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Nighttime blitz damages Russia's naval stronghold, says Zelenskyy

Associated Press
Kyiv, August 12

UKRAINIAN ANTI-SHIP missiles, jet-powered aerial drones and sea drones blitzed a major Russian naval base on the Black Sea coast in a "unique" nighttime operation, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Wednesday.

Cutting-edge drones developed by Kyiv since Russia invaded more than four years ago have repeatedly targeted Russian ships in the Black Sea, including warships and oil tankers. Both countries have Black Sea shorelines.

Ukraine's uncrewed fleet has succeeded in limiting the movements of Russia's once-dominant Black Sea navy, Kyiv officials say, in one of the country's biggest accomplishments of the war. But Ukrainian officials reckon that Russian President Vladimir Putin is bent on prosecuting the war, despite his bigger army's slow and costly progress on the battlefield and US diplomatic efforts to find a settlement.

UKRAINE CLAIMS LIMITING THE MOVEMENT OF RUSSIA'S 'ONCE DOMINANT' BLACK SEA NAVY

Putin threatens to seize EU ships if Europe targets Russian vessels

Reuters
Moscow, August 12

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR Putin said on Wednesday that Russia will respond in kind if European countries start to seize Russian merchant vessels and the commander of Russia's Pacific Fleet said his forces were ready to "inspect and detain" foreign vessels from what he called hostile states.

The comments, which Putin made as he oversaw navy drills in Russia's far east, come as the EU tries to ratchet up pressure on Russia's so-called shadow fleet, expanding sanctions against hundreds of vessels and detaining some ships and their crews for checks.

Some European governments have said they are exploring tougher maritime enforcement measures against ships suspected of sanctions evasion.

"We can see that the authorities of certain countries, in violation of international maritime law, are attempting to restrict the movement of our economic operators' vessels..., and have recently gone so far as to consider the possibility of seizing our vessels and selling off the property they have plundered from us," Putin said.

"Naturally, this is nothing less than piracy and robbery. And if this begins to be put into practice, we shall be forced to respond in kind. And not necessarily in those waters where raids on our ships and vessels are planned, but wherever we ourselves deem it necessary and appropriate."

Viktor Liina, commander of Russia's Pacific Fleet, told Putin that what he described as hostile countries such as Britain and France also transported goods on vessels flying flags of convenience which — if the EU and Britain's own language was used — could also be described as a "shadow fleet."

"Western states are actively using vessels flying the flags of third countries to transport cargo in their own interests. In essence, this constitutes their shadow fleet," Liina told Putin.

"We have the capabilities to inspect and detain vessels belonging to unfriendly states and their shadow fleet; inter-agency coordination is in place, and we are ready to tackle these tasks."

He said his fleet had carried out a detailed analysis of maritime traffic in the Asia-Pacific region and knew the routes, the cargo, and ownership of vessels linked to unfriendly nations. The Russian Foreign Ministry weighed in too, accusing the EU in a statement of using its naval force in the Mediterranean — named operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI and originally launched to enforce a UN arms embargo on Libya — of carrying out unlawful inspections of foreign vessels.

It cited a search operation led by Italy which boarded a tanker from Russia's so-called "shadow fleet" this month, the second such operation in less than two weeks as Europe intensifies scrutiny of vessels suspected of helping Moscow circumvent oil sanctions.

Russian President Vladimir Putin inspects a military drill of the Pacific fleet, in Russia's far eastern Sakhalin region on Wednesday. REUTERS

Trump says US has 'total control' over Hormuz; Iran says no ceasefire talks yet

Parisa Hafezi
Dubai, August 12

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Wednesday said the United States in is control of the Strait of Hormuz.

"The U.S.A. has total control over the Strait of Hormuz. I think we will keep it! Our Naval blockade is being called, by everyone, "A wall of steel," and there is nothing Iran can do about it," he wrote on his Truth Social platform.

Meanwhile, Iran said that Washington must return to the pact and define a timeframe to implement its commitments, a senior Iranian source told *Reuters* on Wednesday.

The source's comments came after Turkey's Anadolu news agency, citing Pakistani government sources, reported that Tehran and Washington had agreed to extend a 60-day ceasefire under their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

"One of the issues that is being discussed via mediators is the U.S. returning to the interim agreement and defining a timeframe for implementing its commitments. There has been absolutely no progress on this issue," the source said.

The interim deal signed in June between Tehran and Washington declared an "immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts", but quickly unravelled, with US President Donald Trump saying on July 7 that the pact was "over".

Tehran has repeatedly accused Washington of consistently violating its commitments.

"There is no talk of an extension because ... the United States violated the interim agreement 48 hours after it was reached and withdrew from it a few days later," the source told *Reuters*.

In the agreement, the 60-day period refers to an extendable timeframe within which Iran and the US were expected to reach a final deal, which would include larger issues including the fate of Iran's disputed nuclear program.

