533019/2016, U/s 394/34 IPC, PS Kanjhawala, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **27.08.2026**.

By Order
Apoorv Bhardwaj
Judicial Magistrate First Class-02
Room No. 113, First Floor
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/9771/RD/2026 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

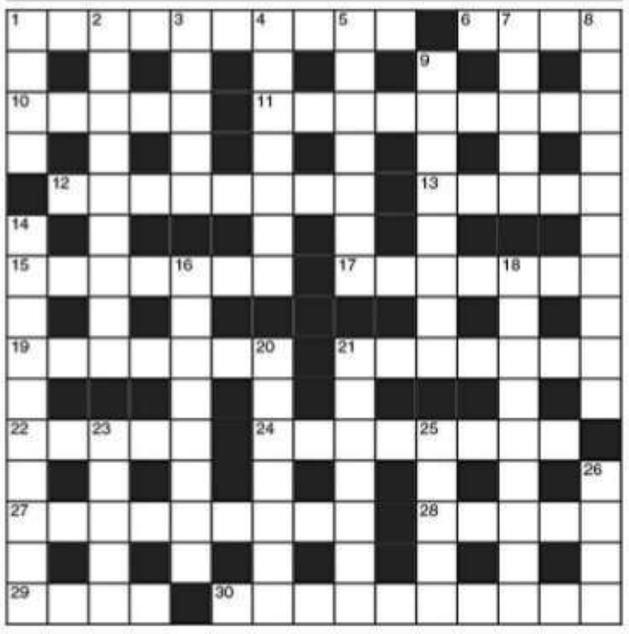
See Section 82/84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Person namely **Amir Khan S/o** Nabijaan, R/o: H. No. Idgaah Colony, Gali No. 10, Sonipat, Haryana (or is suspected to has committed) the offence in **FIR No. 0278/2020, U/s 12/9/55 G. Act,** Date : 29.09.2020, registered at P.S.: New Friends Colony, Delhi and the warrant has been returned writing upon that the said accused **Amir Khan** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Amir Khan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Amir Khan** accused **FIR No. 0278/2020, U/s 12/9/55 G. Act,** registered at P.S.: New Friends Colony, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **25.08.2026.**

By Order
Vinod Joshi
Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate
South East District, Room No. 515
Saket Courts, New Delhi

DP/10181/SE/2026 (Court Matter)

• CROSSWORD 6050



ACROSS
1 Island with many debts is undependable (10)
6 List of food (4)
10 The best one to make business arrangements (5)
11 Lavish with everything but mercy? (9)
12 A lemon is strangely classified as cereal (8)
13 Free trip to give medical attention (5)
15 Drug possibly oceanic in origin (7)
17 Rent row causes a storm (7)
19 It comes last locked in reverse (7)
21 See sign is incorrect for a start (7)
22 Just a maxim (5)
24 Honoured with high rank in the finish (8)
27 Not having had any hot drinks? (4,5)
28 Cultivating a vine is simple (5)
29 Rough deal for Helen's mother (4)
30 It's said to be praise for good sportsmen (4,6)

DOWN
1 Slight damage to essential part of computer (4)
2 Allegations that may be false (9)
3 I pick up key to look round someone's house (5)
4 Until that is put in order this is useless (7)
5 Pushy type seen to jump out of bed first (7)
7 A green girl (5)
8 Edifice with strong beams (10)
9 Car is not damaged being strong (4-4)
14 Bill gets a medical qualification of college (10)
16 The Utopian has his own collection of notions (8)
18 I stay true to the principle of self-denial (9)
20 Three times surrounded a number show fear (7)
21 Non-specialist officer (7)
23 Directed — in a straight line? (5)
25 Commonplace restriction on almost everything (5)
26 Metal van (4)

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 6049 ACROSS: 1 Lenient, 5 Discs, 8 The creeps, 9 Oar, 10 Rife, 12 Strolled, 14 Errors, 15 Stress, 17 Research, 18 Asia, 21 Era, 22 Hold still, 24 Tudor, 25 Doublet **DOWN:** 1 Later, 2 Nee, 3 Earl, 4 Treaty, 5 Distorts, 6 Shoulders, 7 Strides, 11 Firm stand, 13 Breather, 14 Earnest, 16 Scaled, 19 Allot, 20 Esau, 23 Ill

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.

Believe those who are seeking __ ___. Doubt those who find it - Andre Gide (3,5)

THROE

ABPRTU

TRUST

CNOOHH

SOLUTIONS: Other, Strut, Abrupt, Honcho
ANSWER: Believe those who are seeking **the truth**. Doubt those who find it - Andre Gide

• OVER THE HEDGE

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS

• CALVIN & HOBBES

BY BILL WATTERSON

• MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

SUDOKU 6390

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 4s 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

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 6389

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

• ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20): Today you might realise that your game face is different than what you thought it was. Or how you present yourself and relate to others is not who you really are. Tonight: Check your finances.

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21): Your focus is on home and family, social occasions, fun times with kids and making money. These are your priorities right now. It's a bit unusual that you're giving thought to how much attention you should pay to your spiritual values. Tonight: Cooperate.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21): Something might happen today that makes you question a friendship or realise you have to be more realistic about friends and groups to which you belong. There's no point in kidding yourself. Tonight: Get organised.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23): An important shift is taking place. Something might make you question your life direction or where you're headed. Basically, you have to ask yourself if it's realistic. After all, you're practical. It needs to be within reach. Tonight: Be friendly and protective.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23): Whether it's travel plans or ideas about publishing a book or a screenplay, or perhaps something related to medicine or the law, today you might wonder if your goals are reasonable. Tonight: Relax.

