The Editorial Page: History will indeed remember Dr Manmohan Singh kindly — By Sonia Gandhi 10

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026

The Indian EXPRESS

NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 20 PAGES

JOURNALISM of COURAGE

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

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

Happening today

- **THE SC WILL RESUME** final hearing on the pleas of the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction against the EC's decision recognising the Eknath Shinde-led faction as the 'real' Shiv Sena.
- **THE JAMIAT-E-ULEMA** will hold a protest rally in Kolkata amid a controversy over removal of loudspeakers from places of worship across West Bengal as part of a police crackdown against noise pollution.
- **HUNGARY'S NATIONAL** Assembly is set to vote to appoint a new President, a key element of PM Peter Magyar's plan to dismantle former premier Viktor Orban's bastions of power.

TRACK THESE AND MORE ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

BID TO BREAK DEADLOCK IN PARLIAMENT, MONSOON SESSION DUE TO END AUGUST 13

Shah to make statement on police action, Opp must not disrupt: Govt

Rahul demands Home Minister explain who ordered action; Nadda criticises LoP, says he only wants anarchy, not dialogue

Jatin Anand, Asad Rehman & Liz Mathew
New Delhi, August 10

TO BREAK the gridlock in Parliament, the government Monday agreed to the Opposition demand that Union Home Minister Amit Shah make a statement in the House on the alleged use of excessive force against protesters in Delhi during last month's anti-paper leak demonstrations. The only condition, the government said, was that the Opposition must not disrupt Shah's speech.

In response, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi reiterated that Shah should tell Parliament "who ordered the firing on students", saying the Opposition was not interested in the Home Minister's "fantasy conversations".

Gandhi's remarks drew a strong response from Union Health Minister J P Nadda who accused him of being interested in "anarchy" and not dialogue. Nadda was one of the two Union Ministers who held talks with the Cockroach Janta Party to negotiate an end to the protest last month.

With three days left in the monsoon session, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju informed Lok Sabha

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NATION PAGE 7

DAYS AFTER HE WAS APPOINTED, HIGHER EDUCATION SECY GANGWAR REPLACED

Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Parliament on Monday. ANI

Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman with Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi in Dhaka on Monday. X/@IHCDHAKA

Trivedi meets PM Rahman in Dhaka, R&AW chief there for security talks

Hope process for Hasina extradition expedited by India: Bangladesh PMO

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, August 10

FIVE DAYS after ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's remarks in India angered Dhaka, Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman raised the issue of her extradition with Indian envoy Dinesh Trivedi Monday and underlined the need to "create a conducive environment to further advance the bilateral relations between the two countries".

Trivedi's meeting with Rahman coincided with the visit to Bangladesh by a top-level Indian intelligence and security delegation, led by R&AW chief Parag Jain, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The delegation, which reached Sunday, is meeting officials from the DGFI (Directorate General of Forces Intelligence), the premier intelligence agency of Bangladesh.

Trivedi's meeting with Rahman was his first after assuming charge as the Indian High Commissioner. The Bangladesh PMO, in a statement, said, "Bangladesh expressed the hope that India would expedite the process of extraditing Sheikh Hasina."

Hasina is facing a death sentence in Bangladesh and her party, the Awami League, has been banned. Forced to flee the country on August 5, 2024 in the wake of violent protests, she has been living in India for the last two years.

Five days ago, addressing

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

E. EXPLAINED

Shadow amid bid to reset ties

Hasina's presence in India has cast a shadow on ties between Delhi and Dhaka. Her recent statements and plans to return have sparked outrage in Bangladesh. The first meeting between Indian envoy Trivedi and Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman is aimed at bringing ties back on track. Rahman's visit to India is at stake.

ALLEGATIONS FABRICATED: COURT

Brij Bhushan acquittal: Court says victims gave 'incorrect' details, 'fatal' to prosecution case

Nirbhay Thakur
New Delhi, August 10

Former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. FILE

THE VICTIMS had initially been hesitant to level allegations against the accused, fearing that doing so could jeopardise their careers. When they eventually came forward, they gave "wrong" details about the country and year in which the alleged incident took place.

This "contradiction" was among the reasons cited by the court in its order acquitting former BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was accused of sexual harassment by six women wrestlers.

The court described the contradiction as "fatal to the prosecution case".

"All the victims have deposed that they did not make allegations against the accused persons timely as they feared loss of their career... When they took up the courage to do so, they ended up mentioning the wrong country and the wrong year as the alleged place and year of the incident in question... The shift in the first/initial version of the witness with respect to the place/country

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FORMER JPSC CHAIRMAN ARRESTED AMID PROBE INTO ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES

Lathis, tear gas, a sea of protesters: Jharkhand anger reaches Assembly

Police use water cannons to disperse the protesters in Ranchi, Jharkhand, Monday. PTI

Shubham Tigga & Shashwat Upadhyay
Ranchi, August 10

PROTESTERS WHO attempted to march to the Vidhan Sabha in Jharkhand's Ranchi were met with lathi-charge, tear gas and water cannons as anger over alleged irregularities in state government exams saw no sign of ebbing. Meanwhile, former Jharkhand Public Service Commission chairman L Khiangte —— the former Chief Secretary of Jharkhand and an IAS officer of the 1997 batch — was arrested as part of an ongoing investigation into the alleged irregularities.

The state has seen protests from job aspirants ever since the JPSC declared the preliminary examination results of the 14th Combined Civil Services Examination, for which around 3.5 lakh people appeared, on July 2. At the heart of the protest are allegations of paper leaks in the exam.

Between 7 am and 8 am on Monday, people, mostly students and job aspirants, from different parts of Jharkhand started gathering at the old Vidhan Sabha in Ranchi. The plan was to march from the old Assembly building to the new one, where the monsoon session is currently underway.

By the time the march began, the crowd had swelled to over 10,000. Carrying placards, the Tricolour, and

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Business as Usual
By EP UNNY

NATION

INDIA EXPANDS E-VISA ENTRY POINTS, ATTARI AMONG 9 ON LIST

PAGE 9

Surat Medical College student dies by suicide, four doctors suspended

Brendan Dabhi
Ahmedabad, August 10

SURAT MEDICAL College has suspended four resident doctors for six months after finding them guilty of ragging at least 10 first-year students, one whom died by suicide on Sunday.

The unanimous decision was taken at 4 am on Monday, at the end of an extraordinary eight-hour meeting of the anti-ragging committee of the college.

Four members of the college faculty, including the head of the Department of Microbiology, have been issued show cause notices.

The decision of the committee was forwarded to Dr Jayesh Sachde, Additional Director of Medical Education and Research, who was supervising the investigation, officials in Surat said.

Dr Harsh Pandya, a 29-year-old first year PG Microbiology student from the Aravalli district of Gujarat, was found dead in his hostel room on Sunday.

Gujarat Minister of State for Health Praful Pansheriya set up a high-level committee to investigate the death after nine first-year resident doctors and the father of the deceased complained that he had been pushed over the edge due to ragging.

"Dr Nirali Vasave, Dr Anuj Maheshwari, Dr Dixit Ghewaria, and Dr Hina Bhut have been suspended for six months for disciplinary and serious negligence and have been strictly ordered to vacate the

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS special

Abhishek Banerjee's 'Diamond Harbour Model' fades, faces cases

Atri Mitra & Ravik Bhattacharya
Falta (South 24 Parganas), August 10

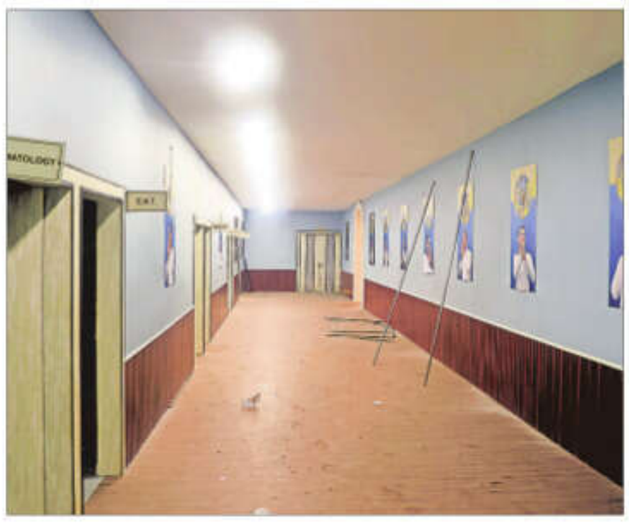
ABOUT 50 km from Kolkata, opposite the Falta BDO office in South 24 Parganas district, on a field semi-submerged in rainwater, stands a makeshift building made of plywood, bamboo and steel bars. The board atop the building says 'Medical College Calcutta'.

In reality, it is one of the camps set up by Abhishek Banerjee, the Trinamool Congress MP who was the de facto No. 2 in West Bengal under the Mamata Banerjee government, under his Sebaashray scheme.

Inside the makeshift building stand rows of makeshift rooms, demarcated to sound like departments of a hospital, or as dispensaries and pharmacies — now standing all empty, with prescriptions, brochures and other papers strewn on the floor.

The desolate picture is only partially about the change of power in Bengal. Once part of Abhishek's mass healthcare outreach in his constituency — hailed as the 'Diamond Harbour Model' — the Sebaashray initiative now finds itself facing police complaints and FIRs, alleging everything from irregularities and medical

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



A deserted Sebaashray camp in Falta, West Bengal. PARTHA PAUL

THE WORLD PAGE 14

82 KILLED AFTER 7.4 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE ROCKS COLOMBIA

PoK ELECTIONS PUT OFF AMID SECURITY FEARS; UN TAKES NOTE

• PUNJABI-SPANISH FUSION OF TALIBELICO IN COLLABORATION WITH PUNJABI SINGER HARVEER SINGH IS GARNERING MILLIONS OF VIEWS ONLINE

Sombrero meets turban: How a Spanish singer is tuning into Punjabi-Mexican ties

Gagandeep Singh
Modesto (California), August 10

PAGE 1 anchor

WHEN 28-YEAR-OLD Talibelico steps out in a neatly tied teal turban, casual shirt and jeans in Modesto, California, strangers often assume he is on his way to a gurdwara. Instead, the singer is usually headed to Los Angeles for a music concert, where his Punjabi-Spanish fusion has been winning hearts.

Talibelico, whose first language is Spanish, has become an unlikely cultural bridge between California's Punjabi and Mexican communities. Through collaborations with Punjabi singer Harveer Singh, and with videos that garner millions of views online, Talibelico is reviving a largely forgotten chapter of the city's history — the century-old matrimonial and cultural ties between Punjabi immigrant families and Mexicans.

Born as Esdras — 'God is my help' in Spanish — in Redwood City, California, and raised by a Mexican mother in Tijuana, Mexico, Talibelico says music was inevitable in his life. "On my mom's side, everyone was immersed in music. In the 1980s, they had a well-known group."

His fascination with Sikhism began three years ago, seeing Modesto's Sikh community. "I became intrigued. I researched online how to tie a turban and learned about its significance and responsibilities. I found it beautiful and dignified," he says.

The turban, he adds, transformed him. "I feel different, like I am channelling powerful energy. I am also learning about the respect and responsibility it carries, and its profound personal significance."

Talibelico (right) and Harveer Singh perform at University of California, Los Angeles, earlier this year. SALDEF

A forgotten history

"I first saw him wearing a turban and singing in Spanish while collaborating with Harveer Singh. My initial reaction was, 'This is pretty cool'," says Sikh American scholar Tejpaul Singh Bainiwal, whose research focuses on the Sikh diaspora.

For Talibelico, it is about history rather than novelty. "Historically, Punjabi men married Mexican or Hispanic women. But many people don't know that history. The message of this connection is strong. We need to unite," he says.

Karen Leonard, who retired as an anthropology professor from University of California, Irvine, in her paper, *Changes over Time: Punjabis, Punjabi Mexicans, and Sikhs in North America*, noted at least 385 marriages between Punjabi men and Mexican women in California's agricultural valleys during the early decades of the 20th century. "In my experience, the post-1965 Punjabi Sikh immigrants most often have tried to downplay the early bicultural community," she wrote.

Today, California's Central San Joaquin Valley is home to nearly 2.4 million Latino residents, reports *The Sacramento Bee*. The state also has America's largest Sikh population — estimated at 2,50,000 by the Sikh Coalition.

Talibelico, whose stage name combines "talisman" with *belico*, a style of *corrido* (Mexican folk), is aware that his turbaned appearance invites scrutiny. "People think we are doing this for attention. But that's not the case," he says.

He, however, is quick to dispel assumptions about his Sikh connection. "I prefer not to discuss my father because he was

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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

Shah statement

Monday that the government was ready to discuss the lathicharge on student protesters during the march to Parliament on July 20.

On August 6, Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan had told Rijiju to "echo the sentiments of the Opposition" to Shah and "consider the request" for the Home Minister's presence in the House.

Rijiju said, "The offer made by the government is very clear: The government is ready to have a full and detailed discussion about the student movement. While the discussion (is on) and the reply is being made, they should not create any disturbance to distract the House or to prevent the statement of the Honourable Home Minister. They must listen to the reply ... We must have a threadbare discussion." BJP MP Jagdambika Pal, who was in the Chair, also appealed to the Opposition to let the House function.

Later in the day, flanked by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Gandhi told a press conference: "The question was never that Mr Amit Shah is going to give a speech on some general topics in Parliament. The question was always that Mr Amit Shah has to make it clear who authorised the shooting of our youngsters in Delhi. He is the Home Minister. Pellet guns were fired, students were beaten with lathis with nails. The question is: Mr Amit Shah should come clean: Did he order it or not? If he ordered it, he is guilty of getting our children shot. And if he didn't know about it happening, he is incompetent. Either way he should go. This was the discussion."

Gandhi said Shah was "suddenly saying he is ready to speak". "We are not interested in his fantasy conversations. We are interested in whether he authorised, or not, the shooting of our children ... That is what the Opposition has demanded for 15 days and we continue to demand," he said.

Criticising Gandhi, Nadda said, "His objective is not to engage in dialogue, but to create anarchy. When Parliament began, Rahul Gandhi first demanded a discussion on NEET. When the government was ready for a discussion on NEET, he brought up the issue of the Ram Mandir Trust."

"After that, Rahul Gandhi remained adamant that the Union Home Minister should make a statement on the developments at Jantar Mantar. Today, when it was decided after discussions that the issue of Jantar Mantar would be taken up for discussion, Rahul Gandhi is now misleading people and country by claiming that firing took place at Jantar Mantar, whereas no firing took place there," he said.

He said while Shah was ready to answer every question, Gandhi was spreading confusion and "running away" from a discussion. "We want to make it clear that Rahul Gandhi should not run away from the discussion; we are ready. We are ready to discuss every issue inside the House, so do not run away. Can Rahul Gandhi not hear the voices of the students in Jharkhand today? We strongly condemn this and once again challenge Rahul Gandhi to come to the House. We are ready for a discussion, and he will be given a befitting reply," he said.

Nadda advised Opposition parties to resolve their differences over the Parliament logjam. Earlier, the Congress's Deputy Leader in Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, said the party had also demanded a discussion on the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Asked if the government would also be willing to discuss the issue, Rijiju told reporters: "I don't want to make any comment on that. I have come here to make clear the government's stand that it is ready for a debate on the student agitation."

Sources said at the meeting of the Business Advisory Council of Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Birla appealed to the floor leaders of political parties to "let the voice of the people be heard" and allow Question Hour to be held.

Trivedi

the media at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia in New Delhi via an audio link, Hasina said she plans to return to her country, possibly this December.

The Bangladesh PMO said, "At the beginning of the meeting, the Prime Minister welcomed the Indian High Commissioner. The High Commissioner shared his experiences regarding his tenure in Dhaka over the past two months with the Prime Minister."

"Discussions were held on significant bilateral issues between Bangladesh and India. Bangladesh expressed the hope that India would expedite the process of extraditing Sheikh Hasina," it said.

Earlier, reacting sharply to Hasina's event on August 5, the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry had said: "Bangladesh is outraged that the absconding convicted genocider Sheikh Hasina was allowed this evening to engage in live interaction with the media in New Delhi where she and her henchmen launched venomous vitriol against the State of Bangladesh and her people."

"Dhaka deeply regrets that in spite of concerns conveyed a priori to the Government of India about the likely ramifications of this event on the reset of our bilateral relations, this public event was permitted to be held," it said.

India had distanced itself from the event and her remarks, saying it had "no role" in organising Hasina's interaction and "did not endorse" the statements.

On Monday, after the Rahman-Trivedi meeting, the Bangladesh PMO said: "At the same time, a request was reiterated to India regarding the return to Bangladesh of the killers involved in the murder of Shaheed Osman Hadi".

This was a reference to the arrest of two Bangladeshi nationals, accused in the murder of political activist Sharif Osman Bin Hadi. They were arrested in West Bengal's Bongaon area on March 8 this year.

Hadi died at a hospital in Singapore on December 18, 2025, six days after he was shot in the head in Dhaka on December 12. He had emerged as a prominent youth leader during the 2024 student-led uprising which led to Hasina's ouster.

According to the Bangladesh PMO, "Prime Minister (Rahman) emphasized the need to create a conducive environment to further advance the bilateral relations between the two countries."

Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman, the Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Advisor Humayun Kabir, and other officials were present during the meeting.

Describing the meeting as fruitful, Trivedi said Bangladesh and India not only share a border but also share dreams.

"We are looking forward. Our invitation is there in place. We are positive that if the two leaders meet together, there will be discussion. There will be issues in democracies. It's not democracy if there is no issue. But there is only one people's issue, which is good relations. It's a win-win situation if there is a good relationship," he said, referring to India's invitation to Rahman to attend the BRICS leaders' outreach summit in September.

On the meeting dynamics, Trivedi said, "I am not a diplomat. It's like people's representative-to-people's representative. I am very delighted that we have met. I didn't feel that I met him for the first time. Very good, very humble, on the ground, what will be the discussion – people-to-people relations."

He said there is no issue that cannot be solved. "I can tell you this confidently."

Trivedi also met Bangladesh Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed. On Sunday, Trivedi had described Rahman and Prime Minister Narendra Modi as people's persons and expressed optimism that solutions to issues between the two countries could be found if the two leaders meet.

"We all respect him (Rahman) a lot. He speaks from his heart. I listened to his speeches many times.... He is a people's person, our Prime Minister (Modi) too. I think when two leaders meet, a lot of problems are sorted out. I have full confidence," he told reporters.

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

Surat

hostel immediately and not to participate in any academic activities," the medical college said in a statement Monday. "Show cause notices have been issued to four faculty members; Dr Sangeeta Rajde, Dr Yogita Mistry, and Dr Latika Purohit, including the head of the Microbiology Department", the statement said.

The statement said the report of the anti-ragging committee, set up under the joint chairmanship of the Dean and Medical Superintendent of the New Civil Hospital to which the college is attached, had been "unanimously approved by the College Council". A report was submitted to the state government, it said.

The committee investigated the allegations from 8 pm on August 9 until 4 am on August 10, and issued the orders at dawn. Medical Superintendent Dr Parul Vadgama said the nine first-year PG students had complained against the four suspended doctors, accusing them of mental harassment, verbal abuse, and indecent behaviour.

Police have filed a case.

Brij Bhushan

and the year where the incident allegedly occurred is fatal to the prosecution story," the court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) Ashwani Panwar noted in his August 3 order.

The women had levelled the allegations against Singh in 2023, when he was president of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) at the time. Vinod Tomar, the then Assistant Secretary of the WFI, was also acquitted in the case.

The order was given to the counsel in the case on August 10.

In the order, ACJM Panwar also said the allegations are "false and fabricated" and "seem to be motivated politically",

"... I have no hitch in saying that the version given by the victims 'P' and 'I P' discredit the prosecution case completely and also show that the entire allegations are false and fabricated made collectively at the instance of 'V P', 'B P', and the coaches of Mahadev academy, against the accused persons in deep conspiracy which seems to be motivated politically," the court said.

"Both 'P' and 'I P' were projected as victims right from the inception, however, they appeared before the court and were eventually counselled. They categorically admitted that no sexual harassment acts were committed against them...," ACJM Panwar added.

The court also noted that some victims continued to maintain "cordial relations" with Singh. "It is also relevant to mention that the victims remained silent for many years after the alleged incidents and besides that, they also kept cordial relations with A1 [Accused 1]. Many photographs on record verify the same. He was invited to family functions and wedding ceremonies by the victims," the judge said in the order.

"It is understandable as alleged that A1 being the then WFI President could have spoiled their careers if they had made a complaint against him. However, it is not at all understandable as to why cordial relations were [maintained] with him for years," he added.

"Since nobody made any formal complaint or retaliated to the alleged acts of A1, it is highly improbable that the alleged acts are true. The victims even met the higher authorities but failed to disclose the alleged acts to them," the judge said.

The court also noted various "inconsistencies" and "improvements" in the statements of the complainants. "... Female wrestlers who were selected came forward, and same/similar allegations, [which] were incorporated in the tailor-made formal complaints drafted in fancy manner, with similar excessive decoration... and... were filed on 21.04.2023 before the police," the court observed.

Of the six complainants, two later turned hostile. In allegations levelled by a third complainant, charges were not framed. The court noted this in its judgment as well.

"To say this, I draw strength from the fact that out of five victims on whose allegations charges were framed against the accused persons, two have not supported the case of the prosecution... they stated that they were forced/pressured to give their statement at the instance of PW 5 and PW 10 [husband of one of the wrestlers]," it said.

In relation to another incident, the court noted that even though it was "stated to have taken place at a public place, in the presence of several persons", no specific date was furnished by the witness and no independent person present at the venue was identified as an eyewitness.

ACJM Panwar also noted in his judgement that the conduct of the husbands of one of the wrestlers was "inconsistent with the prosecution's case of continuing hostility" arising from one of the alleged incidents.

The court said that the complainant and her husband "maintained cordial relations with the accused" and after the alleged incident, both of them visited the accused at his residence to seek his blessings for their marriage.

The trial in the case was completed three years after a chargesheet was filed. A total of 32 prosecution witnesses were examined. Two complainants had alleged that Singh touched them inappropriately and sexually using the pretext of checking their breathing patterns.

Diamond Harbour

malpractice to unauthorized use of equipment.

The first phase of Sebaashray was launched on January 2, 2025, by Abhishek, and involved setting up hundreds of camps for "doorstep help". Starting December 1, 2025, services were extended across multiple Assembly segments of Diamond Harbour, offering free doctor consultations, diagnostic tests, medicines, and major surgeries.

On the TMC website, Sebaashray is described as a first-of-its-kind community scheme "that has redefined access to healthcare". "From restoring vision among elderly residents to providing life-saving surgeries for children", the initiative has "transformed the lives of lakhs of people", says the party.

The first case against Sebaashray was filed by local BJP leader and lawyer Abhijit Das, on July 4, against 15 people, including doctors, with Abhishek named as Accused No. 1. The charges include cheating, forgery, adulteration, "causing hurt by means of poison", endangering life of people, and attempts to commit culpable homicide etc.

The second complaint against Sebaashray, also naming Abhishek, was lodged on July 9. The complainant, Malati Biswas, said she had lost her leg following treatment for knee pain at the health camp a few months ago. Biswas told The Indian Express: "I want justice. I want those who caused me such great harm to be punished."

On July 15, Chittaranjan Manna and Ruma Manna, residents of Borhanpur village, filed a complaint at the Bishnupur Police Station blaming Sebaashray for the amputation of their toddler daughter Kriti's hand. They alleged that on January 24, 2025, they took Kriti to a Sebaashray camp in Pailan. She had severe pain in her right hand and was undergoing treatment at AIIMS in Delhi, but the distance was a stretch for their meagre financial resources.

The Mannas claim they happened to meet Abhishek at the Pailan camp, and he personally promised to take responsibility for their daughter's medical treatment and education. In fact, a pamphlet titled 'Nishabda Biplab (Silent Revolution)', published in 2025 on Sebaashray's "success", carried Kriti's photograph on Page 223.

But, the parents said, rather than improving, Kriti's condition worsened. They finally took her to a hospital in Bengaluru — Chittaranjan says government hospitals in West Bengal turned them away — but the doctors said it was too late and Kriti's right arm had to be amputated.

Says Ruma: "Abhishek and his camp are responsible for my daughter's condition. We demand strict punishment for the accused."

A fourth FIR was filed at Bishnupur Police Station by a private resort firm, Eco Creek, alleging extortion by 'Team Abhishek Banerjee', naming the TMC leader, his personal assistant Sumit Roy and party MLA Dilip Mondol. The complaint, filed by Samiran Roy, alleges that when a Sebaashray camp was organised at Bishnupur, they were forced to arrange accommodation, food, and transportation for 110 to 120 doctors and staff members, with all rooms at the resort blocked for at least 40 days, as well as to give money money for running the camp.

Eco Creek puts its loss over 2025 and 2026, when the camp was held in Bishnupur, at Rs 20-25 lakh. Roy also claims that since the accused are "influential", they did not lodge a complaint till the TMC was in power.

Charges have been filed against Abhishek under sections covering extortion and corruption in this case.

'A big scam'

Addressing the West Bengal Assembly on July 25, CM Suvendu Adhikari alleged four types of irregularities at the Sebaashray camps: improper treatment, leading to amputations or disability; procurement of X-ray and ultrasonography machines without proper permissions; using medical students to treat patients; and the administration of expired medicines.

Adhikari showed photographs of several people who allegedly lost their limbs after getting treated at Sebaashray camps, adding: "We have seized X-ray machines and USG machines. We have seized expired medicines. We have acted against government funds being spent on the project, and against government doctors who were assigned duty there... Every complaint from those who were harmed at Sebaashray camps is being treated as an FIR."

BJP leader Abhijit Das (Bobby), who lost to Abhishek from Diamond Harbour in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, says: "It was a big scam. At Sebaashray camps, you won't find any doctor's signature and registration number... It proves that these prescriptions were made out by medical students who were yet to get an MBBS degree."

Das has filed a complaint with the Medical Council demanding action against students who had "wrongfully" attended Sebaashray camps and given prescriptions.

He also alleged that ultrasonography machines, which can be used for sex determination, were procured from private nursing homes without clearance from the district administration. The Health Department has cancelled the licence of at least one nursing home over this.

A senior Health Department official says a preliminary investigation has also shown that government medicines worth crores of rupees were used in the Sebaashray programme, though it was not a government programme.

Sources said officials who knew about the "diversion" of medicines or cleared the same had already been identified, and the government would take action against them.

Ahead of the Assembly elections, BJP had asked where the money for Abhishek's pet projects in Diamond Harbour was coming from. The roping in of government doctors, as officially "volunteers", was also questioned. Manas Gumta, head of the Joint Platform of Doctors, told *The Indian Express*: "No government servant, including a doctor, can attend a programme of a political party even if it is a health camp."

Abhishek has denied the charges as "politically motivated", posting on X: "The BJP government in West Bengal has spent more time registering FIRs against me than delivering Ayushman Bharat and Lakshmir Bhandar benefits to people who actually need them."

Jharkhand

posters of Bhagat Singh, Shibu Soren, and Nirmal Mahto, the protesters began the journey to their intended destination.

After walking for around two kilometres, protesters reached the first set of barricades put up by the police. Slogans continued as protesters halted there, waiting for Devendra Mahto, one of the leaders of the current protest, who has been on a hunger strike for days. Soon, he was brought there on a stretcher.

On the other side, a large security deployment was in place, including personnel from the Jharkhand police, the Jharkhand Jaguar, and the Rapid Action Force.

As protesters began trying to breach the first barricade, the police used a water cannon. But that did little to slow the crowd down. Rajiv Kumar, one of the protesters, remarked playfully: "The cannon seems Chinese-made. It had little impact on us."

Among the protesters was Priya, a competitive examination aspirant, who had travelled with four friends from Thakurgaon, a town 30 km from Ranchi. "I was preparing for NEET earlier, but we all saw what happened with that. So I decided to appear for state-level examinations, but the situation here is just as bad," she said.

Standing next to her was Chandni, who had come directly from college and was still in her uniform. "The government says it will conduct the examination again, but will the time we have already lost ever come back? I left college midway to come here. We are supposed to spend this time studying, but what is the point if the examinations are not conducted fairly?" she said.

Asked whether her family knew she was here, Chandni said it was they who had encouraged her to come.

Another protester, Rahul, travelled from Jamtara on August 9. He has appeared for both the JSSC-CGL and JPSC examinations. "Every examination I have taken over the past three years has either been cancelled or faced allegations of irregularities," he said.

As protesters moved 200-300 metres ahead, they encountered the second barricade. For nearly an hour-and-a-half, the protesters stood there, raising slogans demanding a CBI probe and cancellation of the JSSC-CGL examination, and chanting slogans targeting the JMM government and Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

The second barricade was eventually breached as well, and the protesters moved towards the third and final layer of barricading. By then, the security presence had become heavier.

DSP Ajay Aryan said police were not planning to use force, but the situation created by some who were intentionally provoking the crowd forced them to take action for security reasons. "As protesters tried to push through the barricade violently, we were forced to use lathicharge," he said, adding that they had been directed not to use force.

Around five to six students were injured, according to the protesters. Chandan Rajak, one of the organisers of the JPSC-JSSC Abhyarthi Nyay Manch, said he was injured in the lathicharge.

Ranchi SP Paras Rana said police were merely retaliating. "Some protesters started pelting stones and pushed the barricades. Two constables were injured," he said.

After the lathi-charge, the crowd initially dispersed. But the confrontation did not end there. After some time, protesters gathered near the third barricade and began pushing. As the confrontation between the police and students intensified, two rounds of tear gas were fired in the direction of the protesters. The crowd then began backing away. "The first tear gas shell hit a two-wheeler. Two riders abandoned the vehicle and ran," said Shailendra Singh, who was there.

After some time, some protesters took a different route, moving for nearly a kilometre across open ground towards the Vidhan Sabha. Shortly after 4 pm, protesters began gathering around the Jharkhand Assembly. The main road had been barricaded, but the Assembly's incomplete boundary wall — portions remain unfinished since the complex's 2019 construction — left gaps the crowd could exploit.

Around 4.15 pm, a group of students scaled the boundary wall near the route used by ministers and MLAs to enter and leave the complex, and began raising slogans.

The Assembly had been in session earlier in the day. However, ministers and legislators had left the premises barely 15 minutes before the protesters reached the gate.

After a standoff lasting nearly 25 minutes, the protesters broke through the final barricade and the police cordon at around 4.40 pm, entering the Assembly complex. They gathered outside Gate No. 1 and continued raising slogans.

A spell of light rain around 6 pm prompted some of them to leave, but an estimated 500-700 protesters remained outside the gate. For nearly two hours, the protesters held their ground as police personnel deployed at the spot sought to contain the situation. Once evening fell, however, the police resorted to a lathi charge.

At around 6.55 pm, a group of police personnel stationed on the main road was seen moving towards Gate No. 1. Protesters scattered toward the main entrance, fleeing the advancing police. The students soon found themselves caught between two contingents of police: one pursuing them from behind and another approaching from the front. Several protesters were seen scrambling to get away as police personnel chased them with lathis.

Two ambulances had been stationed on the main road. Inside one was protest leader Devendra Mahto.

Speaking from the ambulance, Mahto said, "The police did not allow us to reach the Assembly. I was detained before I could get there."

Barely 10 minutes later, the police launched another lathi charge near the High Court intersection, where the road turns towards the Assembly, prompting most of the remaining protesters to back down.'

In the evening, Rahul Gandhi posted on X that "the use of force against students protesting in Jharkhand is wrong". The Congress is a part of the ruling alliance in Jharkhand, which is led by Hemant Soren's JMM.

"Students have a right to peaceful protest, and only dialogue can yield solutions. The Jharkhand government must continue to hear these students out and resolve their issues immediately," he said.

A little after 9 pm, Soren posted on X, "I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the officials and personnel of the administration and police for handling the situation with restraint, sensitivity, and complete responsibility."

Addressing protesting students as "my dear young companions", he wrote, "You have raised your voice for your demands in a peaceful manner. In a democracy, it is your right to express your views, and it is the government's responsibility to respect your voice. The government has heard you. Our senior ministers have been in constant dialogue with you, and I assure you that action will be taken on your demands with utmost seriousness and sensitivity."

"You have seen that the government has spared no one, no matter who the guilty party is. Our clear objective is to eliminate such shortcomings in the system so that no student has to face trouble in the future... Our effort is that Jharkhand should not just discuss problems, but set a new example of solutions from here."

"I also understand that amidst your peaceful movement, some people from the opposition have tried to spoil the atmosphere and mislead students for political gain," he wrote.

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

The Indian EXPRESS Classifieds FROM ANYTHING TO EVERYTHING
EXPRESS EDUCATION
ANTHRO MEANS VAID SIR
Classroom Course Starts Aug 18, Aug 27
www.vaidsics.com
Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service (M): 9212665841, 9212008155

Punjabi-Spanish fusion

never truly present in my life. He left when I was just two. He was neither Mexican nor Punjabi."

Even in turbans, black remains Talibelico's signature colour. Though he now owns several, learning to tie one took patience. "Now I can tie it in about 15 to 20 minutes. Initially, it took me two and a half hours!" he says.

Within the Sikh community, many have welcomed him, as others have some questions. "The sight of a Mexican artist donning a Sikh turban raises important questions. Is this cultural appropriation or appreciation? Does he understand the significance of the turban and the responsibilities that come with it?" Bainiwal says. Even so, he believes the collaboration carries particular significance at a time of growing hostility towards immigrant communities in the United States.

Talibelico says his experiences have been overwhelmingly positive. "I have received appreciation in public places and stores. When I visited a Sikh temple in Bakersfield, I was embraced with tremendous love," he says. Punjabi-Mexican families, he adds, say he is "honouring both heritages".

A brotherhood born online

Talibelico's journey into music began with singing at karaoke venues before he decided to pursue music professionally three years ago. His music, he says, "is about lifestyles, including themes of guns, love and sad songs".

Tragedy also runs through his musical influences. His favourite Spanish singer is Ernesto Barrajas, founder of Enigma Norteño, while his favourite Punjabi artist is Sidhu Moosewala. Barrajas, 38, was shot dead in Mexico in August 2025. Moosewala, 28, was assassinated in Punjab in May 2022.

Two years ago, Talibelico discovered Harveer Singh, 30, on social media. "I was drawn to his Spanish singing. I recognised genuine artistry," Talibelico says.

Harveer moved to the US from Punjab's Jalandhar district in 2018 and now works as a commercial truck driver. Living in Yuba City, one of North America's largest Punjabi hubs, where a substantial Latino population has lived alongside the Sikh community, he felt drawn to Spanish folk — mariachi and corrido.

Together, Talibelico and Harveer have released *World Power*, a song highlighting immigrants' contributions to the US. "My mom is an immigrant. People's rights should not be trampled, regardless of background. Social media sometimes vilifies immigrants unfairly," Talibelico says.

This year, on April 25, the duo delivered a rap performance blending Punjabi and Spanish at an event organised by the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Other Punjabi singers have approached Talibelico for collaborations, but he says he is in no hurry. "Right now, I am focusing on my own sound."

By blending Punjabi and Mexican instrumentation, Talibelico and Harveer Singh want to create an entirely new musical genre. "Earlier collaborations mixed the lyrics, but the beats remained either Latin or Punjabi. We're trying to fuse the music itself, not just the words," Harveer says.

Talibelico believes the similarities are already there. "The accordion and the harmonium have comparable sounds. They are not exactly the same, but their patterns are similar," he says.

Modesto Area Music Awards operations manager Middagh Goodwin calls the fusion of Indian rhythms with banda and mariachi "a perfect marriage".

Modesto Area Music Association founder Chris Murphy says, "The more initiatives like Talibelico, the more we mainstream these cultures... For me, it makes a city truly vibrant."

Gagandeep Singh is an investigative journalist based in the United States. He holds a master's degree in Politics and Global Affairs from Columbia Journalism School. As a recipient of the Alfred Friendly Press Partners fellowship from the Missouri School of Journalism, he focuses his reporting on migration, education, crime and justice, and the South Asian diaspora in the Americas

Plugging losses in focus: Centre clears Rs 2,547 cr for key water project in Delhi

Gayathri Mani
New Delhi, August 10

IN AN effort to ensure that the water that leaves treatment plants in Delhi reaches the residents without any loss along the way, the Centre has approved a budget of Rs 2,547 crore. The funds are meant for one of Delhi's long-awaited projects for the densely populated Wazirabad Water Treatment Plant Command area, officials said on Monday.

Officials said the Wazirabad Water Supply Improvement project aims to reduce Non-Revenue Water (NRW) caused by physical losses and unauthorised consumption. The difference between the water that leaves the water treatment plants and the water that is billed — domestic or commercial — or can be accounted for, is considered non-revenue.

The project, conceptualised in 2013, remained stuck for several years before being revived. With the latest approval, it is now moving towards implementation with a focus on modernising the water network, improving efficiency and ensuring a more reliable supply for residents, said Water Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh.

As per officials, under the project, old, damaged and undersized pipelines will be replaced, while new transmission and distribution lines will be laid wherever required. Existing networks will be interconnected to improve pressure, distribution and reliability, they added. The project, funded with assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), will cover the complete water supply chain from the treatment plant and transmission network to distribution lines and household connections, the Minister said.

"Our responsibility is to make sure that the infrastructure is strong, modern and reliable. The Wazirabad project is a major step in that direction..." he added.

Equipment worth crores lying unused at govt hospitals, HC told

Sohini Ghosh
New Delhi, August 10

A MEDICAL cyclotron, used for imaging and research, purchased at a cost of USD 2.5 million in 2017 (about Rs 15.42 crore) at Delhi State Cancer Institute is among the equipment worth crores of rupees lying unused at government hospitals in the Capital, a recent audit has revealed. The audit was conducted following an order from the Delhi High Court on July 3.

On July 3, a bench of Justices Prathiba Singh and Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora had directed all hospitals under the Delhi government to conduct an audit and file a report before the High Court on the equipment lying unused. The order was issued after it came to the court's notice that the PET (positron emission tomography) cyclotron at Delhi State Cancer Institute, used to produce radioactive isotopes for medical imaging purposes, was lying unused since April 2022. "It is clear that this is a gross waste of public resources," the court had recorded on July 3.

A total of 26 hospitals filed the status updates after internally conducting an audit on unused medical equipment. The Delhi government then compiled the audit reports on an affidavit, which was submitted before the High Court on August 5.

Among all the 26 hospitals, which include GTB Hospital, Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, Burari Hospital, Lok Nayak Hospital, GIPMER (GB Pant Hospital), Maulana Azad Medical College, and Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, the Delhi State Cancer Institute stands out. Several hospitals have cited lack of manpower as the reason for the equipment lying unused.

Delhi State Cancer Institute

■ The medical cyclotron — purchased by its Department of Nuclear Medicine in 2017 at a cost of USD 2.5 million (Rs 15.4 crore), in addition to Rs 64 lakh incurred for local supply and Rs 2.5 crore as turnkey cost — is currently sitting unused due to lack of manpower, according to the affidavit submitted in the court.

The same department also has an advanced imaging device for precise targeting of cancer treatments — a dual-head gamma camera with Single-Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT), multislice CT, and radiation therapy (RT) simulation. Purchased in 2017, it has been lying unused as the machine is "under evaluation," according to the affidavit. The equipment had cost USD 1.3 million, along with local supply cost of Rs 26.68 lakh.

■ Under the Department of Oncopathology, a grossing station — purchased from KUGEL, Germany — which is a workstation for tissue slicing and sample preparation, lies unused due to "lack of availability of space" for installation, the court has been told. The equipment was received free of cost.

■ The Department of Lab Medicine also has three types of analysers (diagnostic tools) lying unused — including one biochemistry analyser costing Rs 1.26 crore — due to "discontinuation of reagents (specific chemicals used for testing)". The three analysers are now in the "process of condemnation". Condemnation implies the equipment is unusable now.

BR Sur Homeopathic Hospital

A fully-functional ultrasound machine, worth Rs 19.08 lakh, lies unused "due to non-availability of radiologist". The hospital has no regular sanctioned post of radiologist, and says it is in the process of engaging a radiologist on "guest-faculty basis".

Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital

■ An anesthesia liquid medical oxygen buffer tank, worth around Rs 94.82 lakh, donated by Save Life Foundation, a non-profit, in 2021 during Covid outbreak, has also been lying unused. According to the hospital, the buffer storage tank for all hospitals, especially in West Delhi, was "never connected" with the medical gas pipeline system (MGPS) at DDUH, the court was told.

■ Two other equipments for the Eye Department, an eye bank specular microscope, used for evaluating and grading quality of donor corneal tissues, and an eye bank laminar air flow, used as a sterile workstation for transferring donor cornea from one storage to media, were purchased in 2020 and 2019, respectively, for Rs 22.15 lakh. The equipment, procured for establishing a fully-functional eye bank at DDU Hospital, have been lying unused since the purchase. Earlier, it remained unused owing to a lack of trained cornea specialists, and then the pandemic brought about a "complete shut down" on corneal donation and organ transplantation. It continues to lie unused with a shortage of trained doctors and ophthalmologists.

■ Oxygen concentrators, BiPaps, ventilators, indented by the surgery, orthopedic, pediatric, gynecology departments of the hospital during COVID19 in 2021, including 13 of the contentious Dhaman ventilators which cost Rs 2.16 lakh each, lies unused at the hospital, post the pandemic.

Lok Nayak Hospital

During Covid, the hospital received various equipment, including 140 pieces of patient monitors, 180 pieces of Bipap machine, and 500 pieces of oxygen concentrators.

Several of them now lie unused, and according to the hospital, it is indented in various wards of the hospital "when required".

HC halts Sujan Singh Park takeover until plea decided

Sohini Ghosh
New Delhi, August 10

At Sujan Singh Park complex in New Delhi. FILE

PUTTING A halt to the Centre's decision to immediately takeover the northern part of Sujan Singh Park complex, which also includes the Ambassador hotel, the Delhi High Court on Monday directed that status quo shall be maintained till an appeal by Sir Sobha Singh and Sons — the real estate company that built and runs the complex — is disposed of.

Justice Neena Bansal Krishna also clarified that a district court's order, which had paved the way for the government to issue an eviction notice under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, "shall not form the basis for the initiation or continuation of proceedings" under the Act. This effectively puts a halt to the government's bid at taking over the premises.

Sir Sobha Singh and Sons has been locked in litigation with the government since 1960 — nearly seven decades now. The Ambassador hotel started operating in 1950.

According to the real estate firm, the northern block of Sujan Singh Park was built under a registered Agreement to Lease of October 8, 1945, with one of the clauses being that the government will execute a perpetual lease with Sir Sobha Singh and Sons once the buildings were complete.

Under the terms of the deed, the lessee, Sir Sobha Singh and Sons, was obligated to construct residential blocks including three "for officials and non-officials of good standing".

However, in 1960, the government alleged misuse and breaches and sought re-entry in the form of termination of the agreement, following which Sir Sobha Singh and Sons had moved a civil court with a suit seeking an injunction.

A status quo was ordered by the civil court and the government was restrained from re-entry, even as the case dragged on till 2009.

In August 2009, the civil court ruled that the building was constructed as per government's instructions and that there was no misuse.

The government had then challenged this verdict before a district court. The district court on July 9 this year, however, overturned the civil court's order.

A day before the district court's order was made public on June 12, the government issued an eviction notice, terming the company as "unauthorised occupant" and seeking possession of the land.

Justice Krishna, while ordering a status quo, reasoned that the property has remained in use for several decades since the 1960s.

"The impact of the impugned judgment [of the district court] would not only affect the rights of the Appellant (Sir Sobha Singh and Sons), but may also affect numerous persons residing in the flats constructed in the suit property ... For the same reasons, irreparable loss and injury may be caused not only to the Appellant but also to the occupants of the suit property. On the other hand, considering that the litigation has remained pending since the year 1960, preservation of the existing position till the final adjudication of the disputes, would not cause any irreparable loss or injury to the Respondent (government), particularly when no immediate public interest requiring disturbance of possession has been pleaded," the HC said.

• Skywatch

Forecast: August 11, 2026
Generally cloudy sky. Very light to light rain
MAX: 33-35
1.2°C above normal
MIN: 23-25
4°C below normal

- *Sunrise: 5:49 AM (August 12)*
- *Sunset: 7:04 PM (August 11)*
- *Moonrise: 5:03 AM (August 12)*
- *Moonset: 7:13 PM (August 11)*

• AQI Tracker

Bawana Moderate **AQI: 117**
Anand Vihar Moderate **AQI: 154**
Shadipur Satisfactory **AQI: 53**
Aya Nagar Satisfactory **AQI: 78**

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

Wet spell likely to continue, says IMD

New Delhi: Rain lashed several parts of Delhi on Monday, with the IMD forecasting light to moderate rain till August 16. As per the IMD, Mayur Vihar recorded the highest rainfall at 37 mm ill 4.15 pm.

The Capital also recorded its 10th consecutive day of "satisfactory" air quality, with the maximum temperature settling at 35.4 degrees Celsius. PTI

OBITUARY

Brig O P Chaudhary, VSM (Retd)
(5th Sep 1931-8th Aug 2026)

Fraternity of Army Educational Corps expresses profound grief on the sad demise of BRIG O P CHAUDHARY, VSM(Retd). He will always be remembered for his selfless and dedicated service to the Corps. We pray to the Almighty to bless eternal peace to the departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family.