A series of requirements, such as a ceasefire in Lebanon, free navigation in the Gulf and waivers for Iran to sell its oil, were viewed as necessary before entering the further negotiation period. REUTERS

WHO says Congo's Ebola outbreak is on track to surpass the deadliest in history

Associated Press
Geneva, August 12

The outbreak in eastern Congo has killed over 2,000 people. AP

THE ONGOING Ebola outbreak in Congo is on track to surpass the deadliest one in history that killed over 11,000 people out of more than 28,000 cases, the head of the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

"At its current pace, it's on track to eclipse the West African Ebola outbreak of 2014 to 2016," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters. That outbreak horrified the world and jolted efforts to develop a vaccine. The outbreak in eastern Congo, considered the fastest-growing in history, has killed over 2,000 people out of more than 4,300 cases.

The outbreak was declared on May 15, but health authorities now say sequencing showed it began months earlier, in February.It is unlike most previous Ebola outbreaks because the rare Bundibugyo virus responsible for it has no approved vaccines or treatments, though efforts to address that are underway.

Experts say this outbreak is moving faster than efforts to track and manage it in a remote part of eastern Congo facing ongoing conflict, near the borders with South Sudan, Uganda and Rwanda.Most of the new cases and deaths are still being reported in communities outside the reach of health workers in a region of poor infrastructure and ill-equipped health centres.

Some health workers have gone on strike over lack of pay. Misinformation about the virus continues to circulate in communities where some are wary of outsiders.

Pak condemns killing of three nationals in Houthi attack

Press Trust of India
Islamabad, August 12

PAKISTAN ON Wednesday condemned the killing of three Pakistani nationals in an attack on a commercial vessel by Yemen's Houthis, and said such incidents pose a "serious threat" to freedom of navigation, maritime security and the safety of commercial shipping in the Red Sea.

On Tuesday, four seafarers — three Pakistanis and an Indonesian — were killed and many others were injured after Tanzania-flagged vessel Tihamah was targeted in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait by the Iranian-backed Houthis.

"Pakistan strongly condemns the Houthi attack on a non-combatant commercial vessel," Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said in a post on X.

"Such attacks endanger innocent lives, constitute a violation of international law, and pose a serious threat to freedom of navigation, maritime security, and the safety of commercial shipping in the Red Sea," said Dar.

Credible missile threat led to Trump's secret aircraft switch

Air Force One flew back separately carrying Rubio, Bessent, Press pool

Reuters
Washington, August 12

President Donald Trump deboards Air Force One, after he had secretly reboarded it at Royal Air Force Mildenhall in the UK. FILE/NYT

A THREAT that Air Force One could be targeted by a shoulder-fired missile prompted the Secret Service to secretly move President Donald Trump onto an unmarked government jet during a trip to Turkey last month, a person briefed on the matter said on Wednesday.

The threat emerged on the final day of Trump's visit to Ankara for the NATO summit amid heightened tensions with Iran, the source said. The Secret Service deemed the threat to be credible and imminent, prompting an extraordinary operation to conceal the US president's movements.

The source declined to say where the intelligence came from. Trump and a small group of aides used a catering truck to surreptitiously switch from the big blue-and-white presidential aircraft to a smaller, nondescript C-32A jet for the flight out of Turkey on July 8.

Trump told reporters on Tuesday that he made the switch at the direction of the Secret Service, which is charged with presidential security. He flew from Ankara to a refueling stop in Britain without incident.

"I think actually the plane that I flew on was at greater risk," Trump told reporters, without providing evidence.

The Washington Post first reported details of the operation this week, more than a month after it was carried out.

The New York Times reported that US officials were alarmed to discover that Iranians knew where Trump was staying in Ankara, including the exact floor of his hotel.

On board the Air Force One jet now seen as a decoy were US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who the source said was briefed on the maneuver; Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent; White House communications director Steven Cheung; and the 13-person press pool.

• BRIEFLY

PORTUGAL

Cristiano Ronaldo marries longtime partner Georgina

Portuguese soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo with his wife Georgina Rodriguez. AP

CRISTIANO RONALDO and Georgina Rodriguez are husband and wife. They married Tuesday in a civil ceremony described by the public relations team that represents the Portuguese soccer star as "a private and intimate moment attended by their five children." The ceremony took place in Cascais, a coastal town in western Portugal near the capital Lisbon, the Brunswick Group said in the announcement. The couple posted a picture on their Instagram accounts showing their rings. They have been together for the past decade after meeting in Madrid. The 41-year-old Ronaldo, a five-time world player of the year and one of the most high-profile sports stars, is coming off playing in his record-tying sixth World Cup for Portugal. REUTERS

THAILAND

Govt vows tougher gun control law

THE THAI government on Wednesday pledged to tighten gun controls and crack down on illegal firearms after two deadly shootings near Bangkok in less than a week renewed pressure on authorities to curb gun violence.
The country has one of the highest rates of gun ownership in Asia despite its fairly restrictive gun laws. The two recent shootings, both in Nonthaburi province northwest of the capital Bangkok, have intensified calls for tougher enforcement and tighter controls on firearms. AP

ZIMBABWE

Boat accident toll rises to 44, many missing

A DRONE At least 44 people died after a passenger ferry capsized in a lake in Zimbabwe on Tuesday, police said, roughly trebling an earlier estimate of the death count after more bodies were found. Investigations suggested the boat was overloaded when it went over during heavy winds on Lake Kariba, officers said on Wednesday. The vessel was built to carry 90 passengers, but more than 120 people could have been on board as it crossed the lake that borders Zambia, police said in a statement. AP

Colombia earthquake toll tops 250 as rescuers race to find survivors

Reuters
Pereira, Cali, August 12

RESCUE CREWS on Tuesday dug through mountains of rubble in western Colombia, shouting for quiet so they could listen for survivors still trapped under the buildings that collapsed in a powerful earthquake estimated to have killed at least 250 people.