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23): It's important to know what financial and practical support you can count on from a spouse, partner or a third party. We're talking the nuts and bolts of a situation, the real deal. Tonight: Share ideas.

LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23): More than any other sign, you value partnerships because you're sociable and not really a loner. If you want to count on someone important who is in your life, make sure your assessments are real. Pie-in-the-sky fantasies rarely live up to the challenges of the day-to-day world. Tonight: Check your belongings.

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23): You're looking successful to others this year, no question. This might cloud your judgement about how you feel about your job or your work. Be prepared to let go of familiar fantasies about what you do; see it for what it is. Tonight: You're strong.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22): You are a future oriented sign who likes to believe in a better tomorrow. Today you might challenge your expectations about kids, sports, romance and socialising. You might even challenge your own creative talents. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20): You have traditional values. Something might happen today that makes you question these values. You might wonder how realistic it is to subscribe to this viewpoint. Not everyone is the same. Tonight: Friendships.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19): You're an idealist who wants to save the world before bedtime. You want to make the world a better place. You might see the limitations about what is possible. Nevertheless, your intention and direction can continue, can't it? Tonight: You're noticed.

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20): Your ability to believe something affects how it manifests in your life. Today you might see that, especially with money and personal wealth. You might see that your ideals have been self-limiting. Tonight: Explore.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE SIRSA DISTRICT COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED	TENDER ID 2026_HBC_530283_1 REF.NO MUS/E-TENDER/2026/272	TENDER DATE EXTENDED 04.08.2026	https://etenders.hry.nic.in vitaindia.org.in	98123-02168 vitasrs@gmail.com
2	THE SIRSA DISTRICT COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED	TENDER ID 2026_HBC_530291_1 REF.NO MUS/E-TENDER/2026/272A	TENDER DATE EXTENDED 04.08.2026	https://etenders.hry.nic.in vitaindia.org.in	98123-02168 vitasrs@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No. 47481/HRY

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कार्यालय-कार्यशाला विभाग
सेवा भवन लाल डिग्गी रोड, नगर निगम अलीगढ़
Email ID:- nnaligarh@gmail.com

पत्रांक : 86/वर्क०वि०/न०नि०अली०/2026-27 दिनांक: 24/07/2026

पुनः ई-निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम द्वारा विभिन्न प्रकार के वाहनों से कार्यों के लिए (डीजल / सीएनजी / इलैक्ट्रिक व्हीकल) की प्रति कि०मी० एवं प्रति घण्टा की दरों के निर्धारण हेतु उत्तर प्रदेश की ई-प्रक्योरमेंट वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in के माध्यम से निम्नवत शेड्यूल से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने की तिथि	दिनांक: 25.07.2026 अपरान्ह 12:00 बजे से
ई-निविदा वेबसाईट पर अपलोड करने की प्रारंभिक तिथि	दिनांक: 27.07.2026 अपरान्ह: 18:00 बजे से
फर्म द्वारा ई-निविदा वेबसाईट पर अपलोड करने अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक: 10.08.2026 अपरान्ह: 14:00 बजे तक
ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि	दिनांक: 10.08.2026 अपरान्ह: 16:00 बजे

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	निविदा शुल्क
1.	नगर निगम द्वारा विभिन्न प्रकार के वाहनों से कार्यों के लिए (डीजल/सीएनजी/इलैक्ट्रिक व्हीकल) की प्रति कि०मी० एवं प्रति घण्टा की दरों के निर्धारण कार्य हेतु।	₹ 2000+ GST (18%)

सभी अनुभवी फर्मों को निविदा शुल्क नगर निगम के खाता सं0 0010000103050288 IFSC Code-PUNB0001000 पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, शाखा अलीगढ़ में ऑनलाइन जमा कराने का प्रमाण, निविदा के साथ सलंग्न करना होगा एवं धरोहर राशि रू0 30,00,000.00 ऑनलाइन नगर निगम अलीगढ़ के भारतीय स्टेट बैंक खाता सं० 38972576044 IFSC Code-SBIN0000604 में जमा करनी होगी जों लेखाधिकारी, अलीगढ़ के नाम बन्धक होगी। जिसका प्रमाण निविदा के साथ अपलोड करना होगा। निविदा के सम्बन्ध में शेष विस्तृत सूचना, नियम व शर्तें उक्त बेवसाइट से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

प्रभारी अधिकारी वर्कशॉप
नगर निगम अलीगढ़

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 26.08.2026 from 10 am onwards.