Maj Gen (Dr)Tamojeet Biswas,
Addl DG AE & HoS (AEC)
and All Ranks of Army Educational Corps

Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University, U.P.
C G City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow-226002
website: http://www.abvmuup.edu.in

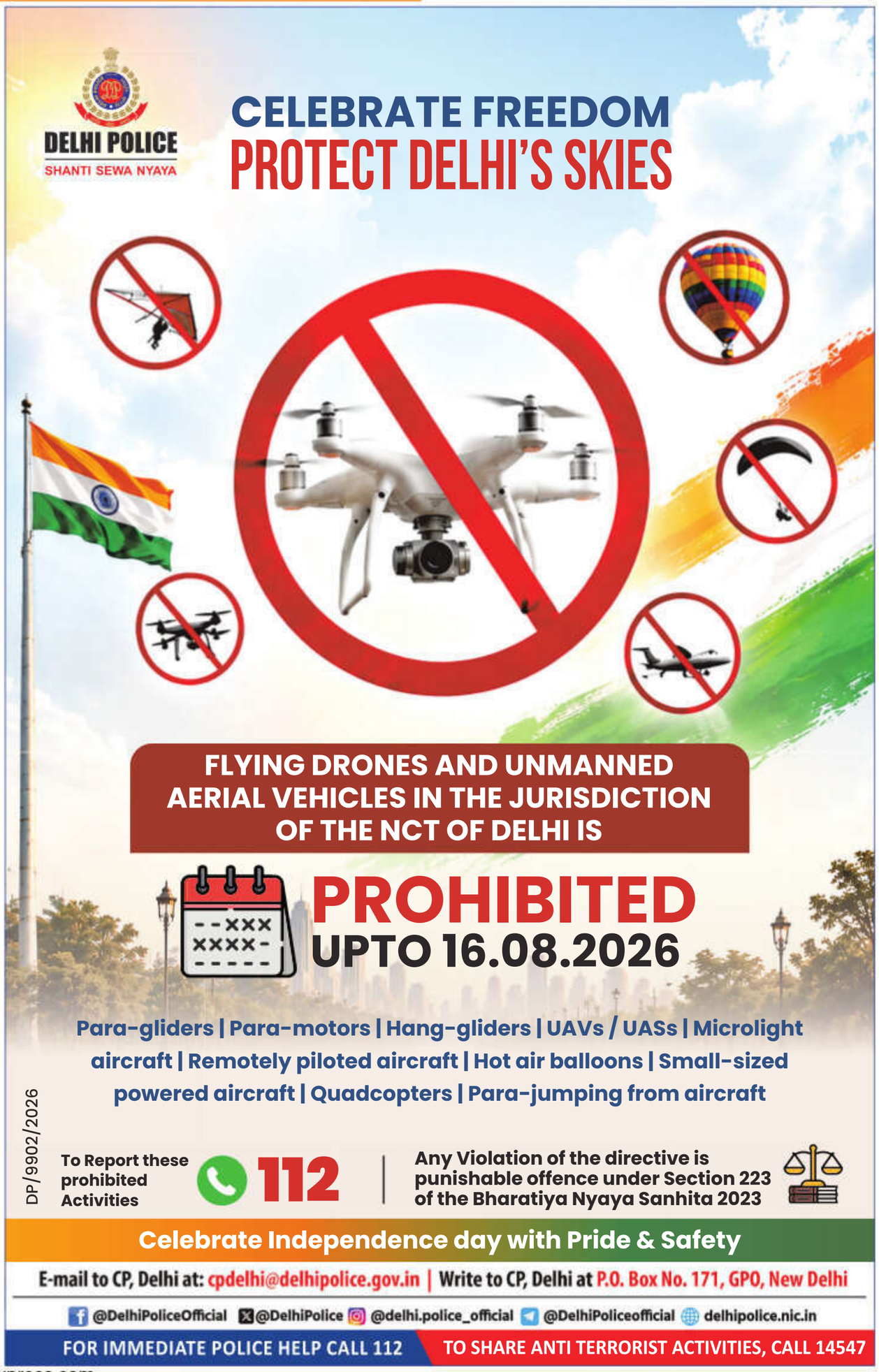
No.:3084/Prof./ABVMU/2026 **Dated: 10.08.2026**

:::: ADVERTISEMENT ::::

Applications for the vacant post of Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant Professor in various positions of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University, UP, Lucknow, are invited on Deputation Basis from all over India. The Candidates should be presently working in Government Institutions/ Autonomous Institutions /State Universities in Medical, Dental, Nursing, Allied & Healthcare (Paramedical) stream.

Details are available on University website: **http://www.abvmuup.edu.in**
Last Date for application : **10th September, 2026**
The applicant should send his/her application through E-mails only.

Registrar



Women not baby-producing machines: CM on financial aid cap amid criticism

Says registration will go on until govt's target of 17 lakh beneficiaries met, hits out at AAP and Congress

Gayathri Mani
New Delhi, August 10

CM Rekha Gupta with students during the distribution of bicycles under Vidya Vahini Yojana, in New Delhi on Monday. PRAVEEN KHANNA

CHIEF MINISTER Rekha Gupta Monday defended the three-child cap for beneficiaries of the Delhi Lakshmi Yojana, saying that women are not merely a machine for producing children. She also attacked AAP and Congress over allegedly failing to address women's concerns during their regime.

Addressing the Assembly on the second day of the ongoing Monsoon Session, Gupta said, "If people want to expand their family, they are not going to stop because Rekha Gupta or (RSS chief) Mohan Bhagwat said so... Families plan according to their circumstances and needs. But ... no woman is merely a machine for producing children. Her health is extremely important to us."

Pointing out that many families force women to have multiple children in the hope of having a son, Gupta said that her government is not going to support such a "narrow" mindset.

"The entire world knows and the medical fraternity says that if a woman repeatedly gives birth, it takes a serious toll on her body. My priority is the health of women. That is why I have included the three-child condition," CM Gupta told the House.

Gupta also claimed that even the women in Delhi wanted to "take care of their health while benefiting from the scheme".

"There is no discrimination. The rule applies to women from all religions or sections of the society...," the CM also said.

The CM also said that her government has set a target of 17 lakh beneficiaries, adding that the registration will continue till they reach that figure. "We are fulfilling a promise we made. We have allocated Rs 5,100 crore for the scheme," Gupta said.

"Over a period of three years — the first phase of the scheme — 17 lakh women will avail the benefit. And if there is a need to expand it thereafter, we won't hesitate to do so...," she added.

She also told the House that about six lakh registrations were done after the portal was launched on August 1. The first instalment of the scheme is likely to be disbursed on Raksha Bandhan on August 28.

Women having more than three children will not be eligible for the said scheme under which the government will provide women aged 21 to 60 a monthly financial aid of Rs 2,500. Households with an annual power consumption exceeding 2,400 units will also be excluded.

AAP had raised concerns regarding the eligibility criteria of the scheme, which also requires a beneficiary to be a resident of Delhi for at least 10 years and to get a recommendation from the local MP or MLA.

Hitting out at the opposition party on Monday after its leaders walked out, Gupta said, "You did not have the courage to listen to my response ... you laughed and walked away..."

"Has the Congress government ever been concerned about these women? Has the AAP government ever taken cognisance of their needs? They made many promises. They made big claims and asked for multiple chances from people, promised Rs 1,000 and then Rs 2,100, but never gave a single rupee," she said.

The Chief Minister further attacked AAP for allegedly committing "a Rs 30,000-crore scam", the burden of which, she said, the people of Delhi are still bearing.

"There are still liabilities of more than Rs 38,000 crore towards power companies, dating back to their (AAP's) tenure. The debt that they created by improperly using the resources of power companies is still sitting on the shoulders of the present government," she added.

GROUND report

In CM's constituency, mixed response on Lakshmi Yojana

Devansh Mittal
New Delhi, August 10

HOARDINGS AND posters from political leaders and RWAs with greetings for Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's birthday, Teej and Independence Day can be seen hanging on trees and poles as one enters North West Delhi's Shalimar Bagh — her Assembly constituency.

Last year, Gupta, a long-time municipal councillor and former student politician, won Shalimar Bagh by 30,000 votes and was elected as the MLA in a poll in which the BJP stormed to power in Delhi after over two decades. One of the party's major poll promises was a monthly financial aid for women from economically weaker sections — the scheme will be rolled out on Raksha Bandhan (August 28).

The financial aid scheme, unlike similar incentives rolled out by several states, comes with a detailed set of eligibility conditions, exclusions and guidelines on how the assistance can be used. Apart from that the government has listed what's expected from the applicants.

Inside Indira Colony, a slum cluster with around 400 homes, the launch of the scheme has drawn mixed response — most of the eligible women work as house helps in nearby bungalows. Even as only the eldest woman member of a family, with an annual income of less than Rs 2.5 lakh, between the age of 21 and 60 is eligible for the monthly aid, many are still trying to understand the terms.

At Shalimar Bagh. DEVANSH MITTAL

• EXPECTED FROM APPLICANTS, NOT MANDATORY

- Submit Aadhaar, Voter ID details of all family members.
- ABHA IDs of family members.
- Children enrolled in recognised schools.
- Children have received doses of vaccines, including HPV
- Pregnant/lactating mothers registered on POSHAN Tracker.
- Pledges for social causes like 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', Swachh Bharat.
- Return of any excess payment.
- District WCD office informed of address change within 1 month.

Gurbari Sahu, 60, and her daughter-in-law, Nirmala Sahu, 33, say they have both filled the application forms. "*Kisi ek ko toh mil jaaye... agar ek hi bharte aur nahi milta to?* (At least one of us will get aid..what if we only filled one and it got rejected?)," says Gurbari, sitting outside their house.

Gurbari and her son, who works as a construction labourer, took five days to submit the applications — trying to understand the criteria. "We went to the cyber cafe where there was a long queue ... When our turn came, we were told to get documents, and then a letter from our MLA," Gurbari, whose family earns around Rs 15,000 every month, recalls.

She adds, "We got to know about the CM's office, where we went and registered for a letter. Two days later, we finally got the letter with CM's stamp...finally got the process completed."

Jyoti, a 28-year-old resident who hails from Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur, is critical. "*In logo ko vote sabka chahiye tha, lekin paise chhant chaant ke de rahe hai* (They wanted everyone's vote but they are excluding so many people)." Her husband owns two pick-up trucks, making her ineligible for the scheme.

Meena Devi has three sons and two daughters. "Those with more children need more money... but they have been excluded. During the AAP regime, the poor used to get government benefits easily, now they ask so many questions," she claims.

Anil Kumar Gupta, 23, whose family is also not eligible to receive the aid says, "We may feel bad. But I also understand that the government wants to send money to the poorest."

A source in the CMO said, "Whenever the government makes any scheme, it takes a decision on how to benefit the poorest section of society."

EXPRESS special

Targeted tech approach, smart poles expected to boost fight against air pollution

Sophiya Mathew
New Delhi, August 10

A smart pole near Raj Ghat Memorial. EXPRESS

A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND target-based model to select pollution-control technologies and digital smart poles — that display live data on pollutants and may have tools installed like mists to clean the air — are expected to boost Delhi's fight against air pollution.

Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa told *The Indian Express* that after the ongoing trials and technical assessment, the government is planning to introduce a target-based model to select pollution-control technologies — companies and innovators under the model will have to demonstrate efficiency before being considered for wider deployment. Under the Delhi government's Innovation Challenge, launched last October, 22 technologies are being tested, including 13 aimed at vehicular emissions — one of the biggest contributors to Delhi's air pollution — and nine at reducing ambient pollution.

The government will shortlist the firms and invite bids through a request for proposal (RFP), he said. The technologies will then be evaluated against specified pollution-reduction targets. For instance, a technology that can demonstrate a 30% reduction in pollution would be preferred over one offering a 20% reduction, provided the claims are scientifically established and the technology meets other requirements, the Minister said.

What are smart poles?

Besides the display boards installed outside the Capital's air-quality monitoring stations, pollution parameters can now be read on smart poles. Close to Rajghat Memorial, one of the seven spots where these poles have been installed in Central Delhi, the digital display shows PM2.5 and PM10 levels, updated every five minutes, along with the volume of air it claims to have cleaned.

On Monday evening, the display read: "Total Air Cleaned (cu ft) Last 24 hours: 4,04,697."

The move comes as the Delhi Environment and Forests Department has extended by about a month the deadline for IIT Delhi, the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) and the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) to complete the evaluation of technologies currently under trial. The assessment was earlier expected to be completed by May, with recommendations to the government by July. The final recommendations are now expected by September 10, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

22 technologies being tested

Among the technologies being tested are vehicle-mounted air filters, particulate matter collectors, retrofit emission control devices (RECDs) for BS-IV vehicles, dust collectors and after-treatment systems for heavy-duty diesel vehicles.

Ambient pollution-control technologies include large-scale air purifiers, air-treatment towers, pole and road-divider dust collectors and particulate-aggregation systems.

The trials are being conducted at locations including ISBT Kashmere Gate, the Red Fort area, primary health centres, fire stations and roads in Punjabi Bagh, Kirti Nagar and Rohini, said officials.

IIT Delhi, National Physical Laboratory and International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT), are undertaking independent monitoring, with the aim of assessing the actual pollution-reduction performance of the technologies.

Among the technologies already deployed are an EV-mounted anti-smog gun, the PAWAN III roadside pollution-control system and the ShuddhVayu vehicle-mounted air filter.

At Satguru Ram Singh Marg (Rama Road), 21 units of the STR-101 filter-free air-purification system have been installed on electricity poles along the central verge. Officials said the system can treat nearly three lakh litres of air an hour and is being monitored through IoT-based systems.

The EV-mounted anti-smog gun, being tested along the Kirti Nagar-Mayapuri stretch, uses high-pressure water sprays to settle dust and other particulate matter, officials said. PAWAN III, installed near the Kirti Nagar Fire Station, draws polluted air from near the road and passes it through a multi-stage purification system.

Sirsa said these are pilot deployments, and technologies that perform well during the trials could subsequently be taken up on a larger scale.

POLICE BEGIN INQUIRY

Clip shows domestic help being abused in Gurgaon's Camellias

Ritu Sarin & Abhimanyu Hazarika
New Delhi, Gurgaon, August 10

GURGAON POLICE have opened an inquiry after taking cognizance of a video that purportedly shows a resident of the luxury apartment complex DLF Camellias assaulting a domestic worker at her home.

"In the video that had gone viral on X, a woman was seen forcibly stopping and assaulting another woman at The Camellias Apartment, Sector-42, Gurugram," Gurgaon Police spokesperson ASI Sandeep Kumar said.

The alleged incident occurred on July 24, ASI Kumar said. The accused woman, identified as 52-year-old Ruchira Sachdeva, has joined the investigation, he said.

The preliminary investigation has revealed that the woman who is seen being assaulted in the purported video was Sachdeva's domestic help, who had left the job on July 27, ASI Kumar said.

"The accused woman had assaulted the domestic help following an argument regarding work. Further action in the case will be taken as per rules. The case is under investigation," the spokesperson said.

The purported video, which appears to have been shot from an adjoining apartment, shows a young woman being dragged, punched, and pulled by the hair by another woman in what appears to be a kitchen.

"She (the older woman) has slapped her. If I was in her (the help's) place I would have retaliated," a female voice is heard saying in Nepali in the video. At the end of the video, the younger woman is seen standing alone, looking distressed.

The Camellias, along with the Aralias and the Magnolias, is among the most high-end residential properties in Delhi-NCR, and is home to several high-profile residents. A condo in the Camellias could cost upwards of Rs 75-80 crore.

Calls made by *The Indian Express* to the husband of the woman went unanswered. A member of the family said they did not want to comment. Speaking on behalf of the family, advocate Vaibhav Suri told *The Indian Express* that a day after the alleged incident, the woman help had filed a "representation" with the Gurgaon Cyber Cell about a video being circulated "illegally" on WhatsApp.

"It (the 'representation') is not an FIR but a handwritten complaint, and my client (Sachdeva) has endorsed it. We have said the circulation of the video is illegal and that it should be removed from WhatsApp chats," Suri said.

In the two-page handwritten complaint, the woman help has alleged that an unknown person had circulated the video, and asked for it to be removed from social media. She has said that she did not want legal action, and "My face should not appear anywhere like this."

The woman help has pledged her support to the Sachdeva family, and said that if a third party were to file a case, "I will come to give my statement to end the complaint."

A team from the Durga Shakti PCR (police control room wing for crimes against women), after being urged by the Gurgaon One Stop Centre, a Haryana government initiative intended to help women affected by violence in private and public spaces, visited the residence of the Sachdeva family on Sunday.

Gurgaon One Stop Centre in-charge Pinky Malik told *The Indian Express* that since the woman help had said she did not want to pursue the matter, the case would have been closed "naturally". However, now that police had begun investigating, things could proceed, she said.

Kanwar Yatra nears end

Devotees carry a replica of the India Gate, mounted on a kanwar, on the Signature Bridge in New Delhi as Kanwar Yatra, the annual pilgrimage, entered its penultimate day on Monday. PRAVEEN KHANNA

• CITY HAS PASSIONATE COMMUNITIES AND DEDICATED COACHES, BUT PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE CONTINUES TO LAG

'I feel free, like I'm flying': Capital finds its skating scene

Anusree K C
New Delhi, August 10

IT IS 6.15 am on a cloudy Sunday, and the west end of Kartavya Path is just waking up.

A group of children skate off toward the east end, wheels rattling faintly against the road. Clustered near the police barricades are 30-odd people in knee pads and windbreakers. These are the members of the Delhi Skating Community (DSC).

They stretch before the day's run, the occasional test-push of a board sending a short, hollow rumble across the empty road. By 6.30, the group is moving. Roller skaters go first, arching up the long incline toward Rashtrapati Bhavan, the smooth hiss of their wheels breaking into short scrapes each time someone leans into a turn.

Skateboarders roll in behind them, pushing hard against the gradient.

Among them is Khwahish Sahni (18), a biomedical engineering student from Mehrauli. She found DSC on Instagram after years of an on and off relationship with skating. "I was a shy person, but this place has made me an extrovert," she says.

The community's founder, Nischal Singh, a lawyer from a small village in Uttarakhand, says it started when he began posting videos on Instagram of himself roller-skating alone in Khan Market. His followers began asking how he had learned to skate.

In 2022, he set up the DSC after realising that many people were interested in skating but did not have a community to learn with or join.

Nischal says he vets every member personally. "There is a Google form that one has to fill in order to register to attend our sessions... I screen them for their intent..."

The community is also involved in projects like Rolling Hearts, where Nischal and a group of volunteers teach skating to children at shelters.

Among the day's skaters are Ramsha and her brother Daniel as their father, Mohd. Furquan Saifi, (60), looks on.

ABHINAV SAHA

Skaters at Kartavya Path.

Saifi, who is from Meerut, has been skating since he was a young boy. "I discovered the sport during a vacation to Nainital, when I saw someone skate. I liked it, and felt I should learn too," he says.

Nearby, five-year-old Kaira Verma wobbles along the flat stretch before lifting herself up and coming to a stop. Having discovered the sport at school barely two months ago, she is one of the community's newest and smallest recruits.

Sneha Singh, a 20-year-old journalism student, has travelled 60 km from Sonipat just to skate. "I travel for 1.5 hours to only skate for about an hour. But it's worth it... I like skating because It feels like I'm flying, I am free," she says.

THE EVENTFUL city

DSC is not the only skating community in Delhi. In Sainik Farms, Saket, is Backyard Skatepark — a private facility built on family land. Its founder, 20-year-old Siddhant Dhankar, started skateboarding in 2019. In November 2021, he opened the park with his father, who has also taken part in several national-level competitions.

"We saw there was a lack of proper skating facilities in Delhi and all over India, and decided to build this place," Siddhant says, adding that brand shoots, sponsorships and events bring the community commercial visibility it never gets.

Coaching the children is Akash Kumar (28) who left a government job for skateboarding in 2018 after discovering it as "a hobby" that became "an adrenaline rush". Certified by the Roller Skating Federation of India, he now coaches students aged three and a half to 65.

One of his students, Seher (8), comes running to him. She tugs at his sleeves and asks, "Can I go drink water?" to which he nods. Then she comes running back asking, "What should I do next?"

Siddhant's younger brother, Naitik Dhankar (15), is also a national medallist — he competed in China for the Asian Skateboarding Championship 2026. He won a bronze medal in 58th National Roller Skating Championship 2020-21.

In Neb Sarai, Surjeet Kumar has run the Delhi Skateboarding Academy, the city's oldest, since 2016, after noticing the sport thriving abroad while it remained "almost non-existent" at home.

His academy has trained roughly a thousand skaters and produced four skateboarders who represented India at this year's Asian championship in China.

Yet in Delhi, there is not one public skate park like Chandigarh, Pune, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

Noting how the government's sports schemes still don't recognise skateboarding, Kumar says: "The skating scene in Delhi is a little disorganised. Because we don't have public places to skate... a lot of people do it just for fun, but then they get chased away either by the police, people, or even street dogs."

Siddhant also echoes the sentiment.

Back at Kartavya Path, Khwahish shows off the trick she's just learned: an Ollie, where the rider jumps into the air with the board by snapping its tail down.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to following applicant who intended allotment of a commercial unit in the Project 'Developed by Hansaflon Buildcon Pvt Ltd', situated at Sector-79, Faridabad, Haryana and had deposited earnest money.

Despite multiple telephonic communications, the applicant has failed to execute the required documents, complete the formal allotment process, and clear outstanding dues. This failure constitutes a material breach.

The following persons are hereby given a final and last opportunity to approach the Company and collect their refund cheques within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

S. No.	Name	S. No.	Name
1.	D.K.Bhatia	13	Ram Prasad
2.	Manik Gulati	14	Ayush Saxena
3.	Vivek Kumar Singh	15	Anubhav Saxena
4.	Rohit Ranjan	16.	Anuradha Saxena
5.	Poonam Sharma	17.	Dileep Kumar Sharma
6.	Pankaj Tiwari	18.	Rakesh
7.	Raman Deep	19.	Thakor Sonali Jigar
8.	Anitma Upadhyay	20.	Aditya Kanhiya Bhatt
9.	Anjali Nagpal	21.	A .Bansal
10.	Deepak Kumar	22.	Asif Yusufzi
11.	Kavish Arora	23	Thakor Jigar Balbant
12.	Lalit Karla		

By Order of the Management
Hansaflon Buildcon Pvt. Ltd.

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

India Tourism Development Corporation Limited

(A Government of India Undertaking)

Regd. Office: SCOPE Complex, Core-8, 6th Floor, 7 Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003.
011-24360303 itdc.co.in CIN: L74899DL1965GOI004363

60 OF EXCELLENCE IN Travel•Tourism•Hospitality

Extracts of Statement of Standalone and Consolidated Un- Audited Financial Results for the 1st quarter ended 30.06.2026

(₹ in Lakhs)

Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
	Quarter ended 30.06.26 Un-Audited	Quarter ended 30.06.25 Un-Audited	Quarter ended 31.03.26 Audited	Year ended 31.03.26 Audited	Quarter ended 30.06.26 Un-Audited	Quarter ended 30.06.25 Un-Audited	Quarter ended 31.03.26 Audited	Year ended 31.03.26 Audited
Total income from operations	8,863.37	8641.35	14,055.09	52,707.64	9,010.38	8,774.83	14,200.96	53,266.52
Other Income	754.56	606.35	1,014.17	3,091.88	714.41	565.09	984.04	2,991.93
Total Income	9,617.93	9,247.70	15,069.26	55,799.52	9,724.78	9,339.92	15,185.00	56,258.45
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extra Ordinary Items)	1,427.21	1,290.11	3,841.25	11,354.09	1,368.64	1,251.97	3,794.34	11,203.88
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extra Ordinary Items)	1,427.21	1,290.11	3,841.25	11,354.09	1,368.64	1,251.97	3,794.34	11,203.88
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	994.31	1,019.62	2,877.64	8,355.88	939.23	974.59	2,827.43	8,191.29
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	929.11	1,062.45	3,071.61	8,564.97	878.95	1,013.70	3,054.99	8,423.26
Paid up Equity Share Capital	8,576.94	8,576.94	8,576.94	8,576.94	8,576.94	8,576.94	8,576.94	8,576.94
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)				37,584.17				33,697.45
Earnings Per Share (after extra-ordinary item) (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)- Basic & Diluted:	1.16	1.19	3.36	9.74	1.09	1.14	3.30	9.50

Includes Net Profit of Continued and Discontinued Operations

Note:

1) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange(s) Website (www.bseindia.com) & (www.nseindia.com) and on the Company's Website (www.itdc.co.in)
2) The Financial results of the company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (IND AS) as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act 2013 read with Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015, as amended.
3) The Above Statement of Financial Results were placed before the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at the meeting held on 10th August2026.
4) Earning per share is not annualized for the quarter ended June 30, 2026, June 30, 2025 and March 31, 2026.
5) The Figures for the quarter ended March 31, 2026 are the balancing figures between the audited figures in respect of the full financial year ended on that date and published year to date figure up to the third quarter of the said financial year.
6) Details of shareholders who have not claimed dividend for F.Y. 2024-25, 2023-24, 2022-23, 2018-19 and 2017-18 have been given in the ITDC website under Investor Corner. Further details of shareholders who have not claimed dividend for last seven consecutive years and whose shares have been transferred to the IEPF, have also been given at the ITDC website under Investor Corner. Shareholders are requested to contact immediately for claiming the unclaimed dividend and unclaimed shares, the compliance officer Mr. V. K. Jain at ITDC HQ address, Email: vkjain@itdc.co.in; Mobile No. 9650444533.
7) Figures of the previous reporting periods have been re-grouped / re-classified wherever necessary to correspond with the figures of the current reporting period.

For India Tourism Development Corporation Limited
Sd/-
Lokesh Kumar Aggarwal
Director (Finance) & CFO

Date: 10.08.2026
Place: New Delhi

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

NAVRATNA COMPANY
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website : www.ircon.org, CIN - L45203DL1976GOI008171

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender No.: IRCON/3026/MECH/P&E/MAHSR-T2/Structure Gauge Measuring Vehicle/02 Date: 10.08.2026

e-Tender for and on behalf of IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of **"Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 01 No. Structure Gauge Measuring Vehicle for MAHSR-T2 Project."**

Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission	24.08.2026 15:00 Hrs.

For further details, visit website https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.

Executive Director/Infra
C-4, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017

EXPRESS Careers

RAILTEL CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD

(A Government of India Undertaking under Ministry of Railways)
Registered & Corporate Office: Plate-A, 6th Floor, Office Block-II, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi-110023.
website: www.railtel.in, CIN: L64202DL2000GOI107905

Indicative Notice for Contractual Recruitment in RailTel Corporation-Vacancy Notice No. RCIL-CO0HR(RECR)/7/2025 (CN-51969)

RailTel Corporation of India Limited, a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking under Government of India, hereby notifies that the WALK-IN-INTERVIEW will be conducted for the following vacancies at RailTel's Corporate Office, New Delhi:

- **Sr. Solution Architect (Technical) (Contract)-01 vacancy.**
- **Solution Architect (Technical) (Contract) -01 vacancy.**

Schedule of walk-in interview: 27.08.2026 at 09:00 AM

Interested candidates may view the detailed notification and application form on RailTel's official website at https://www.railtel.in/careers.html under the 'Current Job Openings' section.

Executive Director/HR

Advertisement No. 85/2026
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board invites online applications for the post of

Director (Finance)
in
Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)

Last date of submission of online application by the applicant is by 15:00 hours on
27th August, 2026

Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers on online system of PESB is by 17:00 hours
7th September, 2026

For details login to website https://www.pesb.gov.in
Link for registration of nodal officers/competent authorities is available on PESB website.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI

(HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION)
Office of the Director Hospital Administration
E1-Block, 18th Floor, Dr SPM Civic Centre, JLN Marg, New Delhi-110002
No. 186/DHA/MCD/2026 Dated: 10.08.2026

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Online bids are invited from eligible and experienced bidders through the Central Public Procurement (CPP) Portal, Government of India for the following project:

Establishment, Operation & Maintenance of CT Scan and MRI Facilities on Public Private Partnership (PPP) Basis at designated Municipal Corporation of Delhi hospitals/ institutions under a Two-Bid System (Technical & Financial).

Interested bidders may download the complete Tender Document, Eligibility Criteria, Bid Schedule, Corrigenda and submit bids online through the CPP Portal.

CPP Portal: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app
Tender Reference No.: DHA/MCD/2026/HA0708
EMD: As per Tender Document
Bid Submission: Online only through CPP Portal.

For detailed Terms & Conditions, Eligibility Criteria and Updates, bidders are advised to regularly visit the CPP Portal.

Director Hospital Administration
Municipal Corporation of Delhi

RO No. 23/DPI/MCD/2026-27

ब्रिक-राष्ट्रीय पशु जैव प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, हैदराबाद
BRIC-National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad

(An Autonomous Institute of Dept. of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India)
Near Gowlidoddi, Gachibowli, Hyderabad, Telangana India - 500 032.
Tel: +91 40 2312 0103/115. Email: admin@niab.org.in; Web: www.niab.res.in

Advt. No. 18/2026

BRIC-NIAB, an autonomous institute under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, is aimed to harness novel and emerging biotechnologies and create knowledge in the cutting edge areas for improving animal health and productivity.

The Institute invites applications from Indian citizens for the following positions:

S.No.	Position	Pay Level	No. of Post
1	Scientist-B	Level - 10	1 - OBC
2	Farm Manager	Level - 06	1 - OBC

For more details, please visit NIAB website www.niab.res.in
Date of commencement of online applications: 12th August 2026
Last date for submitting online applications: 11th September 2026 by 5 PM

Sd/- DIRECTOR, NIAB

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-96, Noida, (UP)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from eligible firms/contractors for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: **www.noidaauthorityonline.in & http://etender.up.nic.in.** Please ensure to see these website for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

S. N.	Job No.	Sale Start Date	Sale End Date	Tender Opening Date and Time
1	Job No.- 08/ E-TENDER/ SPO/2026-27 Name of Work- Stitching of Winter Uniform of Contract Staff of Noida Authority, Estimated Rs. 76,45,550.00	11.08.2026	25.08.2026 upto 5:00 PM	26.08.2026 11.00 AM

Office Sector-39 Store Purchase Officer

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Chetana Trust

Survey No.341, Govt. Colony, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400051.

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS For Chetana's Institute of Management & Research

Sr No.	Cadre	No. of Posts	Post reserved for
1	Director	01	OPEN
2	Professor (Corporate Dean)	01	OPEN

The educational qualifications, experience, and pay scale for the **Director** position are as specified by the DTE and AICTE from time to time. (5 years Tenure)

For the **Professor (Corporate Dean)** position, the candidate must hold a Ph.D. in Management with 25+ years of experience in Corporate HR, Corporate Relations or Placements in leading firms or B-Schools **as specified by AICTE (On Consolidated Salary)**. Applicants who are already employed must send their application through the proper channels. Applicants are required to account for breaks, if any in their academic career.

Applications with full details should reach the **Hon. Secretary, Chetana Trust, Survey No. 341, Bandra East, Mumbai 400051** within **15 Days** from the date of publication of this advertisement via **India Post** only.

Sd/-
Hon. Secretary

ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण

प्लॉट संख्या-1, नॉलेज पार्क-IV, ग्रेटर नौएडा सिटी, गौतमबुद्ध नगर-201308, उ.प्र.
वैबसाइट: www.greaternoidaauthority.in, ई-मेल: authority@gnida.in

पत्रांक: वरि०.प्र०/(ई–निविदा सेल)/2026/788 दिनांक: 10.08.2026

ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

महाप्रबन्धक (अभियन्त्रण) ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रेटर नोएडा की ओर से ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या वरि0.प्रा0/(ई निविदा सेल)/2026/787 दिनांक 10.08.2026 के माध्यम से उल्लेखित क्रम संख्या–01 से 16 तक के कार्य की ई–निविदाये आमन्त्रित की जाती है। समस्त नियम व शर्ते ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट **www.greaternoidaauthority.in** पर ई–निविदा लिंक एवं ई–पोर्टल **https://etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिए उक्त वेबसाईटें देखते रहें।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम/वर्क सर्किल	अनुमानित लागत
1.	ग्रेटर नौएडा के ग्राम हजरतपुर में सी०सी० रोड, नाली और सीवर का कार्य। (वर्क सर्किल–6)	रू0 96.47 लाख
2.	ग्रेटर नौएडा के जेवर विधान सभा क्षेत्र के विभिन्न स्थनों पर आ०सी०सी० प्रीकास्ट बाउण्ड्रीवॉल का निर्माण कार्य (भाग 1)। (वर्क सर्किल–8)	रू0 141.36 लाख
विद्युतीकरण के कार्य		
3.	ग्रेटर नौएडा गलकपुर प्राइमरी स्कूल के आन्तरिक विद्युतीकरण और बोड़ाकी, पाली के अन्डरपास में एल०ई०डी० लाईट लगाने का कार्य (वर्क सर्किल–ईएण्डएम–2)	रू0 17.05 लाख
4.	ग्रेटर नौएडा प्राधिकरण कार्यालय भवन में एच.टी. एवं एल.टी. नेटर्वक का तीन वर्ष नॉन काम्परेहेन्सिव ए०एम०सी० एवं विद्युत सामग्री आपूर्ति का कार्य। (वर्क सर्किल ईएण्डएम–2)	रू0 66.61 लाख
5.	ग्रेटर नौएडा के पल्ला गांव में 6% आबादी का आन्तरिक विद्युतीकरण का कार्य (वर्क सर्किल–ईएण्डएम–2)	रू0 100.08 लाख
6.	ग्रेटर नौएडा के परी चौक से कासना तक एस. के. रोड पर एल०ई०डी० लाईट लगाने का कार्य (वर्क सर्किल–ईएण्डएम–2)	रू0 129.68 लाख
7.	ग्रेटर नौएडा के औद्योगिक क्षेत्र इकोटेक–11, इकोटेक–2, इकोटेक–1 एक्सटेंशन–1 और इकोटेक–1 एक्सटेंशन में एल०ई०डी० लाईट लगाने का कार्य (वर्क सर्किल–ईएण्डएम–2)	रू0 291.77 लाख
उद्यान विभाग		
8.	ग्रेटर नौएडा के जीएनआईडीए कार्यालय में एक वर्ष के रखरखाव सहित वर्टिकल गार्डन की स्थापना और उसे लगाने का कार्य। (वर्क सर्किल उद्यान)	रू0 28.48 लाख
9.	ग्रेटर नौएडा के सैक्टर ईकोटैक 8 के खानपुर में स्थित 6% आबादी में आर०एस०पी० के विकास के साथ दो वर्ष रखरखाव का कार्य। (वर्क सर्किल उद्यान)	रू0 77.22 लाख
10.	तिलपता रोटरी से सिरसा रोटरी तक सैन्ट्रल वर्ज और सड़क के किनारे लगे पेड़ो, पौधों शर्बस का दो वर्षो तक अनुरक्षण एवं ग्राउन्ड कवर लगाऐ जाने का कार्य। (वर्क सर्किल–उद्यान)	रू0 105.55 लाख
11.	एस.के. रोड पर स्थित अल्फा–1 रोटरी से एल.जी रोटरी तक रोड साईट पटरी एवं सैन्ट्रल वर्ज पर लगे पेड़ो, पौधों लगाएं जाने एवं दो वर्षों हेतु सिविल अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सर्किल–उद्यान)	रू0 132.03 लाख
12.	ग्रेटर नौएडा के एस. के. रोड. पर एल.जी. रोटरी से दुर्गा रोटरी तक सेन्ट्रल वर्ज पर रोपित अवशेष वृक्षारोपण सहित दो वर्षों के अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सर्किल उद्यान)	रू0 142.32 लाख
13.	आई.टी.बी.पी से होली पब्लिक रोटरी तक ऐच्छर टी–प्वाइंट से 130 मी० रोड़ जंक्शन तक और सैक्टर–36 व 37 के बीच की सैन्ट्रल वर्ज पर लगे पेड़ो, पौधों लगाएं जाने एवं दो वर्षों हेतु सिविल अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सर्किल–उद्यान)	रू0 142.88 लाख
14.	ग्रेटर नौएडा के सेक्टर जीटा रोटरी से डी०एस०सी० रोड़ तक 75 मीटर चौडी हरित पट्टी और जीटा 1 पॉकेट–सी, जीटा–1, 2 में स्थित 130 मी० चौड़ी के किनारे पर रोपित पेड़ो, झाड़ियों, और लॉन का दो वर्ष का अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सर्किल–उद्यान)	रू0 151.46 लाख
15.	ग्रेटर नौएडा के जलपुरा गौशाला में वृक्षारोपण एवं फुटपाथ का निर्माण कार्य। (वर्क सर्किल उद्यान)	रू0 154.38 लाख
16.	ग्रेटर नौएडा के सैक्टर–2 में पॉकेट ए. बी. सी. डी. ई. एवं एफ. आन्तरिक सड़कों के पेड़, झाड़ियों ग्रीन बैल्ट, पार्क का सिविल कार्य सहित दो वर्षों हेतु सिविल अनुरक्षण कार्य। (वर्क सर्किल–उद्यान)	रू0 160.33 लाख

क्रम सं0–01, से 06, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, एवं 16 तक के कार्यों को दिनांक 12.08.2026 से 24.08.2026 को 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है। प्राप्त ई–निविदाओं की प्री–क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 26.08.2026 को 11:00 बजे खोली जाएगी, एवं क्रम सं0–07, पर अंकित कार्य के दिनांक–12.08.2026 से 26.08.2026 को 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है। प्राप्त ई–निविदाओं की प्री–क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 28.08.2026 को 11:00 बजे खोली जाएगी।

वरिष्ठ प्रबंधक (ई–निविदा सेल)

Follow Us On / OfficialGNIDA

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare

Notice

Applications are invited for the Post of Director, Ranchi Institute of Neuro Psychiatry & Allied Sciences (RINPAS), Kanke, Ranchi, an autonomous Institution under the Government of Jharkhand. This institution is being developed into a Modern Treatment-cum-Teaching and Research Institution for Mental Health.

The last date for receipt of Online Application for the Post of Director, Ranchi Institute of Neuro Psychiatry & Allied Sciences (RINPAS), Kanke, Ranchi is 08.09.2026 upto 06:00 PM

Interested & eligible candidates are required to apply online application only through the JAP-IT Portal (https://japit.jharkhand.gov.in).

(Shashi Prakash Singh)
Additional Secretary to Government

PR 387128 Health Med Edu and Family Welfare(26-27)#D

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Higher and Technical Education
(Jharkhand Council on Science, Technology and Innovation)

Yojna Bhawan, Nepal House Campus, Doranda, Ranchi, Jharkhand - 834002
Email- jharkhandcouncilonsct@gmail.com / dtejharkhand@gmail.com

Letter No. Vi.Pra./Kau.- 04/2015 - **221** / Ranchi, Date : **10.08.2026**

NOTICE

Advertisement for Engagement of Chief Mentor and Junior Mentor at Innovation Hub, Regional Science Centre, Ranchi on Contractual Basis

Jharkhand Council on Science, Technology and Innovation (JCSTI) in collaboration with National Council of Science Museums, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India has established an Innovation Hub at the Regional Science Centre, Chiraundi, Morabadi, Ranchi. For the effective implementation and operation of the Innovation Hub, JCSTI invites applications for the contractual engagement of **01 (One) Chief Mentor and 01 (One) Junior Mentor**, who are passionate about science, technology, and mentoring young innovators. The related details of are as follows:

1. Details of the Position: The following shall be the positions to be filled on contractual basis under this Advertisement-

S. No.	Position	Category	Maximum Age Limit (As on 1st August 2026)	Monthly Honorarium	Duration of Contract
1.	Chief Mentor	Unreserved	40 Years	Rs. 42,000	3 Years
2.	Junior Mentor	Unreserved	35 Years	Rs. 37,000	3 Years

2. Mode of Application Submission: Interested candidates may download the advertisement from JCSTI Website https://jcsti.jharkhand.gov.in. Candidates shall submit their application through the application form link : https://forms.gle/2kVuA9SycKLXkMpw7

3. Important Dates: The key dates for the process of hiring against the positions are as mentioned below:

a. Start Date for Submission of Applications: **10/08/2026**
b. Last Date for Submission of Applications: **25/08/2026**
c. Publication of Shortlisted Candidates on the JCSTI Website: **26/08/2026**
d. Personal Interview: **27/08/2026**
e. Publication of Final Result: **29/08/2026**

4. Eligibility Criteria: The post-wise eligibility criteria are as follows:

S. No.	Position	Eligibility Criteria
1.	Chief Mentor	a) **Minimum Qualifications:** The Candidate must have bachelor's degree in engineering / master's degree in science from any recognized University or Institute. b) **Minimum Work Experience:** The candidate must have minimum 03 (Three) years of full-time work experience.
2.	Junior Mentor	a) **Minimum Qualifications:** The Candidate must have bachelor's degree in engineering / master's degree in science from any recognized University or Institute. b) **Minimum Work Experience:** The candidate must have minimum 01 (One) year of full-time work experience.

For detailed eligibility criteria, applicants may refer to the advertisement uploaded on the official JCSTI website: https://jcsti.jharkhand.gov.in.

Sd./- (Dr. Raj Shekhar Prasad)
Executive Director, JCSTI

PR.NO.387147 Higher Education,Technical Education and Skill Development Department(26-27):D

SBI

State Bank of India
Central Recruitment & Promotion Department
Corporate Centre, Mumbai
Phone: 022-22820427

Scan QR to Apply

RECRUITMENT OF JUNIOR ASSOCIATES (CUSTOMER SUPPORT & SALES) IN CLERICAL CADRE IN STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI)

SPECIAL RECRUITMENT DRIVE FOR SC/ST/OBC BACKLOG VACANCIES

Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for appointment as Junior Associates (Customer Support & Sales) in State Bank of India on regular basis.

NUMBER OF VACANCIES: 1538

Eligibility criteria (age, qualification, etc.), requisite fees and other details, along with the link for online submission of applications and online payment of fee, are available on Bank's website **https://sbi.bank.in/web/careers/current-openings** under Advertisement no. **CRPD/CR/SPLDRIVE/2026-27/16**. Candidates are advised to go through the detailed advertisement and ensure their eligibility and other details before applying and remitting fees.

- **DATE FOR FILING ONLINE APPLICATION & PAYMENT OF FEES: 07.08.2026 TO 27.08.2026.**

For any query, please write to us through link **"CONTACT US" → "Post Your Query"** which is available on Bank's website **https://sbi.bank.in/web/careers/current-openings**

Place: Mumbai
Date: 07.08.2026 **General Manager (RP&PM)**

Dnyandeep Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Khed (Ratnagiri)'s

DNYANDEEP LAW COLLEGE

At/Post-Morvande-Boraj, Tal. - Khed, Dist. Ratnagiri 415709.

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27.

UN-AIDED

Sr. No.	Cadre	Subject	Total No. of Posts	Post Reserved for
1.	Principal		01	01-OPEN
2.	Assistant Professor	Law	04	01-SC/ST, 01-DT(A), 01-OBC, 01 - OPEN **(Horizontal Reservation -Women-01 Post)**
3.	Librarian		01	01-SC

The posts for the reserved category candidates will be filled in by the same category candidates (Domicile of State of Maharashtra) belonging to that particular category only.

Reservation for women will be as per **University Circular No. BCC/16/74/1998 dated 10th March, 1998. 4% reservation shall be for the persons with disability as per University Circular No. Special Cell/ICC/2019-20/05 dated 05th July, 2019.**

Candidates having knowledge of Marathi will be preferred.

"Qualification, Pay Scales and other requirement are as prescribed by the UGC Notification dated 18th July, 2018, Government of Maharashtra Resolution No. Misc-2018/C.R.56/18/UNI-1, dated 8th March, 2019 and University circular No. TAAS/(CT)/ICD/2018-19/1241, dated 26th March, 2019 and revised from time to time" The Government Resolution & Circular are available on the website mu.ac.in

Applicants who are already employed must send their application through proper channel. Applicants are required to account for breaks, if any in their academic career.

Applications with full details should reach to the CHAIRMAN, Dnyandeep Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Khed (Ratnagiri)'s, DNYANDEEP LAW COLLEGE, At/Post Morvande - Boraj, Tal. Khed, Dist. - Ratnagiri 415709 within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. This is University approved advertisement.

Sd/-
CHAIRMAN

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

Wedding Party

THE WEDDING reception of NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule's daughter Revati Sule in the Capital brought together senior leaders cutting across party lines on Monday evening. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi and MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were among the guests at the reception at Sule's 6, Janpath residence. The function comes at a time when the NCP(SP) has denied any talks about joining the NDA even as there's growing curiosity in the corridors of Parliament about which alliance the NCP (SP) leadership will side with in the coming days.

Cat Connect

SINGAPORE HIGH Commissioner to India Simon Wong, who has spent two terms in New Delhi, has adopted a stray kitten which now goes by the name of Kopi, the traditional local coffee of Singapore. Kopi — a dark brown cat with blue eyes — was found abandoned on the lawns of the High Commission this week. Earlier, Moldovan Ambassador Ana Taban had also adopted an Indian cat, called Billi, who now lives with her in Europe.

PARLIAMENT ALSO PASSES BANKERS' BOOKS EVIDENCE BILL, 2026

House clears taxation Bill; no UPI payment charge for consumers: FM

Terms Communists 'total cowards' after Brittas walks out

Divya A
New Delhi, August 10

WITH PARLIAMENT logjam continuing Monday as Opposition raised the issue of alleged Ram temple donation theft and demanded Home Minister Amit Shah's reply on police action on protesters, the Rajya Sabha passed by a voice vote and returned the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 while Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made it clear that UPI transactions will remain free for consumers.

The Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026, which aims to admit electronic and digital banking records as evidence in legal proceedings, was also passed by the Rajya Sabha.

The taxation Bill, a Money Bill, was passed by the Lok Sabha last week.

Replying to the discussion on the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, Sitharaman said, "The enabling provision that we are bringing in today does not impose any tax or transaction charge on UPI users." She also said consumers and small merchants will not have to pay Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges on UPI transactions. The MDR framework is yet to be finalised, she added.

Clarifying the position on smaller businesses, which was raised by several MPs, including AAP's Sanjay Singh, the Finance Minister said, "We are not going to impose any MDR on them. We don't intend to." She underlined that consumers will continue to make UPI payments without paying any transaction charge.

The brief discussion on the Bill, however, led to a heated exchange after CPI(M) MP John Brittas alleged that the government decided to charge fees on UPI payments due to pressure from the US, and that it was against PM Narendra Modi's assertion that "India's digital payment ecosystem had been developed as a free public good".

But after Brittas walked out of the House without listening to her reply while moving a resolution to disapprove of the Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, promulgated on June 5, 2026, Sitharaman took exception to it and termed communists in India as "total cowards". She also accused Brittas of spreading confusion over UPI payment fee.

"John Brittas can please stay here, if he wants to hear one line. Typical Communist style, blast everybody with 'not facts', twist the facts and do something and also demand my right 'I have to speak'... and when actually the replies are to be given to them, point-by-point, they don't have the courage. Cowards!" Sitharaman said.