The 7.4-magnitude quake, the most devastating to strike Colombia this century, tore through its coffee-growing heartland early on Monday, leaving apartment blocks, homes, schools and health centers cracked, leaning or flattened.

Separate reports from affected cities put the death toll at 254 on Tuesday morning, with 101 people killed in Pereira, deep in coffee country, and 95 in Cali, the country's third-biggest city.

Many Indigenous communities in the forested Pacific-facing region of Choco close to the quake epicenter are still without power or basic services.

The earthquake struck just days after the inauguration of new President Abelardo De La Espriella, who traveled to the affected regions and promised economic support to people who lost their homes.

UK PM appoints Indian-origin strategist as his 'Expert Adviser'

Aditi Khanna
London, August 12

Gautam Rangarajan has worked with the BBC

BRITISH PM Andy Burnham has appointed an Indian-origin strategist and media executive to the role of Expert Adviser on Structure and Process.

Gautam Rangarajan, a former BBC strategist and musician, takes charge at 10 Downing Street this week in the newly created role. Gautam Rangarajan has been appointed as an Expert Adviser on Structure and Process.

"Gautam brings significant experience in corporate strategy and transformation," reads the brief announcement from the UK PM's office. Burnham, who took charge as Labour Party leader and PM last month, has set out his vision to do things differently "starting with the launch of No. 10 North in Manchester as a symbol of his devolution agenda across all regions of the country. Rangarajan is expected to be instrumental in this planned transformation at the heart of the government. PTI

• NAMED CHINA'S PREMIER IN 1998, ZHU BECAME A POPULAR FIGURE AS HE CRITICISED OFFICIAL BUNGLING, GRAFT AND ACCEPTED BLAME WHEN GOVT FELL SHORT

'I have prepared 100 coffins, 99 for corrupt officials & one for myself'

Joe McDonald
Beijing, August 12

FORMER CHINESE Premier Zhu Rongji has died, according to state media. The impatient, sharp-tongued reformer helped ignite China's explosive economic boom by forcing wrenching change on state industry in the 1990s and leading the country into the World Trade Organisation.

The official Xinhua news agency reported that Zhu died of illness in Beijing at around 11 am on Wednesday. He was 97 years old.

Once sent into rural exile to do manual labor for praising reforms in other communist countries, Zhu pushed through a dizzying array of changes as premier, China's top economic post, from 1998 to 2003.

Zhu clashed with Communist Party conservatives and state industry bosses as he pushed state-owned companies to become efficient and profitable. That cost millions of layoffs, but helped propel China to overtake Japan as the second-largest economy behind the United States in 2010.

Building on former leader Deng Xiaoping's 1979 reforms, Zhu is credited with supplying the resourcefulness and tenacity to push through history-making changes such as China's WTO membership, which helped to transform China into the world's biggest exporter.

ZHU RONGJI
1928-2026

Those changes helped to keep economic growth above 8 per cent a year from 2000-2010, peaking at 14.2 per cent in 2007.

Named premier in 1998 at age 69, Zhu became a popular figure by criticizing official bungling and graft and accepting blame when the government fell short. His demanding style earned him the nicknames Boss and Zhu Fengzi, or Madman Zhu.

"I have prepared 100 coffins here - 99 for corrupt officials and one for myself," Zhu said in 1998, according to the party newspaper People's Daily.

Zhu ranked No. 3 in the party hierarchy behind President Jiang Zemin and Li Peng, chairman of the ceremonial legislature, the National People's Congress. But he was a technician without his own power base. Zhu complained that allowed officials to ignore his orders.

Zhu made his name as a deputy premier in the 1990s by crushing inflation. He enforced price controls and cut off loans to money-losing state companies, rebuffing resistance by local leaders - a pattern Zhu would repeat as he fought conservatives over the pace of reform.

Zhu led efforts to secure WTO membership following marathon negotiations that began in the 1980s. That status would enshrine free trade as a national commitment, giving Zhu a tool to force local officials to stop protecting favored companies.

Zhu's campaign was nearly derailed when he went to Washington in 1999 with market-opening concessions to win US endorsement of the WTO bid.