Auction Date: 26.08.2026 - BHOPAL DISTRICT - ASHOKA GARDEN: 4343001491, 4343002989, 4343003340, 4343003434, 4343003482, 4343003549, 4343003572, 4343003618, 4343003654, 4343003703, 4343003706, 4343003758, 4343003768, 4343003784, 4343003792, 4343003796, 4343003812, 4343003827, 4343003847, 4343003895, 4343003905, 4343003931, 4343003974, 4343004018, 4343004029, 4343004031, 4343004036, 4343004054, 4343004075, 4343004107, 4343004136, 4343004153, 4343004165, 4343004225, 4343004229, 4343004244, 4343004268, 4343004282, 4343004283, 4343004327, 4343004362, 4343004380, 4343004432, 4343004436, 4343004449, 4343004505, 4343004516, 4343004622, 4343004623, 4343004636, 4343004670, 4343004683, 4343004692, 4343004746, 4343004767, 4343004801, 4343004819, 4343004853, 4343004898, 4343004943, 4343004950, 4343005110, 4343005124, 4343005142, 4343005145, 4343005166, 4343005243, 8000084343. **BHOPAL-ARERA COLONY:** 2749001868, 2749001870, 2749001914, 2749001917, 2749001949, 2749001964, 2749002005, 2749002021, 2749002045, 2749002046, 2749002064, 2749002066, 2749002083, 2749002100, 2749002112, 2749002119, 2749002161, 2749002163, 2749002171, 2749002175, 2749002196, 2749002197, 2749002204, 2749002206, 2749002207, 2749002220, 2749002225, 2749002228, 2749002287, 2749002322, 2749002364, 2749002380, 2749002386, 2749002393, 2749002439, 2749002450, 2749002456, 2749002489, 2749002525, 2749002574, 2749002576, 2749002579, 2749002624, 2749002679, 2749002751, 2749002776, 2749002813, 2749002877, 8000162749. **BHOPAL-INDRAPURI:** 2127001885, 2127005726, 2127005729, 2127005769, 2127005809, 2127005852, 2127005905, 2127005986, 2127006045, 2127006070, 2127006106, 2127006125, 2127006167, 2127006216, 2127006231, 2127006234, 2127006241, 2127006242, 2127006250, 2127006257, 2127006263, 2127006275, 2127006298, 2127006306, 2127006338, 2127006340, 2127006377, 2127006382, 2127006387, 2127006388, 2127006403, 2127006405, 2127006449, 2127006460, 2127006491, 2127006492, 2127006504, 2127006508, 2127006510, 2127006516, 2127006525, 2127006526, 2127006527, 2127006528, 2127006530, 2127006536, 2127006539, 2127006554, 2127006561, 2127006563, 2127006564, 2127006590, 2127006592, 2127006606, 2127006620, 2127006623, 2127006650, 2127006764, 2127006791, 2127006799, 2127006803, 2127006859, 2127006880, 2127006887, 2127006896, 2127006902, 2127006910, 2127006944, 2127006950, 2127006953, 2127006977, 2127006987, 2127007021, 2127007027, 2127007037, 2127007038, 2127007044, 2127007045, 2127007050, 2127007063, 2127007133, 2127007152, 2127007182, 2127007195, 2127007219, 2127007233, 2127007243, 2127007276, 2127007308, 2127007396, 2127007521, 2127007530, 2127007540, 2127007546, 2127007560, 2127007563, 2127007583, 2127007646, 2127007669, 2127007670, 2127007677, 2127007692, 2127007714, 2127007721, 2127007730, 2127007731, 2127007733, 2127007776, 2127007820, 2127007821, 2127007827, 2127007871, 2127007929, 2127007976, 2127007984, 2127008084, 2127008101, 2127008140, 2127008141, 2127008174, 2127008177, 2127008180, 2127008209, 2127008264, 2127008380, 2127008410, 2127008411, 2127008431, 2127008434, 8000122127, 8000142127, 8000262127, 8000772127, 8000972127, 8001122127, 8001132127. **BHOPAL-MP NAGAR ZONE II:** 2065000607, 2065000621, 2065002812, 2065002817, 2065002819, 2065002835, 2065002870, 2065002925, 2065002937, 2065002946, 2065002966, 2065003013, 2065003025, 2065003032, 2065003094, 2065003119, 2065003152, 2065003173, 2065003179, 2065003181, 2065003185, 2065003195, 2065003203, 2065003207, 2065003217, 2065003218, 2065003222, 2065003233, 2065003234, 2065003248, 2065003251, 2065003252, 2065003259, 2065003261, 2065003267, 2065003311, 2065003314, 2065003380, 2065003389, 2065003431, 2065003455, 2065003486, 2065003494, 2065003519, 2065003526, 2065003598, 2065003601, 2065003681, 2065003697, 2065003698, 2065003699, 2065003705, 2065003734, 2065003741, 2065003748, 2065003779, 2065003788, 2065003816, 2065003824, 2065003854, 2065003856, 2065003889, 2065003908, 2065003915, 2065003925, 2065003929, 2065003943, 2065003963, 2065003968, 2065003980, 2065003992, 2065004009, 2065004026, 2065004027, 2065004038, 2065004074, 2065004083, 2065004100, 2065004101, 2065004143, 2065004184, 2065004203, 2065004238, 2065004336, 2065004357, 2065004369, 2065004370, 2065004381, 2065004397, 2065004485. **HOSHANGABAD ROAD-BHOPAL:** 2575002605, 2575002611, 2575002613, 2575002621, 2575002632, 2575002665, 2575002670, 2575002674, 2575002677, 2575002692, 2575002719, 2575002725, 2575002752, 2575002762, 2575002766, 2575002805, 2575002811, 2575002836, 2575002837, 2575002838, 2575002848, 2575002876, 2575002887, 2575002889, 2575002890, 2575002896, 2575002903, 2575002921, 2575002932, 2575002959, 2575002963, 2575002968, 2575002969, 2575002975, 2575002983, 2575002990, 2575003000, 2575003013, 2575003026, 2575003028, 2575003036, 2575003038, 2575003063, 2575003086, 2575003104, 2575003106, 2575003134, 2575003143, 2575003144, 2575003145, 2575003172, 2575003189, 2575003204, 2575003213, 2575003216, 2575003217, 2575003297, 2575003312, 2575003341, 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2667006877, 2667006909, 2667006911, 2667006919, 2667006920, 2667006997, 2667007035, 2667007076, 2667007132, 2667007133, 2667007207. **KOLAR-BHOPAL:** 2733004749, 2733004808, 2733004817, 2733004870, 2733004935, 2733004996, 2733004999, 2733005045, 2733005138, 2733005139, 2733005140, 2733005141, 2733005163, 2733005164, 2733005207, 2733005214, 2733005234, 2733005235, 2733005243, 2733005257, 2733005261, 2733005283, 2733005294, 2733005299, 2733005310, 2733005321, 2733005328, 2733005329, 2733005336, 2733005341, 2733005373, 2733005410, 2733005426, 2733005428, 2733005454, 2733005471, 2733005477, 2733005478, 2733005489, 2733005490, 2733005493, 2733005499, 2733005502, 2733005503, 2733005516, 2733005518, 2733005586, 2733005591, 2733005625, 2733005658, 2733005685, 2733005687, 2733005691, 2733005697, 2733005705, 2733005712, 2733005717, 2733005724, 2733005733, 2733005754, 2733005757, 2733005758, 2733005810, 2733005861, 2733005863, 2733005890, 2733005942, 2733005974, 2733006002, 2733006023, 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2734004251, 2734004272, 2734004275, 2734004277, 2734004302, 2734004305, 2734004311, 2734004312, 2734004313, 2734004320, 2734004354, 2734004366, 2734004411, 2734004419, 2734004429, 2734004432, 2734004441, 2734004451, 2734004456, 2734004460, 2734004468, 2734004473, 2734004478, 2734004483, 2734004486, 2734004508, 2734004519, 2734004520, 2734004523, 2734004539, 2734004541, 2734004575, 2734004588, 2734004600, 2734004611, 2734004615, 2734004621, 2734004626, 2734004631, 2734004635, 2734004651, 2734004659, 2734004664, 2734004668, 2734004676, 2734004681, 2734004686, 2734004688, 2734004689, 2734004704, 2734004718, 2734004719, 2734004726, 2734004748, 2734004758, 2734004786, 2734004788, 2734004857, 2734004858, 2734004867, 2734004868, 2734004891, 2734004913, 2734004914, 2734004915, 2734004917, 2734004926, 2734004927, 2734004961, 2734004971, 2734005060, 2734005062, 2734005068, 2734005083, 2734005095, 2734005096, 2734005128, 8000042734, 8000072734, 8000292734, 8000382734. **Auction Date: 26.08.2026 - GUNA DISTRICT - GUNA:** 4436001774, 4436001775, 4436001810, 4436001956, 4436001970, 4436001977, 4436001998, 4436002016, 4436002021, 4436002038, 4436002061, 4436002092, 4436002112, 4436002113, 4436002129, 4436002136, 4436002183, 4436002187, 4436002222, 4436002230, 4436002302, 4436002339, 4436002494, 4436002500, 4436002551, 4436002634, 4436002779, 4436002787, 4436002807, 4436002838, 4436002852, 4436002880, 4436003412. **Auction Date: 26.08.2026 - RAISEN DISTRICT - RAISEN:** 4055000572, 4055000574, 4055000597, 4055000612, 4055000630, 4055000688, 4055000690, 4055000693, 4055000704, 4055000711, 4055000712, 4055000716, 4055000722, 4055000740, 4055000755, 4055000763, 4055000768, 4055000777, 4055000802, 4055000804, 4055000805, 4055000806, 4055000807, 4055000809, 4055000810, 4055000811, 4055000813, 4055000818, 4055000822, 4055000838, 4055000840, 4055000857, 4055000867, 4055000872, 4055000896, 4055000906, 4055000911, 4055000932, 4055000950, 4055000959, 4055000967, 4055000972, 4055000982, 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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 05.09.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at BHOPAL DISTRICT - BHOPAL-INDRAPURI: GROUND FLOOR, MFL , 16/B, INDRAPURI, SECTOR-B, RAISEN ROAD, OPPOSITEJUBILEE GATE , BHOPAL, MADHYA PRADESH , 462021 .The bidders are requested to produce photo id card ,Pan card .The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS.