"Communists in this country are total cowards; the member (John Brittas) has proven that. They can't face facts, but they will go on filibustering, making noise," she added.

Earlier, while moving his resolution, Brittas said the Finance Minister has "facilitated promulgation of the ordinance and subsequently brought this Bill thinking that foreign capital would come to this country". She is relying more on the promises of the foreign countries, he said, adding, "The current Bill goes against the principle of India."

The Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026, passed by a voice vote in Rajya Sabha, seeks to repeal and replace the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891, and update the law governing the use of bankers' books and records in courts in line with the present-day banking system. It was passed by LS on August 5.

A key change proposed in the Bill is the explicit recognition of electronic or digital records of bankers' books as admissible, valid and legally enforceable evidence, subject to specified safeguards.

Earlier in the day, when Sitharaman moved the Bill for discussion, the Opposition raised the issues of alleged temple donation theft and the use of pellet guns on protesters during the July 20 march to Parliament, but the Chair maintained that members should speak only on the Bill. The Opposition subsequently walked out. "It is such a sad state that the Opposition chooses to walk out on such debates," Sitharaman said. The Rajya Sabha was adjourned twice before 2 pm amid Opposition sloganeering.

Opposition MPs Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Akhilesh Yadav, Jaya Bachchan and others protest outside Parliament on Monday. ANI

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

Amid din, LS passes Bill to set up panel to select chiefs and members of tribunals

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 10

THE TRIBUNALS Reforms Bill, 2026, which provides for the setting up of a National Tribunals Commission to select chairpersons and members for various tribunals was passed by the Lok Sabha on Monday by a voice vote amid din as Opposition demanded a discussion on alleged Ram temple donation theft and a reply from Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the police crackdown on protesters during the July 20 march to Parliament.

The Bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha amid sloganeering from Opposition members, provides for the setting up of a commission to conduct the selection for chairpersons and members of the tribunals, including Central Administrative Tribunal, Armed Forces Tribunal, National Green Tribunal, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal and National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.

The government had started the process of rationalisation of tribunals in 2015 and to that effect, Parliament passed the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021. Certain provisions of the 2021 Act were struck down by the Supreme Court, after which the government brought the 2026 Bill to replace the 2021 Act, Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal noted in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill.

"The purpose of Tribunals is not to become an alternative to courts, but to strengthen the justice system as a specialised, efficient and effective complementary institution, so that the objective of justice delivery can be achieved," Meghwal said.

Three other proposed legislations: The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 and the National Cooperative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 were introduced in the Lok Sabha during the day.

When the House resumed proceedings at 2 pm, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju informed the House that Union Home Minister Amit Shah was ready to give a detailed reply on the action taken by security personnel on protesters on July 20 and that the government was ready for a detailed discussion on the issue.

BJP MP Jagdambika Pal, who was in the chair, sought to reiterate that Shah was ready to reply and that Rijiju had assured the House on this.

This was after Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, chairing a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, is learnt to have appealed to the floor leaders of all parties to let the House function.

Shah reply on police action, PM's apology, temple theft debate: Rahul on Opp demand

Asad Rehman
New Delhi, August 10

WITH UNION Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju reiterating Monday that the government is ready for a discussion in Parliament on police action on protesters on July 20 and that Union Home Minister Amit Shah is ready to reply, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi demanded that Shah should first answer "who ordered the firing on students" and said that the people are not interested in Shah's "fantasy conversations".

Gandhi also said that students should see that neither Shah nor Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "the courage to comment on what happened to the students in Delhi on July 20".

Soon after the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting of the Lok Sabha, Rijiju said, "We have made it clear to the BAC of the Lok Sabha that the government is ready for a full-fledged discussion on the student and youth agitations that have been going on in different parts of the country as well as police action. The Home Minister will give point-by-point reply to the debate on behalf of the government," he said.

The Opposition, however, he said, has to assure they will take part in the debate peacefully without creating disruptions, and will not run away after creating turmoil and sloganeering by citing some excuses.

On Monday evening, addressing a press conference at Indira Bhavan, Rahul Gandhi said, "The question was never that Amit Shah is going to come and give a speech on some general topics in Parliament. The question was always that Amit Shah has to make it clear who authorised the shooting of our youngsters in Delhi. He is the home minister, pellet guns were fired, students beaten with lathis (fitted) with nails. The question was Amit Shah should come clean — did he order it (the firing) or not? If he did order it, he is guilty of getting our children shot at. And if he didn't know about it happening, he is incompetent. Either way he should go. This was the discussion."

He said there were two other conditions of the Opposition — an apology from PM Modi and a discussion on the alleged donation theft at Ram temple in Ayodhya.

"We want to know who is responsible and culpable. Second, the PM should apologise for what had happened. And third, the issue of Ram temple theft... Now Amit Shah is suddenly saying that he is ready to speak, we are not interested in his fantasy conversations. We are interested in whether he authorised or not the firing on our children. He should make that abundantly clear. After that, the question of any other discussion arises. That is what the Opposition has demanded for 15 days and we continue to demand," said Gandhi, who was addressing reporters along with Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge.

"For 15 days, neither of them (Modi and Shah) has had the courage to come to the House, neither has had the guts to own up to what they have done. I am saying courage and stressing on it. That is for our students to see and understand. That neither of them think what had been done to you in Delhi, the brutality is worth commenting on. This is what the real issue is," said Gandhi.

"We and the country have no interest in what he (Shah) thinks. We want to know who ordered the firing. We want to know whether it is culpability or incompetence... He doesn't have the guts to stand in front of us. The PM also doesn't," said Gandhi.

On police's use of water cannons, tear gas and a lathi-charge on job aspirants protesting in Ranchi against alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations in ally JMM-ruled Jharkhand, Gandhi said, "My message is clear for Jharkhand students. We condemn any violence against peacefully protesting students. Doesn't matter where it is happening. We have no confusion. We are against violence on any peaceful protest."

Leaders of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge at Indira Bhawan in New Delhi on Monday. AMIT MEHRA

Find solutions to speed up work on Eklavya schools: House panel to Centre

Nikhil Ghanekar
New Delhi, August 10

THE PARLIAMENTARY Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment has yet again flagged delay in the construction and operationalisation of residential schools for ST students under the flagship Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) scheme.

In a report tabled in both Houses Monday, the panel expressed its dissatisfaction that 118 schools under the scheme continued to function from government and rented buildings. As per the latest report, only 428 of 728 sanctioned schools under the scheme have been completed until April-end, while construction is underway at 249 locations. Fifty one schools remain at pre-construction stage.

The panel also flagged concerns regarding the escalation of costs in construction due to delay, which necessitates an increase in budget allocation to National Education Society for Tribal Students, which manages schools under EMRS. The panel recommended that Tribal Affairs Ministry find an "alternative solution" to remedy the delay and suggested setting up an independent agency to monitor the progress.

'Disheartened' with govt reply, House panel seeks measures to fix delay in scholarship disbursal

Nikhil Ghanekar
New Delhi, August 10

THE PARLIAMENTARY standing committee on Social Justice and Empowerment has sought strict measures to ensure timely completion of scholarship disbursal to students.

The House panel also reiterated that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) should consider revising the Rs 8 lakh annual income ceiling for availing its free coaching scheme for students from Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes.

A report on the recommendations of the panel was tabled in both Houses of Parliament on Monday. The report is based on the actions taken by the ministry on the panel's suggestions made in March 2026 on the Demands for Grants (2026-27) of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. The House panel on Social Justice and Empowerment is chaired by BJP MP from Karnataka P C Mohan.

Of the 25 recommendations, the government accepted 14 of them. The panel dismissed the government's response on four issues and reiterated its recommendations on them. These pertained to delay in disbursal of scholarships, utilisation of the budget for free coaching scheme, revising family income ceiling for the free coaching scheme and setting up of special police stations under the Prevention of Atrocities Act.

On the issue of delay in disbursal of different scholarships, the panel had noted in its March report that the funds were released in the next academic year as States and UTs were unable to complete the formalities of processing applications. In reply, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment attributed the delay to the time taken at the level of some states to finalise verification process. "This leads to delays in processing and disbursement of central share," the department said, the panel noted.

The committee said the department has time and again given this routine reply that the national scholarship portal opens in June for inviting applications and some states take additional time. "The committee (members) are disheartened with the reply as they had expected the Department to find some solution to the persisting problem, but the students have again been left at the mercy of the States," the panel said in the report.

Dy EC Gyanesh Bharti repatriated to parent cadre, appointed A&N Islands Chief Secy

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 10

THE MINISTRY of Home Affairs Monday appointed 1998 batch AGMUT cadre IAS officer Gyanesh Bharti, who was serving as Deputy Election Commissioner in the Election Commission of India, as Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, hours after the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved his repatriation to his cadre.

The move comes less than a year after Bharti was appointed as DEC.

Bharti was repatriated to his parent cadre "on the request of Ministry of Home Affairs with imposition of extended 'cooling off'", the ACC order said.

Bharti was appointed as DEC on August 25, 2025, with his tenure supposed to be till June 18, 2028. Prior to being appointed DEC, he was posted as Additional Secretary in the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development from June 2024 to August 2025, before which he was Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi from 2022 to 2024.

In the EC, Bharti had been the DEC in-charge of West Bengal during the Assembly elections earlier this year.

Bharti is the third DEC to be transferred out from the EC in the past year after serving about one year or less. Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer of 2002 batch Ajeet Kumar served as DEC from August 2024 to September 2025. AGMUT cadre IAS officer of 2000 batch Madhup Vyas served as DEC in the EC from March 2025 to September 2025.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has also approved the "premature repatriation" of senior IAS officer Chandrasekar S, currently serving as Vice President C P Radhakrishnan's private secretary, to his parent cadre Kerala, according to an order issued by the personnel ministry Monday night. WITH PTI

● EXPERTS SAY BILL SAME AS THE ONE REJECTED IN 2022 AND 2023, WITH COSMETIC CHANGES

'No suggestion accepted': Bill to overhaul drugs law draws pharma sector flak

Anonna Dutt
New Delhi, August 10

A BILL to overhaul the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, currently being circulated to stakeholder ministries, is facing fierce opposition from the country's nascent medical device sector.

Multiple pharmaceutical and medical device associations complained that no stakeholder consultation was undertaken during the drafting process. In fact, they maintained it was the same Bill that was circulated in 2022 and 2023, with cosmetic changes.

The Association of Indian Medical Device Industry has written a letter to Union Health Minister J P Nadda flagging the issues with the Bill. "(The Bill)... in its present form, does not provide the regulatory foundation required for India's medical devices sector to grow, innovate and compete globally... The draft continues to treat medical devices as an adjunct to pharmaceuticals, despite clear scientific, engineering and regulatory distinctions between the two categories," said the letter.

The Association has opposed use of pharmaceutical-related terms such as "spurious" or "misbranded" for the devices; criminalisation of smaller issues such as labelling errors, documentation lapses or engineering defects that cause no harm; no separate regulatory body with engineers to regulate the medical devices. The organisation, in its letter, states that the draft omits device-specific concepts such as biocompatibility, usability engineering and software lifecycle safety among others — something that puts India behind global regulators when it comes to medical devices.

The Association has also opposed the expanded "police style powers" for the inspectors. In addition to the powers granted by the current Act, the new Bill allows "with prior approval... direct the immediate cessation of the specified activity for a period until satisfactory compliance" and "arrest any person, if Drugs Inspector has reason to believe that such person has committed, is committing, or is about to commit an offence related to adulterated or spurious drugs". A copy of the Bill has been viewed by *The Indian Express*.

E. EXPLAINED

Criminalising technical lapses

The industry body said the new Bill criminalises administrative and technical lapses, which is internationally unprecedented. This is in direct contrast to the Jan Vishwas Bill, which has decriminalised many minor lapses included in current Bill to encourage industries & ensure ease of doing business.

'No consultation'

Pharmaceutical and medical device associations have alleged that there was no consultation with the industry while formulating the Bill, which would affect one of the key industries.

"This Bill is almost the same as the one the government tried to bring to Parliament in 2022 and 2023, but the process was halted after opposition from the industry. It has been revived without any of changes that the industry had requested," said a medical device industry expert, on condition of anonymity.

According to the expert, the Bill was sent for inter-ministerial consultation. "The ministry said there were consultations held in 2022-23 and thousands of comments had been received from stakeholders, which had been reviewed. But reviewing the changes makes no difference if none of them are accepted. We had sent more than 30 suggestions and not one has been accepted in the new draft. They have also said that stakeholder consultations were carried out. Then, they should be able to show any minutes of meeting where our concerns were recorded and then incorporated in the Bill?"

An expert from the pharma industry said the last consultation on the Bill happened in 2022-23 and the draft mostly remains unchanged since then.

The Association, in its letter to Nadda, asked for the constitution of a new committee with engineering experts, clinicians, biomedical specialists, industry representatives and patient safety groups — "separate from the drug regulator drafting group". "At present, by drafting the Bill, the drug regulator is granting itself extraordinary powers," said the first expert. The body has asked for structured stakeholder consultation before the Bill's finalisation.

More powers

The industry body has said that the new Bill criminalises administrative and technical lapses, which is internationally unprecedented. This is in direct contrast to the government's Jan Vishwas Bill, which has decriminalised many minor lapses included in current Bill, in order to encourage the industry and ensure ease of doing business.

"I am happier with the current law than this draft. Criminalising such minor offences will only lead to more corruption instead of actually improving the quality of products," said another industry expert.

For example, the Bill criminalises misleading or wrong information with imprisonment of two years. This would also cover unintentional, minor errors such as clerical mistakes, errors in software-generated data, or mistakes in reporting the post-marketing surveillance data.

The Bill also criminalises misbranding, which in the case of devices could mean a wrong font size, incorrect symbol, and software version mismatch.

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

Tamil Nadu CM C Joseph Vijay speaks in the Assembly on Monday. ANI

Amid Vande Mataram row, Vijay makes Tamil anthem mandatory at official events in TN

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, August 10

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday moved a resolution in the State Assembly mandating that 'Tamil Thaai Vazhthu' - the invocation to Mother Tamil -- be rendered at the beginning of official functions, reaffirming a practice dating to 1970 amid a fresh dispute over the ceremonial order of songs at government events.

"Tamil is our emotion and identity," Vijay told the Assembly, arguing that the state could not sacrifice its pride or disregard its own language. "Our mother tongue is as pure as our mother," he said, describing Tamil as not merely a language but "a culture," "a thought" and "a love."

Under the resolution, Tamil Thaai Vazhthu is to come first at programmes conducted by government offices, educational institutions, universities, public-sector undertakings and other public institutions.

The immediate dispute arose after the Union Home Ministry asked states and union territories to strictly comply with a January directive requiring Vande Mataram, the national song, to be played before the national anthem at formal official events.

The tension became visible at a recent convocation at Manonmaniam Sundaranar University - an institution named, with some historical irony, after the very scholar who wrote 'Tamil Thaai Vazhthu'. At the ceremony, the Tamil invocation was placed third, after Vande Mataram and the National Anthem, drawing criticism across Tamil Nadu's political spectrum.

The state government subsequently said the episode would not be repeated. Yet, Vijay is defending an arrangement older than his government.

The song comes from the prologue to Manonmaniam, written by Manonmaniam Sundaranar in 1891. On November 23, 1970, the DMK government issued an order requiring the invocation to be sung at the beginning of government and other specified public functions. But custom and law were not always identical. That distinction produced a controversy in 2018 when Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam pontiff Vijayendra Saraswathi remained seated during the song at an event in Chennai.

Three years later, while quashing the resulting criminal case after the parties reached a settlement, Justice G R Swaminathan of the Madras High Court's Madurai Bench held that no statutory or executive requirement then compelled people to stand during its rendition.

On December 12, 2021, it formally recognised 'Tamil Thaai Vazhthu' as Tamil Nadu's state song and made standing during its rendition compulsory, with an exemption for differently abled persons. Vijay's resolution, therefore, adds another political and legislative affirmation to this.

The dispute is characteristically Tamil Nadu in one respect. Language here has rarely remained simply a means of communication. From the anti-Hindi agitations to recurring arguments over federalism and state autonomy, Tamil has functioned simultaneously as language, cultural memory and political claim.

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

'Akhilesh uncle, not bhaiyya': Akash Anand begins BSP's Gen Z outreach

Lalmani Verma
Lucknow, August 10

BAHUJAN SAMAJ Party (BSP) national convenor Akash Anand on Monday targeted the Yogi Adityanath government over education, unemployment and law and order, as he sought to reach out to young voters ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

Addressing a public meeting in Sadabad Assembly constituency in Hathras district, the BSP's first major rally ahead of the polls, Anand said the younger generation should carefully choose leaders and political parties that would "fight for their future". Anand sought to connect with young voters by referring to the recent protests in Delhi over paper leaks and education-related issues. "I belong to the same generation which staged a protest in Delhi recently on the issue of paper leaks," said the 30-year-old.

"The minister resigned. But in his replacement, you got a person who had remarked that there was nothing wrong when rapists of women were released," Anand said. He said protests were important but argued that they needed to be followed by political action. "*Dialogue-baazi* does not change the government. The government does not bow down to dialogue. Policies, processes and the NEET paper did not change. Your future is still the same," he said.

Describing his address as "*behenji ka sandesh* (Mayawati's message)", he said, "Staging protests is good, but taking appropriate action is equally important. The appropriate action is choosing the right leader and political party that fights for your future." In an apparent attempt to position himself as a younger alternative to Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Anand referred to both as "uncle", pointing out that he was 30 years old while the two leaders were above 50.

When suggested that he address Akhilesh as "*bhaiyya*", Anand responded: "He is Akhilesh uncle, not Akhilesh *bhaiyya*." Anand also attacked the previous Akhilesh-led SP government, alleging that several riots took place during its tenure and that districts named after social reformers and icons were renamed.

He announced Avin Sharma as the BSP candidate from Sadabad and appealed to voters to support him and pave the way for Mayawati to become Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister again.

Taking aim at the BJP government, Anand claimed that more than Rs 7,000 crore had been spent on advertisements in Uttar Pradesh over the past 10 years to "cover up its failures". "But they don't have funds to fill four lakh government job vacancies, appoint teachers and run schools," he said, urging voters to seek a "*10 saal ka hisaab* (accountability for 10 years)" from the BJP.

CM orders probe into TMC worker's death in custody

Atri Mitra
Kolkata, August 10

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Monday admitted that TMC worker Birju Keot died in police custody and that the police cannot shirk from its responsibility. He also ordered a magisterial probe into the death and announced disciplinary action against the inspector in-charge of Halisahar by shunting him to the police lines.

Adhikari, accompanied by minister Arjun Singh, DGP Siddh Nath Gupta, and local BJP leaders, met the family of the deceased and announced Rs 10 lakh compensation and a job for his wife.

Adhikari's visit comes a day after former CM and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee met a hostile crowd when she was on her way to visit the family of Keot. The crowd surrounded the TMC chief's car, shouting "*chor* (thief)" and "*dakat rani* (dacoit queen)", and hurled mud and slippers.

"The person died in police custody and police cannot shirk from its responsibility. A magisterial probe has been ordered in accordance with protocol. The exact circumstance ... its cause will be clear only after the probe. Till then, we are announcing disciplinary action against the officers concerned. We are closing IC, Halisahar to the police lines and suspending the IO of this case," Adhikari said.

He announced that considering the family's financial circumstances, the victim's wife would be given a job as an attendant in the CM's Office and financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh would be provided.

"I want to thank the victim's family for having confidence in the state administration. They have full faith in the police top brass, but they have levelled many allegations against Halisahar police personnel. The deceased's wife will receive a salary of Rs 15,000 per month for a year following which she will be absorbed in a Group D position. She has agreed to this arrangement," Adhikari said.

He also sought to contrast his visit to Keot's family with Banerjee's record as chief minister, alleging that 315 BJP workers were killed during her 15-year rule.

"In Bengal's politics, there have been numerous instances of police firing, political clashes, bomb attacks, gun violence, and killings in police or political custody. However, during the tenures of Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee and Mamata Banerjee, you will not find an example of a chief minister visiting the home of someone with opposing political views," the CM asserted.

Terming Banerjee's visit as "political", Adhikari said, "I can't give her advice as I am younger than her. I would request her that if she wants to go anywhere, let the administration know your schedule so that they can arrange proper security."

Hitting out at her, Adhikari said, "No stones were thrown at her. It was a spontaneous outburst of public anger directed at her because of the thefts her party was involved in. Did she inform the director of security or the CP? For a VIP visit, personnel have to be mobilised. It takes time."

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari leads the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' rally with other BJP leaders in Kolkata on Monday. PARTHA PAUL

EXPRESS special

Report recommends ending Bihar's liquor ban; why BJP will find it hard

Santosh Singh
Patna, August 10

A RECENT study by a leading research think tank, recommending revocation of liquor prohibition in Bihar while citing huge revenue losses and inability in curbing crimes against women, has sparked off conversation in the political circles in Patna on the impact of the decade-old ban and whether it should be revisited or not.

While it has given Opposition RJD the chance to accuse the BJP of not being able to implement prohibition properly, NDA allies called for stricter implementation of the ban. At least one JD (U) leader, though, seemed to be in favour of reversing the prohibition.

While the ruling party, according to a source, is cognizant of the revenue that opening up liquor sales would bring in, it is mindful of possible offence that tweaking the policy could cause to former Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. For now, the ruling party will take its time before reviewing the policy, the source said.

In April, Bihar marked a decade of complete prohibition on liquor in the state.

A research paper by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), presented at the India Policy Forum last week, recommended that the state government lift the total liquor ban. Key findings showed that the prohibition has failed to curb crime against women – the core objective former CM Kumar had when he imposed the ban in April 2016.

RJD national spokesperson Subodh Kumar Mehta said the study shows "the utter failure" of the state government. "All political parties had unanimously implemented the liquor ban in the state. We are still in favour of the ban. The study shows the utter failure of the government. It is not only about annual revenue loss, but the creation of a parallel black liquor economy. Reports like this suggest that the state government may try to find a way out of the liquor ban, partially or fully, in due course," he told *The Indian Express*.

While the JD (U)'s official stance favours prohibition, party MP from Sitamarhi Devesh Chandra Thakur called for a review. "Liquor ban has not succeeded anywhere," said the JD (U) leader.

Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief and Union Minister Chirag Paswan said: "It is true that we have to find ways to boost revenue, but it does not mean that we should lift the liquor ban."

Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) chief and Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi said: "Bihar should follow the Gujarat model of stricter implementation of prohibition." Earlier, Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary had made it clear that the state government would not revisit its liquor policy.

Regardless of official party lines, serious discussions are underway within the ruling alliance around the ban, sources said. "There has been a drastic increase in the use of alternative intoxicants alongside the creation of a parallel liquor economy. Plus, the hospitality industry can only thrive in Bihar if we open up liquor sales, even partially," said a BJP source.

"But one thing is for sure, the state government will still take its time to revisit its liquor policy. Any tweak in the policy could offend former CM Kumar. A prohibition rollback is a decision in slow progress," a BJP source said.

Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary; (right) former CM Nitish Kumar

E. EXPLAINED

Buying time

Ever since Samrat Choudhary took over as CM, there has been speculation around rollback of liquor ban. The idea is to boost revenue and take on illegal liquor trade. But what is holding the govt back is the principled stand of former CM Nitish Kumar on prohibition. Samrat-led NDA govt may well be just buying time to reverse the policy.

Days after being named Higher Education Secy, Gangwar replaced

Ministry of Corporate Affairs Secretary Deepti Gaur Mukerjee picked for the post

Harikishan Sharma
New Delhi, August 10

MODIFYING ITS earlier order, the government on Monday appointed Deepti Gaur Mukerjee as the new Higher Education Secretary in place of Naresh Pal Gangwar.

In an order, the Department of Personnel and Training said that "In partial modification of earlier order" issued on July 23, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Deepti Gaur Mukerjee, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, as Secretary, Department of Higher Education.

She succeeds Vineet Joshi, who has been appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Prior to the order, Mukerjee, a 1993-batch IAS officer from the Madhya Pradesh cadre, was serving as the Corporate Affairs Secretary.

It was on July 23 that the government appointed Gangwar as the new Higher Education Secretary following Joshi's transfer. The move came in view of the students' protests in Jantar Mantar over the NEET paper leaks.

However, Joshi continued to hold the office until date, leaving Gangwar unable to take up his new assignment. The former was supposed to take over as the new Panchayati Raj Secretary after the incumbent Vivek Bharadwaj superannuated on July 31. But he did not. As Joshi remained in his role as Higher Education Secretary, Gangwar continued in his, as the Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Gangwar is a 1994-batch AIS officer from the Rajasthan cadre. His family earlier received Rs 1.16 crore subsidy for their cucumber farm under a Central scheme.

In another batch of transfers, the ACC appointed V K Kantha Rao, a 1992-batch IAS officer from the Madhya Pradesh cadre, as OSD, Department of Official Language, MHA, in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India.

He will join his new assignment after Ansuli Arya, who superannates on September 30, 2026. Roa is presently the Secretary of the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Archana Varma, a 1995-batch IAS officer from Assam-Meghalaya cadre, who was earlier appointed as the OSD in the Department of Official Language, will now succeed Rao as new Water Resources Secretary.

Meanwhile, Youth Affairs Secretary Pallavi Jain Govil has been appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, and Sushil Kumar Lohani, a 1995-batch IAS officer of Odisha cadre, has been appointed as Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India.

Saini rules out alliance with SAD, says BJP's tie-up is with people of Punjab

Express News Service
Chandigarh, August 10

RULING OUT a poll alliance with the SAD, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini Monday said "the BJP's alliance is with the people of Punjab".

Saini's statement comes amid speculation over a possible SAD-BJP alliance, following SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Friday.

He was addressing media after releasing monthly assistance to beneficiaries in Haryana under various schemes, was asked to comment on the meeting between the PM and the SAD chief last week and the possibility of an alliance between the two parties.

In response, Saini replied in Punjabi, "No, there is no such thing." Saini said the PM is the voice of 140 crore people. "If anyone wants to meet him, his doors are open; anyone can meet. Political parties keep meeting him pertaining to various issues."

He added, "BJP's alliance is with the people of Punjab. And I say this with great confidence because I meet people there. In Punjab, the BJP is forming its government."

Held for remarks against women protesters, Mohandas gets bail

Shaju Philip
Thiruvananthapuram, August 10

A POLITICAL commentator, who was arrested on Sunday night for the derogatory comments he made against Jantar Mantar protesters, including women, last month, was granted bail by a magistrate court in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday.

Earlier in the day, cyber police in the city recorded the arrest of T G Mohandas, who was taken into custody from Kochi on Sunday. Police had sought his custody but it was rejected by the court.

The right wing commentator was booked under sections 192 (provocation for causing rioting), 79 (insulting modesty of women), and 353 (1) (circulating false statements to cause public mischief) of the BNS.

Right wing political commentator T G Mohandas

In the past, Mohandas had served as the convener of the intellectual cell of the BJP in Kerala. BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Monday said if there is anything wrong with the statements attributed to Mohandas, the party completely disagrees with it.

However, he questioned the timing of the arrest, "The BJP views the drama, including the midnight arrest, as an act of political vendetta and an attempt to divert public attention when the Congress government (in Kerala) is on the defensive on many issues."

Referring to the youth protest in Delhi, Mohandas, in a video uploaded on July 26, said that if tasked with handling the protest, he would have imposed a curfew in the Jantar Mantar area. He allegedly also made derogatory remarks against women protesters.

The cyber police had registered an FIR against Mohandas on July 29, it was only on August 9 that the police took steps to arrest him. Opposition CPI(M) raised the allegation that the state's Congress government was soft-pedalling on the case against him.

FORM NO. CAA. 2
[PURSUANT TO SECTION 230(3) AND RULE 6 AND 7 OF COMPANIES (COMPROMISES, ARRANGEMENTS AND AMALGAMATIONS) RULES, 2016]
NOTICE AND ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS AND UNSECURED CREDITORS OF
SIEMENS GAMESA RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED
(APPLICANT COMPANY NO.1/TRANSFEROR COMPANY 1)
AND
EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS AND UNSECURED CREDITORS OF
SIEMENS GAMESA RENEWABLE POWER PRIVATE LIMITED
(APPLICANT COMPANY NO.2/ TRANSFEREE COMPANY)
AND
BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, CHENNAI BENCH – I
IN THE MATTER OF COMPOSITE SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT AND AMALGAMATION AMONGST
SIEMENS GAMESA RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED
(APPLICANT COMPANY NO. 1 / TRANSFEROR COMPANY 1)
AND
SIEMENS ENERGY INDUSTRIAL TURBOMACHINERY INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
(NON-APPLICANT COMPANY / TRANSFEROR COMPANY 2)
AND
SIEMENS GAMESA RENEWABLE POWER PRIVATE LIMITED
(APPLICANT COMPANY NO. 2 / TRANSFEREE COMPANY)
AND
THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS AND CREDITORS.
COMPANY APPLICATION NO CA(CAA)/57/CHE/2026
CONNECTED WITH
INTERLOCUTORY APPLICATION NO.197/CHE/2026

SIEMENS GAMESA RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED
(CIN:U40108TN2007PTC086929)
A Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956,
Having its registered office at Block 10, WeWork DLF Cybercity
No. 1/1, 24 Shivaji Gardens, Mount Poonamallee, Ramapuram,
Kanchipuram, Saidapet, Tamil Nadu, India, 600089
Represented by Mr. Jaimohan Nair, Authorized Signatory
... Applicant Company No.1 / Transferor Company 1

SIEMENS GAMESA RENEWABLE POWER PRIVATE LIMITED
(CIN: U74991TN2006PTC079179)
A Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956,
Having its registered office at Block 10, WeWork DLF Cybercity
No. 1/1, 24 Shivaji Gardens, Mount Poonamallee, Ramapuram,
Kanchipuram, Saidapet, Tamil Nadu - 600089, India.
Represented by Mr. Jaimohan Nair, Authorized Signatory
... Applicant Company No.2/ Transferee Company

Notice is hereby given that by an order dated 06th July, 2026, read with the subsequent Order dated 21st July, 2026 ("**Order**") passed by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai Bench – I ("**Hon'ble Tribunal**" or "**NCLT**") has directed the meeting of the Equity Shareholders and Unsecured Creditors of Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy Projects Private Limited (Applicant Company No.1/ Transferor Company 1) and Siemens Gamesa Renewable Power Private Limited (Applicant Company No.2/ Transferee Company) for the purpose of considering and if thought fit, approving with or without modification, the Composite Scheme of Arrangement and Amalgamation ("**Composite Scheme**") amongst Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy Projects Private Limited (Applicant Company No. 1 / Transferor Company 1) and Siemens Energy Industrial Turbomachinery India Private Limited (Non-Applicant Company / Transferor Company 2) and Siemens Gamesa Renewable Power Private Limited (Applicant Company No. 2 / Transferee Company) and Their Respective Shareholders and Creditors as mentioned above.

In pursuance of the said order and as directed therein, notice is hereby given that Meetings of the Equity Shareholders and Unsecured Creditors of Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy Projects Private Limited (Applicant Company No.1/ Transferor Company 1) and Siemens Gamesa Renewable Power Private Limited (Applicant Company No.2/ Transferee Company) will be held as under:

S. No.	Class of Meeting	Venue of meeting	Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Cut-off Date
1.	Equity Shareholders of the Transferor Company 1	Feather - A Radha Hotel No.4/ 129, Mount Poonamallee Road, Manappakkam, Chennai - 600089	14th September, 2026	10:00 AM	30th April 2026
2.	Unsecured Creditors of the Transferor Company 1	Feather - A Radha Hotel No.4/ 129, Mount Poonamallee Road, Manappakkam, Chennai - 600089	14th September, 2026	11:00 AM	30th April 2026
3.	Equity Shareholders of the Transferee Company	Feather - A Radha Hotel No.4/ 129, Mount Poonamallee Road, Manappakkam, Chennai - 600089	14th September, 2026	2:00 PM	30th April 2026
4.	Unsecured Creditors of the Transferee Company	Feather - A Radha Hotel No.4/ 129, Mount Poonamallee Road, Manappakkam, Chennai - 600089	14th September, 2026	3:00 PM	30th April 2026

The person entitled to attend and vote at the meeting, may vote in person or by proxy or through Authorized Representatives, provided that all the proxies in the prescribed form and necessary authorization letter are deposited at the registered offices mentioned above or the scanned copies of such documents are sent via e-mail to the Transferor Company1 and Transferee Company, not later than 48 (forty eight) hours before the aforesaid meetings. Forms of proxy are also available at the respective registered offices of the Transferor Company1 and Transferee Company. The Equity Shareholders and Unsecured Creditors of Transferor Company 1 and Transferee Company are requested to attend the meeting at the time and venue of meeting mentioned above. Copies of the said Composite Scheme, explanatory statement under Sections 230–232, read with Section 66 And Section 52 of The Companies Act, 2013, also read with Section 102 of the Act and Rule 6 of the CAA Rules, Notice of the meetings, and other related documents are available at the registered office of the Transferor Company1 and Transferee Company free of charge on any working day upto the date of Meetings between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The Hon'ble Tribunal has appointed **Shri. Anil Sharma** as the Chairperson and **Shri. Shree Kumar** as the Scrutinizer for the meeting of Equity Shareholders and Unsecured Creditors of Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy Projects Private Limited and **Shri. Vijender Jain** as the Chairperson and **Shri. V.Sriram Ananth** as the Scrutinizer for the meeting of Equity Shareholders and Unsecured Creditors of Siemens Gamesa Renewable Power Private Limited. The above-mentioned Composite Scheme, if approved in the meeting, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

For and on behalf of Transferor Company 1 and Transferee Company
Sd/-
Mr. Jaimohan Nair
Authorized Signatory/Directorduly authorized by the Board of Directors during the Board meeting of the Transferor Company 1 and Transferee Company held on 22nd May 2026.
Place: Chennai **Date:11.08.2026**

इंडियन पोर्ट रेल एंड रोपवे कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
(एक भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) (भारत सरकार के बंदरगाह, पोत परिवहन एवं जलमार्ग मंत्रालय के अधीन एक कंपनी) SAGARMALA
INDIAN PORT RAIL & ROPEWAY CORPORATION LTD.
(A Company under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India)
CIN No: U60300DL2015PLC282703
(An ISO 9001, 14001, 45001 & 37001 Certified Company)
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
EOI NO. IPRCL/Mumbai/Training Partners/2026 Dated: 11.08.2026
Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Ltd., (A Company under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Domain Experts for Capacity Building Program. Interested parties are requested to see the details on IPRCL website **www.iprcl.in** at TENDER - OFFLINE TENDER.

कॉनकॉर CONCOR
भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(भारत सरकार का नवरत्न उपक्रम) (A Navratna Undertaking of Govt. of India)
NSIC New MDBP Building, 3rd Floor, Okhla Indl. Estate (Opp. NSIC Okhla Metro Station), New Delhi-110020
TENDER NOTICE (E-Tendering Mode only)
Online tenders in **Single Bid system** are invited for **Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 01 No. Pitless Fully Electronic Lorry Weighbridge 80 MT capacity platform size 18 M x 3 M at MMTC PATHRI U.P.** only through e-tendering mode. The tender document can only be downloaded after paying **Rs. 1000/-** through online mode from the website **(www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL)**.

E-Tender No.	CON/A-1/WB/80MT/PATHRI/2026
Name of the Work	E-OPEN TENDER for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 01 No. Pitless Fully Electronic Lorry Weighbridge 80 MT capacity platform size 18 M x 3 M at MMTC PATHRI U.P.
Estimated Value of Contract	Rs.23,37,580/- (inclusive of GST)
Earnest Money Deposit (*)	Rs.46,752/- (through e-payment)
Cost of Tender Document (*)	Rs.1,000/- (inclusive of all taxes & duties) through e-payment
Tender Processing Fee	Rs.1,379/- (inclusive of 18% GST) through e-payment which is non-refundable
Date of Sale (Online Mode)	From 11.08.2026 at 18:00 Hrs. to 31.08.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Last Date & Time of submission of Tender (Online Mode)	31.08.2026 up to 18:00 Hrs. (E-tendering mode only)
Date & Time of Opening of Tender	01.09.2026 at 15:30 Hrs.

* Through e-Payment CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. For complete details logon to **www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL**.
Group General Manager/Technical (Area-1)

Abhishek gets SC nod for 3-week foreign travel for treatment

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, August 10

THE SUPREME Court Monday allowed TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee to travel abroad for three weeks for eye treatment, overruling the Calcutta High Court's refusal, despite West Bengal's apprehension that he may not return amid multiple criminal cases.

A three-judge bench, presided over by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, allowed the Trinamool Congress leader to travel on his diplomatic passport and asked him to provide details of his itinerary to the investigative agency. The bench said Banerjee should name the places where he is likely to visit, the hospitals, the date of return, and details of the return flight.

The bench, also comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, allowed his request that his travel details be kept confidential and not disclosed to the public. On August 5, the Calcutta High Court rejected Banerjee's request to travel, citing the ongoing criminal proceedings against him.

NTA's NEET director said he flagged expert taking pvt classes: CBI probe

Statements of 18 NTA officials among 360 testimonies recorded by investigators

Mahender Singh Manral
New Delhi, August 10

PROBING THE leak of the NEET (UG) paper, the CBI recorded the statement of National Testing Agency Director (NEET) Vishwajeet Kumar on the process followed for selection of experts and preparation of question papers.

Kumar's testimony and that of 17 other NTA officials have been cited in the agency's chargesheet which lists as many as 360 witnesses, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The chargesheet that names 13 accused was filed on July 28 before a Delhi fast-track court.

Kumar is learnt to have told the CBI that all work related to the setting of the NEET-UG question paper had been completed by April 5. The examination was held on May 3 and, following the leak, cancelled on May 12. A re-test was conducted on June 21.

During its investigation, the CBI found that one of the senior Chemistry subject experts had been taking private coaching classes and Kumar had enquired about her.

He is learnt to have told the CBI that she was the most senior Chemistry subject expert associated with the NTA and had a good reputation within the agency. And because she had been providing services for several examinations including NEET, JEE Main and CUET-UG, there was no reason to believe otherwise, he is learnt to have said. Kumar told the CBI that the list of experts, subject experts were selected from a list available with the agency after approval from the Director General, NTA. The list included experts from school education, universities and research institutions.

In his testimony, he is learnt to have said that while selecting experts, the NTA ensured there was no adverse reporting against them and that the quality of questions set by them in previous examinations was of good standard. If any question prepared by an expert was dropped after the answer-key challenge process, the expert would not be considered in the next examination cycle, he told the CBI.

The subject experts, according to Kumar, had submitted certificates of confidentiality declaring absolute secrecy regarding the confidential assignments given to them and the contents of the test items prepared by them.

He also told the CBI that the experts also submitted undertakings stating that none of their near relatives was appearing in the examination and that they were not directly or indirectly associated with coaching institutions.

The CBI has found that three subject experts took exam questions out of the NTA office in Delhi using different methods — one scrawled questions on paper chits before hiding them while two others memorised the questions, returned to their hotel rooms to either write them down or mark the relevant paragraphs in NCERT textbooks.

According to the CBI, they could do this because they were not frisked while exiting the "confidential section", a wing situated on the first floor of the NTA office, which also lacked a dedicated CCTV live feed monitoring control room.

Kumar is learnt to have told the CBI that experts entering the confidential hall were not frisked, but their integrity was ensured by barring them from carrying personal belongings, mobile phones, pens or paper inside. The CBI, it is learnt, asked Kumar under whose orders, and for what reason, frisking had been discontinued. He is said to have replied that he had joined the NTA in February 2026 and had followed the practice that was already in place at the time.

One of the consultants of NEET, Shilpi Sharma, is learnt to have told the CBI that there was no frisking or checking system for subject experts when they entered or exited the confidential section of the NTA.

She is learnt to have said that the guard posted at the entrance was responsible for asking subject experts whether they were carrying any paper, mobile phone, pen drive or other material. Such items were required to be kept outside the hall in a large plastic box, both at the time of entry and exit, she told the CBI.

Another consultant Vikash Kumar Pathak is learnt to have said he had submitted a proposal to expand CCTV storage capacity at the agency, which remained pending despite the existing system retaining footage for only up to 25 days.

Pathak told the CBI that there are 110 CCTV cameras installed on the first floor of NTA, while six cameras are installed in the Command Control Room on the fifth floor, which receives feeds from examination centres. Seven CCTV cameras are installed on the fifth floor of Confidential Hall.

• BRIEFLY

The van being lifted out of the drain at Padana village. PTI

MADHYA PRADESH

Bid to cross flooded road ends in nine deaths as van slips into drain

NINE PEOPLE, including a girl, were killed after a van carrying 11 members of a family was swept into a swollen drain while attempting to cross a flooded road in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh district on Monday morning. Two passengers managed to escape as the vehicle was pulled into the fast-moving water. The family was travelling from Dewas to Kadnavad village in Sarangpur when the accident occurred around 9 am near the Padana bypass. Heavy rainfall had caused the Jhiri drain to overflow. Police said the driver had been warned not to proceed but he did not pay heed. Villagers entered the flooded area with the help of ropes in an attempt to rescue the passengers. The van was eventually pulled out using ropes and cranes. ENS

Man kills two daughters, attempts suicide

A 40-year-old man allegedly strangulated his two minor daughters inside a five-star hotel room and later attempted suicide, police said on Monday. The deceased were identified as Shaik Zehara (5) and Shaik Zoya (10). The police rushed to the hotel being alerted about the suspected deaths, they said. Police said Imran, of Nagavara in north Bengaluru, allegedly strangulated his two daughters. In a note recovered, he stated that he suspected his wife of having an illicit relationship. He was admitted to a hospital by hotel staff and is said to be out of danger. PTI

Sourav Ganguly, wife get death threats; probe on

Former Indian cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly has filed a police complaint about allegedly receiving letters of threats in the past few months, including one that warned of killing him and his wife Dona Ganguly, a senior officer said on Monday. A written complaint has been lodged by Ganguly, who is the president of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), at Thakurpukur Police Station. His office received two letters on Monday, containing death threats against Ganguly and his wife and people close to him, said a police complaint. PTI

Ram temple CEO post: 18 shortlisted

Maulshree Seth
Lucknow, August 10

AFTER NEARLY 20 days of screening more than 5,000 applications from across the country, the three-member committee tasked with selecting the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has shortlisted 18 candidates for the final round.

The Trust had invited applications for the post last month in the wake of the donation theft row that rocked the temple.

The shortlisted candidates are largely retired bureaucrats, former senior corporate executives and retired defence officials, according to sources.

The final choice will be made after one-on-one interviews scheduled for August 11 and 12.

Key eligibility criteria included being retired, a Hindu aged between 50 and 70, having at least 20 years of experience in managing large establishments, and being "devoted to Lord Ram".

A member of the selection committee told *The Indian Express*, "We segregated over 5,000 applications based on the criteria listed by us. We also conducted virtual interactions with some applicants to clarify certain points and understand their views. Based on the selection process over the past 20 days, about 18 names have been finalised for the interview."

"See, the individual would have to be extraordinary. He must have prior experience of managing a large organisation, but at the same time, this is a public place that requires day-to-day management. The CEO would have to camp in Ayodhya and should also be good at human resource and public handling, apart from managing visits of special guests and prominent seers," the committee member said.

According to the member, key responsibilities will be discussed during the interview:

- Running the Trust's affairs: Handle its legal, administrative and financial work.
- Building systems: Develop systems and procedures suited to the Trust's growing activities.
- Setting up the organisation: Establish an organisational structure based on the Trust's objectives and requirements and oversee its officers, employees and staff.
- Ensuring compliance: Make sure the Trust adheres to legal, regulatory and Trust Deed requirements.
- Ensuring financial transparency: Oversee efficiency and transparency in financial transactions, accounts and related information.
- Overseeing security: Ensure adequate security arrangements and coordinate with the local, state and Central governments wherever required.
- Managing rituals and festivals: Ensure that daily worship, religious ceremonies and festivals are conducted regularly and properly.
- Looking after devotees: Ensure the safety, facilities and overall experience of devotees visiting the temple.
- Handling special visitors: Make arrangements for distinguished guests and prominent saints visiting the temple.

Three names to be finalised.

Following the interviews, the panel will deliberate on the candidates and recommend three names to the Trust. The Trust will then consider the recommendations at its next meeting in September before taking a final decision.

EXPRESS special

Bridging gap between youth & nature — one bird, snake, butterfly at a time

Chhattisgarh forest dept's initiative, YUVAN, aims to connect youngsters with biodiversity

Jayprakash S Naidu
Raipur, August 10

YUVAN volunteers during a birdwatching exercise at Chuhiya Tank, Baloda Bazar. HEMANT VERMA AND ARIK MALAKI

UNTIL A year ago, Tikeshwar Nishad had not even heard of the term "birdwatching". Another youngster from the state, Kumbhaj Sahu, believed that snakes were harmful and "we should kill them". Their peer Narendra Verma was not aware of the sheer variety of butterflies in his surroundings.

But over the last one year, something changed. Nishad managed to rescue a migratory bird from hunters; Sahu is not just rescuing snakes but also advising others against killing them and Verma is learning about the behaviour of butterflies.

The change in the attitude of the three Chhattisgarh-based youth is a result of YUVAN — an initiative of the state's forest department — which is aimed at bridging the growing gap between youngsters and nature.

The idea for YUVAN took shape in Raipur's Nandanvan jungle safari in 2024 and expanded to Baloda Bazar district last year. "Across the world, young people are growing up in a fast-paced digital environment. Their lives are increasingly shaped by screens, social media, and technology, while their connection with forests, wildlife and nature is getting weaker... Recognising this challenge, we launched a Youth Volunteer Programme YUVAN," says former Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Baloda Bazar, Ganveer Dhammshil, explaining that YUVAN stands for Yuva (youth) and Van (forests).

Over the past year, Nishad, 23, says he has managed to stop several villagers from illegally felling trees besides rescuing a migratory bird from hunters.

'Practical experience'

On the idea behind the initiative, Dhammshil says, "Gen Z learns differently. They enjoy practical experiences more than lectures. Keeping this in mind, YUVAN has been designed around experiential learning."

He adds, "Instead of simply explaining the importance of forests, students are taken there. Instead of only talking about biodiversity, they get to observe birds, insects, medicinal plants, wetlands, rivers, and wildlife habitats firsthand. Instead of discussing conservation in theory, they participate in plantation drives, seed ball campaigns, wetland restoration, biodiversity documentation, and community awareness activities. This practical approach makes conservation meaningful, enjoyable, and memorable."