The Clinton administration rejected the offer as inadequate while his political enemies at home accused him of offering too much, but Zhu survived and China went on to join the body in December 2001. Zhu launched China's home ownership boom in 1998 with an initiative to sell apartments owned by state companies. Families rushed to buy, and within a decade the majority of urban housing was privately owned. AP

• NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

PAKISTAN

At least 15 killed in accident in Punjab province

AT LEAST 15 people, including women and children of a family, died after a three-wheeler vehicle fell into a canal reportedly due to overspeeding in Punjab province of Pakistan, authorities said on Wednesday. The rickshaw was carrying 26 wedding guests when it fell into the canal on Tuesday in Kot Addu, Muzaffargarh district of Punjab. The Punjab Emergency Rescue 1122 said in a statement on Wednesday that three rickshaws were carrying a wedding procession from one village to another when one of them lost control due to overspeeding and fell into the Muzaffargarh Canal. PTI

NEPAL

Two Indians arrested with 18 kg marijuana

TWO INDIAN nationals were arrested at Tribhuvan International Airport here with 18 kg of Thai-manufactured marijuana, Nepal Police said on Wednesday. A team of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs Bureau of Nepal Police arrested Sanjiv Kumar, and Ravi Kumar, both residents of Punjab, from the airport's arrival area on Tuesday evening, according to a police. The duo allegedly tried to flee when police began checking passengers in the arrival area, but were caught by the security personnel. Police also seized two mobile phones, two passports and four bags from their possession. PTI

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सत्यमेव जयते
राजस्थान सरकार

युवा शक्ति को अवसर

राजस्थान
को नई उड़ान

निष्पक्ष, पारदर्शी और
पेपर लीक रहित भर्तियां

रोजगार, कौशल विकास, भर्ती, स्टार्टअप और नवाचार के माध्यम से युवाओं के सशक्त भविष्य का निर्माण

रोजगार एवं भर्ती

- **1 लाख 78 हजार सरकारी पदों पर नियुक्तियां**
- 51,427 अभ्यर्थियों की परीक्षा पूर्ण- भर्ती प्रक्रियाधीन
- 81,023 पदों पर भर्तियों की परीक्षा
- 70,031 पदों पर भर्ती की तैयारी

कौशल विकास एवं शिक्षा

- **3.58 लाख युवाओं को कौशल प्रशिक्षण**
- 76 नए राजकीय महाविद्यालय स्थापित
- **88,724 विद्यार्थियों को टैबलेट/लैपटॉप वितरण**
- 42,509 युवाओं को मुख्यमंत्री अनुप्रति कोचिंग योजना का लाभ

टेक्नोलॉजी एवं भविष्य

- राजस्थान AI-ML पॉलिसी लागू
- AVGC-XR पॉलिसी से एनीमेशन, गेमिंग और डिजिटल रोजगार को बढ़ावा
- Rajasthan Digi Fest 2026 का सफल आयोजन

खेल एवं युवा सशक्तिकरण

- खेलो इंडिया यूनिवर्सिटी गेम्स 2025 का सफल आयोजन
- मुख्यमंत्री स्पोर्ट्सपर्सन बीमा योजना लागू
- राजस्थान टारगेट ओलंपिक पोडियम (RTOP) योजना शुरू

पारदर्शी भर्ती

- भर्ती परीक्षाओं में पेपर लीक रोकने के लिए एसआईटी का गठन
- **569 आरोपियों की गिरफ्तारी, 157 एफआईआर दर्ज**
- 410 भर्ती परीक्षाएं बिना किसी पेपर लीक के सफलतापूर्वक आयोजित

युवा कल्याण

- Rajasthan Coaching Centres (Control & Regulation) Bill लागू
- **माय भारत पोर्टल पर 19.40 लाख से अधिक युवा पंजीकृत, देश में दूसरा स्थान**

उच्च शिक्षा एवं अवसर

- **PRIME योजना से मेधावी विद्यार्थियों को रिसर्च और इंटर्नशिप के अवसर**
- Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Program (AEDP) शुरू
- EV, Renewable Energy, BFSI, HR और Tourism जैसे नए रोजगारोन्मुख पाठ्यक्रम शुरू

स्टार्टअप एवं नवाचार

- राज्य में स्टार्टअप की संख्या बढ़कर 8,780
- **स्टार्टअप निवेश ₹250 करोड़ से बढ़कर ₹1,054 करोड़**
- 9 इंक्यूबेशन सेंटर और 65 लॉन्चपैड स्थापित
- **1,062 स्टार्टअप्स को ₹33.94 करोड़ की फंडिंग**

राजस्थान संवाद

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, राजस्थान

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

Explained

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to

explained@indianexpress.com

• LEGAL

Harming youth: Why Meta must pay nearly $1 bn

Vineet Bhalla
New Delhi, August 12

A STATE court in New Mexico has ordered Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, to pay $567 million into an abatement fund to address harms to children and adolescents, after declaring that its platforms contributed substantially to a public nuisance in the state. The order, dated August 6, comes on top of a $375 million civil penalty imposed after a jury found that Meta violated New Mexico's Unfair Practices Act. Together, the two orders mean that Meta's financial exposure in the case amounts to $942 million.

The two phases of the trial

Phase 1 was a jury trial, where the jury was asked to determine whether Meta had misled adolescents about the safety and risks of its platforms. It found 75,000 statutory violations, with the maximum $5,000 penalty applied to each, resulting in a $375 million civil penalty.

Phase 2 was a bench trial — meaning the judge decided the case without a jury — which concerned the state's claim that Meta's platforms constituted a public nuisance and its request for an order requiring Meta to "abate" that nuisance. New Mexico law defines a public nuisance to include conduct that affects citizens and is injurious to public health, safety, morals or welfare, or interferes with public rights. The judge ruled that Meta's platforms caused and substantially contributed to the nuisance of a youth mental health crisis in the state.