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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 27.08.2026 from 10 am onwards.

AGRA DISTRICT - AGRA-KAMLA NAGAR: 2802002512, 2802003590, 2802003623, 2802003692, 2802003694, 2802003725, 2802003771, 2802003791, 2802003805, 2802003854, 2802003863, 2802003895, 2802003905, 2802003919, 2802003955, 2802003958, 2802003963, 2802003964, 2802003966, 2802003969, 2802003971, 2802003973, 2802003985, 2802004006, 2802004007, 2802004011, 2802004016, 2802004028, 2802004029, 2802004034, 2802004035, 2802004047, 2802004057, 2802004060, 2802004064, 2802004073, 2802004075, 2802004081, 2802004082, 2802004089, 2802004094, 2802004123, 2802004125, 2802004130, 2802004151, 2802004154, 2802004159, 2802004193, 2802004211, 2802004213, 2802004260, 2802004278, 2802004283, 2802004300, 2802004325, 2802004334, 2802004377, 2802004394, 2802004416, 2802004499, 2802004502, 2802004581, 2802004614, 2802004625, 2802004626, 2802004640, 2802004660, 2802004664, 2802004680, 2802004691, 2802004698, 2802004709, 2802004721, 2802004727, 2802004784, 2802004790, 2802004815, 2802004829, 2802004833, 2802004842, 2802004843, 2802004883, 2802005013, 2802005034, 2802005053, 2802005061. **AGRA-MAYUR COMPLEX:** 2762001785, 2762002175, 2762002194, 2762002205, 2762002246, 2762002249, 2762002292, 2762002303, 2762002346, 2762002368, 2762002373, 2762002393, 2762002447, 2762002452, 2762002479, 2762002513, 2762002541, 2762002544, 2762002545, 2762002558, 2762002564, 2762002587, 2762002591, 2762002594, 2762002596, 2762002598, 2762002605, 2762002606, 2762002610, 2762002611, 2762002654, 2762002670, 2762002692, 2762002701, 2762002740, 2762002742, 2762002745, 2762002767, 2762002770, 2762002774, 2762002809, 2762002822, 2762002832, 2762002838, 2762002849, 2762002868, 2762002888, 2762002917, 2762002957, 2762003019, 2762003021, 2762003027, 2762003063, 2762003067, 2762003074, 2762003077, 2762003082, 2762003083, 2762003091, 2762003095, 2762003097, 2762003121, 2762003127, 2762003156, 2762003179, 2762003237, 2762003255, 2762003282, 2762003284, 2762003348, 2762003384, 2762003450, 2762003472, 2762003475, 2762003517, 2762003573, 2762003583, 2762003587. **AGRA-SANJAY PLACE:** 2834001073, 2834003823, 2834003922, 2834003980, 2834003989, 2834004017, 2834004020, 2834004025, 2834004061, 2834004063, 2834004065, 2834004083, 2834004095, 2834004109, 2834004113, 2834004118, 2834004130, 2834004133, 2834004166, 2834004221, 2834004247, 2834004279, 2834004284, 2834004292, 2834004330, 2834004343, 2834004345, 2834004357, 2834004365, 2834004376, 2834004380, 2834004381, 2834004396, 2834004399, 2834004403, 2834004424, 2834004426, 2834004431, 2834004433, 2834004461, 2834004469, 2834004481, 2834004507, 2834004522, 2834004524, 2834004556, 2834004557, 2834004561, 2834004565, 2834004571, 2834004610, 2834004636, 2834004647, 2834004655, 2834004663, 2834004682, 2834004726, 2834004760, 2834004766, 2834004786, 2834004788, 2834004813, 2834004865, 2834004887, 2834004898, 2834004937, 2834004947, 2834004969, 2834004971, 2834005003, 2834005075, 2834005095, 2834005137, 2834005188