Apart from tree plantation, the volunteers are taught about forest conservation, bird monitoring; biodiversity; human-wildlife conflict; climate change; eco-tourism and community participation. The volunteers also get exposure to skills such as nature interpretation, wildlife photography and biodiversity documentation.

Sahu, 22, who volunteered for YUVAN in Sonbarsa Reserve Forest, says: "I never imagined I would hold a snake in my hand but I did while learning how to rescue the reptile. I used to think they were harmful and we should kill them but now I rescue them and tell others not to harm snakes."

Sahu says he also developed interest in birdwatching, planting trees and learning about different types of butterflies.

'A different world'

"You forget everything else in life when you enter the forest and enjoy nature. I witnessed a completely different world out there and developed a feeling of co-existence," he adds.

Verma, also 22, says he developed an interest in wildlife photography after visiting Barnawapara wildlife sanctuary as part of the initiative. "They taught us several things, for example the learning behaviour of birds and butterflies. Now, I teach youngsters in my area about wildlife. I even rescued a non-venomous water snake," he adds.

Talking about how the initiative led him to save a bird, 23-year-old Nishad says, "We learnt how birds build their nests. Some students, including me, won a competition, and received binoculars as a gift that we use for birdwatching. I also saved a red-wattled lapwing bird this year from a pond. Villagers hunt this bird for meat but now we are creating awareness against it."

The initiative is now also reaching out to school children to make them "Junior YUVANs."

As part of this, every Saturday of monsoon, schoolchildren participate in activities like guided forest walks, nature interpretation and biodiversity observation, seed-ball preparation and sowing, wetland awareness, soil and water conservation demonstrations, medicinal plant identification, wildlife awareness, environmental games and interactive learning.

Talking about the impact it had on school students, one of the coordinators, Shubhashni K Lal, says, "Initially, students are quiet, but slowly they start asking questions. It has increased their interest towards nature and wildlife."

The initiative has created a chain of 500 volunteers apart from several hundred school students who have been sensitised.

Real Creator IAS Edition https://t.me/+2RvD_RGf9mljMzg1
Real Creator IAS Edition https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F

Police notices to 2 TISS profs over 'suspicious' texts to arrested student

Sadaf Modak
Mumbai, August 10

THE MUMBAI Police on Monday told court that it has sent notices on email to two professors of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) for probe into "suspicious" messages sent to the 32-year-old former student, arrested for allegedly holding an event linked to the death anniversary of G N Saibaba, a former Delhi University professor, on the campus without permission in October 2025.

Additional chief judicial magistrate D S Khedekar on Monday gave the police further custody of the former masters student for a day. The student was arrested on August 7, hours after a sessions court rejected his and another student's anticipatory bail plea, which said that prima facie they had downloaded books written by members of banned organisation CPI (Maoist) and had raised slogans for the release of former JNU students Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, who are behind bars since 2020 under the UAPA.

Seven others, who were studying at the institute in 2025 when the FIR was filed, were granted the pre-arrest bail.

"Notices have been served on the personal and TISS institute email ID of two college professors, who had sent suspicious WhatsApp messages to the accused. It is necessary to confront the accused and investigate him in the presence of the concerned professors," police said in the remand plea.

Police also said that the professors had sent the accused for "fieldwork", to various locations, including Palghar, Nerul, Trombay, for an understanding into the political, social and economic conditions and issues faced by the people there, and the detailed reports were sent to the institute via email. Police said they want to verify these visits with the accused.

Air India A320 likely faced series of snags; AAIB probe to shed light

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, August 10

THE AIR India Airbus A320 aircraft that was involved in the 300-feet altitude-loss incident last Tuesday (August 4) faced some snags with the aircraft's hydraulic and control systems just before the incident in which 17 passengers and cabin crew members were injured, according to sources in the know.

While initially the incident appeared to have been caused primarily due to severe turbulence, the indication of cascading technical snags has added another dimension to the investigation. The occurrence has been classified as a 'serious incident', and is now being investigated by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).

Sources said that Air India has shared with Airbus details of the technical issues that the aircraft faced. A spokesperson for the European aircraft manufacturer said that a team of specialists was being dispatched to India to assist with the investigation.

"The investigation is being conducted by the AAIB... As the process is ongoing, Air India cannot comment on any findings or observations... We will continue to extend our full cooperation to authorities...," said an Air India spokesperson. "In accordance with ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) Annex 13, Airbus is providing technical assistance to the authorities. We are actively supporting the airline and will provide further information as it becomes available," the Airbus spokesperson said.

An Air India Airbus A320 aircraft was operating a flight from Phuket to Delhi last Tuesday which led to a sudden altitude drop of about 300 feet and caused injuries to a few passengers and cabin crew members. The government and the airline had initially attributed the incident to severe turbulence.

The aircraft landed safely in Delhi, and 17 people — 13 passengers and four crew members — required hospital admission. The aircraft was carrying 137 passengers and eight crew members. The plane was flying over Odisha at an altitude of about 36,000 feet when the incident occurred, as per flight tracking data.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Physicist Deepak Dhar wins 2026 Dirac Medal

Anjali Marar
Bengaluru, August 10

DEEPAK DHAR, a theoretical physicist from Uttar Pradesh, has been named the co-recipient of Dirac Medal, one of the highest honours in the field.

The award, instituted in 1985 by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Italy, puts the 75-year-old on an impressive list of academics who have won the Medal, named after Paul Dirac, one of the central figures in the evolution of quantum theory.

"We researchers do not work for medals or recognitions. But the fact that my work has survived over 25 years since it was done, and still considered relevant, is nice to know," Dhar told *The Indian Express*.

In 2022, he was the co-winner of yet another prestigious award in physics, the Boltzmann Medal, becoming the first Indian to receive it. With the two honours, Dhar joins a small group of only ten to have secured both awards. Many of them have even gone on to win the Nobel Prize in Physics.

The senior physicist currently serves as the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) distinguished professor at the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, in Bengaluru.

He has previously worked at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai, and the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune.

Dhar's exact research, perhaps too technical to describe in a newspaper, has helped explain how "simple interactions can lead to complex and sometimes unpredictable behaviour in large systems". His work has been used to "model systems as apparently as different as earthquakes, traffic jams and fluctuations in financial markets", reads the citation of the Dirac Medal.

Dhar is also the first Indian to have been conferred the Boltzmann Medal, in 2022

Born in 1951 in Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Dhar is an alumnus of the University of Allahabad and IIT-Kanpur. He completed his doctoral studies at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), where he famously served as the teaching assistant of Richard Feynman, one of the decorated scientists of the 20th century.

Unlike others of his generation, Dhar returned to India, where he has been engaged in fundamental research for more than four decades.

Even as new universities mushroom across India, the state of primary school education is one of concern, according to Dhar. "We need to promote science at different levels as the progress of the country is linked to our progress in science. Most of all, we need to focus and strengthen primary school education," the senior physicist said.

Dhar said India now offers much better opportunities for fundamental research than when he returned. But research is never easy, he warned.

"Earlier, we had to scout several books in university libraries and spend long hours understanding the subjects. Today, the young generation has much quicker and more equal access to information. But they will need to spend a lot of time to develop interest in order to understand the subject in greater depth," he said.

"Working in science is deeply rewarding. There are always new things to learn and discover," he added.

Outside the world of physics, Dhar enjoys reading fiction but is not a fan of the self-help books that flood bookshops. Of late, he has had less time in the company of books.

"I go for walks in the morning, and, at times, in the evenings too. That is when I think, and sometimes, I get fresh ideas," he said.

A police officer interacts with an injured victim on Monday. PTI

Assam-Arunachal border row: 12 injured in firing by miscreants

Press Trust of India
North Lakhimpur, August 10

AT LEAST 12 from Assam were injured in alleged firing by miscreants from Arunachal Pradesh along the interstate border in Dhemaji district on Monday.

According to a senior official, the incident took place in the morning at Mingmang Basti along the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border in Gogamukh revenue circle.

All the injured were initially admitted to Gogamukh Rural Hospital, but seven were later referred to Dhemaji Civil Hospital. Of them, four critically injured were subsequently shifted to the Assam Medical College and Hospital in Dibrugarh for advanced treatment, the official said.

Police said the clash erupted following a dispute in connection with alleged encroachment by people from Arunachal Pradesh over land in Assam.

Assam and Arunachal share a 804.1-km border. There are 1,200 points of dispute along the border between the two states.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, meanwhile, said he has deputed Education Minister Ranoj Pegu to hold talks with the Arunachal government to hammer out the differences.

The state police chief and the chief secretary are also in touch with their respective counterparts. "Security has also been stepped up in the border area," a senior official said.

Sarma, speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an official function at Sonapur near Guwahati, said that the "localised incident" has "nothing to do at the state level as such".

"The situation has been promptly brought under control and the tension has been defused," he said, adding that he is in touch with Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on the matter.

The Assam government on July 29 told the state assembly that Arunachal has encroached upon 16,144.01 hectares of land. Out of these, the latter claims 858.91 sq km. Both the states have constituted 12 regional committees for resolving the border dispute, and are taking steps to resolve these issues based on recommendations of the panels, officials said.

Earlier, in 2022, a Namsai Declaration was signed by the two states to resolve differences in 123 villages of Assam claimed by Arunachal Pradesh. The matter has been resolved in 71 villages and work is on to address the issues in the remaining 52 villages, they said.

Following the development, a tripartite committee was formed by the Centre to delineate the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh boundary. However, the panel's recommendation that certain territories be transferred to Arunachal Pradesh was contested by Assam. The matter is in the Supreme Court.

Govt: 2012 Rules for clinics ensure quality healthcare

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, August 10

THE UNION Health Ministry has defended the constitutional validity of the 2012 Central Rules which require clinical establishments to charge for their procedures and services "within the range of rates determined by the Central government from time to time, in consultation with state governments".

The ministry said 'The Clinical Establishments (Central Government) Rules, 2012' were framed to "achieve" the mandate of Article 47 of the Constitution, which deals with the Directive Principles of State Policy.

In a counter-affidavit filed in the Supreme Court on August 4 in response to a batch of petitions challenging Rule 9 (ii), the government said that it "has been enacted to ensure that prices of healthcare services are neither exorbitantly high that they remain out of reach of common man, nor so abysmally low that there is no incentive for the industry to improve and grow".

The government said "Article 47 of the Constitution mandates the State, as one of its duties, to improve public health" and The Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 and the 2012 Rules "have been enacted with the bona fide objective of improving the quality, safety, transparency, accountability and accessibility of healthcare services across the country".

> ***"The legislative framework seeks to prescribe minimum standards of services while ensuring that patients are informed of the charges levied by clinical establishments"***

"The legislative framework seeks to prescribe minimum standards of facilities and services while ensuring that patients are informed of the charges levied by clinical establishments. The provisions of the Act and the Rules are intended to promote public interest and strengthen the healthcare delivery system in furtherance of the constitutional mandate under Article 47...The law relating to provision of health services will be incomplete without necessary provision relating to affordability of health services," the government said.

The affidavit pointed out that "one of the primary requirements for registration is to ensure that all clinical establishments meet certain standards" and "fixing standards envisages within its scope all elements that make up a clinical establishment, such as the equipment used, the quality of employees, the standard of service provided and an integral element as also a consequence of these standards is the price of services provided. Whenever the law intends to deal with fixing standards, law may also contemplate and provide for — either expressly or otherwise — to fix the relevant price range in respect of such standards". Drawing a comparison, the government said: "The regulation of capitation fees in the case of professional educational institutions is a clear example of fixing standards."

The Centre said that the challenge to Rule 9(ii) "as being in violation of Article 14, 19(1)(g) and 21 of the Constitution is ill-founded and baseless" and it "has been enacted in pursuance of the State's positive obligation under Article 47 to improve public health".

The government said that the impugned provision "does not purport to prescribe uniform prices, rather a range of prices" but "enables clinical establishments to adjust their charges based on factors such as infrastructure, quality of service and patient demographics".

Reminding that 'health' is a State subject, the Centre said the CE Rules "will be applicable only when the Act is adopted and made applicable in a particular State or Union Territory. As per the provisions of the Act, it is within the ambit of powers of the States and Union Territories to adopt the Act under Clause (I) of Article 252 of the Constitution and thereafter implement and monitor the Act, and the role of the Central Government is restricted to prescribing the guidelines, categorisation, standards etc to facilitate the implementation of the Act".

Real Creator IAS Edition https://t.me/+2RvD_RGf9mljMzg1
Real Creator IAS Edition https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F

Centre reviews J&K demography, focus on Rohingya, Bangladeshi 'settlements'

Arun Sharma
Jammu, August 10

A FOUR-MEMBER central committee on demographic change arrived in Jammu and Kashmir for a three-day visit Monday to evaluate claims of unnatural demographic shifts and security implications in sensitive border districts. This comes at a time when there are rising concerns about undocumented Rohingyas and Bangladeshi settlers in the Union Territory.

The Committee on Demographic Change, headed by retired Justice Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar, met the UT's Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, and, over the course of its visit, will hold meetings with various stakeholders, including political parties.

The visit comes a year after PM Narendra Modi announced a high-powered demography mission to tackle "illegal infiltration" in border regions. The central government set up a committee in May this year to study demographic changes.

According to sources, the panel will focus on border areas and localities in Jammu division with reported undocumented settlements, review current verification protocols, and frame mechanisms for identification. Several right-wing groups have raised concerns about alleged undocumented workers in Jammu. Although there are no official numbers, officials estimate there are around 13,700 across Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts, with police and other government agencies routinely conducting verification of UN mission documents.

Officials allege that several Rohingyas have been found in possession of ration cards and the now-defunct permanent resident certificates issued by revenue officials. Police also claim to have detained small groups of Bangladeshi migrants from time to time. Last week, a group of 21 alleged Bangladeshi nationals was detained at Ramban while on its way to the Kashmir Valley.

Security personnel check vehicles outside Bakshi Stadium ahead of Independence Day, in Srinagar on Monday. ANI

I-Day celebrations: In a first, Vande Mataram to be sung at Red Fort

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 10

WHEN INDIA marks its 80th Independence Day on August 15, the occasion will mark the first recital of the national song Vande Mataram from the ramparts of the iconic Red Fort in New Delhi.

Defence Secretary R K Singh, addressing a press conference, stated that as 2026 marks 150 years of Vande Mataram, the national song that inspired millions during the freedom struggle, will be sung from the fort ramparts for the first time as a tribute to its enduring legacy.

"Vande Mataram will be sung upon the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's arrival at the Red Fort. Thereafter, he will unfurl the national flag and deliver the customary address to the nation," Singh said.

A Mi-17 helicopter of the Indian Air Force will carry a banner commemorating 150 years of 'Vande Mataram and shower flower petals over the people gathered at the Red Fort.

Paying tribute to the national song, a number of band performances are also being held by the military bands. The performances, which began at 343 prominent locations across the country on Saturday, will continue until August 15.

The celebrations this year will also commemorate Yuva Shakti, acknowledging the contribution of young India in building a Viksit Bharat by 2047, the defence secretary highlighted.

"Achievements of 19 medallist students of International Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematical Olympiad 2026 is an example of the success of Yuva Shakti in the field of science. They have been invited for the function and will be seated on the rampart," Singh said.

The plan to celebrate the success and contribution of youth at the Independence Day celebrations predates "the Jantar Mantar agitation", the official added.

Approximately 5,000 special guests, who are achievers from different walks of life and are guiding the country in its Viksit Bharat journey, have also been invited as special guests for the celebrations.

GUJARAT

Security guard accused of raping student shot at while trying to escape

Express News Service
Ahmedabad, August 10

HOURS AFTER he was arrested for allegedly raping a 23-year-old woman, the suspect, a security guard, was shot at while allegedly trying to escape police custody, police officials said early Monday.

A police constable also suffered a bullet injury during the scuffle, which occurred late Sunday night, they added.

Dharam Singh Ramshankar Singh, a resident of Uttar Pradesh, was arrested Sunday after he allegedly raped the woman, who is a college student.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Sector 1) Neeraj Badgujar said Dharam Singh attacked the woman when she was taking a post-dinner walk on the terrace of her apartment building around 10.30 pm on Saturday. He choked her with a wire and assaulted her after she passed out, Badgujar had said.

He then locked her out and escaped, the police said.

Ahmedabad City Police confirmed Dharam Singh's escape attempt when he was taken for the recovery of the woman's mobile phone, which the accused had allegedly stolen, around 1am on Monday.

Visuals from the GMERS Sola Civil Hospital showed police vehicles approaching its trauma ward on SG Highway. They also showed the accused lying on a stretcher with a bandage around a gunshot wound on his right foot.

"During the process of the recovery panchnama, the accused, in an attempt to escape police custody, tried to snatch the service revolver of inspector RS Parmar. A scuffle ensued, and Constable Virendrasinh was hurt in the process. An officer fired two rounds at accused, one of which hit him. Both the accused and the injured constable are in a stable condition."

An FIR for an attempt to commit culpable homicide would be filed at the local police station against the accused, police said.

For first time in 50 years, DGP sets foot on former Maoist bastion in Telangana

Nikhila Henry
Hyderabad, August 10

AFTER FIVE decades, a Director General of police set foot in the Telangana side of Karregutta – the Maoist-infested hill once used to house several central committee members of the banned organisation Communist Party of India (Maoist).

Speaking at Karregutta on Monday, Telangana DGP CV Anand promised that the place will soon be developed into a tourist spot. "The road, which has been laid, is now kaccha. It will soon be tarred and people will be able to commute through it freely," Anand told reporters, referring to the path used to enter the forest.

Speaking of tourism opportunities at Karregutta, the DGP said it would help even those surrendered Maoists who are yet to find a foothold in mainstream society. Surrendered Maoists are given a lump sum grant to start a new life. "The bounty announced on their heads is given to them," Anand explained.

Anand was accompanied by a large contingent of police and revenue personnel. "This delegation had come here in large numbers to send a message that it is safe to visit Karregutta. Earlier, only specialised forces, including Greyhounds and COBRA units, used to visit these spots. They used to leave shortly after their anti-Maoist operations," Anand said, reminiscing a past which was not that long ago.

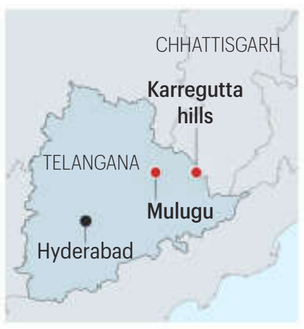
DGP C V Anand with other officers in Karregutta. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tricolour hoisted

The contingent later also hoisted the Tricolour at the spot. By March 31 this year, several Central Committee members of the CPI (Maoist) were either killed or arrested, or surrendered themselves. The home ministry had set the deadline for a Naxal-free India and had launched Operation Kagar.

Telangana police department extensively cooperated with Operation Kagar, the DGP said, adding, "Around 700 Maoists have surrendered in Telangana alone during this operation."

The 1991-batch officer said that only two to three top Maoists are still absconding. "The main person among them is Muppala Laxaman Rao alias Ganapati. We request him to surrender and embrace a new life in the mainstream," Anand said.



Muppala Lakshmana Rao is the former General Secretary of the CPI (Maoist). He was the longest serving general secretary of the banned outfit. He was succeeded by Nambala Keshava Rao alias Basavaraju who was killed in a police encounter in May 2025.

The Maoist party imploded after Basavaraju's demise with two factions — one led by Mallojula Venugopal Rao alias Sonu and another by Thippiri Tirupathi alias Devuji — disagreeing on what the future of the outfit would look like. While Sonu and several others surrendered in Maharashtra, Devuji and others later surrendered in Telangana.

India expands e-visa entry points, Attari among 9 land ports on list

Facility not available for Pak passport holders, says government

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 10

THE CENTRE has notified 11 international ports — nine land ports, including Attari on the India-Pakistan border, and two airports — allowing e-visa holders to enter India.

"With the addition of these new ports, the total number of international ports where e-visa holders can enter has risen to 88. This includes 37 airports, 38 seaports and 13 land ports, aimed at making the e-visa facility more accessible and beneficial for international travellers.

The newly added land ports are Darranga, Gede, Ghojadanga, Haridaspur, Jaigaon, Dawki, Moreh, and Attari (Road), along with the airports in Bhopal and Tirupati," said the government statement released on Monday.

"International travellers holding a Pakistani passport or of Pakistani origin must apply for a regular visa at an Indian Mission, as the e-visa facility is not available to them," according to the press note.

BSF personnel at Attari Integrated Check Post. EXPRESS FILE

The e-visa facility, currently available to 17 sub-categories of travellers including medical, student, mountaineering, cruise, tourist, transit, group travel and business among others, processes 95% of applications within 72 hours.

Introduced in 2014 to liberalise and simplify the Indian visa regime for nationals of 43 countries, this facility now serves citizens from 172 countries.

The Centre has taken several measures in recent years to liberalise, streamline and simplify India's visa regime while strengthening technological infrastructure to support internal security, the press release said.

The addition of the 11 international ports further increases the appeal and utility of the electronic visa, which constitutes 78% of the total visas issued by India.

"Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leadership of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Government of India has taken a number of significant initiatives over the last few years to liberalise, streamline and simplify the visa regime with a view to facilitate the legitimate foreign travellers while simultaneously ramping up the technological infrastructure to enhance internal security," the statement said.

● PRABHAKAR APPEARANCE BRINGS EXPLICITLY CATHOLIC ANTI-ABORTION ARGUMENT IN TN'S POLITICAL ARENA, WHERE REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS HAVE RARELY BEEN ORGANISED ALONG RELIGIOUS LINES

TN Speaker joins Catholic anti-abortion rally: 'Life begins at conception'

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, August 10

TAMIL NADU Assembly Speaker, JCD Prabhakar, joined a Catholic anti-abortion gathering in Chennai Sunday and declared that "life begins at conception", placing one of the state's highest constitutional office-holders alongside a movement seeking to persuade Indians to reconsider abortion through the moral theology of the Catholic Church.

Prabhakar, 73, a TVK MLA from Thousand Lights, was addressing the fifth National March for Life, organised at Stella Maris College by CHARIS India under the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India. According to Prabhakar, the gathering was deliberately held around August 10, the date on which India's Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act was enacted in 1971.

"Life begins at conception," Prabhakar said. "The deep belief of this movement is that the value of a child's life should not be counted only from the day it is born, but that it should be valued as a life beginning in the womb itself."

That proposition is central to Catholic doctrine. The Vatican teaches that human life must receive absolute protection from conception and opposes direct abortion; Catholic teaching also rejects artificial methods of contraception.

But it encounters a very different conception of pregnancy in contemporary public-health ethics and Indian constitutional law: not simply as the existence of developing biological life, but as an experience occurring within the body, circumstances and future of a woman.

The WHO defines reproductive health partly through the freedom to decide whether, when and how often to reproduce. The Supreme Court has similarly located reproductive choice in bodily and decisional autonomy. In its 2022 abortion judgment, it said the decision whether to continue a pregnancy or terminate it was firmly rooted in the pregnant woman's bodily autonomy.

The distinction is consequential. An embryo can be made the moral centre of an anti-abortion argument. Public health must simultaneously contend with the embodied person carrying it — her health, desire, economic circumstances, relationships, education and capacity to determine the course of her own life. SC specifically recognised that unwanted pregnancies carried to term can affect education, careers and mental well-being.

JCD Prabhakar

Prabhakar's remarks repeatedly approached abortion from the opposite direction, presenting childbirth as a sacred gift and declining family size as part of the social history from which abortion emerged.

"Life is a sacred gift given by God. Every human life is a sacred gift from God," he said. "The value of a child does not diminish merely because it has not yet been born."

He recalled an era of families with 10-12 children before social and economic pressures produced the slogans 'We two, ours two' and eventually 'We two, ours one'. In perhaps the most striking part of his address, Prabhakar turned to his own marriage. He described his wife as an "ardent Catholic" and recounted how, after their two sons were born, she became pregnant again. "I was a fool," he said. "I then told my wife that 'It is difficult for you to maintain all these children.' What did she say? 'No, no. What God has given, I must accept.'"

Prabhakar said he took her to a doctor and asked whether the pregnancy, then around 3 months old, could be terminated. He said his wife resisted and later underwent an injection, but pregnancy continued.

"The reason I am saying this is that, whether they are Catholic Christians or Christian people with faith in God, they should keep this in their minds," he said. "Because children are a gift of grace given by God."

Yet Prabhakar's speech did not advocate punishment or public shaming of women who undergo abortions. "We should neither shame nor blame a woman for a decision she takes in an extremely difficult situation," he said. "What she needs is not judgment, she needs support. What she needs is not condemnation, she needs compassion. What she needs is not isolation, she needs a community."

The Chennai march is also significant because organised anti-abortion politics has historically occupied much less political space in TN than countries such as the US, where abortion has become an organising divide of electoral politics.

Catholic mobilisation around fertility is more visible in neighbouring Kerala. TN's political history has been different. Christian organisations have substantial educational, medical and charitable institutions, but Christian identity has seldom operated as an assertive, standalone axis of mainstream electoral politics comparable with caste blocs around which Dravidian parties have traditionally negotiated representation.

That makes Prabhakar's appearance politically unusual. "He is not merely a private adherent speaking in a parish. He is the Speaker and a ruling party MLA," said a TVK minister who disagrees with Prabhakar.

● WEB EXCLUSIVE
'What we, the older generation, can learn from Gen Z.'.
— By Manoj Kumar Jha
Log on to www.indianexpress.com

● WORDLY WISE
In order to see birds, it is necessary to become a part of the silence.
— Robert Lynd

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

Seamless digital payments have a price

LAST WEEK, the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, was passed in the Lok Sabha, which proposes changes to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, that create pathways for fees to be charged on UPI and RuPay debit card payments. Introduced in 2020, the zero MDR (merchant discount rate) policy — MDR is the fee paid to the bank or payment service provider for processing digital transactions — was meant to ensure the widespread adoption of digital transactions by making them affordable and accessible. However, as the 32nd report of the Standing Committee on Finance noted, "the absence of MDR makes the UPI ecosystem financially unsustainable".

Ensuring the smooth running of the payments ecosystem — in July, 23.6 billion transactions were processed through the UPI platform — entails huge costs. Between 2021-22 and 2024-25, the Union government reportedly handed out Rs 8,730 crore under an incentive scheme for subsidising payments. But this covers only a fraction of the costs. According to the standing committee's report, the "incentive support constitutes only 11 per cent of the cost incurred by the industry and 14 per cent of the potential MDR collected by the industry". While concerns have been voiced over charges being levied on UPI — millions of users depend on it — the finance ministry has clarified that as and when MDR charges are brought in, they will be above a particular threshold and on a limited set of merchant transactions. Person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions accounted for 63 per cent of all transaction volumes, but only 29 per cent of value in the first half of 2025. In 2025-26, only 4 per cent of P2M transactions were above Rs 2,000, and these accounted for two-thirds of P2M value. This suggests that while revenue will accrue if fees are levied at a higher threshold, most users will be unaffected. According to a report in this paper, the MDR on credit cards ranges between 1 and 3 per cent of the transaction value and is up to 0.9 per cent for debit cards.

Ensuring seamless digital payments requires investment in the infrastructure. The absence of a steady and sustainable source of revenue could thwart the building of infrastructure required to handle more transactions and customers smoothly. A clear source of revenue could also bring in more players, ushering in competition in a market that is largely duopolistic in nature — two platforms, PhonePe and Google Pay, account for roughly 80 per cent of transactions. An MDR could provide the pathway for a financially sustainable ecosystem.

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

A pact, divided within, with no single threat

THE MECCA Joint Defence Agreement signed between Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey — between an oil-rich economic powerhouse, the only Islamic country with a nuclear weapon and a NATO member with the second-largest military — is significant. The agreement proclaims a NATO-like principle of collective defence: "Any armed attack against any one of the three states shall be regarded as an attack against them all." But it lacks the one thing that makes collective defence alliances work: A shared threat. Saudi Arabia and Israel (which has called Turkey the new Iran) may not have official diplomatic relations with each other but they engage in security cooperation, while both Pakistan and Turkey's relationships with Iran — which has pummelled Saudi Arabia with ballistic missiles — are complicated. Consider, also, the fact that Pakistan, despite its mutual defence pact with Saudi Arabia last year, has not responded militarily to Iran's attacks on the kingdom. The Saudis did not help Pakistan, either, when the latter country went to war with Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

The pact will boost defence cooperation, intelligence-sharing and joint production of weaponry. But the tangled web of regional relationships and rivalries in a changing West Asia characterised by growing American unpredictability means that it is a far cry from a NATO-style alliance. For now, it is better understood as a hedge against a changing regional order and a response to Iranian and Israeli military manoeuvres, as well as the failure of the Donald Trump administration in assuring the security of the Gulf states against either actor. Each of the three signatories has its own calculus in the region: Riyadh, which recently signed a civil nuclear deal with Washington, is trying to assert its leadership; the pact embeds Islamabad more deeply in the emerging security architecture; and it advances Ankara's long-standing ambition to play a larger security role in West Asia.

India should not be overly concerned. It should cultivate stronger ties with the countries of the region, deepen its economic and strategic engagement with the Gulf and maintain working relationships across the regional rivalries.

Where the wild things are heard

IN THE waning years of the 19th century, some years after Thomas Edison invented his "talking machine", the song of the white-rumped shama was recorded using a captive specimen at Frankfurt zoo. It is the earliest known bird recording and it led, eventually, to such a market for avian calls among the leisured class that gramophone records dedicated entirely to birdsong began to be published.

Over a hundred years later, access to a new technology is driving a collective of ecologists and enthusiasts to turn its attention to the sounds of India's wild. In 2025, the group began recording the sounds of the country's key ecosystems, collecting nearly a hundred hours of recordings across varied terrain. While birdsong dominates the chorus, the calls of insects, frogs, bats, reptiles and even marine animals enliven these soundscapes. It has led to the creation of India's first open-access, crowdsourced ecoacoustic dataset that can be used to train machine learning models — hitherto limited by access only to data from the Global North — to identify Indian species.

The project rests on a simple fact: Sight can reveal only so much, especially in the dense vegetation of the forest, while sound opens another window into the non-human world. Animals use sound to communicate, find mates, defend territory and navigate. These calls can be used to study distribution, abundance, behaviour and even physiological conditions. Similar data has also helped rediscover species believed to be extinct — populations of the elusive night parrot of Australia, a species no one had seen alive for over a century, are now being monitored using acoustic recorders. What began with the song of a shama in captivity has become a way of learning to tune into the wild.

History will indeed remember Dr Manmohan Singh kindly

SONIA GANDHI

THE DATE July 29, 2026, was an important but unacknowledged day in our recent political history. In a remarkable judgment, the Supreme Court upheld the CBI's clean chit to Dr Manmohan Singh in the alleged "coal block allocation scam". More importantly, it pulled up the trial court for rejecting the CBI's closure reports and making adverse observations against the former prime minister for no "compelling reason".

The judgment brings to a conclusion one of the most tragic arcs of our public discourse — the witch-hunt against Dr Singh, a man of the most remarkable probity and integrity. The lobby against him was coordinated and well-organised, with actors stretching from the bureaucracy to the media, the judiciary, civil society, and most certainly to the RSS and BJP. Today, their bogus crusade has come to its inevitable conclusion of nothingness. Dr Singh has been vindicated on every count.

Dr Singh's record of integrity and accountability stands in stark contrast to how the Narendra Modi government has operated, so clearly and grossly misusing agencies designed to investigate crime and corruption like the ED and the CBI. Its purpose has been to exert pressure on politicians. Leaders are either silenced through coercion or cynically folded into the BJP or, in some remarkable instances, rewarded with ministerial positions as well. When credible accusations of corruption emerge, the Modi government simply brushes them aside. Corrupt when you're in the Opposition, suddenly clean when you jump ship!

It is not a coincidence that the Prime Minister was also among the most vocal proponents of the attack on Dr Singh. His snide and atrocious remarks in the Rajya Sabha on February 8, 2017, that only Dr Singh knew "the art of bathing with a raincoat on", will go down as the lowest point of our parliamentary history. Since Mr Modi is these days "forgiving" India's students for attacking him, perhaps he can take this opportunity to forgive himself for his undignified slander against Dr Singh.

Introspection, like charity, must begin from home. Ultimately, the attack on Dr Singh was motivated by a desperate desire to shift the public conversation and narrative away from his outstanding governance record.

Dr Manmohan Singh's government heralded profound economic change with unprecedented rates of growth and a consumption and private investment boom that propelled us into the ranks of middle-income countries. In 2008, when the global economy faced turbulence and collapse, India demonstrated its resilience. During his tenure, the shift in employment patterns became very discernible with lakhs moving into higher-productivity occupations. Over the last decade, however, this diversification has been reversed. Based significantly on the programmes put in place in the previous government and the acceleration in growth rates, India decisively began winning the battle against poverty and deprivation. Let us not forget that in spite of the reworking of how the growth of India's GDP is calculated, the 10 years of the UPA government saw higher economic growth than the past 12 years, resulting in millions being pulled out of poverty.

Socially, the Manmohan Singh government enabled a revolution that brought rights to all Indians, especially the most deprived sections of our society. It delivered on the constitutional promise of a Right to Education and expanded social justice through the introduction of OBC reservation in centrally funded higher education institutes like the IITs and IIMs. The Forest Rights Act recognised the ancestral rights of our Adivasi and forest-dwelling communities, after a decades-long struggle. The MGNREGA, recently demolished by the Modi government, was the most powerful social security intervention set up anywhere. During the Covid pandemic, when the whole economy was severely dislocated, MGNREGA was one of two avenues through which the government was able to reach the poor and most vulnerable sections of society. The other avenue was yet another signature achievement of Dr Singh's government — the National Food Security Act, 2013, which identified and guaranteed access to basic food rations for crores of families. This is being sought to be amended. Soon after he demitted office, he had warned that the rights-based legislation would come under assault and his fears have, most sadly, come true.

> The allegations against his integrity have been exposed as hollow, and his record is increasingly being recognised for what it was — a period of decisive economic, political, and social advancement

Politically, the Dr Manmohan Singh decade as prime minister was characterised by the growth and strengthening of democratic institutions of the state and civil society. Dr Singh heralded a new era of transparency in government through the landmark Right to Information Act, which enabled citizens to access the government's inner workings. The RTI now stands totally emasculated. There was an explosion of independent media, which was characterised by a fearlessness that appears more remarkable when juxtaposed with its current enfeeblement. Civil society emerged as a force to be reckoned with, and our students had the freedom to protest against the government and even the prime minister, without being fired upon by metallic pellet guns or AK-47s.

The prime minister regularly made himself accountable to Parliament and to the media through 100-plus unscripted press conferences. And of course, we cannot forget that the landmark and path-breaking Indo-US nuclear deal, which overturned decades of nuclear discrimination against and denial towards India and marked our arrival on the global stage, was possible because of his political courage and sustained initiative. This accord has been paying dividends. Dr Singh was a man respected and applauded in global forums and he never felt the need to parade and proclaim these accomplishments and the honours he received.

His belief in India's economic potential, his desire to deliver justice to every last citizen, and his conviction in democracy underlined the philosophy of his government. Dr Singh's statesmanship, erudition, and fundamental decency are sorely missed in today's conflicted times. The mischievous and indefensible allegations against his integrity have been exposed as hollow, and his record as prime minister is increasingly being recognised for what it was — a period of decisive economic, political, and social advancement in Indian history.

We all certainly regret that he is not here to see this day and to guide the nation with his wisdom. But it is a solace to us all that his prophetic prediction of January 2014 is becoming increasingly self-evident with every passing day. History will indeed remember him kindly as a quiet, gentle but a most consequential prime minister.

The writer is the chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party

A triangular hedge in the West Asia tinderbox

KULDIP SINGH

THE SAUDI-Pakistani-Turkish collective defence pact's operative sentence, "an armed attack on one signatory shall be regarded as an attack against them all", immediately triggered talk of an "Islamic NATO", albeit a Sunni one, as it appeared to combine Turkish defence technology, Pakistani military prowess and strategic arsenal, and Saudi oil-financial power. Last year, shortly after the Israeli strike on Hamas in Doha, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan had signed a "Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement" at Riyadh. That, too, had contained a NATO Article 5-type declaration, "an attack on one will be treated as an attack on both," though that wasn't invoked when Iran and its assets attacked Riyadh and its energy infrastructure.

The US, prioritising Israel, failed to protect Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states from strikes by Iran and its allies, with the latter disrupting energy shipments. Turkey, a NATO ally with a large military, has often criticised Israel over Gaza, hosted Hamas political figures, and drifted from NATO and the US. Given Israel's increasingly aggressive military stance, for Saudi Arabia and Turkey, this trilateral collective-defence pact is a hedge against Israel. The US-Israeli war, allegedly waged to "prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons," may end up providing the imperative for Iran to "go nuclear". Pakistan, dependent on Gulf remittances and Saudi funds, is the only Muslim country with nuclear weapons.

There are multiple layers to this new pact.

Pakistan and Turkey label their relationship as historic and fraternal, rooted in shared religion, culture, and strategic interests. Their defence relationship started from foundational military training, joint exercises and dialogues in the 1990s, and evolved into co-development and upgrading of vital platforms. Facing US-European arms restrictions and shifting regional security dynamics, both countries have forged strategic alliances. Ankara has also supported Islamabad on Kashmir.

The Pakistan-Saudi relationship, too, is close. While the Saudis have enough money to buy the latest weaponry, the institutional weaknesses typical in authoritarian monarchies (not national armies, but armies of ruling families) led to Pakistan stepping in. Beginning with the 1951 Treaty of Friendship, their defence relationship gained incremental traction, from Pakistan providing training and advisory support to the Royal Saudi Air Force, to regular deployment of military personnel in Saudi Arabia. Post-9/11, both nations reinforced military and intelligence cooperation.

From 2021, the Biden administration pursued a tripartite framework linking the civil nuclear deal to the Saudis normalising relations with Israel via the Abraham Accords. But with Israel dramatically shifting the regional security paradigm, Saudi Arabia, which has traditionally tied its recognition of Israel to Palestinian statehood, hardened its stance. On July 22, the US-Saudi civil nuclear agreement, a 30-year bilateral pact allowing US firms to build and support civilian nuclear reactors in Saudi Arabia, was signed. The next day, in an abrupt turnabout, President Donald Trump declared the Saudis would have to normalise relations with Israel first. Saudi Arabia, which is a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty but has yet to sign the additional protocol to its 2009 safeguards agreement with the IAEA, has long been linked, indirectly, to Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme.

Pakistan must also be looking at this pact to check India militarily. India's MEA has stated that it is "closely following" the development. As of now, neither the treaty nor its protocols have been published; there is no clarity on the joint command of forces, rules of engagement, intelligence-sharing architecture, and importantly, the procedure for invoking that operative clause. Yet, India cannot be complacent. New Delhi needs to engage Saudi Arabia and Turkey more, while deepening ties with other Gulf states (which may join this pact) and resuscitating its own groupings like the Quad.

> New Delhi needs to engage Saudi Arabia and Turkey more, while deepening ties with other Gulf states (which may join this pact) and resuscitating its own groupings like the Quad

The writer, a retired Army officer, was the principal director in the National Security Council Secretariat

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

An uncomfortable love story that still strikes an honest spark

ANAS ARIF

RELEASED 20 years ago, *Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna* was greeted with a wave of pessimism. It was accused of glorifying infidelity, criticised for questioning the sanctity of marriage, and called out for its refusal to believe in the neatness of love. Two decades later, however, it stands as perhaps Karan Johar's most substantial melodrama. Coming immediately after the emotional maximalism of *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, the film was its complete antithesis. It was not about a couple fighting the world for their love but two people creating wars of their own, wounding those they loved in pursuit of a forbidden union.

For once, it was not Johar's belief that "*pyaar dosti hai*", (love is friendship), that held the film together. Instead, it looked at what happens when friendship is made to carry the weight of love, when companionship becomes a substitute for intimacy, when two people remain together long after the thing that once held them together has slipped away. Perhaps Johar was beginning to see what his earlier films had never allowed him to confront: That sometimes friendship does not save love as much as it scars it. Sometimes it becomes the life a marriage settles for.

Above all, Johar did something more subversive: He weaponised Shah Rukh Khan's stardom to make us empathise with a character we would ordinarily have little reason to forgive. Khan's mythology, cultivated by filmmakers like Johar and Aditya Chopra, had made him the definitive romantic hero, who could turn longing into devotion and love into destiny. Johar took that imagery and turned it against itself. He made Khan play Dev, a bitter, emotionally corrosive man, whose cynicism is matched only by his capacity for self-pity. He is a failed footballer, a failed father and a failed husband. And he completed Dev with Maya (Rani Mukerji), a woman whose unhappiness has curdled into resentment, equally lonely and equally unfaithful in her marriage.

They are made for each other, not because they redeem one another, but because they recognise the same failure in each other. They are the unlikeable ones, the embittered spouses in their marriages, who cannot confront what has gone wrong. Perhaps that is why their world suddenly fills with colour in the stunningly shot 'Tumhi Dekho Na', when they surrender to the possibility of each other, when they realise that, in their emptiness, they may be the only ones capable of completing what is missing in the other.

And then Johar makes them confront the cost of that discovery. When Dev and Maya finally confess their love to their spouses, Rishi (Abhishek Bachchan) erupts, while Rhea (Preity Zinta) remains composed. Rishi wants to know if Maya enjoyed sleeping with Dev; Rhea asks Dev only whether he is in love with Maya. That dissonance reveals Johar at his most unsparing: Morally messy, emotionally uncompromising. He had spent years building worlds where ideal families triumphed and ideal love endured. Here, he watched both wither, slowly and inevitably.

> Johar did something more subversive: He weaponised Shah Rukh Khan's stardom to make us empathise with a character we would ordinarily have little reason to forgive

Arif is deputy copy editor, Screen. anas.arif@indianexpress.com

40 YEARS AGO

August 11, 1986

INDIAN EXPRESS

Gen Vaidya shot dead

Four assassins spray car with bullets | Wife seriously hurt, operated upon

Not enough security despite threat

Bullets shattered a quiet life

Red Alert sounded to preserve peace

Former Army chief shot dead

THE FORMER Army chief, Gen Arunkumar Shridhar Vaidya, was shot dead by four unidentified persons in Pune. His wife, Bhanu Vaidya, was seriously injured. She was rushed to the Southern Command Hospital, where she was operated upon. Her condition was reported to be improving. The assault took place in the wake of three anonymous letters, threatening Gen Vaidya with physical elimination as a "punishment" for his role as Army chief at the time of Operation Bluestar.

Red alert after assassination

THE HOME Ministry has sounded a "red alert", asking all the states and the Delhi administration to be extra vigilant take precautionary measures to ensure that there is no law and order problem as a reaction to the assassination of the former Army chief, Gen A S Vaidya, in Pune. P V Narasimha Rao, Minister for Human Resources, held a meeting of the Political Affairs Committee and senior officers to review the situation. A message was also sent to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by his secretariat through Air India during his flight to Prague.

Jayewardene's peace call

SRI LANKAN President J R Jayewardene called upon India to sign an agreement with the government, which would cover the implementation of a peace accord on the ethnic crisis in the island, holding of elections to the proposed provincial councils and action against "terrorism". Addressing the executive committee of the ruling United National Party (UNP), he noted in this context that it was hoped to find a solution to the ethnic crisis with the "full backing of the Indian government and Tamil Nadu."

Nadiad riots

AT LEAST four persons were killed and another seriously injured in Nadiad town in Kaira district in a fresh wave of violence. Of these, one was killed in firing, two were stabbed to death, and an unidentified body was recovered. One person was injured in brickbatting, reports said.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

The Palestinians have been making concessions... It is time Israel's Western benefactors asked it to put its money where its mouth is. —*Dawn, Pakistan*

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

For energy security, way forward is not public or private, but both

SUBHASH KUMAR

ILLUSTRATION: C R SASIKUMAR

THE ARTICLE, 'Privatisation and petroleum: Let's resurrect an old question' by Vikram S Mehta (*IE*, August 3) asks whether India should privatise the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited amid the recent geopolitical uncertainties. It also brings out the need for strategic petroleum reserves (SPR). These are two important and independent questions, but the column treats the continuity of ONGC and OIL as state-owned entities and SPR as an either-or question. There appears to be a misplaced underlying assumption that government ownership of these Maharatnas stands between India's energy security and the need to create a resilient energy supply ecosystem. I argue for both a strong PSU presence in India's upstream oil and gas sector and the expansion of strategic petroleum reserves to withstand potential supply disruptions.

The column argues that finding costs in ONGC's focus areas in the Godavari, Mahanadi and Andaman basins could be as high as $60-80 a barrel. With forward Brent near $70, even a discovery may not be commercially viable, it states. A barrel in the Andaman deep water that's not commercially viable at $70 for PSU oil companies will not be viable for the same amount for a private entity. Geology and the forward curve are indifferent to the shareholding pattern. In fact, a nation may be better placed to withstand such crises when strategic assets are controlled by PSUs. Governments can use them to pursue broader national objectives, whereas private companies are ultimately guided by shareholder interests and the bottom line.

Finding cost links two variables: Expenditure on exploration and the size of the discovery. But once exploration is complete, investment decisions are based on the discovery's size, expected future capex and opex, and anticipated revenues. Past exploration costs matter for calculating finding costs, but not necessarily for deciding whether to develop a discovery. Finding costs can even be effectively infinite where exploration fails; such sunk costs do not determine future investment decisions, though they remain relevant for assessing exploration performance and under cost-recovery regimes, where operators can recover eligible costs.

Privatising an entity such as ONGC would mean more than transferring ownership of one company; it would dismantle an ecosystem of institutions and strategic assets built around it. ONGC holds about an eighth of Petronet LNG and a seventh of IOC. The government would also lose OTPC, the Northeast's only large gas-based power producer, which serves an important strategic role in regional power supply. Two lesser-known jewels — Dahej SEZ and Mangalore SEZ, among the country's best-performing SEZs, with which the author was associated as their first company secretary — would also pass out of public ownership. These entities operate at arm's length from government, but remain available as strategic levers in a crisis. Privatisation would therefore weaken the government's influence over roughly 40 MMtoe of domestic oil and gas production — far outweighing the proposed strategic reserve capacity.