THE SIGNIFICANCE

- The judgment treats a social media platform's architecture and operation, rather than just user content, as capable of contributing to a public nuisance.
- But the court's approach was deliberately limited. It recognised that courts cannot simply regulate protected speech or redesign the internet wholesale.

Court's findings

The court found that major depressive episodes among young people had more than doubled between 2013-14 and 2022-23; suicide was the second-leading cause of death among adolescents in 2019-23 and indicators of disordered eating had also increased. It accepted expert evidence that social media was a significant contributing factor to this crisis.

Beyond mental health, the ruling records evidence of technology-facilitated sexual abuse and sextortion. While acknowledging that teenagers use other apps like TikTok and YouTube, the court specifically linked the crisis to Meta by noting that Facebook and Instagram are "unique in their emphasis on interpersonal relationships". Educators and psychiatrists testified that Instagram is a primary driver of addiction, bullying and classroom disruptions.

'Polluting factory' analogy

Meta argued that if a factory caused pollution, a court should require it to stop the harmful emissions, rather than shut down the factory or make it pay for unrelated issues. The judge applied the analogy against Meta. The platforms were the factory, the content and advertising were its products, and the psychological harm and sexual exploitation of children were the "pollution" to be abated.

What next

The $567 million abatement fund will operate for five years. Of that amount, $420 million is earmarked for treatment, with additional money for screening, prevention, referrals and evaluation. The operational orders include limiting use by under-18 users. The court also directed Meta to strengthen age-assurance measures.

• ECONOMY

UPI's dramatic growth, and its next challenge

UPI, launched 10 years ago, has come to dominate the payments landscape. The key question for its next phase of growth: Who will foot the bill?

SIDDHARTH UPASANI

IN ITS payment systems "vision document" for 2012-15, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made an observation that seems unimaginable in 2026: an average Indian was making only six non-cash transactions in a year.

Almost a decade-and-a-half later, in 2025-26, the number of digital transactions was an astonishing 28,174 crore. And 86% of these payments were from a system that didn't even exist until a decade ago — Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

More than 55 crore people use UPI now and 703 entities — from banks to payment service providers — are involved in facilitating its transactions. Having completed 10 years this month — it was launched as a pilot in April 2016 before becoming fully operational in August that year — it is now at a crossroads. An amendment to the Payments and Settlement Systems Act of 2007 has removed the barrier to merchants being charged a fee for receiving payments via UPI.

Drivers behind adoption

UPI was developed by RBI-regulated National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). Work on it started in 2012-13, with the payment systems "vision document" for 2012-15 making several noteworthy points, including how despite attempts to move towards a less-cash society, nearly a third of e-commerce purchases were being paid via cash-on-delivery.

While the government's demonetisation decision in November 2016 helped spur cashless activity for a short while, movement was still slow. Until December 2017, monthly transaction value was under Rs 10,000 crore and it took another year for that figure to cross Rs 1 lakh crore. It was felt that more was needed for digital payments to truly take off. And a key hindrance was the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR).

The MDR obstacle

Led by Nandan Nilekani, the High-Level Committee on Deepening of Digital Payments said in May 2019 that customers and small merchants not be charged by their banks for digital transactions and the government must subsidise MDR on transactions of up to Rs 2,000.

This was seemingly accepted and the government in 2020 began subsidising UPI and RuPay debit card payments of up to Rs 2,000 to small merchants. Capped at 0.15% of the transaction value, the subsidy was shared among banks, payment service providers and third-party app providers.

What followed was an incredible rise in the use of UPI, with no small role played by the coronavirus pandemic, as people looked to avoid any potential human contact in transferring cash.

Investments drive innovation

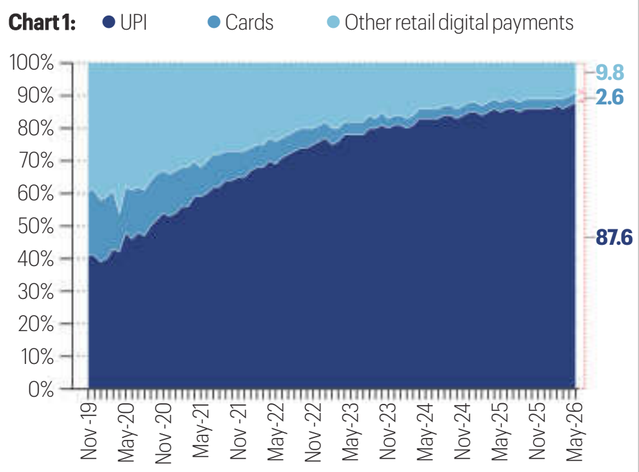
But even before this, private money was flowing into India's digital payments sector at a tremendous pace.

"Investment in Indian fintech firms spiked in early 2019 and again in 2021 when payment firms took up nearly half the volume, marking a shift in investors' interest. The majority of investments was in companies whose core business was providing payment services and point-of-sales (PoS) devices," a December 2024 paper by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said.

"The spike in the value of investment deals in 2019 related to the growing adoption of UPI and large deals by Paytm and PhonePe. In 2021, the surge in investment followed from an increased preference for using digital payment systems after the Covid-19 pandemic," it added.