Judoka Tulika banned by NADA for whereabouts failure; removed from CWG

Express News Service
New Delhi, July 24

JUDOKA TULIKA Maan, who had won silver at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, has been withdrawn from the ongoing edition in Glasgow after being provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for three whereabouts failures in the last 12 months. It is a second blow for the Indian judo team for the Games, with Arun Kumar earlier being suspended by the NADA.

According to PTI, Tulika had made three whereabouts failures in a 12-month period. Under the World Athletics Anti-Doping (WADA) rules, any combination of three whereabouts failures — filing failure and/or missed test — within a period of 12 months constitute an anti-doping rule violation.

One of the most decorated judokas in the country, Tulika had made an exit in the round of 32 at the 2024 Paris Olympics. She had won silver in the +78kg category at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

This is third case of doping that has hit the Indian contingent since the Games have started. Earlier, Arun Kumar, a Judoka participating in the -73kg category, was removed from the judo squad after he was provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).

Hours after Kumar's suspension, it was revealed that another Indian athlete, weightlifter Dilbagh Singh, would return from Glasgow —although for no fault of his own.

Indian weightlifting has reported five positive cases during the period of June 1, 2025, to July 22, 2026. Consequently, India's athlete quota was slashed from 16 to 11.

The sports ministry had approved a 191-member contingent, including 126 athletes.

INDIA watch

GYMNASTICS
Women's team final and individual qualification Pranati Nayak, Protistha Samanta, Eshitaa Sunil Rewale, Nishka Agarwal, Riddhi Sharma **2:30pm**

PARA SWIMMING
Men's S14 200m freestyle heats: Chaitanya Vishwas Kulkarni **4:15pm**; final at **12:45am** (if he qualifies)

SWIMMING
Men's 400m freestyle heats: Dhakshan Shashikumar **4:00pm,** final at **11:30pm** (if he qualifies)
Men's 50m backstroke final: Srihari Natraj **12:20am** (if he qualifies)

LAWN BOWLS
Men's singles sectional match: Putul Sonowal
Women's pairs sectional match: Rupa Rani Tirkey and Pinky Singh vs Tonga's Paris Baker and Milkha Nathan **3:50pm**

BOXING
Men's 60kg Round of 32: Sachin Siwach vs Keoma Al-Ahmadieh (Canada) **4:00pm**

3x3 BASKETBALL
Women's wheelchair: India vs Wales **5:00pm**

India checks in

Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu (L) and boxer Lovlina Borgohain carry the flag as they lead the Indian contingent during the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games. PTI

BEYOND DIPA'S PRODUNOVA

India's gymnasts bet on getting the basics right

Shivani Naik
Mumbai, July 24

Vaulters go to Glasgow chasing not daring but precision, as Dipa Karmakar passes the baton to a generation built on Tuskaharas and Yurchenkos rather than high-risk tumbles

GYMNASTS SPEAK about the bubble of fearlessness that coaches conjure around them, before they go leaping into unknowns. The assured faces hide storms within.

"The 2014 Glasgow bronze medal was memorable because it was the first time I stuck a landing on the Produnova. My coach told me I would," Dipa Karmakar recalls of a sunny late Glaswegian afternoon when magic began weaving for Indian women's gymnastics.

"I'm sure the new girls are going to change the colour of the Indian medal on vault," she says, passing on the baton, wrapping it in the same glaze of confidence that is necessary for a gymnast to hear, before take-off, when it defies reality even.

Balance is linked to ears, and Dipa has confidently whispered the message that she believes in their abilities, into ears of Pranati Nayak, Eshita Rewale, Nishka Agarwal and Protistha Samanta who were all picked based on their vault strength as India mounts a medal challenge at 2026 Glasgow.

Unlike Dipa, the four Indians now are not attempting terrifying vaults.

But finding brilliance in basics, when judges are not blown by the nerveless execution of bravado, is difficult by itself. It's the evolution Dipa is getting behind, as the totem of the sport.

Pranati, big hope

Tokyo Olympian Pranati has thrice medalled at Asian Championships, so consistency is her currency, even as she manages ankle troubles. She has lived like a monk at Odisha's high performance centre, leaning on sports science.