Strategic reserves and domestic production serve different but complementary purposes. A cavern stores a fixed volume and must be refilled, often at prevailing market prices. Strategic reserves may generate revenue, but their primary purpose is insurance against supply disruptions. A producing field serves a different, longer-term function: It reduces India's import requirement every year over the field's life and provides additional resilience during disruptions. As a major energy importer, India could also require long-term suppliers to maintain strategic stocks earmarked for Indian markets, either in their home countries or at suitable overseas locations. This could be a soft obligation or a contractual condition for long-term offtake agreements. Such an arrangement could reduce the cost of building storage capacity in India while strengthening supply resilience and providing greater certainty during global energy disruptions.

> If geopolitics can disrupt maritime routes, weaponise chokepoints and sharply reduce shipping through the Bab el-Mandeb, energy security cannot be left entirely to market incentives

India's oil and gas exploration was constrained less by geology or technology and more by limited access to prospective areas. That constraint has now eased substantially, with 99 per cent of the offshore no-go areas cleared and nearly 1 million sq km opened for exploration. Seismic surveys can identify prospects that may yield discoveries over several years, while advances in technology can improve recovery from existing fields. Where specialised expertise is needed, PSUs such as ONGC can partner with global firms, as demonstrated by its 2025 Mumbai High technical services agreement reportedly helping moderate production decline.

The column's own diagnosis goes against its remedy. If geopolitics can disrupt maritime routes, weaponise chokepoints and sharply reduce shipping through the Bab el-Mandeb, energy security cannot be left entirely to market incentives. State-owned producers give governments strategic room to act — maintaining output despite weak prices, redirecting supplies or absorbing temporary losses. In such an uncertain world, sovereign capacity is not a liability but an asset.

Renewable energy and domestic fuel alternatives must be central to India's energy security strategy. Ethanol blending, which has reached 20 per cent well ahead of the 2030 target, has already displaced 310 lakh tonnes of imported crude, saved over Rs 1.90 lakh crore in foreign exchange, transferred more than Rs 1.6 lakh crore to farmers and avoided over 930 lakh tonnes of CO_2 emissions. Unlike strategic storage, which provides a buffer against disruption, domestic blending reduces dependence on imported barrels altogether. These initiatives can underpin a more secure, low-emission energy transition, provided they are expanded through careful planning, stakeholder coordination and calibrated implementation.

India must pursue a two-pronged strategy: Strengthen domestic production while expanding strategic reserves. This makes it essential to reinforce proven producers such as ONGC and OIL, rather than privatise them in ways that could dilute their strategic focus. However, even under optimistic scenarios, India will remain dependent on imported energy for years and must build adequate storage capacity to withstand prolonged disruptions. The government need not interfere in day-to-day operations, but it must retain the instruments needed to guide the energy value chain in the national interest. The way forward is not either public or private, but both: Back institutions that have delivered over decades while creating space for new players in exploration, production and storage. The recent crisis only underscores this dual imperative: Strengthen strategic institutions and build reserves capable of absorbing shocks larger or longer than those India has faced before.

The writer is former chairman and managing director, ONGC

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

Ten years later, looking back and ahead at a true GeM

PIYUSH GOYAL

GOVERNMENT E Marketplace (GeM) has emerged as a global leader in providing a transparent, inclusive and efficient platform for public procurement, connecting 1.37 lakh government buyers with 25 lakh sellers and service providers. GeM is distinctive in integrating all major procurement functions into a single, large-scale digital marketplace. It blends global best practices with the government's focus on inclusive development, making it an engine of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

In the decade since the PM launched the transformative digital initiative in 2016, GeM has revolutionised public procurement by weeding out corruption and promoting start-ups, MSMEs, women entrepreneurs and businesses in small towns. The user-friendly platform is a true gem that has replaced the notorious Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals, which had opaque and uncompetitive systems that gave an unfair advantage to the privileged few who were entrenched in the procurement system. Befittingly, the commerce and industry ministry's new, modern office, Vanijya Bhawan, has been built on the land once occupied by the obsolete body that had acquired a murky reputation.

As the Minister of Commerce and Industry, I am proud that GeM, launched on August 9, 2016, has completed 10 years of pioneering service. This is not just a milestone to celebrate numbers; it is a fundamental and successful shift in how public procurement fuels nation-building.

By digitising the entire procurement lifecycle, from product discovery and bidding, to contract award and payment, GeM has eliminated discretion, promoted fair competition, and strengthened public trust. Every transaction leaves an auditable digital trail, enhancing accountability and reinforcing the integrity of public procurement.

GeM is a cornerstone of PM Modi's mission of Ease of Doing Business. Through a single digital window, simplified registration, standardised processes and continuous reforms such as the discontinuation of the Caution Money Deposit and the rationalisation of transaction charge, it has significantly reduced barriers to participation and democratised access to public procurement.

GeM has powerfully advanced the cause of self-reliance and *swadeshi* enterprises. By prioritising domestic manufacturers and service providers, it has strengthened local value chains and boosted indigenous production. Every order placed on the portal is an investment in India's manufacturing prowess and economic sovereignty. Notably, MSEs account for approximately 60 per cent of orders by volume and over 45 per cent of the Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) on GeM. GeM serves as a critical engine of equitable growth in line with PM Modi's mission of *sabka saath, sabka vikaas*. It provides start-ups, small businesses and women-led enterprises an easy path to showcase their products and services to government buyers without any obstacle or intermediary. By eliminating barriers to entry and democratising access to public procurement, it has empowered small businesses to become active partners in nation-building and enter the business domain that was once dominated by established companies.

These achievements reaffirm GeM's role as more than a digital procurement platform. It is a catalyst for inclusive growth, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, ensuring that every eligible enterprise has an equal opportunity to contribute to India's development.

In many ways, the journey of GeM mirrors the aspirations of Viksit Bharat 2047 in line with the PM's vision of a developed India that is transparent, inclusive, innovative, and digitally sovereign.

As we enter the second decade of GeM, our vision is to evolve it into a smarter, greener, and globally benchmarked platform that harnesses emerging technologies while deepening the participation of stakeholders, particularly our innovators, start-ups, small businesses, women, youth and entrepreneurs from smaller towns and those from the underprivileged sections.

During the last two financial years, the platform has crossed Rs 5 lakh crore in annual GMV, taking the cumulative value to about Rs 20 lakh crore. It has expanded to include 10,644 product categories and 350 service categories.

Whether it is life-saving medicines and vaccines reaching hospitals faster, defence supplies and drones being delivered efficiently or reliable infrastructure powering villages, transparent and efficient procurement ensures superior delivery of public services and optimal utilisation of resources.

A study by IIT Delhi (July-August 2026) found that procurement through GeM resulted in a monetised benefit of Rs 86,571.69 crore over the last three financial years, comprising price and process efficiency gains.

The GeM portal stands as a pivotal engine in driving India's economic growth and the development objectives of PM Modi. It empowers and uplifts the marginalised sections of society and promotes entrepreneurship, while ensuring that taxpayer money is efficiently used to procure high-quality products at competitive prices.

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

The writer is Minister of Commerce and Industry

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A new compact

THE CHALLENGE facing India is no longer simply whether the rains will come, but whether they will come in ways the country's economy and infrastructure can absorb ('Monsoon has revived, but keep an eye on weather,' *IE*, August 10). The monsoon remains indispensable to prosperity, yet its growing unpredictability demands a new compact between science, policy and infrastructure.

S S Paul, Chakdaha

An ethics question

WHILE STRATEGIC partnerships are important for national security, India must also consider the ethical consequences of supplying military equipment to a country facing widespread allegations of violations in Gaza. ('A strategic partnership faces an ethical question,' *IE*, August 10) India has historically supported the Palestinian cause, and its defence policies should be guided not only by strategic interests but also by human rights and international law. A careful review of military exports and defence partnerships is essential to ensure that India's actions remain consistent with its commitment to peace and justice.

Fathimath Shadiya, Kannur

Turn ideals into policy

BEGUMPURA OFFERS a valuable reminder that governance must address dignity, equality and social justice. ('Begumpura is a radical vision, not a governance model,' *IE*, August 10) However, an ideal society cannot simply be transferred into modern administration without considering present institutions and economic realities. Its broader principles can still inform policymaking through equal access to public services, fair opportunities and protection from discrimination. Governments should translate such ideals into measurable policies rather than symbolic references. Good governance ultimately requires accountable institutions, effective delivery and respect for citizens' rights.

Swathi Senthilkumar, Coimbatore

The MSME opportunity lies in clustering them

NILANJAN BANIK & PRADEEP RACHERLA

THE RECENT protests at Jantar Mantar reflected a deeper problem than the paper leak controversy: Youth unemployment. A large share of unemployed Indians are young and educated, while underemployment remains widespread. With AI-driven disruption threatening existing jobs, India needs strong job creation engines, and the MSME sector is one of the best candidates. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026, can help by addressing delayed payments, easing dispute resolution, and reducing some compliance burdens. But more needs to be done. India's 63 million MSMEs employ more than 320 million people, contribute about 31 per cent of GDP, 35 per cent of manufacturing output, and 49 per cent of exports. Yet the sector remains largely informal, fragmented, and concentrated in low-value activities. Smaller firms face major obstacles, especially limited access to affordable credit and the burden of GST, labour, environmental, and tax compliance.

The US and China did not create industrial strength by supporting isolated firms; they built clusters — dense ecosystems where suppliers, labour, research institutions, and capital are located close together and reinforce one another. The US experience shows how universities can anchor clusters. In North Carolina's Research Triangle, institutions such as Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, and NC State helped build biotechnology and pharmaceutical ecosystems by connecting research with industry. China's Guangdong shows how industrial zones with land, tax incentives, and infrastructure can create thick supplier networks, allowing firms to design, fabricate, and prototype quickly. China's "Little Giant" programme also supports technically strong small firms in narrow niches through financing, tax support, and R&D assistance.

> Clusters create knowledge spillovers. Technical know-how spreads quickly through worker mobility, informal interaction, and shared service providers. Clusters also attract and retain talent

Clusters create knowledge spillovers. Technical know-how spreads quickly through worker mobility, informal interaction, and shared service providers. Clusters also attract and retain talent. An isolated MSME struggles to hire specialised workers, but a cluster creates a real labour market and makes the location more attractive. Third, clusters lower fixed costs by sharing infrastructure such as testing labs, effluent-treatment plants, cold storage and logistics hubs.

India already has cluster-based initiatives such as the MSME Cluster Development Programme and PM MITRA textile parks. However, many of these function more like infrastructure grants than true ecosystem builders. The following policies may help. First, India should move from generic industrial estates to specialised clusters. Resources should be concentrated in sector-specific hubs such as auto components in Pune and electronics in Sriperumbudur. Second, India should create its own version of the Little Giant programme. Policy should identify "hidden champions" already performing well in specialised fields like precision castings or defence components. These firms could receive dedicated credit lines, faster patent processing, R&D support, and priority procurement.

Third, financing should be addressed at the cluster level. The MSME credit gap is large, but banks still assess firms individually. Cluster-based lending, which evaluates shared collateral, buyer-supplier ties, and collective performance, can reduce information asymmetry and lower risk. The Tiruppur textile cluster offers a useful model that could be expanded through SIDBI and cluster-focused NBFCs. Fourth, universities must be brought to the centre of the MSME ecosystem. In India, top universities often remain disconnected from nearby industry. In contrast, Chinese and US cluster models rely on universities as suppliers of talent, lab infrastructure, and innovation. In short, India's MSME strategy should shift from isolated support to ecosystem-building. Strong clusters, better finance, and closer university-industry links can help MSMEs become engines of jobs, productivity, and exports.

The authors are professors and co-founders, Economic Policy Centre, Mahindra University

Once upon a time in Lower Duck Pond

AKRITI KANODIA

GREG'S CAT has been missing for a couple of days. Naturally, his neighbours have been trying to help. Duncan, the town sceptic, says he saw a woman in a tan trench coat carrying a briefcase that was meowing outside the new optician's office around the time Greg's cat disappeared. Perhaps there is a cat snatcher. Or have all the cats decided to vacate the neighbourhood? Like any small, tightly knit locality, word and help spreads fast. People know whose cats are whose, where they wander and where they might turn up. They have theories, suspicions and enough local knowledge to help look.

There is just one detail that makes Greg's search unusual: The neighbourhood is fictional.

Lower Duck Pond, or LDP, is a community on Reddit where thousands have collectively built a small town by simply writing themselves one. Cynthia is looking for cooking advice before a summer festival, while residents protest a power plant across the lake. The town grows through improv: One person adds something, another person says, "yes and", then someone else comes along and makes it part of their own life. It is an ever-growing space which can house any institution, idea, and has enough room to keep everyone housed. The result is a peculiar internet community where people come to live out their fantasy of an ordinary life.

One LDP FAQ asks: "Does life always have to be perfect?" No, Bad things can happen in Lower Duck Pond. The chaos or the possibility of creating chaos in a world where the consequences remain contained behind the screen is one of the reasons for LDP's popularity. Devuluh or David created this forum because he wanted to see people be something for some time somewhere else. By keeping restrictions to a minimum, he has let the community take his intent forward.

Conspiracies, occult activities, and murders have started becoming common in LDP. People come to the forum to shine light on bad things they may have seen or experienced or feared before and let it be played out in a contained space with others without having to worry about their real life.

> Lower Duck Pond is a community on Reddit where thousands have collectively built a small town by writing themselves one. Cynthia is looking for cooking advice, while residents protest a power plant

Given an empty canvas, people do not imagine a utopia but another world with uncertainty, conflict, and fear alongside community. In an age when the meaning of peace is becoming more an absence of war, the people of LDP are either mimicking the idea of normalcy they have internalised or exercising agency to repeat the bad things happening to them in the real world.

But in this fictional land, conflicts can't exist for the reasons they do in the real world — there are no actual gains. Nothing matters beyond the thread, and yet people still choose to resolve the conflicts. That choice to act is what makes the town interesting — they could ignore the conspiracies and cult accusations but they don't. They make this fictional problem their own. It is a reminder that one exists alongside everyone else and can change someone's reality for a time.

In imagined worlds, dark events aren't something one must persevere through one day at a time. They can become a way of testing the boundaries of behaviour without having to live with its permanence. A person can be cruel without becoming cruel and heroic without having to save anyone. LDP's residents are not necessarily trying to escape into better versions of themselves. They are trying out possibilities, especially the uncomfortable ones, and watching what happens when other people play along.

The writer is a trainee journalist at The Indian Express. *akriti.kanodia@expressindia.com*

Punjab passes Bill to bring outsourced workers under govt contract; 26,000 employees to benefit

Kanchan Vasdev
Chandigarh, August 10

THE PUNJAB Vidhan Sabha Monday unanimously passed a Bill to bring 26,000 to 28,000 outsourced employees under direct contractual engagement with the government, paving way for them to receive statutory benefits such as provident fund (PF), gratuity, maternity leave, and 10 days of casual leaves per year.

Tabled by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on the concluding day of the monsoon session, the Punjab State Outsourced Personnel (Transition to Contractual Engagement) Bill, 2026 creates two categories of outsourced personnel — those engaged in hazardous occupations and those in non-hazardous jobs.

Workers in hazardous occupations, including sanitation and sewer work and those working on electricity poles, will be eligible for contractual status after three years of service, while those in other categories will get it in five years.

Cheema said the legislation would provide relief to workers who had remained outsourced for upto 15 years. He accused successive Akali-BJP and Congress governments of allowing such workers to be exploited and said the AAP dispensation was attempting, through legislation, to provide job security to long-serving outsourced employees.

Participating in the discussion on the Bill, Shiromani Akali Dal's Manpreet Singh Ayali said it lacked specific provision giving preference to Punjab-domiciled candidates. Cheema said the Bill was not intended to create new jobs but to provide contractual status to people already engaged with the government. Their domicile, educational qualifications and length of service would be verified before they were considered.

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

State clears Bill to cap pvt school fee hike at 5%

Kanchan Vasdev
Chandigarh, August 10

THE PUNJAB Assembly on Monday unanimously passed a key Bill aimed at capping fee hikes by private schools at 5 per cent per annum. The Punjab Regulation of Fee of Un-aided Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2026 also mandates educational institutions to refund the excess amount to parents in cases where cumulative fee hike exceeded 15 per cent over the last three years.

The Bills are among nine cleared by the Vidhan Sabha on the concluding day of monsoon session even as Opposition members protested at not being given enough time to study and debate the proposed legislation. As per the Bill, no private un-aided educational institution shall enhance its fee by more than 5 per cent. The fee includes all amounts charged which includes tuition fee, development fee, annual charges, activity charges, smart class or technology charges, transportation charges, laboratory and library charges, examination charges, any other compulsory contributions collected directly or indirectly.

In first one-on-one with a foreign diplomat, Nepal PM meets Indian envoy

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, August 10

Indian Ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava (left) with Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah in Kathmandu on Monday. PTI

FIVE MONTHS after being elected as the Prime Minister of Nepal, Balen Shah met Indian ambassador in Kathmandu Naveen Srivastava on Monday for the first one-on-one bilateral meeting and discussed strengthening Nepal-India relations, promoting bilateral cooperation and enhancing development partnership for the mutual benefit of two countries.

This is a departure from Shah's earlier position that he would meet only heads of State and heads of government, and not officials below that rank.

After the meeting, Nepal Prime Minister's Office posted on X, "Ambassador of India to Nepal Naveen Srivastava paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister Balendra Shah at Singhadurbar today."

"Discussions were focused on further strengthening Nepal-India relations, promoting bilateral cooperation and enhancing development partnership for the mutual benefit of two countries," Nepal PMO said. Indian envoy Srivastava said, "Honoured to call on Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Nepal this morning. Conveyed warm greetings from Prime Minister Modi ji. Had an engaging & productive exchange of views on further deepening robust, multi-faceted India-Nepal partnership".

Srivastava had met the Nepalese Prime Minister in a group call-on by ambassadors of several countries, just after Shah was sworn-in as the new PM in March this year.

In May, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri was expected to visit Kathmandu .

However, the visit was later deferred as Shah had conveyed that he will not undertake any foreign visits in the near future — at least for the first 100 days of his term. Shah had also not met visiting US ambassador Sergio Gor, who is also US special envoy on South and Central Asia.

The statements by the Shah government on Lipulekh, objecting to India and China planning to conduct the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through the pass, have posed challenges to the ties. India had said that such claims are "neither justified nor based on historical facts and evidence", and it remains open to "constructive interaction with Nepal".

However, they have engaged on issues including water resources, power transmission and developmental projects.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION R.S.PURA
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No DRSP/62 of 2026-27 Dated 06-08-2026

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, invite tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible Architectural Consultants, registered with Indian council of Architects / Government of J&K Union Territory for the following works.:-

S. No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (in Lacs)	Estimated Cost of the project (in Lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Consultancy service for Development of Infrastructure and Providing of Amenities at Sachetgarh including geotechnical investigations, contour plan, detailed drawing for mechanical and electrical components, detailed architectural structural drawings with elevations and sectional details, detailed estimate / BOQ for all components of work, vetting of all detailed drawings / designs from DIQC/IIT/NIT and site visits during execution of work	29.00	1952.00	600	58000	30 days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 18-08-2026	approved and eligible Architectura Consultants, registered with Indian council of Architects

Position of AAA :- Accorded by the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, J&K vide Order No: 98-JK(TSM) of 2026 dated: 03/08/2026.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06-08-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 06-08-2026 to 17-08-2026
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	08-08-2026 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura
4	Bid submission Start Date	06-08-2026
5	Bid Submission End Date	17-08-2026 upto 1600 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	18-08-2026 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura. In case mentioned bid opening date happens to be a holiday then Bid shall be opened at the same time on the next working day.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

Note:- The Bidders, are advised to read all conditions laid down in the e-NIT carefully before uploading of soft copy

1. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division R.S.Pura, Jammu (tender receiving authority).
2. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
3. Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

3.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.into acquaint bid submission process.

3.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information & Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

3.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

3.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in e-NIT.

3.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all the necessary documents Mentioned in the e-NIT and SBD with the technical bids online.

3.6 The bidder should have local office setup in Jammu.

3.7 Time schedule: The work, as per "Scope of work"should be completed in 10 days

4. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-challan in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division RS Pura through Treasury, indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and Date and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) and Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura at the time of allotment.

5. The date of Treasury Challan, Earnest Money/Bid Security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End Date. However, if the tender for the same work has been re-invited after 1" or More calls, the bidders who have already bidded for that work can re-use the same Treasury Challan/Earnest Money/Bid Security in the successive calls for the said work provided there should not be any overwriting or forging on the previously uploaded documents.

6. **Qualification of the Bidder**
In order to qualify, all bidders shall upload the copies of documents as defined below:-

(i) Scanned copy of Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period and CDR/FDR/BG (The date of Treasury Challan, Earnest Money/Bid Security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End Date).

(ii) Scanned copy of Tender cost (Treasury Challan/Receipt mentioned the name of the work for which tender fee was deposited).

(iii) Scanned copy of certificate of Registration with Indian council of Architects along with latest renewal.

(iv) Photocopy of GSTIN Registration/on and latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B i.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the preceding Month/quarter to the issued of NIT i e. if the bidder have opted for QRMP scheme under GST then GSTR-3B for quarter April - June 2026 is to be uploaded and if the bidder have not opted for QRMP scheme under GST, then GSTR-3B for the month of June 2026 is to be uploaded.

(v) Scanned copy of PAN Card.

(vi) The bidder shall have to upload scanned copy of document, indicating their proper and complete office address (at Jammu) for correspondence, contact No. (Mobile No.), e-mail ID and Saving Bank Account No. (J&K Bank) positively.

(vii) Correctness of Information on the notarized affidavit, which must be notarized between the period of downloading of bidding document as per the format mentioned in the Annexure-"A".

(viii) The bidder should have experience of minimum 10 years as architectural consultant.

(ix) The bidder shall have an average financial turnover of not less than Rs 50 Lakhs during the last three (03) financial years i.e. for years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 duly certified by Chartered Accountant.

(x) In case of Proprietary firm, The proprietor should be a registered architect with council of architects. In case of partnership firm, all the partners should be registered as architects with council of architects.

(xi) The bidder shall have to upload scanned copy of Income Tax Return (ITR) for the three financial years i.e. 2023-24,2024-2025, 2025-2026.

If, during the execution of the work, any discrepancy or variation is found between the BOQ and the approved drawings/plan and the work is not completed due to erroneous estimates submitted by the consultant, the onus shall be on consultant and no payment shall be made thereafter to him including forfeiture of his security deposits/performance security and also debaring him for participation in the future works of this division.

The bidder must have a functional office at Jammu

7. The L-1 Bidder shall have to deposit e-stamp paper of Rs. 100/- along with Agreement Form alongwith other relevant documents before issuance of allotment.

8. **Performance Security:**

8.1. Within 7 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of the Letter of Acceptance, the successful bidder/contractor shall deliver to the Employer/concerned authority, a Performance Security in any of the required forms for an amount equivalent to 3% of value of contract as per Circular of Worthy Financial Commissioner Finance Department Civil Secretariat Jammu vide No. FD-Codes/233/2021-02-27 dated 10-02-2022 and Worthy Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's No. CEJ/DB/27779-83 dated 15-02-2022.

8.2. If the Performance Security is provided by the successful bidder in the form of a bank guarantee, it shall be issued by either (a) at the Bidder's option, by a Nationalized /Scheduled Indian Bank or (b) by a foreign bank located in India and acceptable to the Employer.

8.3. Failure of the successful bidder to comply with the requirements of Sub-Clause 8.1 of e-NIT shall constitute sufficient grounds for forfeiting of earnest money of bidder/debarring him from participating in future tendering with this Division.

9 The successful bidder L1 shall have to deposit an additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG before award of contract in case the bid of the successful bidder is found to be unbalanced as per Circular of Worthy Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department Civil Secretariat Jammu vide No. FD- Codes/441/2021-02-158 dated 08-08-2025 and Worthy Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Jammu's No. CEJ/Tech/Z-JMU/6645-65 dated 11-08-2025 and endorsed by Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle South, Jammu's No: SESJ/Adm/2888-96 Dt: 13/08/2025.

9.1 Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

9.2 Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

9.3 The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.

The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security.

10 Scan all the documents on 100 DPI with black and white option.

11 The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

No :-
Dated :-
DIP NO.: DIP/J-7823/26 DATE: 10.08.2026

Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
R.S. Pura

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

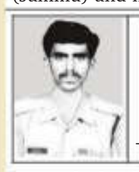
BORDER SECURITY FORCE

LANCE NAIK AMINUL HAQUE 132 BN BSF 02.01.1968 – 11.08.1999

CONSTABLE MOHD MUKHTIYAR 132 BN BSF 31.12.1976 - 11.08.1999

CONSTABLE ANIL KUMAR SINGH 132 BN BSF 03.03.1969 – 11.08.1999

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawans Lance Naik Aminul Haque, Constables Mohd Mukhtiyar and Anil Kumar Singh on their Balidan Diwas. On this day, they sustained fatal bullet injuries while fighting with militants in area of FDL Kunala, Rajouri (Jammu) and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

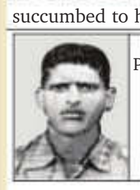


CONSTABLE G KOMARA SWAMY 108 BN BSF 03.05.1969 – 11.08.2001

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable G Komara Swamy on his Balidan Diwas. On 10th Aug 2001, he sustained fatal bullet injuries while fighting with militants in area of Dharmari, Reasi (Jammu) and later succumbed to his injuries at Civil hospital, Reasi on 11th Aug 2001.

HEAD CONSTABLE RAM NIWAS MEENA 200 BN BSF 02.07.1969 – 11.08.2013

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Head Constable Ram Niwas Meena on his Balidan Diwas. On 05 th Aug 2013, he sustained fatal bullet injury in Counterpart firing in area of BOP Naryanpur (Jammu) and later succumbed to his injuries at AIIMS, New Delhi on 11 th Aug 1999.



CONSTABLE PRITAM SINGH 181 BN BSF 25.05.1968 - 11.08.1999

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Pritam Singh on his Balidan Diwas. On 10th Aug 1999, he sustained fatal bullet injuries while fighting with militants in area of Kherion Manhota, Ramban (Jammu) and later succumbed to his injuries at Northen Army Command hospital, Udhampur on 11th Aug 1999.

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

Veer Balidani Constable Ram Bahadur 14 Bn

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable Ram Bahadur of 14 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely discharging his duties as part of the second line of defence on the Indo-Pak border during the 1965 war in Jammu & Kashmir on 11 August 1965. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

Veer Balidani Constable/Driver Rakesh M. Pandey 1 Bn 20-11-1970 To 11-8-1997

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable/Driver Rakesh M. Pandey of 1 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while displaying exceptional courage in coming to the aid of a civilian and confronting armed miscreants at Khoda, Noida, Uttar Pradesh on 11 August 1997. For his unparalleled bravery and supreme sacrifice, he was posthumously awarded the Police Medal for Gallantry. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

Veer Balidani Sub Inspector Amarjeet Singh 73 Bn 10-10-1943 To 11-8-1998

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Sub Inspector Amarjeet Singh of 73 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice after being grievously injured while bravely combating insurgents during an attack on his patrol in Assam on 11 August 1998. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

Veer Balidani Constable Mahajan Narendra 12 Bn 8-6-1972 To 11-8-1999

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable Mahajan Narendra of 12 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely defending the All India Radio station during an insurgent attack in Manipur on 11 August 1999. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

Veer Balidani Sub Inspector Pati Ram 34 BN 1-6-1952 To 11-8-2002

Veer Balidani Constable Pramod Kumar Tyagi 34 BN 10-7-1974 To 11-8-2002

Veer Balidani Constable M.G. Angade 34 BN 6-9-1972 To 11-8-2002

Veer Balidani Constable Praveen Kumar Pandey 34 BN 5-7-1978 To 11-8-2002

Veer Balidani Constable Dharmpal Singh 34 BN 20-5-1966 To 11-8-2002

Veer Balidani Constable Pradeep Kumar Laria 34 BN 14-6-1979 To 11-8-2002

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to six bravehearts of 34 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating Maoists despite being grievously injured in an IED blast in Rayagada district, Odisha on 11 August 2002. #CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.

Veer Balidani Constable Ram Gond 71 Bn 25-7-1968 To 11-8-2003

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable Ram Gond of 71 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating extremists during an attack on a CRPF post in Mizoram on 11 August 2003. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

Veer Balidani Constable Mohinder Pal 130 Bn 1-8-1970 To 11-8-2005

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable Mohinder Pal of 130 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice after succumbing to injuries sustained in an IED blast on a CRPF convoy in Imphal West district, Manipur on 11 August 2005. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

Veer Balidani Constable Susanta Kumar Khuntia 60 Bn 15-7-1990 To 11-8-2023

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable Susanta Kumar Khuntia of 60 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice after being seriously injured while bravely combating Naxals during an operation in West Singhbhum, Jharkhand on 11 August 2023. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

Amendments to FCRA to bring more transparency: Kwatra

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, August 10

IN AN unusual move, India's ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra took to social media on Monday to counter the objections to the amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act — which regulate laws governing foreign donations received by NGOs, civil society, educational institutions and religious organisations.

His post on X came days after US lawmaker, Republican Congressman Riley Moore, voiced concern over the FCRA amendments, claiming that it would allow the Indian government to take control of churches and charities.

Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal had responded to Moore's comments on FCRA: "We have seen the comments. Legislative matters concerning India are our internal affairs on which decisions are taken by the Parliament of our country, I would also like to point out that there are several nations, including the United States, which regulate the flow of foreign funds."

On Monday, Kwatra said the amendments to the FCRA were aimed at bringing in more transparency and expected organisations to receive money through a laid-down process.

In a series of posts on X, Kwatra said regulating foreign financial flows in public and political spaces is a sovereign step driven by national security concerns and cited similar laws enacted by the US for this purpose. "The US has had FARA (Foreign Agents Registration Act) since 1938 and FATCA (Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act) since 2010. Australia legislated in 2018, Canada in 2024. The UK's scheme came into force in July 2025. The EU is legislating now," he said.

He said when a registration is cancelled or surrendered, foreign contributions and the assets created from them already vest in a State Government authority under a provision that has been in force since 2010.

"What the 2026 Bill adds is a designated authority to safeguard those assets — and a way back. If the organisation restores its registration, all assets and unused funds are returned in full," Kwatra said.

"Places of worship carry their own protection. Where a cancelled association has created property connected to a place of worship, that property goes to another FCRA-registered association of the same faith to ensure continuity of worship," he said.

Kwatra added, "Tens of thousands of associations are registered under FCRA and routinely receive foreign funds for health, education, disaster relief, research and humanitarian work," he said.

Kwatra said India has over three million NGOs, and only 14,450, hold FCRA registration.

He said India first enacted FCRA in 1976 followed by amendments in 2010.

Kwatra said the FCRA was further strengthened by amendments in 2016, 2018 and 2020. "The 2026 Bill and Rules are the next step: more transparency, better governance, clearer rules," he said.

Kwatra said that regulating foreign financial flows in public and political spaces is a sovereign step driven by national security concerns. "It is an accepted feature of modern governance in many democracies around the world," he said, dismissing suggestions that the amendments targeted a particular community.

"The Act applies to all organisations regardless of religion, community or ideology. Faith-based welfare activities, including religious education, maintenance of places of worship, and charitable work by organisations of every faith, continue to be eligible for foreign funding," he said.

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

Consider two courts only for Manipur violence cases, SC tells Gauhati HC CJ

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 10

THE SUPREME Court, which is monitoring the progress of the cases registered in connection with the 2023 ethnic riots in Manipur, on Monday asked the Gauhati High Court Chief Justice to consider establishing two special courts in order to fast-track trials of cases probed by the NIA and CBI.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana also asked the Justice Gita Mittal Committee to verify claims that nearly 24,000 affected families are yet to get benefits under government schemes. The top court had ordered setting up of a committee to be headed by Justice (retd) Gita Mittal to oversee relief and rehabilitation of victims and compensation to them.

After perusing the status of cases, the bench noted that of a total of 904 witnesses in CBI cases, 891 remain to be examined. It ordered, "Having regard to the total number of witnesses proposed to be examined, we request the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court to consider the feasibility of allowing the CBI/NIA court to exclusively deal with Manipur-related cases."

The bench asked the HC Chief Justice to consider setting up of two separate exclusive courts, one for dealing with the CBI cases and another for NIA cases arising out of the Manipur violence, and sought a status report from the High Court Registrar General before the next date of hearing.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, submitted the status report and said that the CBI is investigating 31 cases and final reports were filed in 27 of them. The agency has also filed closure reports in five cases, she said, adding the chargesheets had been filed in 22 cases and cognisance already taken in 20 of them.

'Misleading' information about PM online: After 107 days, Hyderabad man gets bail

Jagpreet Singh Sandhu
Chandigarh, August 10

THE CHANDIGARH district court on Monday granted regular bail to a Hyderabad resident, 107 days after he was arrested in a case on alleged circulation of "misleading and scandalous" information about Prime Minister Narendra Modi through his X account.

Hassan Mohiuddin Siddiqi, 42, was given the bail with a rider that "he will not use his X account till the conclusion of the present trial". The court said no useful purpose would be served by keeping him behind bars anymore.

Additional Sessions Judge Rohit Watts allowed Siddiqi's second bail application, noting that the investigation had been completed and the challan filed, with several of the sections invoked in the FIR, including those relating to forgery, no longer finding mention in the final challan.

The court also took note of the fact that around three months had elapsed since the dismissal of his earlier bail application. Siddiqi was arrested on April 25 in an FIR registered on April 19, registered at Sector 26 police station under Sections 196, 356, 336(4), 353, 336(1), 336(3), 340 and 318 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Sections 66C, 66D and 67 of the Information Technology Act. His earlier bail application had been dismissed by the court on May 25.

An FIR against academician and author Madhu Kishwar in this matter was also registered by the Chandigarh Police at the Sector 26 police station in April.

@ieExplained
#ExpressExplained
If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to
explained@indianexpress.com

• LEGAL

In opposing creamy layer for SC/STs, what govt argued

Vineet Bhalla
New Delhi, August 10

IN AN affidavit filed before the Supreme Court, the Centre has pushed back against the demand to introduce the "creamy layer" concept for reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). It argued that the historical disadvantages faced by these communities cannot be equated with mere economic backwardness and that altering reservation policies falls within the domain of Parliament, not the courts.

The petition

The government was responding to a PIL filed by a BJP politician and advocate. It argued that affluent families within the SC and ST categories are monopolising reservation benefits, leading to an "elite capture" that deprives the most marginalised people of access to education and public employment. The petition sought the implementation of income-based preferences across all reserved categories, including Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Weaker Sections.

The petition relied on a 2024 Supreme Court judgment that permitted the sub-classification of SCs and STs. In that case, four of the seven judges on the Constitution Bench suggested extending the creamy layer principle. The petition sought to exclude socially and economically advanced people from quotas.

Historical disadvantage vs economic status

In its counter-affidavit, the Union government distinguished the criteria used to identify SCs and STs, and those used for OBCs.

SCs, the government stated, "face historical disadvantage" stemming from the practice of untouchability. Similarly, STs are identified by their "distinct cultures, geographical isolation and backwardness". In contrast, OBCs are identified primarily through a combination of social, educational and economic disadvantages.

The government emphasised that the main objective of SC/ST reservations is to achieve social equality and justice, overcome historical discrimination and ensure inclusive participation in public life. The affidavit stated that discrimination against them "does not happen on the basis of economic conditions."

• DISTINCT QUOTAS

- The government distinguished between SC/ST and OBC reservations. The SCs "face historical disadvantage" stemming from untouchability, while STs are identified by their "distinct cultures, geographical isolation and backwardness".
- But OBCs are identified primarily through a combination of social, educational and economic disadvantages, it said.

Legal precedent, separation of powers

The Centre relied on a catena of Supreme Court judgments. It cited the 1992 *Indra Sawhney* judgment, which upheld the implementation of the Mandal Commission report on OBC reservations. It introduced the creamy layer test — an income limit to exclude socially advanced persons from backward classes — it expressly confined this to OBCs, stating that it "has no relevance in the case of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes."

The government also cited the 2005 *E V Chinnaiah* judgment, in which the court held that even if a situation ever arises requiring the exclusion of a creamy layer from SCs, "it will be the Parliament alone to take the necessary legislative steps."

The government's affidavit pointed out that under Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution, the President notifies the initial lists of SCs and STs. Once notified, any inclusion/exclusion may only be made by an Act of Parliament.

Citing previous judgments by the Supreme Court, the affidavit argued that courts cannot direct the executive to implement a particular policy "on the ground that a better, fairer or wiser alternative is available." The judiciary, it emphasised, cannot step into the shoes of the legislature to dictate public policy.

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

• GEOPOLITICS

Mecca Agreement: What India must watch out for

Although details of the trilateral defence pact are yet to be made public, the principal implication for India is Saudi Arabia's greater strategic integration with the Pakistan-Turkey-China axis

EXPERT EXPLAINS
BASHIR ALI ABBAS
SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, COUNCIL FOR STRATEGIC AND DEFENSE RESEARCH, NEW DELHI

SAUDI ARABIA, Pakistan, and Turkey signed the Mecca Agreement on Friday. With this, Pakistan, the sole nuclear power of the Islamic world, has a defence pact with one of NATO's two Muslim-majority member states, and the Gulf's largest economy.

A joint press release stated that the agreement is "intended to strengthen collective deterrence against any act of aggression and stipulates that any armed attack against any one of the three states shall be regarded as an attack against them all. It further provides for the enhancement of all aspects of defence cooperation among the three states."

No other details of the pact have been publicly released, as was the case with the Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA) from September 2025.

This development occurs amidst a pause in US-Iran hostilities, a fresh regional effort towards Hamas disarmament and Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, and a tenuous lull in the Saudi-Houthi strikes that began late July.

What the Agreement is (not) about

The Mecca Agreement has drawn attention for its explicit recognition that an attack against one state is an attack on the other two. However, this is not its most credible deterrent.

First, the document's non-public nature undermines its deterrence abilities. Usually, such pacts contain hierarchical measures meant to provide clear indications to an adversary of mutual defence commitments that can be invoked.

Almost all the mutual defence assistance deals that the US signed during the Cold War were public documents to ensure their deterring effect. For example, NATO's obligations arise from the North Atlantic Treaty — a publicly available document with discrete and hierarchical actions that states are obligated to perform in case Article 5 (mutual defence) is invoked by any member state.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif after signing a trilateral defence agreement in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on Friday. AP

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

Similarly, the Joint Defence Agreement of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (signed in 2000) — an oft-forgotten mutual defence treaty among Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and Kuwait — has a similar break-down of obligations, even though it has never been invoked against a third state to date.

Second, the most visible test of a collective security pact's credibility is when its member states actually face attack. The SMDA's record shows that the first year of Saudi Arabia's sole bilateral mutual defence pact being active was also the year it faced unprecedented missile, drone, and rocket barrages on its vital infrastructure, first from Iran and then from the Yemeni Houthis. Pakistan has not fired a single shot at either party thus far, just as Riyadh has not acted against Taliban-ruled Afghanistan (with which Pakistan has been in "open war", in Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif's words).

The last time a state attacked another solely due to mutual defence treaty obligations was in 1939, when Great Britain declared war on Germany after Adolf Hitler's invasion of Poland.

While the historical record of mutual defence treaties alone does not preclude the possibility of Turkish bombs falling in Yemen, or Pakistani strikes on Iran, or Saudi action against Afghanistan, their probability remains uncertain.

SMDA's record

Since the Saudi-Pakistan pact was signed last September, Saudi Arabia has faced unprecedented missile and drone barrages on its vital infrastructure from Iran and the Houthis.

•

Pakistan has not fired a single shot at either party thus far, just as Riyadh has not acted against Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

What is more certain is that the Mecca Agreement is another concrete step towards institutionalising a partnership framework to build Saudi Arabia's military industrial capacity.

In this framework, China and Turkey leverage their formidable military manufacturing heft, channelled through Pakistan's institutional experience as a well-integrated partner to both states, for the benefit of recipient states.

Presently, Saudi Arabia is struggling to acquire a modern fifth-generation fighter jet, is still reliant on US arms for homeland defence, is dealing with a US whose decision-making has been misaligned with Riyadh's interests, and is facing a militarily dominant Israel and Iran in the region.

Saudi vulnerability was evident in the fact that the kingdom reportedly fired about 2,400 Patriot PAC-3 interceptors during the war's first 44 days, depleting an estimated 86% of its pre-war stockpile and leaving roughly 400 missiles by April.

Collaborators and adversaries

With China in the background, both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are already producing advanced platforms with Turkey — the KAAN fifth-generation fighter and the Baykar Akinci drone respectively. Pakistan has received special Turkish cooperation during armed operations, as was seen in its conflict against India in May 2025.

Both the Mecca Agreement and the SMDA's deterring effects are intended to apply to Iran by default, especially as it was Iran's attacks against Gulf states (even if retaliatory or directed primarily against US-linked targets) that brought Arab security vulnerabilities to the fore.

However, Arab states retain their traditional mix of means to mitigate the Iranian threat, including engagement and cooperation. The principal adversary that the new Mecca Agreement is likely directed at is, in fact, Israel.

For Turkey, Israel presents a larger security risk than Iran. This is especially true in Syria, where Iran's absence as the principal external influence has meant that Turkish interests from the north and Israeli interests from the south are set to clash, while Damascus under Ahmed al-Sharaa is now more integrated with Ankara than it was under Bashar al-Assad.

The public reporting trajectory of Turkey's interest in joining the Saudi-Pakistan pact correlated with the rise in Israeli politicians' statements characterising Turkey as Israel's next biggest threat after Iran. By February, Israeli leaders such as Naftali Bennett were calling Turkey "the new Iran". Erdogan has been fiercely critical of Israeli strikes in both Lebanon and Syria, terming them as security threats.

The Saudi need for long-term military collaboration to build domestic capabilities and Israel's threat-in-being to Turkey have warranted the Agreement, with Pakistan as the key node.

Implications for India

For India, the principal implication is Saudi Arabia's greater strategic integration with the Pakistan-Turkey-China axis. Ankara has historically been geopolitically antagonistic to New Delhi and has already demonstrated the maturity of its military cooperation with Pakistan.

Saudi Arabia, however, has been investing in strategic ties with India, especially over the last decade, despite Riyadh being a close partner to Islamabad. Riyadh's economic leverage over Pakistan and the investment appeal of the Indian economy allowed Riyadh to blindside Islamabad's diplomatic needs vis-a-vis India. Now, with Saudi security needs gradually allowing Pakistan more agency or leverage in that relationship, it is India's long-term strategic ties with Saudi Arabia that will face tests, if not obstacles.

• BANKING

Can banks lock phone for loan default? What RBI's new rules say

George Mathew
Mumbai, August 10

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has issued a comprehensive set of rules governing how commercial banks recover unpaid loans, significantly revising the conduct expected from banks and outsourced recovery agents. The new framework, which comes into force on January 1, 2027, also introduces India's first detailed regulatory framework for technology-based restrictions on mobile phones financed through bank loans.

The move follows years of complaints about harassment by recovery agents, aggressive collection practices and concerns over digital lenders remotely disabling smartphones purchased on credit.

Can banks now lock your phone?

Yes, but only under tightly regulated circumstances. The RBI has formally recognised that banks financing smartphones, tablets or laptops may use technology-based mechanisms to restrict certain device functions if the borrower defaults. Such measures, however, can only be used where the loan specifically financed that device.

The loan agreement must clearly disclose these details. No restrictions can be activated until the account becomes 30 days past due, despite notices to the borrower. Even then, restrictions must be introduced gradually. Complete restrictions permitted under the loan agreement can be imposed only after the loan remains unpaid for 60 days, and outgoing calls cannot be blocked before that.

What features cannot be disabled?

The RBI has drawn important safeguards. Banks cannot disable incoming calls, SMS services, or emergency functions. Restrictions should also not interfere with activities necessary for the borrower's work or employment.

Borrowers must be able to view the status of restrictions placed on their device at any time. Once overdue amounts are paid, banks must restore functionality within one hour. Where restoration is delayed because of the bank, compensation of Rs 250 per hour becomes payable until access is restored, subject to a ceiling equal to the loan amount. Banks and third-party technology providers are prohibited from accessing personal data stored on borrowers' devices.

Focus on recovery agents

- The RBI has made banks directly responsible for the conduct of outsourced recovery personnel.
- Banks must conduct background verification before appointing such agents and periodically thereafter. Only certified individuals can undertake recovery work.

How will banks be held accountable?

Banks must record recovery-related calls, maintain records for at least six months, and inform borrowers that conversations are being recorded. Recovery targets and incentive structures should not encourage aggressive behaviour.

Every bank must establish a dedicated grievance redressal mechanism for recovery-related complaints. Details must appear in loan documents and all recovery communications.

Why were fresh directions issued?

India's retail lending market has expanded rapidly over the past decade, driven by digital loans, unsecured personal credit, Buy Now Pay Later products and financing for smartphones and other consumer electronics. Complaints relating to recovery practices have also risen.

The RBI's directions seek to address these developments through a comprehensive framework covering recovery agents, recovery agencies, banks' internal policies, grievance redressal and the use of technology in loan recovery. This applies to all commercial banks.

What changes for banks, borrowers?

The RBI has made recovery a board-governed process rather than merely an operational function. Banks must frame a comprehensive recovery policy that clearly specifies when recovery proceedings begin, the sequence of recovery measures, escalation mechanisms, and the code of conduct to be followed by employees as well as outsourced recovery agents.

The biggest shift is the emphasis on respectful recovery practices. Recovery agents can contact borrowers only between 8 am and 7 pm, unless the borrower specifically requests otherwise. They must identify themselves through identity cards and authorisation letters and carry copies of notices issued by the bank.

• CULTURE

How a 4'6" woman stood in for Odysseus: The curious craft of stunt doubling

Anagha Jayakumar
New Delhi, August 10

A SCENE in Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey* features the titular Odysseus facing off against the Laestrygonians, the giant armoured cannibals of Homer's epic. There is just one catch: the impressive pair of arms audiences see on screen do not belong to actor Matt Damon.