• LION'S SHARE IN DIGITAL PAYMENTS

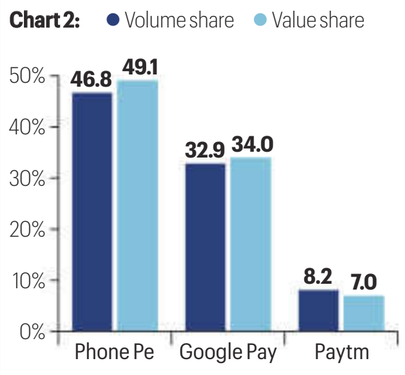
UPI has doubled its share in retail digital payments since 2019



SOURCE: RBI; NOTES: CARD TRANSACTIONS EXCLUDE ATM WITHDRAWALS, OTHER RETAIL DIGITAL PAYMENTS EXCLUDE PAPER-BASED INSTRUMENTS

• A TWO-HORSE RACE

PhonePe and Google Pay, both backed by US giants, handled 80% of all UPI transactions in July, accounting for 83% of the value. Paytm is a distant third.



SOURCE: NPCI; NOTE: FIGURES ARE FOR JULY 2026

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

'Too late' for banks

That period of immense interest and investment in India's digital payments sector has led to an entirely new crop of players dominating the space in such a manner that even the country's top bank, State Bank of India, can't catch up.

"I think we have definitely missed the payments bus and it is too late to catch up," SBI Chairman C S Setty said last week. "I don't think any bank can reach the kind of volumes they have built." Setty was referring to the players hogging the UPI volumes: Walmart-backed PhonePe and Google Pay. Together, the two apps backed by US giants handled 80% of all UPI transactions in July, accounting for 83% of the value.

Costs pile up

The volume of UPI transactions has risen so sharply they have left behind more traditional non-cash payment methods such as debit and credit cards.

The number of credit and debit card transactions — excluding ATM withdrawals — in May this year were just 17% higher at 70 crore than in November 2019. In comparison, the growth in UPI transactions has been 1,800%.

This huge increase is not without a rise in its underlying costs.

"The scale of digital payments today means that even a relatively small unrecovered cost per transaction can translate into a significant financial burden across banks, Payment Service Providers, and other ecosystem participants," said Sridhar Guntuku, Vice President-Alliances and Partnerships at fintech infrastructure platform Decentro.

It is in this context that the payments industry has been calling for the return of MDR on UPI and RuPay debit card transactions. The Centre subsidises person-to-merchant payments of up to Rs 2,000, but that money is just not enough to cover payment infra costs that are to the tune of Rs 20,000 crore a year or so.

"For core UPI, zero MDR has been the right call; it is what allowed the ecosystem to reach smaller merchants and drive adoption at scale," Anirban Mukherjee, CEO of PayU, said. However, the future can't be only about processing more transactions and its next phase needs to be about creating more value per transaction.

"As UPI deepens its reach, it also lays the foundation for something even more transformative, that is credit. Affordable, accessible, data-driven credit for merchants and consumers who have never had it. A calibrated MDR framework for larger merchants could help get us there, without compromising the accessibility that made UPI successful in the first place," Mukherjee added.

This is why the payments industry is batting for an MDR of 0.3-0.6% on payments of more than Rs 2,000 to large merchants. Transactions of more than Rs 2,000 might make up just 4% of all P2M payments, but they account for 68% of total value.

'Next wave of growth'

The message from the government has been similar, with the finance ministry saying in a statement on Saturday that relying on subsidies alone is not viable for the "next wave of growth".

This next wave of UPI growth, according to the government, will come from the rural and semi-urban areas. Payments industry executives also point to international opportunities. Already, UPI is operational in 9 countries — Bhutan, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, UAE, Qatar, and Cambodia — to varying degrees. Efforts are on to increase acceptance further in countries that are hotspots for Indian tourists and migrant workers.

Leading the charge is the partnership with Singapore, whose PayNow fast-payment system has been linked with UPI for more than three years now.

This is the future, as international bank transfers can take several days to settle, with the costs being as high as 7% of the amount that must be transferred.

Payments stranglehold

PhonePe and Google Pay have a stranglehold over the top two positions.

•

Regulations to restrict any one player's market share to 30% has had to be postponed multiple times. The current deadline is December 2026.

• SCIENCE

Total solar eclipse: The best time to study Sun's 'invisible' part

Anjali Marar
Bengaluru, August 12

EUROPE WITNESSED its first total solar eclipse in 27 years between Wednesday night and Thursday morning (India time).

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between the Sun and the Earth, blocking out some or all of the star's light. The latter phenomenon happens during a total solar eclipse. It is a rare occurrence, requiring the Sun, the Moon and the Earth to line-up perfectly in space.

While not all of Europe will experience "totality" — the phase when the Moon completely covers the Sun's surface — large parts of the continent will still experience near night-like conditions.

A solar eclipse also happens to be the best time for scientists to study the Sun. Here's what they study at that time — and how they do it.

Why do we need to study the Sun?

For scientists, observing the Sun's corona and the inner corona is crucial. The corona's magnetic field triggers solar flares and "coronal mass ejections", which can disrupt satellites, GPS and other communication systems on Earth.

The corona is the Sun's outermost atmosphere, extending millions of kilometres into space. The inner corona is the part of the Sun's outer atmosphere that is closest to the star's surface.