Praniti Nayak is set to go with Tsukahara 360 and a Handspring Forward Pike 360 at the CWG. PTI

She picks vaults working within her fitness confines, so she is slated to go with a Tsukahara 360 and a Handspring Forward Pike 360, a 360 being a single rotation.

Though she will be assured of a 4.4 Difficulty score on the Tsukahara, the block on the table remains the crucial element to pull it off.

Scoring high and clean on execution is her plan to get into the finals. The Tsukahara vault demands maturity and strength that Pranati has, and minimising deductions is the trick to get into the Top 8.

Yurchenko choice

The gymnast attempting a tougher one is Nishka Agarwal, who has shadowed Pranati for years. If coach Manoj Rana can inject enough confidence, she will go for a Yurchenko with a D-score of 5.0.

Her movement alignment and technique are sturdy, and she tends to cop fewer angular deductions. If she can land the double twist, she can go up to 13.8, while the Tsukahara for a 4.4 D-score can take her to 13.1, averaging out in ideal circumstances.

Yurchenko is an entry-level vault, attempted by half the field. A round-off onto the springboard is step one. A back handspring onto the vault table is step two. India's only other CWG medallist, Ashish Kumar, explains: "The back lift-off from floor is biomechanically easier to lead to saltos or twists from the vault thereafter - 360, 540, 720. Three-four Indians have now logged a long journey on the vault," says the 2010 daredevil from Delhi Games.

> ***Finding brilliance in basics, when judges are not blown by the nerveless execution of bravado, is difficult by itself.***

The Tsukahara is tougher than Yurchenko because you need strength for the round-off on the springboard. "The English are landing them perfectly even if it's half a twist less," he says of the recent Yurchenkos. But someone like Protistha, who shadowed Dipa in her early years, has that necessary strength for a 2014 encore. "Everything is about perfect landing," Rana reminds.

Why vault

Dipa's fourth place at the Olympics spawned a dozen dreams. Aruna Reddy became the first Indian gymnast to win a World Cup medal, on vault. Pranati has since added Asian Championship medals of her own.

The history has science behind it. India, never a gymnastics nation, has chosen vault and maxed it out for a simple reason. Despite the risk, the acrobatic aerials and the speed, a vault is judged on only two execution skills, one for each vault, while the rest of the apparatus get marked on seven skills each, over lines, passes, elements, dismounts and more.

Nationals gold medallist Eshita Rewale from Mumbai has stuck to two basics, a Tsukahara 360 and a Yurchenko stretch. A lightweight, springy athlete, Eshita will look to nail the rudimentary routines.

Competition check

The biggest name on vault that Pranati and co will be up against is Canadian Lia Monica Fontaine, a 2025 World Championships silver medallist on vault, debuting here.

The debutant joins power-speed bullet Ellie Black at her fourth Games.

Defending champion Georgia Godwin returns from a full rupture of her Achilles tendon sustained before the Paris Olympics.

An all-rounder who has an eponymous skill on uneven bars named after her, the Australian has said she still struggles with phantom pain. She has since earned a degree in medical imaging, and is writing a gymnastics storybook.

England's Abigail Martin is a fiery contender, while Welsh sisters Abigail and Emily Ropers are vault specialists.

OPENING NOTES

King Charles (C) and Queen Camilla step out of the Doctor Who Tardis police box as cyclist Chris Hoy looks on. AP

The king makes an entry, but not quite James Bond style

THERE WAS no parachute jump from a helicopter by the Queen and Mr. Bond. The 2026 CWG spin off of the dramatic royal entry at the 2012 London Olympics was restrained. In place of the most famous fictional secret agent was six-time Olympic medal winning cyclist Chris Hoy, who is battling cancer, and Scottish actor and writer Greg McHugh. The centerpiece of the entry film, the now less common but once ubiquitous police box, which entered pop culture as the Tardis, Doctor Who's time machine. Small on the outside but large on the inside, the reel version of the police box is a bit of a starship. The Glasgow link to the original police box, which actually had a phone to get in touch with the station and a mini office space inside for quick paperwork, is Gilbert Mackenzie Trench, an architect from Scotland. He came up with its design and also served as the chief architect of the police force in London. The Tardis, which has a mind of its own, or a sixth sense as to where the Doctor should be, played its part in the opening ceremony film, which set the mood for the actual entry at the stadium. A couple of off-target stops later Hoy and McHugh reach Balmoral where the royal couple join them. Of course, they are magically transported to The Hydro. From the yellow-light-lit cabin emerged Hoy, then McHugh and finally King Charles and Queen Camilla. Credit to Charles for being game by shading his eyes to look into the distance to figure out where he had been transported to. He waved and wore a slight smile too, a way better performance than the Queen who looked like she had a bad hair day when he walked into the Olympic Stadium in London. Can't blame her though. The air from the helicopter rotor blades might have messed with her mood. Yet, nothing beats the classy Daniel Craig, in a sharp suit, chaperoning the queen in a chopper over the London skies with the Bond soundtrack playing. 'Good evening Mr Bond' delivered nonchalantly by the queen was a smooth dialogue delivery with more recall value than any of the 'I declare the Games open' lines over the years. **ENS**

Actor Sam Heughan raises his hand to touch a life-size model of the mythical Loch Ness Monster during the opening ceremony. PTI

Loch Ness Monster spotted

ONE OF Scotland's most enduring legends made an appearance in Glasgow as the Loch Ness Monster — affectionately known as Nessie — emerged from a CGI recreation of Loch Ness, the vast freshwater lake in the Scottish Highlands that has been linked to mysterious monster sightings for nearly a century.