His double in the sequence was stuntwoman Devyn Dalton, who, he said, has "the greatest arms I've ever seen". Dalton is 4'6" tall, while Damon is a fairly average 5'10", and her smaller stature was part of the point: shorter performers helped make Odysseus and his men appear dwarfed by the Laestrygonians.

"Ultimately, my physique, skill set, experience and height were all reasons I was chosen for the job," Dalton told *The Indian Express*. Her casting offers a glimpse into a part of filmmaking designed to go unnoticed, and how one performer is swapped for another without audiences noticing.

How are stunt doubles chosen?

Dalton compared the process to putting together a puzzle: height and build matter, but so do movement, experience and the specific skills a sequence demands. "You might look exactly like someone, but if the job requires a particular fight style, a high fall, wire work or another specialist skill you don't have, being their doppelgänger isn't going to help much!" Dalton said.

Movement can be just as important as appearance. "Everyone walks, runs, stands and reacts differently. A good double learns those details and adapts their own movement so that everything feels like one continuous performance," she added.

On Indian productions, the requirements can vary. Assistant director Anand Murali, who has worked on productions including *Suzhal: The Vortex* and *Vikram Vedha* (2022), told *The Indian Express*, "Face resemblance is mostly overlooked, but [matching] the height and build is a non-negotiable factor."

Does gender matter?

According to Dalton, stunt casting comes down to who is right for the job, even if women doubling for men is "definitely less common".

"We also have incredible hair, makeup and costume departments that can transform performers into whoever they need to be. I've spent a lot of my career becoming things I'm very much not in real life, so transforming into a man isn't actually the strangest thing I've done!" Dalton said.

Cross-gender doubling itself is hardly unprecedented. Adult stuntwomen have, for instance, doubled young actors. In Hollywood, men would at times don wigs and women's clothing to double actresses, a practice known as "wigging". It eventually drew criticism from stuntwomen who argued that they were losing work to male performers.

India had its own version of this history. When pioneering stuntwoman Reshma Pathan entered Hindi cinema in 1968, men were still doubling women. Pathan was among the women who began changing that; several more women stunt performers entered the industry soon.

A scene from 'The Odyssey'. SYNCOPY INC.

The practice has not disappeared entirely. Murali said male stunt performers are sometimes used to double women on productions in South India, particularly when women stunt performers are unavailable locally and bringing them in from production centres like Mumbai or Hyderabad adds to costs.

So why don't we notice the switch?

"People tend to think you need to be the actor's identical twin, but filmmaking has a lot more tricks up its sleeve than that," Dalton said. What audiences often pick up on instead is body language: "how someone stands, their posture, rhythm and the way they move."

Research from the University of California, Berkeley, suggests yet another factor. In a 2014 study, researchers Alina Liberman and David Whitney found that our perception of a face is influenced by similar faces seen in the preceding several seconds, helping the brain maintain a stable sense of identity even as appearances change.

The illusion begins well before the cameras roll. Stunt doubles spend a lot of time rehearsing a sequence, working out the mechanics of a stunt and helping train actors for the action beats they will perform themselves. Murali said doubles can be brought in from the rehearsal stage.

Making sure the audience never sees the switch is then a team effort, involving the stunt and camera departments, the director and editors, as well as costume, hair and make-up. The mechanics are largely the same across Indian and Hollywood productions, Murali said; the bigger differences are budgets and the availability of suitable stunt doubles.

For Dalton, the attention around *The Odyssey* has helped challenge one of the biggest misconceptions about her profession: that stunt doubling is simply about looking like an actor. "Stunt performers are storytellers. Sometimes we tell the story through dialogue, sometimes through movement, and sometimes by getting thrown across a room. It's all part of bringing the character to life."

Residents and rescue workers search through the rubble of a collapsed building after an earthquake struck Cali on Monday. AP

82 dead after 7.4 magnitude quake strikes Colombia

Nelson Bocanegra & Julia Symmes Cobb
Bogota, August 10

A POWERFUL 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck western Colombia on Monday, killing at least 82 people, trapping residents under debris of collapsed buildings and forcing people to evacuate their homes as far as the capital of Bogota.

The epicentre was in San Jose Del Palmar, a community of about 4,800 people in the Choco region, about 250 miles (400 kilometres) west of Bogota, the US Geological Survey and Colombia's counterpart reported. The USGS said it struck at a depth of 66 miles (107 kilometres). The quake was also felt in neighbouring Ecuador and Panama, though minimal damage was reported there.

Local officials confirmed that at least 40 people were killed in the department of Risaralda, where the hard-hit city of Pereira is located, and 27 people in the Valle del Cauca department, where Colombia's third-biggest city, Cali, is located. Two people also died in the city of Manizales.

At least three of those killed in Valle del Cauca were children, the governor said.

The quake left cities across the west of the country - Pereira, Quibdo, Cali and Manizales - ravaged. Residents and search teams picked through the rubble of collapsed buildings amid concerns by authorities of aftershocks. Colombia's interior minister said more than 20 municipalities across the country had been hit.

Colombia's Pacific region around the quake's epicentre lies along the "Ring of Fire", the line of seismic faults encircling the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes occur.

Colombia's newly inaugurated President Abelardo de la Espriella said Monday that he had personally taken charge of the government's response to the emergency in San Jose del Palmar following the earthquake. "You are not alone. The state is present and taking action," he said.

Response to the earthquake presents the first major challenge to de la Espriella, a Trump ally who was sworn in as president over the weekend.

Messages of support rolled in from leaders across the Americas, including Mexico, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador and the United States.

NEW VOTING DATES FOR REMAINING 7 SEATS YET TO BE DECIDED

PoK elections put off amid security fears; UN takes note

Divya A
New Delhi, August 10

A policeman stands guard beside vehicles patrolling for security in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. FILE/REUTERS

AS ONGOING elections in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) are marred by violent clashes and security crackdowns, killing dozens of protestors, polling in four of the 11 seats for the last phase was held on Monday, while polling on the remaining seven seats has been postponed indefinitely owing to the deteriorating security situation.

New Delhi has described the ongoing elections as an attempt by Islamabad to camouflage its illegal occupation and hide its "grave" violation of human rights in the region.

After the first two phases on July 27 and August 2, where 34 of the 45 seats went to the polls, the Pakistan Muslim League-N has already claimed victory in 24 seats, amid reports of widespread rigging.

A PML-N victory would return the party to power in the region after a decade. The now-banned civil society group Joint Awami Action Committee, or JAAC, has already announced a boycott of the elections.

Authorities have said that new voting dates for the remaining seven seats are yet to be decided, even as they say the electoral process is expected to be completed this month, as per the news agency PTI. There are 53 seats in PoK: 45 members are directly elected, while eight seats are reserved for women, technocrats, and clerics.

The election campaign has been overshadowed by weeks of protests led by the JAAC, which has urged residents to boycott the vote.

Besides economic hardship in the region and concerns over curtailment of civil liberties, the present round of protests centres on 12 seats reserved for refugees, thus voted externally.

The JAAC argues that the arrangement gives disproportionate political influence to people living outside the region. The JAAC, formed in 2023, has demanded greater political rights for local people.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has expressed concern over the security situation in PoK, with a spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres highlighting the need for accountability for actions against people engaging in peaceful protest.

On whether there will be calls for accountability from the authorities on the crackdown on protests in the PoK, the deputy spokesman for the secretary-general, Farhan Haq, said last Friday, "It's important that all authorities everywhere allow for peaceful protest, and certainly that is the case here."

He added, "If there have been people harmed for engaging in peaceful protest, there needs to be accountability for that."

British national shot dead in PoK, reports UK daily

A BRITISH national was shot dead in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir during clashes between security forces and protesters, according to *The Guardian*. Mohammad Akhtar, a resident of Peterborough, was killed on 9 June after his family said Pakistani security forces opened fire on a gathering where protesters were demanding economic and electoral reforms. Akhtar was staying in the city of Kotli, close to the area where the clashes occurred, and his family said he was hit by a stray bullet. ENS

Ukrainian drone attack on an oil hub deep inside Russia kills 13, say officials

Associated Press
August 10

Paramedics give first aid to an injured woman after a Russian air guided bomb strike in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, on Monday. AP

UKRAINE ATTACKED the petroleum hub of Nizhnekamsk in central Russia's Tatarstan region on Monday, killing 13 people and injuring 75 others, local authorities said, in one of the deadliest attacks in the country in the 4-year-old war.

The Ukrainian military said it hit an oil refinery in Nizhnekamsk, which is about 1,200 kilometers (750 miles) east of the Ukrainian border and has a population of about 240,000.

Russian officials didn't say what the drones targeted, but the city is home to two refineries and a petrochemical plant. Ukraine has targeted Russian oil facilities with long-range drones almost daily in recent months. The campaign has caused fuel shortages in Russia, eaten into its refining capacity and unsettled the population.

Also on Monday, several Ukrainian drones sparked a fire at an industrial facility in the Tyumen region of western Siberia, said Gov. Alexander Moor, without offering any details. Last month, Ukrainian drones hit a refinery in Tyumen, more than 2,400 kilometers (about 1,500 miles) east of the border with Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says his country is trying to force Russian President Vladimir Putin to the negotiating table and stop his full-scale invasion, launched in 2022. Russia is one of the world's biggest energy producers. Ukraine's General Staff said its forces struck a Taneco oil refinery in Nizhnekamsk, starting a fire.

The city came under a "massive" drone attack targeting industrial and civilian facilities, according to the press service of Tatarstan's head, Rustam Minnikhanov. No further details were released.

A child was among the 13 people killed, along with the 75 injured, his press service said, adding that Monday was declared a day of mourning in Tatarstan. It was not possible to independently verify either side's claims. Repairing the refineries is complicated for Russia. Ukraine's attacks have damaged specialized equipment that is often imported, making repairs time-consuming and expensive as workarounds or replacements are sought by evading international sanctions.

Iran must compensate for those it has killed and wounded: Trump

Reuters
Washington, August 10

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Monday he will demand that Iran pay compensation for "all of the people that they have killed and gravely wounded," in response to Iran seeking compensation for the damages it has incurred from U.S. and Israeli attacks.

Trump's social media post came after Iran said over the weekend it was nearing a deal with Oman defining new shipping lanes between them through the Strait of Hormuz but repeated that the US must meet conditions including compensation and an end to sanctions and military threats, before the strategic waterway is reopened.

"It is an interesting idea because now I am likewise demanding compensation from Iran, for all of the people that they have killed and gravely wounded with their roadside bombs and many conflicts," he wrote on Truth Social.

Trump also referenced and claimed compensation from Iran for the October 12, 2000 deadly bombing of the US Navy guided-missile destroyer USS Cole at a Yemeni port. The FBI has attributed that bombing, which killed 17 sailors and wounded more than three dozen others, to al Qaeda.

Trump added that Tehran should also pay compensation to the families of the thousands of people during anti-government protests in January, Iran's worst domestic unrest since the era of its 1979 Islamic Revolution. Rights groups say the Iranian government has continued to crack down on opponents during the war.

China rocket with coms satellite fails after launch

Beijing: China's launch of a rocket carrying a communications satellite on Monday evening was not successful, state media reported.

The ChinaSat 4B satellite aboard a Long March 7A rocket was launched from the country's southern island of Hainan, which is home to the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site. "The rocket experienced an anomaly during the flight and the launch mission failed," the Xinhua news agency said. AP

Ocasio-Cortez says she is freezing her eggs as she decides next political move

Associated Press
Washington, August 10

New York congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

REPRESENTATIVE ALEXANDRIA Ocasio-Cortez says she is freezing her eggs as she decides her next political moves ahead of the 2028 presidential election campaign. "This is a choice that I am making to feel more in control of my life," Ocasio-Cortez, 36, said on Instagram about her decision regarding her reproductive options.

The New York congresswoman, a leading figure of Democrats' progressive left flank, did not say explicitly whether she plans to have children. She said in her social media posts that she was taking a "political risk" in talking so personally about her potential family plans.

She said later on ABC "This Week" on Sunday that she has not ruled out running for president or for the US Senate seat held by Democrats' floor leader, Chuck Schumer of New York, in 2028. She explained that she wants to normalise conversations about what women face in their professional and personal lives, while also highlighting the policies of President Donald Trump's administration.

• BRIEFLY

UGANDA

Politician in race to become next UN Secretary-General

Olara Otunnu. AP

A UGANDAN statesman is in the race to become the next secretary-general of the United Nations, the latest entrant in a contest that includes six others who want to succeed Antonio Guterres at the end of this year. Backed by Uganda, Olara Otunnu is traveling in New York "to meet delegations and engage in interactive dialogue" with the UN. General Assembly and the UN Security Council, said Adonia Ayebare, Uganda's permanent representative to the UN. Otunnu had to get visa assistance, with Ugandans currently barred from entering the US as part of measures to prevent the spread of Ebola, Ayebare said. Otunnu, 75, is a veteran of the UN system who has been in retirement since unsuccessfully contesting the Ugandan presidency in 2011. AP

THAILAND

Ex-lawmaker held for murder at govt office

A MAN was arrested following a shooting incident Monday that killed one and injured another in a government office outside Bangkok, days after a student opened fire at his school and family home in the same province, killing at least eight people. The shooting occurred around 11 a.m. at the offices of the Nonthaburi Provincial Administrative Organization, according to the provincial public relations department. AP

CONGO

WHO says Ebola outbreak started months ago

THE WORLD Health Organization says the Ebola outbreak in eastern Congo started in February, months before it was officially declared on May 15. WHO regional director for Africa, Mohamed Yakub Janabi, told a news conference that sequencing indicated the outbreak's start. He said some cases early in the outbreak were wrongly attributed to malaria and typhoid. This has become become the fastest-growing outbreak of the disease. AP

• NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

SRI LANKA

Opp leader held over remarks on police chief

A SENIOR opposition leader in Sri Lanka was arrested on Monday for making alleged objectionable remarks against police chief Priyantha Weerasuriya, authorities said. Sagara Kariyawasam, the general secretary of Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) led by the influential Rajapaksa family, was summoned to the Central Crime Investigation Bureau to record a statement over his public comments concerning Weerasuriya, police said. He was subsequently arrested, they said. PTI

PAKISTAN

Militant kills policeman in KPK province

A POLICE constable was shot dead on Monday by unidentified militants in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said. The incident took place in the Bakkakhel area of the Bannu district. Constable Anwarullah Khan died after some unidentified gunmen fired at him, police said, adding that the assailants managed to flee the scene. In a separate incident, security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in the Maryan area of Bannu. PTI

US hikes 9-11 response fee for H1-B and L-1 visa extension from Sept 9

Washington: The US on Monday published new rules that would require large employers to pay a fee of USD 4,000 for H-1B and USD 4,500 for L-1 applications for extension of visas of their employees.

Earlier, these fees were applicable only for initial H-1B and L-1 petitions or if the applicants changed jobs.

Major Indian IT services and consulting providers rely on a blended onshore-offshore staffing model, bringing them within the ambit of the changed rule.

The 9-11 Response and Biometric Entry-Exit Fee, applicable to employers with 50 or more employees in the US if more than 50 per cent are in H-1B or L-1 nonimmigrant status, will come into effect from September 9, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said.

The rule is likely to increase immigration sponsorship costs for technology companies; global consulting firms; IT services providers; multinational employers; and other organisations with a large number of H-1B and L-1 employees. AP

• AI AGENTS CAN OUTSOURCE ENTIRE SEMESTERS: WATCHING LECTURES, TAKING TESTS, WRITING PAPERS, EVEN CHATTING WITH CLASSMATES

Artificial Intelligence agents are taking entire online courses for cheating students

Dana Goldstein & Alan Blinder
August 10

AI cheating now extends beyond copy-and-paste

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE threatens to undermine online education, a growing business for colleges and universities, as professors struggle to counter tech-enabled cheating.

In physical classrooms, many educators have shifted to oral presentations and handwritten exams to prevent misuse of unregulated technology. But those strategies are harder online, where more than half of American college students took at least one class last year, up from about a third in 2019.

In many online courses, whether at community colleges or globally renowned universities, students may never meet professors or peers, even over video. These self-paced classes rely on prerecorded lectures, with assignments and tests submitted digitally. While some universities are fully online, many brick-and-mortar schools are expanding offerings. Students may earn full degrees or take individual classes.

AI cheating now extends beyond copy-and-paste essays. AI agents can outsource entire semesters: watching lectures, taking tests, writing papers, even chatting with classmates. Commands like "log in and complete my quiz" unleash imitations of students themselves.

Questions about the value of online degrees have long existed, but policymakers spent two decades promoting online learning as an equity tool for nontraditional students, such as low-income working parents. Many say online classes put degrees within reach. Now, however, AI's accessibility deepens misgivings about higher education's most accessible form, just as students struggle with pandemic aftereffects and doubts about their skills. Instructors nationwide describe realizing AI had infiltrated their classrooms. Karen Costa, teaching online for nearly 20 years, initially dismissed concerns but last year sensed an "influx" of AI-generated work. "Am I just interacting with bots here?" she recalled.

Community college professor Kathryn Kysar, teaching since the 1980s, noticed students failing punctuation assessments yet soon submitting polished work. "It's just so obvious," she said, blaming regulatory and leadership failures. She now requires in-person midterms and finals, with a paper dictionary at hand.

Students often deny wrongdoing, and administrators hesitate to impose discipline. Detection software can err, leaving no concrete proof. Faculty also fear schools reluctant to lose paying customers amid tight budgets and shifting demographics. Meanwhile, education leaders are eager to embrace technology that could reshape the workforce.

Responses to AI misuse vary: some professors shrug, others penalize, still others allow unrestricted use. Calls for government regulation have gone unanswered, while tech companies have done little to deter cheating. The problem affects both traditional and online classes but is harder to police remotely.

Tests by The New York Times found ChatGPT, Gemini and Grammarly all willing to write papers on request. School-licensed versions impose barriers, but students bypass them with personal accounts or second devices. AI companies have not blocked agents from logging into platforms like Canvas, Brightspace and Blackboard. These systems can flag suspicious signals but admit no fail-safe exists.

Blackboard recently acquired an app that authenticates student work by typing patterns. Some educators want AI agents to identify themselves, but firms resist, citing privacy risks. Google and OpenAI said they are working with educators to protect meaningful learning.

Experts warn of emerging forms of cheating: wearable devices enabling covert help, AI avatars impersonating students over video. In the absence of technical solutions, educators are adding real-world elements. "We don't want to take away access," said Marina Aminy of California Virtual Campus, suggesting flexible in-person exams. NYT

CHANDRASEKARAN BECAME THE CHAIRMAN OF TATA SONS IN 2017 AFTER CYRUS MISTRY'S EXIT

Tata Trusts to meet on August 13; Chandra's term renewal in focus

George Mathew
Mumbai, August 10

THE TATA Trusts board is scheduled to meet on August 13 to consider and approve the accounts and other matters ahead of the Tata Sons annual general meeting (AGM) on August 18, with the renewal of N Chandrasekaran's tenure as chairman expected to be a key issue.

The Trusts have also approached the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner seeking a one-time waiver to enable trustees of the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) to hold a meeting and consider its accounts and other matters.

The move assumes significance as the SRTT is currently restrained from holding meetings, creating uncertainty over its proposed grants of around Rs 400 crore as well as its Tata Sons dividend.

The SRTT could also face difficulty in exercising its voting rights at the Tata Sons AGM on August 18 unless it obtains approval from the Charity Commissioner. The issue has added another layer of uncertainty to the crucial shareholder meeting.

At the Tata Sons AGM on August 18, shareholders are expected to consider the reappointment of Chandrasekaran as a director. His current tenure as Executive Chairman of Tata Sons ends in February next year. Any decision on extending his tenure is expected to require the backing of the Tata Trusts, the principal shareholders of Tata Sons.

Tata Trusts did not respond to a mail from *The Indian Express*.

The August 13 Trusts meeting, is therefore, likely to be significant in determining the Trusts' position on Chandrasekaran's continuation, said a source in the Tata group.

Chandrasekaran's extension faces hurdles

On February 24, the outcome of the board meeting of Tata Sons was unusual as Noel Tata surprised other directors, raising questions on losses made by several unlisted companies in the $180 billion group.

While the extension of Chandrasekaran for a third term of five years was agreed upon earlier by Tata Trusts trustees, Noel Tata proved to be a tough task master, raising several queries at the board meeting and putting across several conditions for approving another term for him. Four Tata Sons directors were in favour of extending the tenure and were ready to put the issue on vote, but Chandrasekaran proposed postponement of the decision because he felt that the decisions in Tata Sons should be consensus-based, a tradition followed by late Ratan Tata. In short, he wanted the approval of Noel Tata for the extension.

Chandrasekaran, 63, became the chairman of Tata Sons in 2017 after the exit of Cyrus Mistry. He got his second extension in 2022. For a third extension, Tata Sons will have to waive the retirement norms. As per the current policy, directors in executive positions should retire on attaining 65 years of age.

Meanwhile, the uncertainty over the Trusts' decision-making stems from ongoing disputes involving Tata Trusts trustees Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh, former trustee Mehli Mistry and questions over the composition and functioning of the SRTT board. The Maharashtra Charity Commissioner is expected to hear the Trusts' response to various complaints before the Tata Sons AGM.

Mistry challenges trustee appointments

The governance dispute came into sharper focus in May, when Srinivasan and Singh were not reappointed as trustees of the Tata Education and Development Trust, a comparatively smaller entity within the Tata Trusts group. Mistry voted against their reappointment, while Singh voted in favour of Srinivasan and Srinivasan voted in favour of Singh. Under the trust's rules, however, reappointment requires unanimous approval, resulting in their terms not being extended.

On May 15, the Tata Trusts indefinitely deferred its board meeting scheduled for May 16 following an order from the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner. The order referred to representations or complaints made by Tata Sons director and Tata Trusts trustee Venu Srinivasan and advocate Katyayani Agrawal. FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

• TRUSTS MEETING

THE TRUSTS have approached the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner for a one-time waiver to enable trustees of the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) to hold a meeting and consider its accounts and other matters

THE MOVE assumes significance as the SRTT is currently restrained from holding meetings, creating uncertainty over its proposed grants of around Rs 400 crore as well as its Tata Sons dividend

THE SRTT could also face difficulty in exercising its voting rights at the Tata Sons AGM on August 18 unless it obtains approval from the Charity Commissioner

AMID ADANI'S AIRLINE INTEREST

AAI got request for cross-holding cap waiver, MoCA yet to consider

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, August 10

THE GOVERNMENT on Monday said there was no blanket policy restricting airport operators from holding substantial equity in airlines, although cross-holding restrictions are part of contracts for some airports operated by private sector players. It added that the state-owned Airports Authority of India (AAI) had received a request seeking a waiver of the cross-holding cap provision, but the matter is yet to be examined by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).

The comments, which were in response to a question from CPI(M) MP John Brittas, come close on the heels of reports that the Adani Group, which operates eight airports, had sought relaxations from cross-ownership restrictions as it was evaluating participating in the airline business. On July 24, Adani group flagship Adani Enterprises had said that it was not evaluating any proposal to enter the airline business. The Adani group didn't immediately respond to a request for comment following the government's response in the Rajya Sabha today.

"There is no such Government Policy restricting operators of major airports from holding substantial equity in or operating scheduled airlines. However, the extant contractual agreements relating to some airports under Public Private Partnership contain certain restrictions on scheduled airlines and their group entities/associates from holding Equity Share of the Concessionaires," Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said in a written response to Brittas's question.

"Request seeking waiver of the relevant agreement provision has been received by AAI. The matter has not yet been examined by the Ministry of Civil Aviation," Mohol added. Mohol didn't name the Adani group, nor did Brittas in his question.

The Adani group operates eight airports in the country and has a major presence in other segments of the aviation sector, including ground handling, maintenance, repair and overhaul, and pilot training. The conglomerate also plans to set up an aircraft manufacturing facility in India in partnership with Brazil's Embraer. FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Govt got Rs 10,000 cr in under 3 months from gold duty hike

Siddharth Upasani
New Delhi, August 10

THE CENTRAL government has collected Rs 10,040 crore as revenue just from gold bought from abroad after it raised the customs duty on the yellow metal on May 13, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed the Parliament on Monday.

The revenue was collected from May 13 to August 2. A further Rs 328 crore was collected from silver imports and Rs 95 crore from platinum purchases from overseas.

All in all, Rs 10,463 crore has been collected as revenue by the government from the import of gold, silver, and platinum between May 13 and August 2. To put this number in perspective, the Centre's overall customs duty revenue in May-June was Rs 40,317 crore, up 42% year-on-year, latest data shows.

The government collected Rs 10,463 crore in revenue from gold, silver and platinum imports between May 13 and August 2

On May 13, the government hiked the customs duty on gold and silver imports from 5% to 10%, and Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) from 1% to 5%, taking the total effective import duty to 15%. The effective import duty on platinum was also increased to 15.4% from 6.4%.

Further, the import duty on gold and silver findings was also raised to 5%, with platinum findings attracting a duty of 5.4%.

Findings are small components such as hooks, clasps, clamps, pins, and screws used to hold the whole or a part of a piece of jewellery in place.

Finally, a 3% IGST will be payable on all imports of precious metals in addition to the basic customs duty and AIDC.

Gold is one of India's major imports and amounted to $72 billion in 2025-26, up 24% from the previous year. In January 2026, for the first time ever, Indians invested more in gold Exchange Traded Funds than equity mutual funds. FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Apr-Jun unemployment at 5.4%, highest in 4 quarters

Shubham Rana
New Delhi, August 10

INDIA'S UNEMPLOYMENT rate for people aged 15 years and above rose to a four-quarter high of 5.4% in April-June 2026, with joblessness rising in both rural and urban areas, data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Monday showed. The rise in unemployment was broad-based, with the highest rate of joblessness seen among young females, especially in urban areas.

On average, 566 million persons aged 15 years and above were employed in the country during April-June, of which 402 million were male and 164 million were females.

The unemployment rate was up from 5.0% a quarter ago and the highest since April-June 2025, when it was 5.4%. The rural unemployment rate rose to 4.8% in April-June from 4.3% a quarter ago, while the urban unemployment rate inched up to 6.7% from 6.6% in January-March.

The female unemployment rate rose to 5.7% from 5.3% a quarter ago, while for men it increased to 5.3% from 4.8% in January-March. Female youth unemployment jumped to a series-high of 19.6% in April-June from 17.7% a quarter earlier.

Youth unemployment — for those aged between 15 and 29 years — jumped to 15.9% in the first quarter of 2026-27, the highest in the current Periodic Labour Force Survey series, which has data from April-June 2025. Youth unemployment was 15% in January-March and 14.6% a year ago. FE

Paytm shares soar 10%, Bernstein raises price target amid MDR talks

Nameera Anjum
New Delhi, August 10

SHARES OF One97 Communications Ltd, the parent company of digital payments major Paytm, jumped over 10% on Monday on the NSE, hitting a fresh 52-week high, after global brokerage Bernstein maintained its 'outperform' rating on the company and raised its price target sharply to Rs 2,200 from Rs 1,500. This implies an upside of nearly 40% from current levels.

The brokerage cited the impact of a potential Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI transactions from FY28 as a key factor behind its decision, although it warned that competitive intensity in merchant acquiring could increase further once the MDR kicks in. This could lead to realised economics being lower than published rates. Bernstein expects an MDR fee could lift Paytm's net payments margins by 3-4 basis points, which could drive a 30% increase in the company's earnings per share for FY30 compared to its previous forecasts.

One97's stock opened higher at Rs 1,445 on Monday and touched an intraday high of Rs 1,598.5. It closed at Rs 1,584.1, up 9.9% from Friday's close of Rs 1,441.6. Other fintech players such as One Mobikwik Systems Ltd also surged 3%, followed by AvenuesAI Ltd, formerly known as Infibeam Avenues Ltd, which was up 2%.

Paytm is the third-largest app in terms of the number of UPI transactions it handles. In June, it handled 1.8 billion UPI transactions worth a total of Rs 1.9 lakh crore. However, it was way behind top-ranked PhonePe (10.5 billion transactions) and second-placed Google Pay (7.4 billion transactions).

UPI transactions have not faced any MDR so far. But to help with the costs of running the payments infrastructure, the government has been subsidising UPI payments of up to Rs 2,000 made to only small merchants. However, this incentive is capped at 0.15% of the transaction value and is shared between banks, payment service providers and third-party app providers.

The Centre paid out Rs 8,730 crore under the incentive scheme from 2021-22 to 2024-25. However, this was only 11% of the cost incurred by the payment industry.

In April-June, One97 posted a profit of Rs 212 crore, noting that its Payment Processing Margin had "structurally improved" to over 4 bps due to higher growth in profitable MDR-bearing instruments such as credit cards on UPI and credit line on UPI (Postpaid), among other factors.

"With relation to MDR on UPI, we only have one line to say — we want both MDR and non MDR paying merchants to benefit. Our life won't change materially. Whatever will come will come in the bottom line and whatever will come will be good. So that's it. There is no obligation in the business model," Founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma had said in a post-earnings call. FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Govt plans child labour survey, Parliament panel seeks impact of welfare schemes

Siddharth Upasani
New Delhi, August 10

THE CENTRAL government is planning to conduct a National Child Survey, with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) having begun discussions with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD).

According to the 42nd report of the Standing Committee on Finance, tabled on Monday, the survey hopes to "map the needs of children under Mission Vatsalya, specifically focusing on children in need of care and protection and juveniles requiring legal and social rehabilitation". Formerly known as Integrated Child Protection Scheme, Mission Vatsalya focusses on child rights, advocacy, and awareness as well as strengthening of the juvenile justice care and protection system.

In its report, the Standing Committee on Finance noted that while a robust legal framework exists, "the abolition of child labour remains a complex challenge", with coordination gaps and absence of updated data being key obstacles. As such, the committee has called on MoSPI and MoWCD to "move beyond the discussion stage" regarding the survey.

Specifically, the survey must capture data on children working in the informal sector, street children, and out-of-school children, the committee said. FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group buys ReNew Solar Power

Mumbai: The RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group (RPSG) on Monday announced that Purvah Green Power Pvt Ltd, CESC Ltd's renewable energy platform, is set to acquire a 1.4 GWp operating solar portfolio from ReNew Solar Power Pvt Ltd for an enterprise value of Rs 4,859 crore. The portfolio is spread across six special purpose vehicles in Rajasthan and Karnataka.

ReNew Power Group was founded by Sumant Sinha, son of former Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha.

The acquisition has been funded by CESC. "The transaction is among the largest acquisitions of operating solar assets in the Indian market and marks a decisive shift in the composition of Purvah's portfolio — from a platform built primarily on projects under development to one anchored by assets already generating contracted cash flows," CESC said in a statement.

The acquired assets are operational projects with an established generation track record. Over 90% of the capacity is contracted with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) under long-term power purchase agreements, with the balance contracted with Karnataka distribution companies, it said. ENS

• BRIEFLY

Finance ministry to host two-day PSB conference

New Delhi: The Finance ministry will host a two-day PSB Confluence next week, bringing together the top leadership of public sector banks and public financial institutions to deliberate on measures for delivering people-centric outcomes. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary are expected to attend the conclave to be held on August 17-18. The event will provide a platform for the participating institutions to share best practices, the ministry said. PTI

• MARKETS

Sensex	NIFTY	Gold ▲	US Dollar ▲
78,542.44	24,583.80	₹1,50,641	₹95.30
43.27	13.15		
0.06%	0.05%		
		Silver ▼	**Oil ▲**
		₹2,31,373	$87.07

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER INDIA BULLION AND JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION DATA GOLD PER 10G, SILVER PER 1 KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF AUGUST 7, 2026

IRM Energy | IRM ENERGY LIMITED

CIN- L40100GJ2015PLC085213
Registered Office : 4th Floor, Block 8, Magnet Corporate Park, Near Sola Bridge, S.G. Highway, Ahmedabad-380054, Gujarat, India;
Email: investor.relations@irmenergy.com; **Website:** www.irmenergy.com; **Phone:** 079-49031500

FORM NO. CAA. 2

[PURSUANT TO SECTION 230(3) OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND RULE 6 OF THE COMPANIES (COMPROMISES, ARRANGEMENTS AND AMALGAMATIONS) RULES, 2016]

IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, AHMEDABAD BENCH

COMPANY APPLICATION NO. CA(CAA)/31(AHM)2026

IN THE MATTER OF SECTIONS 230 TO 232 AND OTHER APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013

AND

IN THE MATTER OF SCHEME OF AMALGAMATION OF ENERTECH DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT PRIVATE LIMITED WITH IRM ENERGY LIMITED AND THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS

IRM Energy Limited, a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, having Corporate Identity Number L40100GJ2015PLC085213 and its registered office at 4th Floor, Block 8, Magnet Corporate Park, Near Sola Bridge, S.G. Highway, Ahmedabad – 380 054, Gujarat, India	..Transferee Company

NOTICE AND ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE OF MEETINGS OF EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS AND UNSECURED CREDITORS OF THE TRANSFEREE COMPANY

Notice is hereby given that by an Order dated Monday, July 27, 2026 (**"Tribunal Order"**), the Ahmedabad Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (**"Tribunal"**) has directed separate meetings of the equity shareholders and unsecured creditors of the Transferee Company to be convened and held for the purpose of considering and if thought fit, approving, with or without modification(s), the Scheme of Amalgamation of Enertech Distribution Management Private Limited (**"Transferor Company"**) with IRM Energy Limited (**"Company"** or **"Transferee Company"**) and their respective shareholders under Sections 230 to 232 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (**"Scheme"**) and also other applicable Rules and Regulations.

In pursuance of the said Tribunal Order and as directed therein, further notice is hereby given that separate meetings of the equity shareholders and unsecured creditors of the Transferee Company will be held as given under:

Sr. No.	Meeting of	Day and Date of Meetings	Time of Meetings (IST)	Mode
1.	Equity Shareholders	Saturday, September 12, 2026	10:30 a.m.	Through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM"
2.	Unsecured Creditors	Saturday, September 12, 2026	12:30 p.m.	

The equity shareholders and unsecured creditors of the Transferee Company are requested to attend their respective meetings through VC / OAVM, as physical attendance at the meetings has been dispensed with. Further, the facility for appointment of proxies will not be available for these meetings.

The Scheme if approved by requisite majority of the equity shareholders and unsecured creditors at these meetings will be subject to subsequent approval of the Tribunal and such other approvals, permissions, and sanctions of regulatory or other authorities, as may be necessary.

Individual notices of the respective meetings which, inter alia, includes the Scheme, Statement under Sections 230 and 232 read with Section 102 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 6 of the Companies (Compromise, Arrangement, and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016, and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (**"SEBI Listing Regulations"**) and also other applicable rules, circulars and guidelines issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India have been sent to the equity shareholders by email whose names appear in the register of members / list of beneficial owners as on **Friday, August 07, 2026** and to the unsecured creditors by email whose names appear in the list of unsecured creditors as on **Sunday, May 31, 2026**.

The aforesaid notices and accompanying documents are also placed on the: (i) website of the Transferee Company and can be accessed at www.irmenergy.com; (ii) website of M/s MUFG Intime India Private Limited (formerly Link Intime India Private Limited) (**"RTA"**) viz. https://instavote.linkintime.co.in/, being the agency appointed by the Transferee Company, which will provide the facility of voting to the equity shareholders and unsecured creditors through remote e-voting, for participation in the Meeting through VC/OAVM and e-voting at the Meeting; (iii) the website of BSE Limited (**"BSE"**) viz. www.bseindia.com; and (iv) the website of National Stock Exchange of India Limited (**"NSE"**) viz. www.nseindia.com.

If so desired, the equity shareholders and unsecured creditors may obtain a physical copy of the respective notices and the accompanying documents, free of charge. A written request in this regard, may be addressed to the Company Secretary & Compliance Officer at investor.relations@irmenergy.com.

The Hon'ble Tribunal has appointed Shri. Sanjiv Dutt, Ex. Member, Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, to be the Chairperson for the meetings of the equity shareholders and unsecured creditors of the Transferee Company.

Manner of casting vote(s) through e-voting and attending the meetings through VC/OAVM

The Transferee Company is providing to the equity shareholders and unsecured creditors the facility to exercise their right to vote by electronic means, i.e. remote e-voting and e-voting at the meeting (together referred to as "e-voting"). The process and manner of e-voting and attending the meeting through VC/ OAVM is given in the "Notes" section of the notice of the respective meetings. The remote e-voting timelines, and login details for e-voting and attending the meetings are as under:

Particulars	Meeting of Equity Shareholders	Meeting of Unsecured Creditors
Event number of the meeting on e-voting system	260525	260526
Cut-off Date for reckoning entitlement for e-voting and attending the meeting	Saturday, September 05, 2026	Sunday, May 31, 2026
Commencement of remote e-voting	Wednesday, September 09, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. (IST)	Wednesday, September 09, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. (IST)
Conclusion of remote e-voting	Friday, September 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (IST)	Friday, September 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (IST)
User ID and Password	Refer Instructions mentioned in the notice of the meeting.	Refer Instructions mentioned in the notice of the meeting.

Note: The remote e-voting facility will be disabled beyond aforesaid date and time.

The equity shareholders and unsecured creditors of the Transferee Company will be provided with the facility for e-voting during the respective meetings. The equity shareholders and unsecured creditors who have cast their vote by remote e-voting (prior to the Meeting) will be eligible to attend / participate at the respective meetings through VC / OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

A person whose name is recorded in the Register of Members or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on the cut-off date, i.e., **Saturday, September 05, 2026 ("Cut-off Date")** only shall be entitled to exercise his / her / its voting rights on the resolution proposed in the notice and attend the meeting of the equity shareholders of the Transferee Company. A person who is not an Equity Shareholder as on the Cut-off Date, should treat the notice for information purposes only. Any person, who acquired shares of the Transferee Company and becomes a member of the Transferee Company after dispatch of the notice and holds shares as on the Cut-off Date, may obtain the login ID and password by following the instructions as mentioned in the notice.

Equity shareholders holding shares in physical form or equity shareholders who have not registered their email addresses may also exercise their voting rights through e-voting and attend the meeting, by following the instructions provided in the notice of the meeting of the equity shareholders.

A person whose name is recorded in the list of unsecured creditors available with the Transferee Company as on the cut-off date, i.e., **Sunday, May 31, 2026 ("Cut-off Date")** only shall be entitled to exercise his / her / its voting rights on the resolution proposed in the notice and attend the meeting of unsecured creditors of the Transferee Company. Unsecured creditors whose email addresses are not available in the records of the Transferee Company may exercise their voting rights through e-voting and attend the meeting, by following the instructions provided in the notice of the meeting of unsecured creditors.

The Hon'ble Tribunal has appointed CA Sehmil Devdiwala to scrutinize the e-voting process during the respective meetings in a fair and transparent manner and submit the report on the votes cast to the Chairperson of the meetings or to any person so authorized by the Chairperson, within 2 (two) working days of the conclusion of the respective meetings.

The results of e-voting will be declared within 2 (two) working days of the conclusion of the respective meetings and the same, along with the consolidated Scrutinizer's Report, will be placed on the website of the Transferee Company at www.irmenergy.com and on the website of RTA at https://instavote.linkintime.co.in/ and on the website of BSE viz. www.bseindia.com and on the website of NSE at www.nseindia.com. The Transferee Company will also display the results on the notice board at the Registered Office of the Transferee Company.

For any query or issue regarding e-voting, you may refer Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQ") and InstaVote e-voting manual available under help section at https://instavote.linkintime.co.in/ or send an email to enotices@in.mpms.mufg.com or contact on Tel: 022 – 4918 6000.

Sd/-
Sanjiv Dutt
Chairperson appointed by the Tribunal for the Meeting

Place: Ahmedabad
Date: 10 August, 2026

CORRIGENDUM

Advertisement Code PRDH:-1058/11/1310/2026/43799 on dated 12.03.2026 advertised for post of MO, LT, Staff Nurse in ART centre PGIMS, Rohtak and Blood Bank LT in PGIMS, Rohtak, STI Counselor in Civil Hospital, Rohtak will be re-advertised due to administrative reason.

Endno, TB/RTK/2026/2331
dated: 07.08.2026

No. 48035-HRY Sd/- **Civil Surgeon Rohtak**

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.

PSPCL

Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-22185)

Tender Enquiry No. 385/SS(D)-402/Spares Dated: 07.08.2026

Dy. CE/ Substation Design/ TS Organization, PSPCL, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacturing, Testing, Supply and Delivery of 50 Nos. 220V/100AH and 30 Nos. 24V/100AH DC Distribution Boards and 80 Nos. 415V, 11 Circuit, AC Distribution Boards. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 12.08.2026 (11:00 AM onwards).

Note:- Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

No. 14092/PB C 780/26

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FARIDABAD	REPAIRING/SERVICING OF SEWERAGE MONO BLOCK WITH P.T.O PUMP 100 MM X 100 MM HEAVY DUTY W3ITH A:LL ACCESSORIES FOR DE WATERING OF STINGING /FLOODED WATER IN WARD NO 36 + 14 WORKS	05.08.2026 12.08.2026	6,89,64,463/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0129241164 9 xenmcf3@gmail.com
2	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FARIDABAD	ESTIMATE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SUB HEALTH CENTRE AT BHANKRI VILLAGE. + 38 WORKS	07.08.2026 14.08.2026	5,42,65,446/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0129241164 9 xenmcf5@gmail.com
3	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FARIDABAD	ESTIMATE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY CENTER AT SEC-17 WARD NO. 35	07.08.2026 21.08.2026	5,64,93,336/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0129241164 9 xenmcf3@gmail.com
4	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FARIDABAD	RE- CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION OF LOHA MANDI PARK AND JAGGAN NATH DHARAM KANTA PARK IN NEHRU GROUND IN WARD NO.13, FARIDABAD + 10 WORKS	07.08.2026 14.08.2026	1,67,44,960/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0129241164 9 mdsmrut1@gmail.com
5	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FARIDABAD	PROVIDING AND LAYING IPB FOR SIDE BERMS NEAR SAFFRON , DAV, MODERN , GOVT. SCHOOLS IN SECTOR 37 WARD NO. 24 FARIDABAD + 2 WORKS	08.08.2026 17.08.2026	2,57,64,318/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0129241164 9 xenmcf5@gmail.com
6	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FARIDABAD	PROVIDING AND LAYING 250MM DIA S.W. PIPE SEWER LINE IN VILLAGE BHANKRI, WARD NO.19 (NEW), FARIDABAD. + 9 WORKS	08.08.2026 17.08.2026	2,04,79,640/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0129241164 9 mdsmrut1@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No.48041/HRY

District Health and Family Welfare Society
O/o Civil Surgeon
Address Civil Surgeon Office Rohtak

Re-Advertisement to fill the following posts under District under Haryana State AIDS Control Society. Posts are purely on contract basis for a fixed period initially upto 31.03.2027 (extendable, subject to further administrative approval and performance).

Application from completed in all respect along with photocopy of all essential qualification certificates and relevant documents (attested/self attested) must be submitted through registered post /by hand to "District TB Hospital Rohtak, Room no. 5 from 08:00AM to 02:00PM before closing date 14.08.2026. Candidates are also advised to visit the website of Health Haryana ile. haryanahealth.gov.in regularly for any corrigendum/notice/updates/ result etc. Incomplete application forms shall be rejected.

S. No.	Place of Posting	Name of the Post	No. of Post and Category	Essential Qualification/Eligibility Criteria	Age Limit	Consolidated Salary per month
1.	ART Centre, PGIMS Rohtak-1	Senior Medical Officer	Post-01 Cat-GEN	**Position: SMO-ART** **Essential Qualifications:** -First preference should be given to candidates with MD in Medicine or and other clinical discipine If candidates not available as per para 1 above. candidates with MBBS Diploma in any clinical discipline having minimum 3 years of experience can be considered In the event of unavailability of candidates as per parat & 2 above candidates with MBBS-Fellowship in HIV Medicine/ PGDHIVM (IGNOU)/Diploma in Public Health having 3 years of experience can be considered for the post of SMO The candidate should have working knowledge on computer, MS office, usage of internet and electronic mail -However, each proposal for relaxation of qualification as explained at para 3 above should be sent to the Project Director of the concerned SACS for approval, provided that two earlier attempts failed to recrut SMO with qualifications as indicated at para 1 & 2 above in case SMO cannot be recruted due to non-availability of qualified candidates, an MO can be recruted in place of SMO (and be given the salary of MO)	As per Haryana Govt. Norms	90,000/- PM
2.	ART Centre, PGIMS Rohtak-1	Medical Officer	Post-01 Cat-GEN	**Position: MO-ART** **Essential Qualifications:** MBBS with valid registration from the respective State Medical Council/MNC Desirable Experience in HIV/AIDS Program/Post ART settings, These with MD Medicine/Diploma in Medicine will be preferred **Essential Experience:-** 6 months work experience Post Graduates from cinical Discipline will also be considered. Good working Knowledge of computer MS Office	As per Haryana Govt. Norms	72,000/- PM
3.	ART Centre, PGIMS Rohtak-1	LT	Post-01 Cat-GEN	**Position: MO-ART** **Essential Qualifications:** -B.Sc in Medical Laboratory Technology (BMLT) or BMLS Ciploma in Medical Laboratory technology (DMLT) or DMLS with the course duration of at least 2 years recognized by UGCrState Government Central Government **Essential Experience:** -01 year Experience for B.Sc in MLT (BMLT) or BMLS -02 years experience for DMLT or DMLS Desirable- Community candidates from infected and affected as wel as key communities Engement with key population and affected communities at field level	As per Haryana Govt. Norms	25000/- PM
4.	ART Centre, PGIMS Rohtak-1	Staff Nurse	Post-01 Cat-GEN	**Essential Qualification:-** BSc. Nursing or GNM (Candidate must be registered in State Nursing Council) **Essential Experience:** The candidate should be computer literate with working knowledge of MS Office, usage of internet and electronic mail Engagement with key populations and affected communities at field level **Desirable:-** Community candidates from HIV infected and affected as well as key communities.	As per Haryana Govt. Norms	21000/- PM
5.	BLOOD BANK Centre, PGIMS Rohtak-1			**Essential Qualification:-** -Degree in Medical Laboratory Technology (DMLT). OR -Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology (DMLT). -Should have completed 10+2 before obtaining diploma or degree. -The degree or diploma should be from University/Institute recognized by Central Government or State Government. -The candidates should be registered with ate concerned Para-Medical Council if applicable. -Knowledge of computer. **Essential Experience:-** -Minimum 02 years after degree and 03 after diploma. -Degree holder must have minimum 06 months experience in the Blood banking. -Diploma holders must have minimum 01 years experience in Blood Banking. Desirable:- -Post Graduate Degree. -Proficiency in MS Office.	As per Haryana Govt. Norms	25000/- PM
6.	Civil Hospital Rohtak			**Essential Qualification:-** -Graduation degree holders in Psychology /Social Work /Sociology/ Anthropology/ Human Development / Nursing with 3 years of experience in counseling/education under National Health Programme. **Or** -Post Graduate in Psychology /Social Work / Sociology /Anthropology/ Human Development / Nursing -If candidate is a person living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV). -Graduate degree holderin Psychology Social Work /Sociology / Anthropology/Human Development/Nursing 1 years experience in counseling educating under National Health Programme. **Desirable:-** -Experience of working under the National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP) facility or community settings. **Knowledge and Skill:-** -The candidates should be computer literate with working knowledge of MS Office, usage of internet and electronic mail. -Familiarity with government health policies and related program's -Ability to work in terms and flexible ways of working as per the need of programme.	As per Haryana Govt. Norms	21000/- PM

Important Instructions for candidates:-

1. Applicant must be permanent resident of Haryana (Bonafide domicile certificate from executive magistrate should be furnished).
2. Applicant should be have psssed Hindi/Sanskrit up to Matric
3. These posts are district specific and non transferable.
4. The reservation policy of govt. of Haryana will be enforced (these posts are district specific, so all district authorities are hereby directed to ensure to fill the backlog of reservation policy as per Haryana Govt. and as per the total sanctioned posts in different categories in district).
5. Waiting list of 03 candidates per post will be kept so that post need not to be re-advertised again and again and posts may not remain vacant. This waiting list will be valid for one year.
6. The selection criteria of Haryana State AIDS Control Society approved by Chairman, Hayana SACS shall be followed for recruitment. The details of selection criteria may be seen on the website of Health Haryana i.e. haryanahealth.gov.in are annexed at Annexure **"A".**
7. The candidates are require to attached the attested/self attested legible copies of qualification/certificates and other relevant documents along with the application form.
8. Candidates applying for a post must ensure that they fulfill all the eligible condition as on the previous day of closing date. Ineligible candidates not need to apply.
9. Candidate any of three documents should produce at the time of recruitment is given below:-
   - **-Passport.**
   - **-Voter ID Card.**
   - **-Ration Card with Address.**
   - **-Cast and Domicile certificate with address and the photo issued by State Government.**
   - **-Parivar Pahchan Patra.**
   - **-Electricity Bill (not older than lat three months)**

This office reserves the right to cancel the whole recruitment process at any time at any stage without assigning the reason to candidate.