However, it is extremely faint. To study it, scientists need to block the solar disc artificially using an instrument called a coronagraph, which is usually placed on solar probes or missions. On many occasions, however, these instruments are affected by scattered light — making it impossible to observe the inner corona.

How does a solar eclipse help?

During a total solar eclipse, the Moon completely blocks the solar disc, making the inner corona visible in the form of a halo around the lunar body.

This provides helio-physicists with a valuable window to make ground-based observations of the solar atmosphere.

"When an eclipse happens, the bright inner disk gets blocked and the fainter outer atmosphere gets revealed, which is the solar corona. The eclipse thus gives us clues to the underlying magnetic structure of the Sun's corona," Dibyendu Nandi, an astrophysicist from the Raman Research Institute, told *The Indian Express*.

Another factor to consider is the solar cycle — the roughly 11-year cycle during which the Sun's activity rises and falls, marked by changes in the number of sunspots, solar flares and other activity.

In the current solar cycle, which began in 2020, the Sun has already passed its maxima phase — the period when it is most active and when more structures in the inner corona are likely to be visible.

Owing to these reasons, scientists plan multiple experiments and solar observations during total solar eclipses, particularly from the location where the maximum eclipse is expected.

What can scientists observe?

During the eclipse, an Indian group of researchers at Centre of Excellence for Space Science India (CESSI), IISER-Kolkata, has predicted the possibility of spotting multiple large-scale streamers, which are petal-like structures. "These are nothing but bright magnetic field structures rooted to the solar surface. There is no other way to see the magnetic fields, because the Sun's disc is bright. During a natural eclipse, it is possible to see the Sun's corona from the ground, too," Nandi said.

If these magnetic field structures are spotted during the event, scientists expect them to be highly complex and spectacular.

Path of totality

- The total eclipse will be visible along the north of Russia, Greenland, west Iceland, northern Spain and a small area in northeast Portugal.
- Together, these locations form the 'path of totality' — the narrow strip on the Earth's surface where the Moon can be seen completely blocking the Sun.
- In any total solar eclipse, the duration of 'totality' — the phase when the Moon completely covers the Sun's surface — is the longest near the centre of the path of totality.

A total solar eclipse seen in Texas in 2024. The Sun's corona can be seen as a halo. AP

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• DEFENCE

GPS to night bombing: IAF's many challenges during Kargil war's Op Safed Sagar

EXPERT EXPLAINS

BIRENDER SINGH DHANOA

FORMER CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF, INDIAN AIR FORCE

THE NETFLIX series *Operation Safed Sagar* has spurred an interest in the key details of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) operations during the 1999 Kargil conflict with Pakistan. Safed Sagar involved multiple IAF squadrons — including the No. 17 Golden Arrows — together carrying out air operations, including night bombing missions over the snow-clad, towering peaks of Kargil, in unique and innovative ways.

Former IAF chief Air Chief Marshal **Birender Singh Dhanoa** (retired), who was then the Commanding Officer of the No. 17 Squadron of the MiG-21 fighter jets, spoke to **Amrita Nayak Dutta**.

What challenges arose during night bombing operations?

The mountains would shine in the moonlight. But it had its risks, as the clouds could cover the moon at any time, leading to darkness, and one would have to abort and get out of the valley if needed.

The Pakistanis had put a radar atop a hill on their side of the Line of Control, which was accurately located and fixed by our ELINT (Electronic Intelligence) aircraft. Headquarters Western Air Command had given us a map with the 3D Platter of the radar pick-up marked every 5°.

So, we used to enter the valley and fly below the crest line (meaning the highest continuous edge of a mountain range), descending low to 1 km or about 3,000 feet above the target level before weapons release.

A still from Netflix's 'Operation Safed Sagar'

We were within the lethal envelope of their shoulder-fired SAMs (surface-to-air missile). On the first night strike mission, they fired a low-level SAM at us, but it fell harmlessly, as it was most probably fired at the sound of the aircraft in our general direction, without a proper lock-on.

Low-level night strike missions had their risks, but their results were much better as we were closer to the target when we released our bombs. We could even tip our wings and see the impact point in the moonlight.

What happened following Squadron Leader Ajay Ahuja's capture?

Squadron Leader Ahuja, who was on a Battle Damage Assessment mission, was responding to a call from the Leader of the MiG-27 Formation. He was asked to come and replace him to look for Group Captain (then Flight Lieutenant) K Nachiketa (Retd.), who had gone for a strike at the Batalik sector when his aircraft engine flamed out.

Ahuja was orbiting over the area where the wreckage of the other MiG-27 was located. There, he was constantly in communication with another helicopter pilot, who had rerouted for the rescue mission.

The continuous orbiting and his exuberance to keep the crash site in contact may have led him to drift down, bringing him within the engagement envelope of the Stinger missile and getting shot down. But he did everything right after getting hit. As decided for such eventualities, he glided down and hit the Indus River, and called out his coordinates before ejecting. But then he was surrounded and captured by Pakistani troops/irregulars. He died of small arms injury, which means that he was killed as a Prisoner of War.

The series claims that GPS manipulation by the Americans affected the bombing operations initially. Thoughts?