The mythical creature, which has featured in Scottish folklore for generations and become one of the country's most recognisable cultural icons, made contact with Outlander star Sam Heughan inside the Hydro. Dressed in a grey kilt, the Scottish actor walked across the Celtic knot stage with his arms outstretched before gently touching Nessie's nose as she rose from the digital loch to the delight of the crowd. **ENS**

Scotland and the pipers entry

THE HOME team received the loudest welcome of the night, with a thunderous roar echoing around the Hydro as the athletes made their way around the stage. Scottish flags rippled through the stands as thousands of fans rose to their feet. The only sound capable of cutting through the cheers was the unmistakable skirl of the Great Highland bagpipes. Dozens of pipers flooded the stage and lined the aisles, creating a wall of sound that has accompanied Scottish celebrations, military ceremonies and sporting occasions for centuries.

Few instruments are more closely associated with Scotland, and as the massed pipes and drums filled the arena, the home nation's entrance felt every bit ceremonial. **ENS**

RISING STAR

World Cup final: Silver in a field of Olympic champs makes Sainyam's best day

Nitin Sharma
Chandigarh, July 24

SAINYAM VIJ was tenth after qualification. The final she walked into afterward had an Olympic champion, a reigning world number one, and two Chinese shooters on home soil. By the time it ended, the 22-year-old from Chandigarh had beaten all but one of them.

Shooting a final score of 243.4 at the Fuyang Yin Sports Centre in Hangzhou on Friday, Sainyam finished 0.2 points behind China's Yao Qianxun, the world number one, to win silver, her second senior international medal after a silver at last year's ISSF World Cup Final in Doha.

"Whenever I shoot, I don't shoot with the idea of whom I am competing against or whether she is an Olympic champion," she told *The Indian Express* from Hangzhou. "Whether it's China or Korea, my competition is only with myself."

She started the final poorly, a first series of 49.7 that left her fifth.

The second series turned it: a 51.9, the best of the eight shooters in the field, put her level at the top with Qianxun. She stayed inside the top two through the eliminations that followed, trailing Qianxun by 0.6 points heading into the final series before closing with a 10.6 and a 10.7, better than Qianxun's own 10.3 and 10.4, but not enough to close the gap. Reigning Olympic champion Oh Yejin, of Korea, finished last.

"I understood that my first series did not go well and I should not focus on what has happened," Sainyam said. "There was some difference in lighting in qualification as compared to the final range, and I knew I had to adjust. The key for me was to believe in what I have been doing in training. Post the silver medal in Doha, I had some low scores, but I knew I had to keep having belief in my process, and that worked for me today. Coach Samresh Jung has always told me to believe in the process, and that's the winning mantra for me."

Sainyam Vij after clinching a silver medal in the women's 10m air pistol. NRAI

> **"Whenever I shoot, I don't shoot with the idea of whom I am competing against or whether she is an Olympic champion. ...my competition is only with myself."**
> **SAINYAM VIJ**

Sainyam started shooting after watching her brother Akarshan train, and gave up on a career in medicine to follow him into it.

She is a former junior Asian and junior world champion. She missed out on next month's Asian Games squad after NRAI's trials, with the federation's 30-shooter quota already filled by Esha Singh and Manu Bhaker across the 10m and 25m pistol events. Asked how it feels to compete against Bhaker and Singh, and against Phogat, for a place in the Indian team, Sainyam returned to the same idea that had carried her through the final.

"I have never thought about competing for my spot in the Indian team. I have only thought about my shooting and how I can improve," she said. "Yes, I wanted to compete in the Asian Games, but that's shooting. My aim is to win the Olympic quota for India at the World Championships in Doha later this year."

NO ROLE CLARITY

Ton that solved nothing: India's Rohit dilemma, by the numbers

A 34th ODI hundred at Lord's kept the debate alive. What comes next, an anchor, an aggressor, or a clean break, is a choice India can no longer defer

Lalith Kalidas
New Delhi, July 24

INDIA HAVE lost six of the nine away ODIs they have played under head coach Gautam Gambhir. Rohit Sharma, India's highest run-scorer and the only centurion in overseas ODIs outside Asia in this period, remains the batter closest to losing his spot. Nudging 40, age appears to have become the defining metric of Rohit's readiness. Not the runs or range of his batting. Rohit is the only opener to aggregate over 1000 runs since last year and is India's highest run-scorer in ODIs since the 2023 World Cup.

A run of five innings without a fifty was enough for conversations around retirement and succession to gather pace mid-way through this year. A cold snub when the selectors meet again for the next assignment in September cannot be ruled out.

Rohit has not thrown in the towel yet. His blockbuster 34th century in the series decider against England at Lord's last Sunday confirmed as much.

But lost beneath India's eventual 27-run defeat in a colossal 388 chase was the true purpose of Rohit's century itself. The conflicting nature of it, the duality of having to play for one's spot and the collective outcome, a situation thrust upon him by the management just a year out from the next World Cup.

Between losing his captaincy within two series of a Champions Trophy win under coach Gambhir and settling back to life solely as an opener, India are presented with three choices regarding Rohit.

The first: persist with the anchor. The century at Lord's was a throwback to the Rohit of the previous decade, the devastating accumulator who could bat deep and bat big. A premium on big knocks has prompted his fallback to cautious starts. Not by design, but his place increasingly depends on it.

The second: restore the aggressor. The shift toward anchoring has almost obscured the version from 15 months ago, a brutal aggressor who nearly batted India to a World Cup win and spearheaded a tricky chase in the Champions Trophy final.

The third involves the idea of Rohit altogether, asking whether India should instead hand over the reins to Yashasvi Jaiswal alongside captain Shubman Gill.

Should the selectors move on, India will miss Rohit's sixes and aggression, the only proven shape-shifter in a lineup of elite anchors in the top-middle order.