End No: TB/RTK /2026/2332 dt. 07.08.2026

Sd/-
Civil Surgeon
Rohtak

No. 48034/HR

HARYANA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (BUILDINGS & ROADS)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL DIVISION, PWD B&R BRANCH, NIRMAN SADAN, GURUGRAM

eemd-gurgaon@hry.nic.in

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

Office of the Executive EngineerMechanical Division, PWD (B&R), Gurugram

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that a Physical/Offline Public Auction of condemned and unserviceable stores of Mechanical Division, PWD (B&R), Gurugram will be conducted as per the following schedule:

Date: Monday, 17.08.2026Time: 11:00 AM Venue: Mechanical Workshop, PWD (B&R), Gurugram, Behind Sadar Bazaar Post Office, Gurugram The auction will include the disposal of the following condemned and unserviceable items on "as is where is" basis:

Old and unserviceable vehicle spare parts;
Used black oil/lubricants;
Old and unserviceable tyres;
Condemned Tools & Plant (T&P) items; and
Condemned office furniture and miscellaneous stores such as chairs, tables, racks, almirahs, and other unserviceable office items.

Interested bidders may inspect the auction material at the Mechanical Workshop, PWD (B&R), Gurugram, Behind Sadar Bazaar Post Office, Gurugram during office hours before the date of auction.

The auction shall be conducted through physical/offline bidding, and the highest bid accepted by the competent authority shall be final. The department reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason.

Detailed terms and conditions of the auction are available in the auction notice and may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

For item details and auction-related information, contact: 9671271669

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division,
PWD (B&R), Gurugram

No. 48051/HRY

Office of the Chief Engineer
Design, Master Planning & Hydrology Water Resource Department)

Jal Bhawan Room No.- 203, Doranda, Ranchi-834002
Email- cedesign-wrd-jhr@nic.in e-mail - cedesign-wrd-jhr@nic.in

Letter No.- अधी० अभि०/बाँ०एवं०मे०ट०/**SDSO**/335- **VI**/2026/458 /Ranchi, Date:- 07.08.26

CORRIGENDUM (PR No. 386149)

Extension of Last Date for Submission of Applications

With reference to the Letter No.-424, dated 23.07.2026 for Notice Inviting Application (for Willingness) from Domain Experts for Empanelment of Members for Independent Panel of Experts (IPoE) to Conduct Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation (CDSE) of Specified Dams under WRD, Jharkhand, the last date for submission of applications along with the requisite documents, originally notified as 07.08.2026 up to 5:00 PM, is hereby extended up to **14.08.2026 till 5:00 PM.** All other terms and conditions of the Notice Inviting Application shall remain unchanged.

For detailed information, applicants may visit the official website : wrd.jharkhand.gov.in under the link **"What's New!"** of the Water Resources Department, Government of Jharkhand.

Chief Engineer
Design, Master Planning & Hydrology, Jal Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi- 834002

PR 387122 (Water Resource)26-27*D

MCG MUNICIPAL CORPORATION of GURUGRAM
NURTURING GURUGRAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

REGARDING ILLEGAL CONVERSION OF LAND, UNAUTHORIZED USE OF BUILDING & UNAUTHORIZED CONSTRUCTION RAISED IN CONTRAVENTION TO HARYANA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ACT, 1994 & HARYANA BUILDING CODE-2017 AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME.

Whereas the issuance of the present Public Notice is in furtherance of and in comphance with the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in SLP (C) No. 8044/2025 titled Loganathan v. State of Tamil Nadu, wherein the Hon'ble Court nas directed for effective and immediate action against violations of statutory provisions, unauthorized constructions, change of land use and other allied violations, in accordance with law.

Whereas land/plot/building/premises situated within the limits of Municipal Corporation, Gurugram, shall except with the prior permission of the Competent Authority, be used for purpose other than these for which it was used on date of publication of the notification of Controlled Area/MC Limit & no person shall erect or re-erect commence to erect any building on his land without obtaining prior permission/approval from Competent Authority under the applicable provisions of Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994 and Haryana Building Code-2017 amended from time to time.

Whereas no person/plot owner/ applicant shall occupy allow any other person to socupy any buliding or part of a building or any portion whatsoever, until such building or part thereof has been certified by the Competent Authority as having been completed in accordance with the permission granted and an Occupation Certificate has been issued after submission of valid NOCs and the documents as specified in Haryana Building Code-2017 amended from time to time

Whereas this Corporation has carried out survey of the unauthorized buildings constructed without obtaining the requisite CLU/Conversion Permission, approval of building plans, NOCS issued by Fire Department, Haryana State Follution Control Board etc. confirming and confirming land use aree on regular intervals and it has been noticed by this Corporation that number of the plot/land/building owners have nether obtained conversion/CLU permission nor abtained any approval of building plans occupation certificate from the Competent Authonty and the requisite NOCS issued by concerned Departments as required for use of building/premises, therefore, this Corporation is regularly taking action against such violators indulging in unauthorized use/ construction/occupation over the land/plot/buildings/premises situated within the limits of this Corporation.

Whereas this Corporation has further noticed that the plot owners of plots/land/premises who have obtained approval of building plans under self-certification through Online Buliding Plan Approval System for their illegally sub-divided plots/illegally converted commercial land and furthermore have raised construction in contravention with the applicable Building Bye Laws without leaving any statutory setbacks, without making parking provision within the premises, without having valid NOCs, put use the building/premises without obtaining any approval from Competent Authority therefore, through this Public Notice all such plot owners are directed to bring the construction in conformity with applicable land use/bullding bye laws, to obtain the requisite NOCs failing which this Corporation shall definitely initiate stringent action against the violators following due course in law. The cost of enforcement occurred towards removal of such violations shall also be recovered from the violators as per applicable laws. Non-compliance shall also invite legal panel action against the violators/offenders.

Whereas this Corporation has further noticed that unauthorized ramps have been constructed/ extended over public roads, public streets and other public land thereby reducing the effective carriageway and obstructing the smooth flow of traffic and also causing water logging in many instances. Semi-permanent/temporary structures Including tin sheds, khekhas, kiosks, dhabas and other structures have been erected green belts, roadsides and other public places and unauthorized occupation/encroachment has been made upon these green belts, footpaths, roadsides and other Municipal/public land, temporary encroachments by street. hawkars/vendors particularly at busy markets along major roads and other congested locations are causing obstruction to vehicular as well as pedestrian movement and unauthorized constructions/ buildings have also been raised in contravention of the applicable provisions of the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994 and Haryana Building Code-2017, as amended from time to time. Therefore, this Corporation shall take appropriate action against all such unauthorized encroachments, constructions, occupations and obstructions in accordance with law. The cost of enforcement occurred towards removal of such violations shall also be recovered from the violators es per applicable laws.

Whereas Stray animals are also found occupying public places, public roads and ather public spaces, thereby causing obstruction to traffic and posing inconvenience and safety hazards to the general public. Therefore, this Corporation shall take appropriate action against all such unauthorized encroachments, constructions, occupations and obstructions in accordance with law. The cost of enforcement occurred towards removal of such violations shall also be recovered from the violators es per applicable laws.

Sd/-
Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation,
Gurugram.

Deted: 08.08.2026
No 48026

GUJARAT MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Gujarat Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Block No. 14/1,
Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Sector-10, Gandhinagar
☎ 079-23250767, 23250766, 23257698

TENDER NOTICE NO:GMSCL/ D-35/2026-27

Tenders are invited online from reputed Manufacturers/formulators/ Direct importers for **Tablet & capsule, Injection, Miscellaneous Item** on Rate contract basis and details of specification, quantity is available on, **https://gmscl.gujarat.gov.in** All tender documents can be downloaded free on the website: **https://tender.nprocure.com** Interested bidders are requested to submit the tender through e-tender process.

Duration of downloading of tender document (online):- **10/08/2026 to 25/08/2026** up to18.00 Hrs

Last date for Submission (online): **25/08/2026 up to 18-00 HRS**
Last date for submission of EMD/Tender Fee (Physical) : **27/08/2026 upto 18:00 HRS**
Opening of Technical Bid Date (online): **31/08/2026 At 15-00 HRS.**

Pre-Consultation meeting (Pre-Bid)

Interested Manufactures/formulators/Direct Importers are requested to remain present for pre- Consultation meeting to be held on **18/08/2026 at 11.30 am** at Committee room at above mentioned address. Only one representative from each Manufacturer carrying authority letter would be allowed to participate in the pre-bid.

INF-1098-2026-27 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, Annexure 3, 4th Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002

No: EE-TEC/BCCC/TENDER/03/2026 - 27 Date:10.08.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer, Special Division, BCCC, Bangalore invites works tenders two cover systems from Contractors registered in Grater Bangalore Authority or equivalent registration /CPWD/KPWD/KPWD/ FOREST/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Maintenance of pedestrian subways in BCCC **Tender Cost : Rs. 127.11 Lakhs (Exclusive of GST)** **EMD : Rs. 2,25,000.00 (Through e-payment)**

Calendar of Events : (1) Date of Commencement of Download of Document from KPPP website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in : **10.08.2026, 5.00 PM after (2)** Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Procurement : **16.08.2026 Up to 4:30 PM (3)** Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting : **17.08.2026 at 4:30 PM** at the following venue: Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, Annexure 3, 4th floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru -560002 **(4)** Last Date and Time for submission of Tender : **21.08.2026 Up to 5.30 PM (5)** Opening of technical document : **On 24.08.2026 at 11.00 AM (6)** Address for Communication : Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, Annexure 3, 4th Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, BCCC

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, FARIDABAD

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from eligible Cooperative Labour & Construction Societies/ eligible tenderers/service agencies/ firms registered with Govt of Haryana having a minimum of three (03) years' experience in providing the following services at Government College for Women, Faridabad duly:

- **Cleaning Services**
- **Housekeeping Services**
- **Gardening Services**
- **Security Services**

This tender is issued in compliance with the directions of Director General Higher Education, Haryana, Panchkula vide Memo No. 21/139-2023 ME(4) dated 16.12.2025 and Haryana Government Notification No. C-7-2025/4728 dated 27.06.2025.

Tender forms can be obtained from the Office of the Principal, Government College for Women, Faridabad on payment of Rs. 500/- through Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque on all working days between 09.30 am to 02.30 pm

Important Dates

Pre Bid Meeting: 21/8/2026 11:00am
Last Date for Submission of Tender: 25/08/2026 (up to 4pm)
Opening of Tender: 27/08/2026 at 11:00am

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
Principal
Government College for Women
Faridabad

No. 48054/HRY

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Divisional Railway Manager/ENGG, South Eastern Railway, Chakradharpur acting for & on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender. Manual Offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl.No.**-1. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-EAST-26-27-29. Name of work:** Extension for Platform No.4/5 at Kharagpur end and construction of parcel platform between line No. 6 and 7 at Tatanagar (2nd Call). **Tender Value:** ₹ 70,91,170.22. **EMD:** ₹ 1,41,800. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-EAST-26-27-31. Name of work:** Construction of 03 full length stabling line towards DN grid at Adityapur (ADTP) Yard. **Tender Value:** ₹ 16,46,18,939.61. **EMD:** ₹ 32,92,400. **Sl.No.**-3. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-EAST-26-27-32. Name of work:** Improvement in infrastructure facilities at Adityapur yard as per latest CAMTECH guidelines. **Tender Value:** ₹ 7,46,24,924.70. **EMD:** ₹ 14,92,500. **Sl.No.**-4. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-WEST-26-27-19. Name of work:** Construction of 5 lines at FBWP (Welding Plant) yard as a separate grid with connectivity to Jharsuguda Rail yard at Nagpur End. **Tender Value:** ₹ 12,03,84,084.81. **EMD:** ₹ 24,07,700. **Sl.No.**-5. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-SOUTH-26-27-20. Name of work:** Construction of 2 additional loop lines & other miscellaneous work in DN Grid of Maluka (MLKA) station yard under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN(South)/ Chakradharpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 13,65,45,254.92. **EMD:** ₹ 27,30,900. **Sl.No.**-6. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-SOUTH-26-27-21. Name of work:** Extension of FOB, provision of dogged legged ramp & other miscellaneous work in connection with construction of 2 additional loop lines in DN Grid of Maluka (MLKA) station yard under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN(South)/Chakradharpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 9,08,06,755.90. **EMD:** ₹ 18,16,100. **Sl.No.**-7. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-SOUTH-26-27-22. Name of work:** Construction of 18 units type II quarters in replacement of old condemned quarters at Jhinkpani (JNK) & Chaibasa (CBSA), (JNK-6 Units & CBSA-12 Units). **Tender Value:** ₹ 5,08,02,272.18. **EMD:** ₹ 10,16,100. **Sl.No.**-8. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-CENTRAL-26-27-29. Name of work:** Construction of 18 units type II quarters in replacement of old condemned quarters at Manoharpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 4,61,27,258.74. **EMD:** ₹ 9,22,600. **Sl.No.**-9. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-CENTRAL-26-27-30. Name of work:** Supply and loading ninto Railway Wagons/Hoppers 135266 cum 50mm gauge machine crushedhard stone ballast at Pakur/Bakudih/Rajgram/Barharwa/ Pinargaria/Taljhari quarry under jurisdiction of Chakradharpur Division [Measurement at destination] 2nd Call. **Tender Value:** ₹ 26,98,04,268.92. **EMD:** ₹ 53,96,100. **Cost of Tender form:** ₹ 0 (for Sl.No. 1 to 9 each). **Date of Opening:** 26.08.2026 (for Sl.No. 1), 28.08.2026 (for Sl.No. 2 & 4 to 7 each), 01.09.2026 (for Sl.No. 3) & 02.09.2026 (for Sl.No. 8 & 9). The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer/ bidders must have class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **(PR-588)**

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Omkar S/o Jawahar Lal Singh,H.No-62,Road No-2, Near Rose Velly Public School, Ranholla , Delhi-110041 have changed my name to Omkar Kumar. 0040871139-10

I,KISHANVEER SINGH CHAUDHARY S/O PRATAP SINGH,R/o H.No.43, Dharm Lok Nagar,Maholi Road,Mathura, U.P.-281001,have changed my name to KISHAN VIR SINGH. 0040871145-1

I, ANIL RAJ SETHI S/O MADAN LAL SETHI R/O 1415, SECTOR A , POCKET B&C , NEAR AMBEIANCE TOWER, VASANT KUNJ, SOUTH WEST DELHI 110070 have changed my name ANIL SETHI for all future purpose 0071053214-1

I Shahnawaz S/o Jamaluddin R/o Y-29, Budh Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Shahnawaj Salmani 0071053277-1

I,POOJA CHOULA W/o Raja Yadav,R/o E-284,Block-E,Tagore Garden Extn.,Tagore Garden,Delhi-110027,have changed my name from POOJA CHOULA to POOJA permanently. 0040871139-3

I,Sanjeev S/o Kalu Singh R/o RZF-645, Raj Nagar-2, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110077, have changed my name to Sanjeev Lahiry. 0040871138-6

I,Kum. Manju W/o Ashok Kumar Bhardwaj R/o B-96, Brij-Vihar, Chander Nagar,Ghaziabad, U.P.-201011,have changed my name to Manju Bhardwaj. 0040871145-10

I, Meena Devi W/o Ravindra Prasad R/o Mohalla, Pulpar, Alamganj Biharsharif, Nalanda, Bihar -803101, have changed my name to Mina Devi for all future purposes. 0040871039-2

I Arun S/o Rajesh Kumar R/o H.No-87, Village-Fazilpur Jharsa, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001,have Changed My Name to Arun Kumar. 0040871153-8

I,Rubeena Khatoon,W/o-Mushtaque Ahmad,R/o-RZ-911A,F/F,Gali.No.-22, Tughlakabad Extension, New Delhi PIN:110019, have changed my name to Rubina for all purposes. 0040871139-12

I,Rupali D/O-Rajesh Kumar Dwivedi Add : I-168, Near Govt School, Karampura, New Delhi 110015,have changed my name to Rupali Dwivedi. 0040871145-3

I, JOGENDER SINGH S/o Hacchu Ram, A-32, Khel Goan, Ranjit Singh Block, Andrewsganj, Delhi-49, have changed my name to JOGINDER SINGH. 0071053224-1

I,KARAN SEJWAL,S/O KALI RAM R/O H.N0-F-574,KHOKKRE WALI GALI NO-1,LADO SARAI,DELHI 110030,HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO KARAN SINGH,FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE. 0040871153-1

I, SOMIA, D/o JAMIL AHMED, R/o J-20/1, Abul Fazal Enclave Part-1, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name to SOMIA AHMED. 0071053209-1

I,hitherto known as SHARAD KUMAR,S/O-KRISHAN KUMAR,R/o-H.NO-153,BLOCK-A-1,PASCHIM VIHAR,DELHI-110063,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHARAD. 0040871139-5

I,Rinku Das W/o Munindra Saloi R/o Plot No.C-33,Mohan Garden,Uttam Nagar,New Delhi-110059,have changed my name to Rinku Moni Saloi. 0040871138-8

I, hitherto known as Sharook Khan, S/o Md. Fahim Ahmad, R/o 812, First Floor, Gali No.22, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mohammad Shahrukh Khan. 0040871030-1

I,VINOD PIPLANI S/O RAJ KUMAR R/O 181, 4TH Floor,Deepali Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to VINOD KUMAR. 0040871140-4

I,FARZANA KHANAM alias FARZANA KAMAL,D/O-ABDUL KALAM KHAN WARSI,W/O-KAUSAR KAMAL KHAN R/o,M-25, Near Khalilullah-Masjid, Batla-House,Jamia-Nagar, South-Delhi,Delhi-110025, have changed my name to FARZANA KAMAL. 0040871145-12

We, Shazia Asthana and Rajat Asthana, R/o H-32A, Top Floor, Kalkaji, New Delhi, declare that in our daughter Samaira Asthana's Birth Certificate, the father's name "Rajat" should be "Rajat Asthana", and "Shalu" is the alias of "Shazia Asthana". Both refer to the same persons. 0050294826-1

I,Gaurav Kumar S/o Bhoop Singh Aggarwal,R/o 91,Naya Bans, Chandni Chowk,North Delhi,Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Gaurav Aggarwal. 0040871153-10

I, Deepak S/o Amar Singh R/o-468, Shahpur, Bamheta, Ghaziabad, UP have changed my name to Deepak Kumar. 0071053280-1

I, Husan Khalid W/o Mohammad Khalid R/o. 956, Gali Tota Maina, Behind Novelty Cinema, Tilak Bazar, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Husan Ara for all future purposes. 0040871032-1

I,VIJAY KUMAR ARORA,S/O YASH PAL ARORA,R/O AC-13, 3RD-FLOOR GANGARAM VATIKA TILAK NAGAR,DELHI-110018.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIJAY ARORA. 0040871139-8

I,FARID AHMED S/o.AMAN KHAN R/O.H.No-B-417,Gali No-2,Aoliya Maszid,Delhi-110053 inform that my name FARID AHMED and FARID is same person. 0040871138-1

I,RITU SINGH SAWHNEY,W/O-JASMEET SINGH SAWHNEY,R/o-PLOT.NO-6FIRST FLOOR,GYAN KHAND-2, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD UTTAR PRADESH U.P.-201014,have changed My Name To RITU SAWHNEY permanently. 0040871145-5

I, AMULY KUMAR S/o Dwarka Prasad, Plot No-157, Old Chopal, Vill-Bijwasan, Bijwasan, Delhi-61, have changed my name to AMULY KUMAR MALAKAR. 0071053231-1

I,AKANSHA GIRI,W/O-PANKAJ GOSWAMI,R/O-E-608,SHIPRA KRISHNA VISTA,AHINSA KHAND-1, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR-PRADESH-201014,have changed my name to AKANSHA GOSWAMI,for all purposes. 0040871153-3

I Esuf S/o Ramnivash Batham R/o 104 Ward No-16, Sanjay Nagar, PO-Joura City, Distt-Morena, Madhya Pradesh - 476221 , have changed my name to Ishu Batham 0071053250-1

I,NEERAJ SHARMA S/o Gulshan Rai Sharma R/o-House No.90, 2nd-Floor Block-GD, Pitamapura Delhi-110034,have changed my name to NEERAJ RAI SHARMA 0040871153-12

I,ANITA RANI KALRA,W/O-NAVEEN KUMAR KALRA R/O 977 2ND-FLOOR DR.MUKHERJEE NAGAR DELHI-110009.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANITA KALRA 0040871139-7

I,MD SAMSER SAIFI,Son of,HAJI MEHMOOD,R/o-H NO-A-53,GALI NO-2,ZIYAUDDIN PUR, MUSTAFABAD,NORTH EAST, DELHI-110094,have changed my name to SHAMSHER SAIFI for all purposes. 0040871138-10

I, Sikha Biswas W/o Rajnish Kumar Biswas, R/o B-1, Plot No.-111, Ground Floor, Aali Extn., Sarita Vihar, Delhi,have changed my name to Smriti Biswas. 0040871031-2

I,SHRI BHAWAN JINDAL S/O NARAIN DASS R/O 70/34,Janta Colony,Rohtak, Haryana-124001 have changed my name to SHRI BHAGWAN JINDAL. 0040871140-1

I, Aravind Kumar S/o Dhirendra Nath Biswas R/o-64, Pujanagar, Nehru Enclave, Agra have changed my name to Arvind Kumar Biswas. 0071053262-1

I,PANKAJ S/o-Umashankar Chaudhary R/o-Village Siriyan Karon District Deogarh Jharkhand-815357,have changed my name to PANKAJ KUMAR, permanently 0040871138-3

I,HARISH SETHI S/O RAM DEETAMAL SETHI R/O A-1/67 SECTOR-6 ROHINI DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARISH CHANDER SETHI. 0040871139-9

I,Anushka Mittal,D/o-Sandeep Mittal R/o-Flat No.85,First Floor,G Plus-3,North Avenue 2,Near-Somany Tiles,Omaxe City,Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar, Haryana-124507,have changed my name to Anushka. 0040871145-7

I,Prernaa D/o Mr. Lalit Kumar, holder of Indian Passport No.V9106247 issued at Dubai on 13-08-2022, permanent residence address C-77, A-1, Shalimar Garden Extn-II, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Pin:201005 Uttar Pradesh, India have changed my name from Prernaa to Prernaa Kumar with immediate effect. 0040871036-1

I, Narendra Sharma,S/o Lalaram,R/o VPO.Ainchola Sahadatpur, Hathras (Uttar Pradesh)-204211,have changed my name to Narendra Kumar. 0040871153-5

I,hitherto known as Kamlesh Kaur Chauhan Alias Kamlesh Kaur,W/o,Pirthi Pal Singh & D/o-Late,Shri Pritam Singh,R/o-A-1/97,First-Floor,Sector-8, Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kamlesh Kaur. 0040871138-12

I, Babu Rao R/O 361, Ekta Vihar, Tahirpur, Delhi-110095, inform that Bapu Rao and Babu Rao both the names are one and same person. 0040871140-3

I, Mrityunjai Bharti, S/O Vikas Bharti, R/O C-534, JVTS Garden, Chhattarpur Extn., New Delhi-110074, shall henceforth be known as Mrityunjai Singh vide Affidavit No. IN-DL71319159762843Y sworn before Notary on 07/08/2026. 0050294831-1

I,SITA GARG W/O-OM PRAKASH GARG,R/O 106,POCKET-2,G/F JASOLA, DELHI-110025,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SITA DEVI GARG,FOR ALL PURPOSES 0040871139-2

I,DEVENDRA SINGH,S/O SANWAT SINGH,R/O DANCHOLI(276) PO DHANOTA DISTT MAHENDRAGARH HARYANA-123001 HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO DEVENDER SINGH 0040871138-5

I, AMANPREET KAUR D/O GURMAIL SINGH R/O H .NO 742/9, H BLOCK, GALI NO-9, SINDHI COLONY, SWAROOP NAGAR, LIBAS PUR, NORTH WEST DELHI 110042 have changed my name AMANPREET KAUR GILL for all future purpose 0071053211-1

I, Lakshay S/O Bijender Kumar R/O G-22/148, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085, inform that Lakshay and Lakshay kumar Both the names are one and same person. 0040871140-2

I, Deepa Prajapati D/o Ramraj Prajapati R/o A504, Sector 46, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201303 have changed my name to Deepa Agrawal. 0071053208-1

I,Vakeela W/O Imamaddin, R/o Chhansiya Wara Ward No.6, Sikandrabad, Bulandshahr, Sikandrabad, Uttar Pradesh-203205, have changed my name to Mallo. 0040871145-9

I, Rabinder Prasad S/o Late Hira Sav R/o Ward No.28, Alamganj Road, Biharsharif, Nalanda, Bihar-803101, have changed my name to Ravindra Prasad for all future purposes. 0040871039-1

I,Upendra Chaurasia,S/o Chhedi Chaurasia R/o Plot No.93,Khasra No.1382 & 1387,Gali No.-4,Swaroop Vihar, Kadipur,Delhi-110036,have changed my name to Upendra. 0040871153-7

I,Sunil panthri,S/O-Sita Ram panthri,R/O-A-135,S-2, Second-Floor,Shyam-Park Extension, Shahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P-201005 Have Changed My Name To Sunil Kumar panthri 0040871139-11

I,RAJENDAR KUMAR SAINI S/O DHARAM PAL R/o H.No.978, Moh-Hiralal, Mawana, Meerut(UP)-250401,have changed my name to RAJNDRA SHASTRI. 0040871145-2

I, Satiya Devi W/o No 7084004A Rank Ex NK (Late) Rattan Chand R/o WZ-355, Tihar Village, Tilak Nagar, Delhi - 110018 have changed my name to Satya Devi vide affidavit date 6-8-26 before Delhi. 0071053216-1

I, Rukhsana D/o- Munshi Khan W/o- Sahil Khan R/o- House No 379, Street No 7, Block L 1st Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110062 have changed my name to Rukshana Khan. 0040871140-5

I,Vivek Kant,S/o-Shri Kant,R/o-Tower G1,Flat.no.1302, Supertech-Eco Village-1, Bishrakh,Greater-Noida West, G.B-Nagar,U.P-201318,have changed my name to Vivek Kant Sharma,for all,future purposes. 0040871139-4

I,Sehbaz Khan S/o Nivaj Khan R/o Tehsil-Nuh, Distt-Mewat Chandeni (158), Gurgaon, Haryana-122107, have changed my name to Shahabaj. 0040871138-7

I,Vivek Kumar S/o Sh. Dev Dutt Tiwari R/o,17-B HP-Block,DDA Janta-Flats,Pitampura,Delhi-34 have changed my name to Vivek Tiwari. 0040871145-11

I, Nargeesh Mailk W/o Imran Malik R/o-101, New Hindan Vihar, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Nargeesh. 0071053254-1

I Neha W/o Vikas Kataria R/o 12/1, 12Biswa, Basai Village, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122006, have Changed My Name to Neha Kataria. 0040871153-9

I,Mohd Mushtaq,S/o-Mohd Badruddin Ahmad,R/o-RZ-911A F/F,Gali.No.-22, Tughlakabad-Extension,New Delhi PIN:110019,have changed my name to Mushtaque Ahmad,for all purposes. 0040871139-13

I,SUBEDAR PANDAY,S/O-RAGHAV PRASAD PANDEY Address:VILLAGE RIKHIPUR,SIYA DIH,PO HANDIA, ALLAHABAD,UTTAR PRADESH-221503, have changed my name to SUBEDAR PANDEY 0040871145-4

I, SUNITA MAHESWARI D/o Rajendra Swaroop Gupta, I-1754, FF, Block-I, Chittaranjan Park, Delhi-19, have changed my name to SUNITA MAHESHWARI. 0071053226-1

I,Nitin Kumar Chugh S/o Ashok Kumar,R/o-1/9924 Street 3H West Gorakh Park shahdara Delhi-32 have changed my name to Nitin Kumar 0040871153-2

I,SHILPA W/O SUMIT JAIN,R/O-I-15 GALI.NO.10,SHIV RAM-PARK SHANI-BAZAR ROAD,NANGLOI, DELHI-110041.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHILPA SINGHAL. 0040871139-6

I,Saijuddin S/o Chhotu Khan R/o S-82/87,Jagdamba Camp,Malviya-Nagar, New Delhi-110017,have changed my name to Sahzuddin for all purposes 0040871138-9

I, Rajanesh Kumar Biswas, S/o Sachindra Nath Biswas, R/o B-1, Plot No.-111, Ground Floor, Aali Extn., Sarita Vihar, Delhi,have changed my name to Rajnish Kumar Biswas. 0040871031-1

I,Zarina D/o Faruk Shekh Ahamad R/o-177, E-Block, Near NDMC-Barat Ghar,New Moti-Bagh,New Delhi-110023,have changed my name to Zarina Shaikh. 0040871145-13

I Abodh Sahni S/o Raghuvir R/o Village Madhupur, Post-Madhupur, Dist-Darbhanga, P.S Kamtaul, PO-Madhupur, Distt-Darbhanga, Bihar - 847306, have changed my name to Avadh Kumar 0071053249-1

I KM SAVITA,S/O, PRAVEEN KUMAR ,R/O, B-708,City Apartment,Aditya World City,Bamheta,Ghaziabad,UTTA R PRADESH- 201002,have changed my name to SAVITA KUMARI. 0040871153-11

I,Saquiba Khanam Sherwani, wife of,Mr.Sadiq Khan,resident of,C-53/9,Gali No.06,Chauhan Bangar,New Seelampur,Delhi-53,have changed my name to Sakva Begam,for all,future purposes. 0040871153-4

I,Sangeeta Devi Shah w/o Alok Kumar Shah R/o-C-9/87,Sector-7,Rohini Delhi-85 have Changed my name to Sangita Shah Permanentely. 0040871138-11

I, Mrs Kapuriya Devi W/o late shree Rameshwer Prasad Garg, R/o flat No 3272, ATS Rahpsody, Sector 1, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar Change my name as Mrs Kapuria Garg, In future I will be known as Mrs Kapuria Garg. 0071053274-1

I,KHUSHNIDA PARVEEN,W/O-Gulshan Akhtar,R/O B-532,Gali no-13/9,4th Floor Subhash Vihar, North Ghonda Delhi-53,have changed my name to NIDA PARVEEN for all Future purpose. 0040871138-2

I,SNEH LATA,W/O-VINAY KUMAR SRIVASTAVA,R/o-M-401,JAIPURIYA SUNRISE GREENS AHINSHA KHAND-1,INDIRAPURAM,GHAZIABAD,UTTAR PRADESH,U.P.-201014 have changed My Name To SNEH LATA SRIVASTAVA permanently. 0040871145-6

I, RITA WADHWA W/O LATE SHYAM SINGH R/O 11144, IDGAH ROAD SADAR THANA, SWAMI RAM TIRTH NAGAR, DELHI-110055 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAVINDER KAUR FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0071053271-1

I,OM PARKASH GARG S/O-MANAK CHAND GARG,R/O-106 POCKET-2,G/F JASOLA DELHI-110025,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO OM PRAKASH GARG,FOR ALL PURPOSES 0040871139-1

I,C. Anjali D/o Mr Muralidharan, R/o Flat No.T-4,3rd Floor,Plot No.6/10D, Regency Residency Sector-6,Vaishali,Ghaziabad, U.P-201019 have changed my name to Anjali. 0040871138-4

I, Ashish S/O. Sh. Suresh Kumar R/O House No. 156, Ground Floor, C1 Block, Sector -20, Rohini, New Delhi - 110086 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ashish Verma for all future purposes vide Affidavit No. IN-DL71342859097258Y 0040870911-1

I,Mohammad Kalam Azad S/O Mohammad Mannuddin Siddiqui S/O 250-B, Behind Rama Market,Murnika Village,Delhi-110067 have changed my name to Kalam Azad. 0040871145-8

I,Seema, D/o Mr. Ish Chand Dewan, holder of Indian Passport No.V5121612 issued at Dubai on 23-03-2022, permanent residence address C-77, A-1, Shalimar Garden Extn-II, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Pin:201005 Uttar Pradesh, India have changed my name from Seema to Seema Kumar with immediate effect. 0040871036-2

I,Rena D/o Ram Niwas,W/o Devender Kumar, R/o VPO. - Sahadat Nagar,Rewari (Haryana)-123302, have changed my name to Reena Devi. 0040871153-6

LOST & FOUND

Lost all original deeds, documents, letters, receipts etc. related to properties at SH-20/305 and SH-20/307, New Moti Nagar, Delhi-110015. Rajiv Nandwani s/o Bhim Sen Nandwani. Mobile No: 9899339407. 0040871033-1

Lost Original Ownership documents and previous chain of Property no.Q-6, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059 of Late Gurpreet Singh Juneja. Finder please contact Ishmeet Kaur. Ph.9318453413 0040871029-1

LOST & FOUND: Lost original GPA, Agreement, Receipt, Will, Affidavit dt. 23/04/1999 executed by Sohan Lal in favour of Smt. Pushpa Gupta (Pushpa Devi) W/o Om Parkash for Plot 54-A, 60 Sq.Yds., Khasra 93/14, Mitraon Extn, Najafgarh, New Delhi. LR No. 515784/2026. Contact: 9891098496. 0130067831-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the public at large that my client **Tasleem Ahmad** S/o Late Mohd. Yamin R/o C-1243, Gali No.17/5, Main Road, R.K. Marg, Chauhan Bangar, Seelampur, Delhi-110053 hereby declaring/ debarring/ disowning his son namely **Nadeem Ahmed** and his wife **Smt. Salma Begum** and their five children from his life, properties and estate moveable or immoveable situated at Delhi and outside of Delhi and severed all his relations with them because they are not under the control of my client. My client and his family members will not be responsible/liable for any act, deed and thing done by them.

Sd/-
ZAREEF AHMED HASHMI
Advocate
Seat No. 113, P.S. Rathi Block, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is declared in general public that my client Murti Devi Wife of Late Suresh Kumar R/o 232, Khera Khurd, Delhi, my client disown/ debarred his son Dharmender due to his irresponsible behavior and non fulfill their moral duties towards my client. My client dissolves all the relation and business with above named persons.

After this notice the above-named person will lose all their right with the moveable and immovable properties of my client, if any person will have any dealing and concerned with them in any manner, he/she will be responsible for the consequences of the same.

Ram Pervesh (Advocate)
Off. No. 1, Opp. SDM Office, Naya Bans, Delhi-82, Ph.- 9711083095

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is given to general public that my client Shahsi Sharma w/o Late Sh. Narender Sharma D/o Late Shri Sohanlal sharma is the lawful Shareholder of undivided share of the immovable ancestral property bearing H No 273, near shiv durga mandir pasonda, measuring 200 sq yards. Therefore general public is warned that Any attempt to negotiate, alienate, transfer, mortgage or sell the abovesaid property without the explicit consent of my client will be illegal, non enforceable, null and void in the eyes of law. My client will not be responsible for any loss arising out of any transaction pertaining to above-said property without her explicit consent.

ANUJ KUMAR SHARMA (ADVOCATE)
Chamber No. 357, Civil Court, Ghaziabad

OBITUARY

स्वर्गीय सुनील कुमार जी
निधन दिनांक :- 02/08/2026
निवास स्थान: ब्लॉक एच, रूम नंबर :- 232, टाइप-2 काली बाड़ी मार्ग, नई दिल्ली – 110001

अत्यंत दुःख के साथ सूचित करना पड़ रहा है कि हमारे पूजनीय पिता श्री सुनील कुमार जी का स्वर्गवास दिनांक 02/08/2026 रात 02:00 बजे हो गया है।
अंतिम संस्कार बक्सर (सिवान लाइन: पिन 802101) में संपन्न हुआ।
उनकी कामक्रिया 13वीं का कार्यक्रम दिनांक 15/08/2026, शनिवार को रखा गया है। आप सभी से प्रार्थना है कि दिवंगत आत्मा की शांति के लिए ईश्वर से प्रार्थना करें एवं श्रद्धांजलि हेतु पधारें।

शोकाकुल निवेदक
पत्नी:- सीता देवी
पुत्र:- पियूष कुमार, संतोष कुमार
पुत्री:- नीतू, मनीषा, निशा
स्व. समस्त परिवार
संपर्क सूत्र: 7217609972, 8986316073

NANAJI DESHMUKH VETERINARY SCIENCE UNIVERSITY, JABALPUR

No. 3011/Tenders/Registrar/2026 **Dated: 10.08.2026**

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited from reputed manufacturers / their authorised dealers for the supply of equipment item. Tender documents and detailed information are available on website **https://mptenders.gov.in** and information on university website **www.ndvsu.org** Schedule: Purchase of online tenders from **11.08.2026 to 31.08.2026.** Online submission of bid upto **31.08.2026.** Corrigendum, if any, will only be posted in above websites. No press notice will be issued separately.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)/
(84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita-2023)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Vikram Singh S/o Ram Chander R/o H.N. B-213, Jawahar Mohalla Shashi Garden Mandawali Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 759/2020, U/s 379/356/411 IPC at PS: Mandawali, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Vikram Singh** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Vikram Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Vikram Singh of FIR No.759/2020, U/s 379/356/411 IPC of PS: Mandawali, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 10.09.2026.**

By order
Sachin
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03
East District, Court No.16
Karkardooma Courts Delhi

DP/10506/ED/2026

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Namely: **Kitty Anand, S/o. Harsh Anand, R/o.: H.No.T-2392, Faiz Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **CT Case No.5500/2019 U/S 138 NI Act** registered at **P.S. Badarpur, South East District, New Delhi** and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Kitty Anand** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Kitty Anand** is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Kitty Anand,** accused of **CT Case No.5500/2019 U/S 138 NI Act,** registered at **P.S Badarpur, South East District** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **30.09.2026.**

By Order, Ms. Shruti Sharma
Judicial Magistrate First Class (NI Act)-02
Room No.609, South East
Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

DP/10962/SE/2026
(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr PC/84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita-2023)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Sunny S/o Rajesh R/o Jhuggi No.218, CD Park Jahangirpuri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 1510/2021, U/s 379/411/34 IPC at PS: Mahendra Park, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sunny** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sunny** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sunny of FIR No. 1510/2021, U/s 379/411/34 IPC of PS: Mahendra Park, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 11.09.2026.**

By order
Amardeep Kaur
ACJM District Rohini, Room No.117
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/11133/NW/2026

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Sr.DME/Diesel, Northern Railway, Diesel Loco Shed, Tughlakabad for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tenders for the following work .The tender will be accepted online only in the prescribed tender document.

Subject	Description
Name of work	Provision for modification of 02 Nos. Lubricated compressor of 1750 LPM each on board mounting in WAP-4 type Electric Locomotives with modified cab fed by 180 KVA SIV at Diesel Shed, Tughlakabad.
Place of work	Diesel Shed, Tughlakabad, New Delhi-110044.
Completion Period	01 Years
Approximate cost of work	Rs. 31,60,753.31/- Including GST (Rupees Thirty One Lakh Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Three and Thirty One Paisa only)
Amount of Bid Security	Rs. 63,200/- (Rs. Sixty Three Thousand Two Hundred only)
Technical Eligibility Criteria	As per clause 10 of tender form (second sheet) of Tender Document.
Financial Eligibility Criteria	As per clause 10 of tender form (second sheet) of Tender Document.
Website to download and upload e-tender document	www.ireps.gov.in
Due date & time of uploading of Tender by tenderer	31.08.2026 upto 12:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of Tender opening	31.08.2026 after 12:00 Hrs.
Validity of offer	60 days from opening of tender
Allocation	05-0511-32

Tender Document can be downloaded from Indian Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in.** For details of work experience, scope of work and terms & conditions please see Tender document. **Tender Notice No. TKD-MOD-Compressor-OT-26 Dated 07.08.2026** **2742/2026**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

Call or WhatsApp 9717006820 to advertise on classified page

The Indian EXPRESS — JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C./84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused persons Namely **Sh. Rakesh Verma S/o Lt. Devender Mohan Verma R/o: D-604, 6 Floor, True Friends Apatt. Near Shiv Mandir, Sector 6, Dwarka Delhi.** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 83/2023 U/s 174A IPC PS: Barakhamba Road, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sh. Rakesh Verma** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sh. Rakesh Verma** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sh. Rakesh Verma** accused of **FIR No. 83/2023 U/s 174A IPC PS: Barakhamba Road, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **15.09.2026.**

By Order
Ms. Vijayshree Rathore
JMFC-05, Room No. 13
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

DP/11054/NDD/2026
(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82(2)(ii) Cr.P.C./84 BNSS)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Kamal Kumar Jain S/o Vikram Jain R/o Shukar Bazar Jail ke Pichhe, Harsh Vihar, Delhi** has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No./CC No. **29042/21, U/s 379/411 IPC, PS Bhajanpura, Distt. North-East, Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Kamal Kumar Jain** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Kamal Kumar Jain** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation are hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Kamal Kumar Jain** of FIR No./CC No. **29042/21, U/s 379/411 IPC, PS Bhajanpura, Distt. North-East, Delhi** are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **10.09.2026 at 10:00 AM.**

By Order
Ms. Kirandeep Kaur
Judicial Magistrate First Class-01
Court No. 73, Distt. Shahdara
Karkardoom Courts, Delhi

DP/11088/NE/2026
(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C./ 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rajat Yadav, S/o: Ramayan Yadav, R/o: H.No-125A, Sector-4, Rohini, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No.: 32/2026, Dated: 22/02/2026 & U/s: 20/22/25/29 NDPS Act, P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Rajat Yadav** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Rajat Yadav** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rajat Yadav** of **P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **10.09.2026.**

By Order
Sh. Satvir Singh Lamba
ASJ/Special Judge (NDPS),
West Distt., Room No. 132,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/11068/CRIME/2026

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, Robertson Road Bangalore.

No. EE/(PN)/TEND/PR/10/2026-27 Dated:10.08.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Tender Document KW4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Providing Thermoplastic Painting for Rumbler Strips, Lane Marking, Junction Marking, Different types of Sign Boards, Pilican Signals and Kerb Stones, HRPC and other safety furnitures as per Traffic police requests in Pulikeshinagara Division (2nd Call). **Est Cost : Rs. 220.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: Rs. 3,30,000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from KPPP portal : **12.08.2026 (2)** Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on : **14.08.2026 at 15:00 Hrs noon** in the office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, Robertson Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005 **(3)** Last Date & Time for Receipts of tenders : **24.08.2026 up to 16:00 hours. (4)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid : **25.08.2026 after 16:30 hours.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Pulikeshinagar/Kavalbyrasandra Division, BNCC

UP Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.
HARDUAGANJ THERMAL POWER STATION KASIMPUR (ALIGARH)

E-GEM Tender Notice Date 10.08.2026

Tender Notice and scope of work

Superintending Engineer, ECMC, ETPS, HTPS, Kasimpur

1. **GeM E-Bid No - GEM/2026/B/7888578,** Pest Control and Anti-termite treatment of various buildings of 1x660 MW Unit of Harduaganj Thermal Power Project, Kasimpur, Aligarh, Estimated Cost: Rs. 2172488.00, EMD-37000.00 GEM TenderID: GEM/2026/B/7888578

Last Date of uploading Date: 29.08.2026

2. **GeM E-Bid No - GEM/2026/B/7886208,** Biennial Civil Maintenance and Housekeeping work for 1X660MW Unit of Harduaganj Thermal Power Project, Kasimpur (Aligarh), Estimated Cost: Rs. 37604322.00, EMD-650000.00 GEM TenderID: GEM/2026/B/7886208

Last Date of uploading Date: 21.08.2026

Executive Engineer, ECMD-II, DTPS, HTPS, Kasimpur

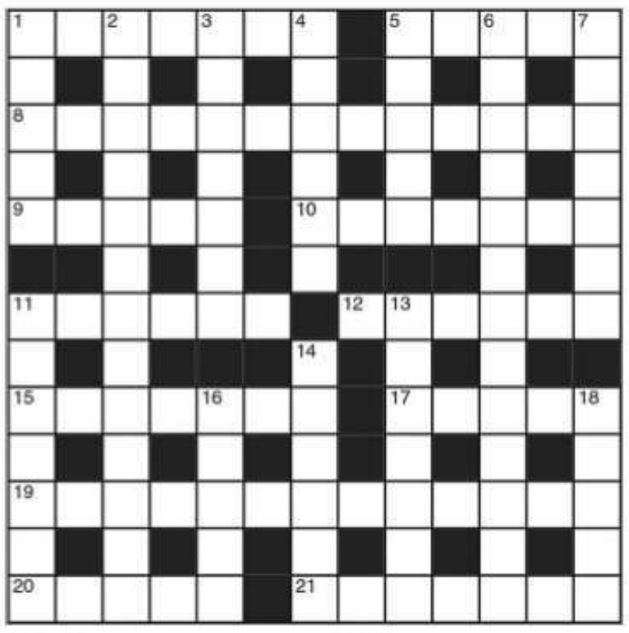
3. **GeM E-Bid No - GEM/2026/B/7886579,** Civil maintenance works inside power house area of CTPS, DTPS and at ash dyke area of HTPS, Kasimpur, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, Estimated Cost: Rs. 1880036.00, EMD-32000.00 GEM Tender ID: GEM/2026/B/7886579

Last Date of uploading Date: 22.08.2026

Executive Engineer, TMD, DTPS, Kasimpur

4. **GeM E-Bid No - GEM/2026/B/7868675,** On-site Filtration/ conditioning of Turbine Lube Oil of Unit No. 9 (2×250 MW), DTPS, HTPS, Kasimpur, Aligarh, Tender cost- 1180.00 Estimated Cost: Rs. 950000.00, EMD-15000.