If they lock in Rohit as a certainty, the tempo of his and Gill's forthcoming partnerships will require recalibration.

India's 147-run opening stand in the Lord's chase looked imposing, yet the required rates never truly came down. It rose above nine just before the partnership reached three figures, stayed there through Gill's dismissal on 74 and Rohit's 84-ball century, and climbed beyond 11 by the time he departed for 138. India eventually needed 126 off 11 overs, a bridge too far for a middle-order that lacked the explosiveness Rohit could summon to upend attacks.

Rohit Sharma scored 138 runs off 118 balls in the third ODI at the Lords. CREIMAS/BCCI

Uncertain future

The uncertainty isn't merely over Rohit's future. It extends to what batting philosophy India's core group still believes in. What India have is an accumulation-heavy quartet in Gill, Kohli, Iyer and KL Rahul. With his 110-ball 138, Rohit has shown he can still expand that bracket, and also remain the outlier for his innate attacking strengths in the Powerplay, should India choose to unshackle him.

Between the start of 2023 and the Champions Trophy final in March 2025 that marked Rohit's last innings as captain, Gill and Rohit combined for 2124 runs at 68.51 with a 6.92 run rate, the best combination for all opening partnerships. Over 73 percent of those runs (1533) came in the first Powerplay (overs 1-10). Rohit contributed 60 percent of the runs (921) at a manic 122 strike rate. Gill collected 558 at 94.

Post the captaincy switch, the scoring rate has plummeted to 5.71, a conspicuous drop-off that cannot be ignored for a batting group that inherently bore no weakness, save the absence of a left-hander in the top six. Gill's outputs have remained identical in both periods, his Powerplay share continuing at 97.

The slowdown has come almost entirely from Rohit, whose strike rate in the first ten overs has fallen by 42 points, from 122 to 80. It hasn't meant the pair have lasted longer either. They have batted past the 10th over thrice in the last 10 innings, with Powerplay averages dropping by 20 runs (from 86.3 to 67.9) from the two preceding years.

Rohit nevertheless remains the premier six-hitter in the side. At Lord's, he surpassed Chris Gayle for most sixes (94) struck past the age of 36 in the format. He has hit 38 maximums since last year, level with the next two players in the Indian line-up.

With months between assignments, the lingering absence of role clarity does not temper the load on Rohit, nor the top-order players around him. India must make their choice now. Persist with an anchoring Rohit at the expense of variety. Restore the aggressor who transformed India's ODI batting through the last World Cup cycle. Or move on from nearly 12,000 runs of experience in pursuit of a newer, untested approach.

The reluctant president: Anand to run FIDE for two months

Amit Kamath
Mumbai, July 24

Five-time World Champ Viswanathan Anand,

IN A strange turn of events for Viswanathan Anand, the five-time world champion finds himself as the man running FIDE, the global governing body of chess. Strange, because just five days ago, Anand was explaining why he was voluntarily stepping back from active administration. Anand said he had opted not to run as the Deputy President in Arkady Dvorkovich's re-election campaign. Anand's current term as the second-in-command of Dvorkovich would end when the elections are held during the Olympiad in Samarkand in two months' time.

Anand's reasoning for not wanting to continue in a role he has held since 2022 was simple: "I simply wanted to have more time at home. My son will probably go to university in three years, I thought these are the years I should be here. That was a big motivation to get a different role. But I am still very much part of the team."

But now, in a quirk of fate, for the next two months at least, Anand finds himself more front and centre of the global governing body than ever. On Thursday, sanctions from the European Union became public which made Dvorkovich's position as FIDE president untenable. The Russian has consequently stepped aside as president, meaning Anand is now the interim president of the global governing body of chess.

The sanctions against Dvorkovich mean he is out of running for a third term as FIDE president. In a statement to The Indian Express, Dvorkovich said: "The sanctions are completely unjustified, unfair and based on political characterisations rather than a proper assessment of my personal and professional conduct. The only reason for sanctions is to prevent me from running and serving for FIDE. I reject political allegations being presented as an established fact and will challenge them through every available legal process."

Timur Turlov, the CEO of Freedom Holding, had been named on Dvorkovich's ticket as a Deputy President contender. Anand, meanwhile, had said that he would be part of Team Dvorkovich, but without running for Deputy President role. Now, with Dvorkovich out of the running, it remains to be seen if Anand will get convinced to run for another term.

The deadline to name the president and deputy contenders is on Sunday, July 26. Ukraine-born German Wadim Rosenstein (with Gordon Tang as his running mate) and Jan Henric Buettner (Malcolm Pein as Deputy) have announced their intention to run for FIDE President. In his role as the Interim President, Anand is likely to preside over the decision to award hosting rights for the FIDE World Championship at the end of this year where Gukesh will defend his title against Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov.

"Following the decision by President Arkady Dvorkovich to suspend the exercise of his duties, and in accordance with the FIDE Charter, I have assumed the responsibilities of Interim President," Anand posted on X.

"I want to thank Arkady for his leadership and for putting the interests and stability of FIDE first. Together with the FIDE Council, the administration and our member federations, my focus will be on ensuring continuity and serving the global chess family. FIDE's work continues. Arkady has built a strong team and vision and I today take it as our collective responsibility to carry the work forward."

Dvorkovich hit back

Hit with the sanctions, Dvorkovich, who had been Russia's deputy prime minister before he took over the FIDE presidency, opted to step aside.

In written comments shared with The Indian Express, Dvorkovich slammed the sanctions and questioned their timing. "The sanctions are completely unjustified, unfair and based on political characterisations rather than a proper assessment of my personal and professional conduct," Dvorkovich said. "The only reason for sanctions is to prevent me from running and serving for FIDE.

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