• CROSSWORD 6064



ACROSS
1 Missionary who can handle a spoon? (7)
5 Estella's admirer was given it - the bird (5)
8 Perspiring right behind the quarry? (3,2,3,5)
9 Woolly lot of wild geese (5)
10 On the first of May Elaine changes her name (7)
11 Score confused with a gross (6)
12 The academic field (6)
15 Western leader changes with the wind (7)
17 Sailor a short distance nearer the stern (5)
19 Little wonder! (6,7)
20 They admit being swingers (5)
21 Quickness of the hand is unimportant we hear (7)

DOWN
1 She is in being and remains here (5)
2 Where to find time by the clock apparently (2,3,4,2,2)
3 A number of workers in possession (7)
4 Give someone a lift from the cemetery (6)
5 Plate gets broken - a bit of a bloomer (5)
6 Good diction perhaps but it can cause offence (5,8)
7 They provide courses for farmworkers (7)
11 Town crier's profession? (7)
13 A big hit; poetry that is fashionable (1,2,4)
14 Assumes as one's own? (6)
16 It originally described a year in Rome (5)
18 Test the patience of a good man at a meeting (5)

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 6063 **ACROSS:** 1 Spear, 8 Landmark, 9 Clove, 10 Tolerant, 11 Evict, 12 Bet, 16 Writhe, 17 Orated, 18 Dam, 23 Issue, 24 Succumbs, 25 Piano, 26 Entrance, 27 Aside **DOWN:** 2 Palavers, 3 Advocate, 4 Parole, 5 Adder, 6 Salad, 7 Skate, 12 Bed, 13 Tom, 14 Warships, 15 Returned, 19 Abbacy, 20 As yet, 21 Acute, 22 Sudan

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.

The end result of _____ is that it draws people to you - Anita Roddick (8)

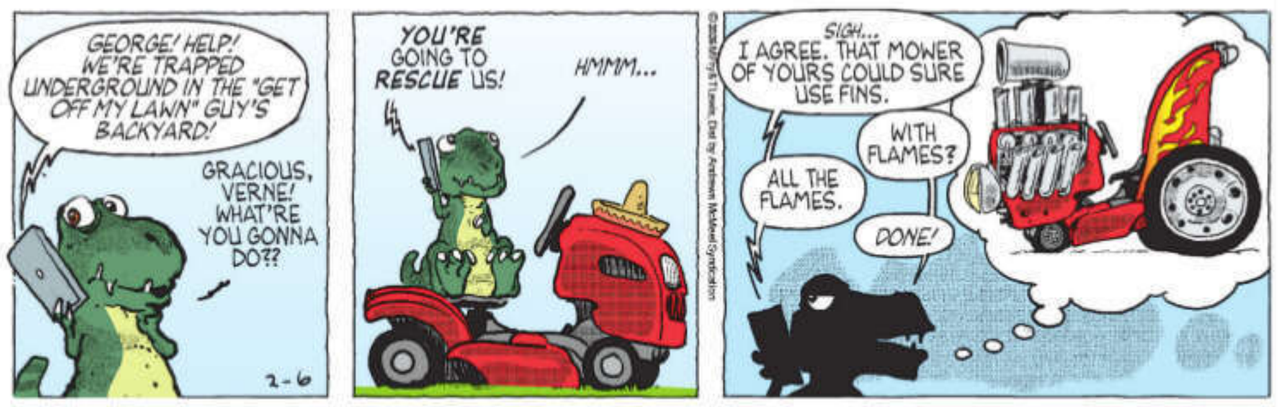
NOYES DEFINN

EKLIS DINKEY

SOLUTIONS: Noses, Likes, Finned, Kidney
ANSWER: The end result of **kindness** is that it draws people to you - Anita Roddick

• OVER THE HEDGE

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS

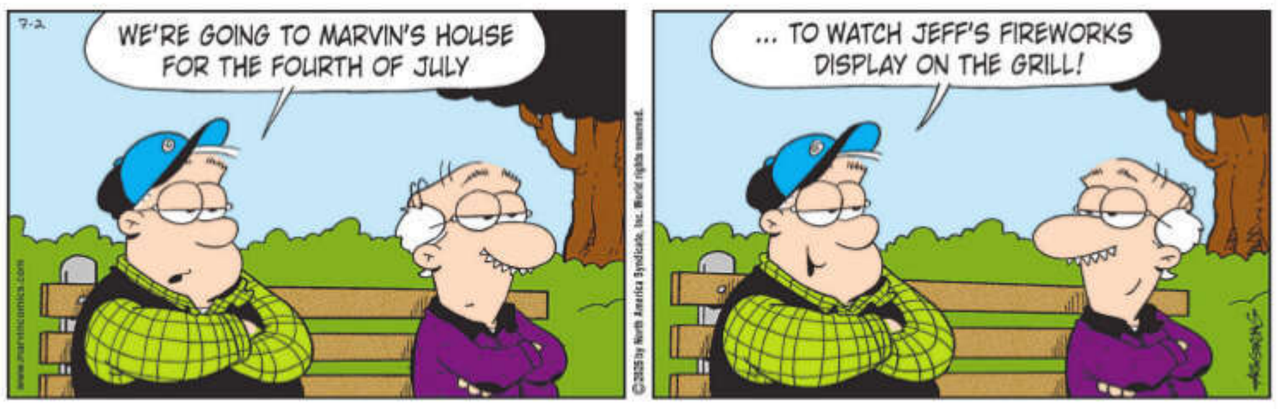


• CALVIN & HOBBES

BY BILL WATTERSON

• MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



SUDOKU 6407

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 1s
INSTRUCTIONS
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;
5s = Very Hard;
6s = Genius

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 6406

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

• ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20): Many social possibilities might randomly occur today, which makes this a wonderful day to get out and talk with everyone. Fun outings related to sports, playful activities with kids and the arts will delight and please you. Tonight: Socialise.

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21): This is a fantastic day to entertain at home. People might help with home repairs. Real estate deals might be promising. Invite family over, because everyone will be up for good times. Unexpected gifts might come your way. Tonight: Entertain.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21): Today is full of surprise opportunities, new faces, and new places. In fact, this evening is one of the best date nights of the year. A platonic relationship could turn romantic. Tonight: Discussions.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23): Be open to moneymaking ideas today, especially ideas that relate to home and family or real estate speculation. Meanwhile, a surprise suggestion from an unexpected source might catch you off guard. Tonight: Check your money.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23): This is an amazing day for you because the Sun, the Moon, Mercury and Jupiter are all in your sign, and the Moon is dancing beautifully with several other planets. The result? You're empowered. Go after what you want. Tonight: You win.

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23): Stay on your toes today, because there are lots of opportunities available to you. They might help you financially. A parent, boss or someone in power might surprise you as well. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23): This is a fantastic day to talk with others. Interactions with clubs, groups and friends will be successful and friendly. You'll enjoy talking to younger people, who, in turn, will listen to you because you're ambitious and charming. Tonight: Be friendly.

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23): Four planets are dazzling at the top of your chart promoting cooperation from work colleagues, financial institutions and behind-the-scenes efforts. Tonight: You win.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22): Grab every opportunity to travel or explore avenues in publishing, the media, medicine and the law. In fact, something fantastic might drop in your lap. Meanwhile, a romance might begin. Tonight: Explore and learn.

CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20): Financial discussions will go well today because doors will open for you. In fact, something might surprise you or catch you off guard. Be ready for this. Act quickly; this window of opportunity will be brief. Tonight: Check your finances.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19): People want to talk to you today. Be aware for this, and be prepared to cooperate and go more than halfway. Because you're willing to work hard, you'll attract eager, clever people to you today. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20): A number of amazing things might occur today related to your job, your health or even a pet. Among these possibilities includes a work-related romance, perhaps something new and unusual. Tonight: Get organised.

नीलामी नोटिस

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पुलिस द्वारा पकड़े गए लावारिस वाहनों एवं जिला चरखी दादरी के नकारा सरकारी वाहनों की नीलामी दिनांक 19-08-2026 को ई-आक्शन पोर्टल (https://eauction.gov.in) से सरकार की हिदायतोनुसार आनलाईन करवाई जानी है। नीलामी की नियम व शर्ते उक्त पोर्टल/साईट पर देखी जा सकती हैं।

हस्ताक्षर/-
No. 48023-HRY नगराधीश, चरखी दादरी।

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान रायपुर
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY RAIPUR
(An Institute of National Importance)
G.E. Road, Raipur - 492010 (CG) Phone: (0771) 4270619
Email: registrar@nitrr.ac.in, Website: www.nitrr.ac.in

No./NITRR/Registrar/2026/702 Dated: 10/08/2026

NOTICE FOR SPOT ROUND COUNSELLING FOR M. TECH./M.SC. ADMISSIONS AT NIT RAIPUR

National Institute of Technology Raipur invites interested candidates to participate in the Spot Round Counselling for admission against vacant seats available in various M.Tech./M.Sc. programmes for the Academic Session 2026–27. Registered candidates may participate in Spot Round Counselling on 14.08.2026. Visit the NIT Raipur website for eligibility, availability of vacant seats, admission procedure, fees and other instructions.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR, NIT, Raipur

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता (पा०द०प०), आगरा, जैम बिड एवं कार्य का संक्षिप्त विवरण, 1. जैम बिड संख्या- **GEM/2026/B/7884361-** Work for revetment of Tower no. 59 (A + 0) of D/C 132 KV Gokul-Manth Line/132 KV Manth-Manth (220) Line Under ETD Mathura/ETC Mathura धरोहर राशि रू0 22,000.00 मात्र। निविदा जैम पोर्टल पर स्वीकार करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय-01.09.2026 समय 14:00 बजे तक।; 2. **जैम बिड संख्या- GEM/2026/B/7884523-** Work for revetment of Tower no. 67 (A + 0) of D/C 132 KV Gokul-Manth Line/132 KV Manth-Manth(220) Line Under ETD Mathura/ETC Mathura धरोहर राशि रू0 22,000.00 मात्र। निविदा जैम पोर्टल पर स्वीकार करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय-01.09.2026 समय 14:00 बजे तक।; 3. **जैम बिड संख्या- GEM/2026/B/7884597-** Work for Revetment Of Tower Loc. No. 129 B+5 type for 220 KV Pilipokhar Agra (400)-IOCL (Mathura) DC Line Under ETD, Mathura/ETC Mathura धरोहर राशि रू0 22,000.00 मात्र। निविदा जैम पोर्टल पर स्वीकार करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय-01.09.2026 समय 14:00 बजे तक।; 4. **जैम बिड संख्या- GEM/2026/B/7884721-** Work of revetment of Tower no. 694A (All side) and Tower No. 693 B (Single Side) of 400 KV Unnao - Agra Single Circuit Line Under ETD-I Kanpur/ETC-I Kanpur धरोहर राशि रू0 27,000.00 मात्र। निविदा जैम पोर्टल पर स्वीकार करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 01.09.2026 समय 14:00 बजे तक।; **विस्तृत जानकारी एवं प्रपत्र-** जैम पोर्टल वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है। अग्रेतर समस्त सूचनाएँ जैम पोर्टल वेबसाइट पर ही प्रदर्शित की जायेगी।; **हस्ता./-अनिल कुमार) मुख्य अभियन्ता, पत्रांक 2367/मु०अभि० (पा०द०प०) आ० / जैम निविदा, दिनांक:** 10/08/2026

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
Electy. Substation Design Circle-I,
13th Floor, Shakti Bhawan Extension, Lucknow.

INVITES-OPEN TENDER (E-Bid)

"Supply of 1.1 kV PVC FRLS unarmoured Copper Control Cable for different UPPTCL Substations against E-Bid specification no. SD-1041"

Tender ID: GEM/2026/B/7892467
Bid Portal (Download & Submission): https://bidplus.gem.gov.in
Mode of Bidding: Open E-Bid
EMD: Rs. 8.00 Lakh
KEY DATES (Date/Time may change as per GeM approval):
- **Online Bid Submission Start:** 07.08.2026.
- **Online Bid Submission Closing:** 28.08.2026, 14:00 Hrs.
- **Technical Bid Opening:** 28.08.2026, 14:30 Hrs. onwards

Note:- Bidders are advised to visit the GeM Portal regularly for amendments/corrigenda, if ary.
E-mail:- seesdc1@upptcl.org
Contact No.: +91 9415099037
"Save Electricity for Nation"
No. 155-ESDC-I (G.S.)/Tender Notice, Dated: 10.08.2026

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लिमिटेड
विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल लाल डिग्गी, अलीगढ़
CIN: U31200UP2003SGC027460 दिनांक 10.06.2026

पत्रांक 4885/वि.न.वि.मं./अली/विज्ञापन
ई-निविदा सूचना/तिथि विस्तार सूचना
ई-निविदा संख्या/निविदा का संक्षिप्त विवरण क्रमानुसार निम्नवत है:-
(1) नि०सं० विनविमंअ-15/2026-27 जमा योजनान्तर्गत अवस्थापना निधि में क्वार्सी चौराहे से क्यामपुर मोड तक सड़क चौडीकरण में बाधक लाइनों को सेमी टर्नकी आधार पर शिफ्ट करने सम्बन्धी कार्य। (ई-निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रु0 3,540/- एवं धरोहर राशि: रु0 30,000/-) ई-निविदा की अन्तिम तिथि: 24 अगस्त, 2026, 10:00 बजे
उक्त के अतिरिक्त इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित ई-निविदा संख्या 08, 09, 10, 11, 12 व 13/2026-27 के प्रथम भाग को खोले जाने की तिथि 24 अगस्त, 2026 निर्धारित की जाती है। ई-निविदाओं से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल www.etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। अग्रेतर समस्त सूचनाएँ बेवसाइट पर ही प्रदर्शित की जाएगी।

हस्ता/-
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल
अलीगढ़

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
PHULBANI (B&B) CIRCLE PHULBANI
Email: sernbphulbani@gmail.com
34001/608/2627

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. CCE_R and B_PLB_03 of 2026_27

Letter No. 1607 **Dated. 07/08/2026**

1	The Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R& B) Circle, Phulbani on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bld in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for construction of the Building works as detalled in the table below from eligible contractors.		
2	Nature of work	:-	Building works
3	No. of tenders	:-	Five Nos
4	Tender cost	:-	Rs. 10,000/- (through online) only.
5	Class of Contractor	:-	B and A class
6	Date & Time of sale & receipt of bids	:-	10.00 AM of 14.08.2026 to 5.00PM of 28.08.2026
7	Date of Opening of bid	:-	11.00 AM of 29.08.2026
8	The Bidders shall have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum/Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.		

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani
OIPR- 34001/34129/1/26-27/0004

कार्यालय जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर
क्रमांक :- अ.अ/जोन मुख्यालय/2026-27/सामान्य 23907300 दिनांक :- 07/08/2026

अल्पकालीन ई-बिड सूचना संख्या:- जोन मुख्यालय/25/2026-27

जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर की ओर से उपर्युक्त संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्युरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑन लाईन निविदाए आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त कार्य की अनुमानित लागत, निविदा बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की दिनांक, निविदा शर्ते आदि का सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट **http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.jodhpurjda.org, www.sppp.raj.nic.in** पर देखा जा सकता है।
UBN No.: JOD2627SLOB00244
NIB Code: JOD2627A0135
अधिशाषी अभियन्ता (मुख्यालय)
जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर
राज.संवाद/सी/26/9273

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

On behalf of President of India Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, Office at:- Rail Coach Naveenikaran Karkhana, Sonipat invites e-tender for below mentioned work:-

NIT No.	377788
Name of Work and its location	"Provision of Repair, Repainting of Toilet Module and Non-AC Area work for LHB coaches at RCNK/SNP (As per Scope of Work)".
Approx. Cost of Work	Rs. 3,92,78,792.25/- including GST @18% (Rs. Three Crore Ninety Two Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Two and Twenty Five Paise only)
Earnest Money	Rs 7,85,600/-
Completion Period of Work	12 months from date of issue of Letter of Acceptance.
Cost of Tender document (in Rs.)	NIL
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15:00 hrs. on 01.09.2026 Opening of Tender at 15:15 hrs. on same day
Website particulars, notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in**

Tender No.: 377788 Dated: 10.08.2026 **2754/2026**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE
DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS RAJOURI
E-mail ID: dporajouri@jkpolice.gov.in
Phone No Phone No. 01962-262240 Fax No. Fax No.01962-264068

Hue and Cry Notice

Dy. SP Hqrs. Rajouri vide communication No. Hqrs/F-57/2026/10578-80 dated 05.08.2026 has intimated that the alleged accused person namely Sahil Sharma S/O Som Raj R/O Dassal tehsil & District Rajouri is involved in case FIR No. 314/2026 U/S 109/126(2)/191 (2) BNS & 4/25 Arms Act of PS Rajouri, who after committing the offences deliberately evading from police arrest.

Description of the absconding accused is as under:-

1. Name : Sahil Sharma
2. Parentage : Som Raj
3. Address : Dassal, Tehsil & District Rajouri
4. Age : 30 Years.
5. Height : 5'9"
6. Complexion : Wheatish

Photograph

Therefore, it is requested that a sharp lookout may please be maintained and if any clue regarding the whereabout of wanted accused person is received, the same may kindly be communicated on below mentioned phone numbers/mail address : -
1. PCR Rajouri : 01962262515, 01962264493
2. SHO PS, Rajouri : 9103012703,
3. IC PP City Rajouri : 9541900746,
4. Dy. SP Hqrs, Rajouri : 9541900724,
5. DPO Rajouri : 01962262240.
6. Email address : dporajouri@jkpolice.gov.in

The identity of the informer shall be kept secret and further, if anybody found providing shelter to the accused person or concealing his presence, will also be booked under law.

No.CB/F-55-3/LOC/2026/42883-92/OPo
Dated: .08.2026
DIP NO.: DIP/J-7831/26 DATE 10.08.2026
Sd/-
Sr. Superintendent of Police Rajouri

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004
Tender No. MEDBLWLP2026-27R Date: 07/08/2026
E-TENDER NOTICE
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Maintenance, BLW, Varanasi acting or and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tenders for the following work: **S.No.** 1, **Tender No.** MEDBLWLP2026-27R, **Name of Work:** Tender for Rate contract with vendors for supply of all type of drugs/medicines on day-to-day basis to BLW Central Hospital, Varanasi round the clock (24x7). **Approximate Cost:** ₹ 3,38,00,000/- (Three crore thirty eight lakhs only), **Completion Period:** 24 Months, **Tender Cost: -**, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 6,76,000/- (Six lakhs seventy six thousands only), **Tender opening date and time:** 27.08.2026 15:00 hrs. For detail and to participate e-tender visit Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in**.
PRO/BLW/MED-01 **Sr. D.M.O/BLW/Varanasi**
/blwvaranasi **Website: blw.indianrailways.gov.in**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM
Ref: -i) Tender Notice No.21/2026-2027 Dated 19/06/2026. SN.-02
ii) Tender No.07265050 due on 10/08/2026.
In reference to above tender, the following corrigendum have been issued.
(1) The tender opening date extended from 10/08/26 to 17/08/26.
(2) Warranty clause updated.
(3) Hand brake arrangement clarified.
(4) Cost of the free supply items per bogie have been mentioned.
All other terms and condition remain unchanged.
The corrigendum has been published on website **www.ireps.gov.in**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2752/26

TATA
TATA POWER
THE TATA POWER COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Identity No. (CIN): L28920MH1919PLC000567
Regd. Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai 400 001.
Tel: +91 22 66658282 **E-mail:** tatapower@tatapower.com **Website:** www.tatapower.com

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS
SPECIAL WINDOW FOR RE-LODGEMENT OF TRANSFER REQUESTS OF PHYSICAL SHARES

The Securities and Exchange Board of India, through its Circular dated January 30, 2026, has extended the special window for shareholders who had lodged physical share transfer deeds of before April 1, 2019, but whose requests were rejected/returned/not attended due to deficiency in the documents/process. The new window runs from February 5, 2026 to February 4, 2027. All securities shall be credited only in demat form, subject to a one-year lock-in. Such securities shall not be transferred, lien-marked or pledged during the lock-in period. The required process is outlined below:

Window for re-lodgement	From February 5, 2026 to February 4, 2027
Procedure for re-lodgement	Submit original transfer documents, along with corrected or missing details to the Registrar to an Issue and Share Transfer Agent i.e. MUFG Intime India Private Limited (formerly Link Intime India Private Limited)
Documents to be sent to	MUFG Intime India Private Limited Unit: The Tata Power Company Limited C-101, 1st Floor, 247 Park, Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, Vikhroli West, Mumbai – 400 083
For any queries	• Helpline no: +91 810 811 8484; • Website: www.tatapower.com; • Email address: investorcomplaints@tatapower.com; • Raise service request on: https://web.in.mpms.mufg.com/helpdesk/Service_Request.html

For **The Tata Power Company Limited**
Sd/-
Vispi S. Patel
Company Secretary
FCS 7021
Place: Mumbai
Dated: August 10, 2026

"IMPORTANT"
Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

INDIA'S TOUR OF SRI LANKA

Last man standing: How Jadeja outlasted the rest

Shankar Narayan
Mumbai, August 10

IN AUGUST 2015, when India landed in Sri Lanka for Virat Kohli's first full Test series as captain, it felt like the beginning of something new.

MS Dhoni had retired from Test cricket months earlier. Ajinkya Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara, R Ashwin and Rohit Sharma were expected to carry India into the next decade.

One name was still to become indispensable. Ravindra Jadeja was not part of that tour. He reclaimed his place a few months later, in the home series against South Africa.

Fast forward to 2026 and India are back in Sri Lanka, in transition again. This time, almost everyone from that generation is gone. Ashwin retired in 2024. Rohit and Kohli called time in May 2025. Pujara followed a few months later. Rahane is the latest to walk away.

Jadeja, somehow, is still standing.

"The most important thing is that he's a multidimensional player. He'll get you wickets, he'll bat wherever you send him, No. 4, No. 6, No. 7 or No. 8, and he'll still score runs. Then, in the field, he'll produce a run-out or a catch that very few others can. He's a complete all-rounder. That's what makes him different from any other cricketer," Saurashtra head coach Niraj Odedra told *The Indian Express*.

When he returned to the Test side in late 2015, he was viewed largely as India's premier left-arm spinner. On the raging turner in Mohali against South Africa, or the unresponsive Chennai surface against England in 2016, Jadeja was a relentless wicket-taker who squeezed batsmen with unwavering accuracy.

Somewhere along the way, another dimension began to show. His technique tightened, his shot selection improved, his temperament settled into the longer format.

A maiden Test century against West Indies in Rajkot in 2018 announced the change. A career-best 175 not out against Sri Lanka in Mohali confirmed it. Then a hundred at Edgbaston in 2022, after India had slumped to 98 for 5. Three years later, 516 runs across a five-Test series in England left little doubt his batting belonged at the highest level.

Even now, that trust remains. With Shubman Gill unable to bat in the first innings of India's warm-up against a Sri Lanka Cricket XI this month, Jadeja was pushed up to No. 4, a spot he wasn't first choice for. He made 63 off 117 balls.

Mindset change

Odedra puts the biggest change down to something other than technique. "Himself. Nobody else. The biggest change was his mindset. He had to believe that he wasn't just somebody who could bowl, but a player who could bat as well. He backed himself to such an extent that that's what made him a better batsman," he said. "People have this perception that he's a bowler who can only bowl. But from a very young age, Under-16, Under-19, he always was a very good batsman. When he started playing for the Indian team, he realised that if he didn't score runs, if he didn't become a multidimensional player, then he wouldn't last long like others."

The earliest test came before any of that. In 2005, when Jadeja was sixteen, his mother died of burns from a kitchen fire. He was not at home when it happened. He wanted to give up the game afterwards. What kept him in it was the thought that she hadn't raised a cricketer for him to walk away from it.

His father had told him something, years before any of this, back when Jadeja didn't yet know cricket would become his living.

"When I started playing cricket, my father gave me a very important advice. At that point, I didn't even know that I will be playing cricket seriously, forget playing for the country. He told me it's your performance on the ground that matters," Jadeja said in a separate interview to this newspaper, in 2023. *Ground mein perform karo, bus baat khatam*, his father had put it. Perform on the field, and the chatter ends there.

Setbacks

The setbacks kept coming in different forms. In 2018, he found himself out of favour during the England tour, watching the first four Tests from the sidelines. Many players would have allowed frustration to creep in. Jadeja came back for the fifth Test, at The Oval, and made an unbeaten 86 and took seven wickets.

"That Test changed everything for me. *Poora*, complete, game. My performance, my confidence, everything. When you score in English conditions against the best bowling attack, it greatly impacts your confidence," Jadeja told *The Indian Express* in 2021.

A fractured thumb in Australia in 2020-21. A forearm injury. A bruised rib. A serious knee injury during the 2022 Asia Cup. A hamstring problem in 2024. Tennis elbow during this year's IPL. Each one threatened to derail him. Each time, he dusted himself off and found his way back.

While Jadeja fought those battles, the generation around him slowly faded. Time eventually caught up with everyone else. Not him.

Everyone else from that 2015 dressing room has moved on. Ravindra Jadeja simply refused to.

Except the all-rounder, everyone else from the core of the Test team which toured Sri Lanka in 2015 has retired

• FIVE OF JADEJA'S BEST

VS SA, MOHALI 2015
38 AND 8; 8/76
On his Test comeback after more than a year, Jadeja took 8/76, including 5/21 in the second innings, to help India defend 217 runs and win Player of the Match.

VS ENG, CHENNAI 2016
51; 10/154
Jadeja produced an all-round masterclass with a half-century and a match haul of 10/154, that included 7/48 in the second innings, to help India secure a dominant victory.

VS AUS, NAGPUR 2023
70; 7/81
Returning after knee surgery, Jadeja took a match haul of 7/81 and scored a crucial 70, earning him the Player of the Match, as India won by an innings and 132 runs.

VS BAN, CHENNAI 2024
86; 5/77
Jadeja's 86, including a 199-run seventh-wicket stand with R Ashwin, rescued India from 144/6 before he added match figures of 5/77 to seal a 280-run win.

VS ENG, MANCHESTER 2025
20 AND 107*; 4/143
Jadeja took 4/143 before making an unbeaten 107, sharing a 203-run fifth-wicket stand with Washington Sundar to help India bat out the final day and secure a draw.

Ravindra Jadeja is one of the three all-rounders in the squad for Sri Lanka Tests. CREIMAS

Warm-up match 'very good', more 'productive' than nets, says Kotak

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 10

INDIA BATTING coach Sitanshu Kotak was all praise for how their three-day warm-up game in Colombo ahead of their two-Test series against Sri Lanka, even stating that it was more "productive" than what practising in the nets for four more days would've done. India beat SLC XI by six wickets, chasing down a 207-run target in the final session of the day three.

Notably, all of their bowlers put in nearly 18-20 overs, apart from Auqib Nabi who got to bowl just five. Apart from Nabi and Prasidh, all the available players also got a chance to bat as well. In fact the match was won by Mohammed Siraj hitting a hat-trick of sixes.

"It was very good and productive," Kotak told *bcci.tv*. "Practicing in nets for four more days won't be as productive as the practice match. Bowlers bowled with good intensity. We actually tried everyone, even bowlers, get to bat. All the bowlers got enough loading that is required. So, it's been very good."

The statement is a marked departure from what India have said for the past decade or so about practice matches, with the side increasingly preferring training camps and intra-squad matches on tours over playing warm-ups against local sides. India had notably cancelled a scheduled warm-up match during their 2017 tour of South Africa. Then-India captain Virat Kohli, who has spoken in favour of high-intensity training sessions over warm-up matches in the subsequent years in which he led the team, said that the pitch that was to be used for the warm-up matches was going to be vastly different to what they would've encountered in the series.

"There's no point wasting two days, guys going in, scoring quick fifties and coming out. We'd rather have them do two sessions like today, get into Test match zone, test ourselves, try and prepare the wickets the way we want to," he had said.

Mohammad Shami has not featured in a Test for three years. FILE

Duleep Trophy no longer a bridge to int'l cricket

Lalith Kalidas
New Delhi, August 10

RECURRING FITNESS concerns ahead of the Sri Lanka tour have forced India's national selectors to look at domestic performers, rewarding two workhorses, aged 33 and 29, with their maiden Test call-ups.

Yet, the Duleep Trophy squads announced suggest that the season-opening domestic tournament is becoming increasingly detached from India's Test selection pipeline. Picked by different selectors in five separate meetings, they expose a disconnect with the priorities of the national selectors. Contrasting selection philosophies and an informal quota-based system have diminished the Duleep Trophy's value. The prevailing system was installed after several state associations complained to the BCCI that the selectors were ignoring performers in domestic cricket.

"The national selectors wanted to try those they felt had the potential to play for India, even if they hadn't played Ranji Trophy. But the associations felt that the selectors, if they wanted to try those players, should pick them for India A," a board official said.

So, it was decided that the zonal committees would pick the Duleep Trophy teams while the national selectors would chalk out the A squad. Of the 75 players initially picked in the North, South, East, West and Central zones for the domestic season-opening tournament, only six have represented India in Tests. Of them, pace veteran Mohammad Shami has not featured in a Test for three years, while Karun Nair, 34, and Shardul Thakur, 35, have slipped out of India's plans since mid-2025.

Former India selector Saba Karim, who represented East Zone on the national panel between 2012 and 2016, said Duleep Trophy is important for two reasons: winning the tournament and identifying players for India A and Test teams. "Shami could still get back into the team based on one great performance or season. Even Shardul, for that matter," Karim told *The Indian Express*. "During my term as a national selector, the person who belonged to that particular zone would chair the meeting for zonal selections. The presence of national selectors creates a healthy environment."

Picked by different selectors in five separate meetings, they (squads) expose a disconnect with the priorities of the national selectors

Central Zone selector Suhail Ansari confirmed that the national selectors "have not intervened" in zonal selections. It marks a departure from the 2024-25 Duleep Trophy when Ajit Agarkar's national panel announced four squads - 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' - to align domestic selections more closely with the national set-up.

This year, Central Zone has picked a squad that largely rewards continuity from last year's title-winning campaign. "Our selection has been based entirely on those players who have performed. We won the championship last time, and we have got very good youngsters who have played for India in the recent past or are still playing," Ansari, who is a Madhya Pradesh selector, told *The Indian Express*.

Meanwhile, West Zone continue to rely on established names — nine of their 15 hail from Mumbai and Maharashtra — with five internationals in Ruturaj Gaikwad, Prithvi Shaw, Sarfaraz Khan, Shardul, and Tushar Deshpande. The trend extends to East Zone, where 11 players from Bengal and Jharkhand dominate the squad.

The zonal selection pitfalls are highlighted by the seasonal cycle in South Zone. An insider, who was part of the regional selection meeting on August 1, revealed to this newspaper that selections were usually based on the previous Ranji season, with certain "spots" reserved for each state association.

In the squad picked in Hyderabad and chaired by Andhra Cricket Association (ACA) secretary Sana Sathish Babu, seven of 15 players came from Andhra and Hyderabad. This is up from three last year, when Kerala's run to the final (four players) and the meeting venue, Pondicherry (two), influenced selections.

It was also decided that national players from the South, even those who had not expressed unavailability for the semi-final starting August 30 in Bengaluru, would be omitted.

These variations have come at the expense of balance. Seven middle-order batters were named alongside only one specialist opener. Kerala's sole representative is MD Nidheesh, who took 28 wickets last season. At 35, he is unlikely to be viewed as a long-term Test option. Karnataka's Vidwath Kaverappa is the only other specialist pacer.

An over-reliance on the previous Ranji season can overlook sustained First-Class excellence, especially from players whose teams exited early, and bear little resemblance to what national selectors seek. Tamil Nadu spinner R Sai Kishore, for instance, was omitted despite 97 wickets in the last three Ranji seasons. His 20 wickets last season trailed Hyderabad's Tanay Thyagarajan (27) and Andhra's Tripurana Vijay (24), costing him his place despite being the zone's second-highest wicket-taker over three seasons.

(Inputs from Devendra Pandey)

• YOUNG CHESS STAR

Deekshitha jumps nearly 29,000 spots in a month, is world's top-ranked U-20 player

Mayank Chaudhary
New Delhi, August 10

FOR NEARLY 18 months, Modipalli Deekshitha was stuck in a chess abyss. Between February 2025 and the end of June 2026, her rating barely inched forward. With a net gain of just 61 points, hovering stubbornly below 2000 Elo, the WFM (Woman FIDE Master) title remained elusive for the Hyderabad girl. Progress was happening in training, but the results refused to reflect it in tournaments.Then came the heady European summer.

In just one month, across four back-to-back tournaments, the same girl ranked roughly 30,000th in the world with a rating of 1985 added an astronomical 484.8 Elo points (her live rating is 2469.8). She is now on the verge of breaking into the world's top 800, a leap of nearly 29,200 ranking places in 30 days. Along the way, she also bagged an IM (International Master) norm, something she hadn't expected to chase for the next few years.

Thanks to her rating spike, Deekshitha is now the world's top-ranked player among girls under 20, leaving behind Ukraine's Anastasiia Hnatyshyn (2465). Over four tournaments, Deekshitha defeated 11 higher-rated opponents, including three international masters, and held 11 others to draws. She began at the La Plagne Maitre 2026, where she had three wins and four draws against higher-rated players, finishing 45th with a performance rating of 2322. At the Les Menuires Masters in France, she had a win and three draws over higher-rated players.

In Spain, she began to come into her own. At the XIV Torneo Internacional Cidade de Pontevedra Masters, she was seeded 81st of 92 participants but finished 13th after facing titled opponents in all nine rounds, including two grandmasters and five international masters. She won three games, including against 2402-rated IM Facundo Vazquez and 2334-rated IM Angel Gabriel Cordoba Roa, and earned her IM norm. At the Leca Chess Open in Portugal, she added four wins and a draw against higher-rated players, including a victory over 2220-rated IM Daniel Rivera Kuzawka.

Deekshitha beat 11 higher-rated opponents in four tourneys. FILE

While players often head to Europe in search of rating gains and norms, gaining almost 500 Elo points in one month is still one of the most remarkable rating climbs in recent memory.

Deekshitha's rise has been staggering. She is now the fourth highest-rated Indian woman, behind Koneru Humpy, Divya Deshmukh and R Vaishali, and ahead of Harika Dronavalli. One thing Deekshitha's parents ensured from the beginning was that she would learn to stand on her own.

Her father, Modipalli Sheshadri Nayudu, an IT professional, would spend over an hour each way driving her to Velocity Chess Academy through Hyderabad's notorious traffic. Dropping and picking her up consumed as much as four hours of his day, while her mother, a home tutor, couldn't spare that time either.

So pre-teen Deekshitha took charge. She began travelling to the academy alone and soon ventured out of the city for tournaments by herself. Her recent European tour, her first foreign event, was completed without her parents accompanying her. "The reason why I go alone and why I survive, no matter what happens, even without my parents physically behind me, is simply that I love this game so much. I don't want anything to come in the way."

She considers her parents her biggest supporters. "I do get scared sometimes when they're not there. But they sat me down one day and told me that these things (problems) just shouldn't be part of my journey... they shouldn't obstruct me from doing my best."

Her European trip would have ended before it began had her mother not mortgaged her mangalsutra to arrange some money. Her trainer, IM Krishna Teja, then stepped in, offering financial support and convincing her parents that the trip could change her life.

Deekshitha is a firm believer in her trainer's methods. Teja, who runs Velocity Chess Academy, has her start each day with yoga and physical training before her first meal. His words are gold dust to her.

Teja is honest in his assessment. "Comparatively, in terms of solving complex problems or quick learning, she's not as good as the remaining prodigies. But she has other qualities which make her impressive," he says. "With small kids, it's easy to play worse positions against them because they cannot evaluate accurately. But with Deekshitha, her understanding of position is immaculate. I see most players, especially girls, once they get in bad positions, they often give up. Psychologically, they mess it up. But Deekshitha fights until the end. She is mentally very strong compared to the other girls I've seen."

BWF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Shetty's smash will test Shi Yuqi

Shetty faces defending champ in a daunting Worlds opener, but power game and confidence offer the Indian hope

Shivani Naik
Mumbai, August 10

Ayush Shetty is on a three-game losing streak against his round one opponent Shi Yuqi (below). BAI/REUTERS

IT'S A video from last August, though the Chinese World No 1 Shi Yuqi had been forced into the training set-up by Ayush Shetty's frame-sake, the 6'4" giant Viktor Axelsen. A coach would stand on a wooden crate about a foot and a half tall. A fan-blower placed behind the coach would mimic drift, while his smashes simulated the vantage from where smashes could rain down. Yuqi went six bitter Decembers without defeating the big Dane from 2017-2023, so he might have breathed a sigh of relief after the double Olympic champ announced his retirement.

The coach was back atop the box, though - this time as the defending World champion- and seeks to beat the Indian. Ayush is no nemesis yet, and has lost the last three times - almost lopsidedly at the Asian Championship final in April, where the youngster admits he was "outplayed." Why then is there a massive buzz about the Delhi Round 1 faceoff, when rankings dictate his World Championships debut could end in the first match? It's precisely that 'atop the box' threat that could see the Chinese crack - though crumbling remains to be seen.

"Big smash. Fresh legs. Can crack," said national head coach Pullela Gopichand about Ayush's chances. He will be very surprised if Shi starts comfortably.

"Ayush couldn't have asked for a tougher draw," opined Sagar Chopda, his coach at Bengaluru's Badminton Centre of Excellence. "But I'm guessing Shi Yuqi would've seen the draw and wondered, 'Oh no, I have to play a tough first round.'"

Ask the man himself. "As an unseeded player, I was prepared to play No 1. He is tough, but I've gotten better mentally than at the Asian Championship. I'm expecting great support. It'll be exciting. More excitement than home pressure," he said, inviting Delhi's badminton and non-badminton fans to fill up Indira Gandhi Stadium next Monday.

And if the All England, where Lakshya Sen sent Shi Yuqi packing in Round 1, were anything to go by, the sport is ready to 'India-Pakistanise' the India vs China rivalry with several prior tournaments pitting the powerhouse against the prolific Indians. Ayush vs Shi flows in the same context,

lighting up Day 1 at Delhi.

Tough Draw

The Chinese haven't been in great nick since the Thomas Cup, with six losses through 2026, mostly because they haven't peaked beyond the Asian and Thomas titles. Still, the rhythm would be a little off when the Ayush smashes rain down.

Typically, court conditions need adapting, and a tall attack can resemble an ambush even as the quality of lifts goes awry. Badminton crucially flips on lifts, especially against an attacking opponent like Ayush who will punish poor lengths. Shi Yuqi got better at facing Axelsen in later years, and wasn't bothered by an exhausted Ayush at the Asian Championship, as the Indian tactically blundered. "New tournament, new match," he said, even as the 21-8, 21-10 final is used as a lesson in what not to do, rather than some deep gash on confidence.

He isn't in revenge mode either. It wouldn't amount to much. While he pumps his fists much more now and said the aggression gives him more energy, he would rather adopt the inscrutable face that Sen sports. "My natural side is more laid-back, and I don't express much," he added, hoping his game does the big booming. Admiration is graciously accepted when big names tweet him out, but the goal is to "focus on myself and being more accurate on shots."

"I want to set my own benchmark," he said, not drawing on the yoke of pressure from the previous Indian medallist, as he works with coach Irwansyah, who is chiselling two tall games, his alongside Sindhu's. "Training with Coach Irwan is tougher, longer sessions, improving speed. I can share anything with him," he said.

Chopda said Ayush has reasons to feel confident because he has beaten the likes of Lee Chia Hao and Lee Zii Jia in early rounds. Gopichand points out that the big names, Shi Yuqi, Jojo Christie, Kunlavut and Li Shifeng, also get tougher to beat deeper in tournaments. Ayush's smash is a weapon. "But he needs to use it judiciously and mix with clears and drops," Chopda said. Shi Yuqi has spent the last few years for just that hit. But when he finds the opportunity, nobody has answers to the uncomplicated, no-holds-barred Ayush smash. Keeping the attack uncomplicated is no simple matter, though.

E. EXPLAINED

Shi Yuqi vulnerable in early rounds

HS PRANNOY, India's 2023 Worlds medallist, says Ayush Shetty should put everything into his Round 1 match vs World No.1 Shi Yuqi, because he's vulnerable early in the tournament. The Chinese gets better, gaining confidence in a playing hall. His winning rate past the quarters is high. Ayush, with his big smash and net game, has troubled big names. Last year, Lakshya played Shi early. And it went to the wire. But from there, Shi became very steady. "First-round butterflies are always going to be there even for a world champion," Prannoy says.

Langur-call mimics employed for BWF World Championships

Bhuvan Gupta
New Delhi, August 10

Final touches being given to the IG stadium in New Delhi. EXPRESS

THE ANIMAL lessons from India Open were immense – a patented USA machine emitting sounds to repel infesting birds, a non-toxic slippery gel that keeps pigeons away, and auto-closing double doors to avert monkey entry, as reported earlier, will be employed at the BWF World Championships.

Add langur mimicry artists to the list.

Trained humans have long been chasing rhesus macaques away in Delhi, since the use of langurs for it is banned under wildlife laws. The profession was the subject of Hindi feature film Eeb Allay Ooo! — an onomatopoeiac title describing the unique noises made to repel monkeys.

Four men have been hired to do the same at IG Indoor Stadium for the badminton World Championships. "The skill has been passed down generations in my family. I learnt it from my father, but don't want my son to do it," says Jabbar, a Rohini resident and one of the aforementioned four. He is often enlisted for the arcane task in the capital's North Block and South Block via tenders, and adds that he earns roughly Rs 25,000 per month for his efforts.

The need for Jabbar and Co perhaps arose after a monkey was spotted in the stands during the India Open this year. The arena has three floors, and each of them have single doors. "When any door was left open, claims Ambar Pratap Singh, regional executive director at the Sports Association of India (SAI), "nobody could actually make sure that no monkeys came in."

Automatic double doors are one way to address that. Monkey chasers are another. The once-bitten Badminton Authority of India (BAI) presumably wants to leave nothing to chance, and modern problems require modern solutions, as the meme goes.

> **"The skill has been passed down generations in my family. I learnt it from my father, but don't want my son to do it."**
>
> **JABBAR,**
> ABOUT LEARNING THE SKILL OF CHASING RHESUS MACAQUES AWAY

Lighting issue fixed

Other potential stumbling blocks are also being looked at. The lighting, another talking point at India Open, has been upgraded. The emphasis is on ensuring no shadows are cast on the court and that the overhead lights, bearing a lux (unit of illuminance) figure between 2,200 and 2,400, are evenly spread out across the court.

Besides the standard white light on top, there will be a medley of lights in the special presentation, before and after a match, and during ceremonies to avoid player disturbance.

Further, the player entrance fireworks that are customary at all major BWF events will be in action on the last day (August 23). Cold fire — eco-friendly flames — will be used, BAI secretary Sanjay Mishra confirms.

Singh also added that roof leakages at the IG stadium have now been repaired, and with heavy rainfall likely during the Championships, are being tested repeatedly. The downpour is also expected to assuage pollution concerns raised by shuttlers previously. As for the hygiene question posed by Denmark women's shuttler Mia Blichfeldt, Mishra is confident that the cleanliness will match global standards.

"I don't think cleanliness will be a problem for her (Blichfeldt). The conditions are far better than what was the case at the India Open," he said to *The Indian Express*.

Mishra adds that the lake part of the IG Stadium complex has been revived and is being beautified, and that the practice courts are prepared at the KD Jadhav Stadium. All appears to be in readiness for the marquee event. And if a simian sneaks into the fray, there are men to shout it away.

Vol XCIV, Issue No. 235. Regd.No. DL-21046/03-05 RNI Regn. No. DELENG/2018/76281. Printed and Published by Ramesh Chander Malhotra on behalf of The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed at The Indian Express (P) Limited Press, A-8, Sector-7, Noida -201301 and Published at The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9 &10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110002. Editorial office: The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9&10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: 0120-6651500. Advertising office: The Indian Express (P) Ltd.,Express Building, B1/B, Ramnath Goenka Marg, Sector 10, Noida-201301. Phone:01206651291. Chairman of the Board: Viveck Goenka, Chief Editor: Raj Kamal Jha, Editor: Unni Rajen Shanker, Editor (Delhi):Monojit Majumdar** ** Responsible for selection of News under the PRP Act. Copyright: The Indian Express (P) Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited. The Indian Express®