Before May 2, 2000, GPS signals were accurate to about 100 metres (across the world, not only over India). Plus, there was some bias (a kind of systematic problem) due to the error between the WGS 84 (World Geodetic System 1984, a standard coordinate system and map reference frame used around the Earth) and the Everest Spheroid (another reference model of the Earth, first defined in 1830 by Sir George Everest, the Surveyor General).

The Indian maps were based on the Everest Spheroid. This had to be corrected for in the handheld GPS sets, which displayed information only in WGS 84 coordinates.

However, the Time Arc-6 GPS sets built into the MiG-21 and MiG-23 BN aircraft allowed one to select to fly on Indian Everest coordinates. As the Army used to give us targets in these coordinates, we used to physically mark them on a 1:50,000 map and then use our scale to measure the exact coordinates in latitude and longitude. Then, we had to count every contour to get an exact altitude and then fly at an exact altitude to be 4 km above the target to release our bombs.

So, as shown in the series, against a surveyed point on the ground (in Indian Everest Coordinates), a handheld GPS set would show an error, which had to be corrected. I don't think the Americans had done it on purpose.

The Editorial Page: What was promised by NREGA's new version, where it falls short 10

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

The Indian EXPRESS

NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 22 PAGES

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Happening today

- THE CALCUTTA HIGH Court will hear a PIL over removal of loudspeakers from mosques in West Bengal.

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Business as Usual

By EP UNNY

MOVE COMES 6 MONTHS AFTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS DEFERRED PROPOSAL TO EXTEND HIS TENURE

Chandrasekaran to exit Tata Sons: 'Clarity on leadership important'

Chairperson since 2017, won't seek reappointment when tenure ends in February 2027

George Mathew
Mumbai, August 12

N CHANDRASEKARAN announced on Wednesday that he will not seek reappointment as Tata Sons Chairman when his tenure ends in February 2027, and asked the company's Board of Directors to decide on his successor soon.

Chandrasekaran was given an extension in 2022. FILE

The move comes six months after the Board deferred a proposal to extend his tenure by five years, with the resolution failing to secure unanimous support. "I have

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MORE REPORTS, PAGE 13

Most Tata stocks fall

Company	Share price change*
TCS	-3.93%
Tata Steel	-1.09%
Tata Power	-0.14%
Tata Motors	1.52%
Tata Motors PV	-1.32%
Tata Technologies	-2.87%

*ON AUGUST 12; NOTE: SHARE PRICE CHANGE FOR ONLY SOME OF THE LARGEST COMPANIES IN WHICH TATA SONS HAS A STAKE; SOURCE: NSE

EDITORIAL PAGE
TATA CHIEF EXIT FRAMES A CHALLENGE & OPPORTUNITY P10

As Group begins search for successor, Noel Tata set to play pivotal role

George Mathew
Mumbai, August 12

WITH N Chandrasekaran set to step down as Chairman of Tata Sons by February 2027, the Tata Group is expected to begin the process of identifying his successor over the next six months. People familiar with the Group's thinking say the search is likely to be broad-based, with candidates from both within the Tata Group and outside it being considered.

Chandrasekaran's departure will have implications beyond Tata Sons, given that he currently serves as Chairman of several major Tata Group companies, including Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MONSOON SESSION ENDS TODAY

Shah says ready to answer questions in House; don't want lecture, counters Opp

Opposition MPs protest at Parliament on Wednesday. ANI

Asad Rehman & Jatin Anand
New Delhi, August 12

THE STAND-OFF between the government and the Opposition in Parliament continued on Wednesday, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah saying he was ready to answer the Opposition's questions on the police action against protesters in Delhi last month.

The Opposition, however, rejected Shah's proposal for a two-day discussion on the NEET paper leak and other issues, followed by a reply from him, saying it was not interested in the minister's "lectures".

The day kicked off with Shah daring the Opposition to submit a formal letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla by 2 pm for a debate. The Home Minister said he would attend the proceedings to address the Opposition's questions if the discussion

Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Parliament House complex, Wednesday. PTI

PARLIAMENT PAGE 6
HOUSE PASSES BILL TO RENAME KERALA AS KERALAM

began on Wednesday. "I want to tell the Opposition that you write to Speaker (Om Birla) by 2 pm; we will begin the discussion by 3 pm," he said, adding that it was up to the Opposition to

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Panel: Justice Varma's reply on burnt cash 'false', adds to 'grave suspicion'

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, August 12

A THREE-MEMBER inquiry committee set up by the Lok Sabha Speaker to probe the discovery and subsequent disappearance of "substantial" burnt cash from the official residence of former High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma last year has concluded that the judge's explanations in this regard were "false and adds to grave suspicion against him".

The committee also said in

Burnt cash was found after a fire at Justice Yashwant Varma's official residence in Delhi. FILE

its report, which was tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, that the "failure to seize, inventorise or preserve" the notes was "a serious lapse". The committee was headed by Supreme Court judge Justice Aravind Kumar and also included former Bombay High Court Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Senior Advocate B V Acharya.

In its report, the committee cited the statement of a witness who said he had seen Justice Varma's Private Secretary and an aide "were still engaged in

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORT, PAGE 6

'If I deliver 10,000 jobs as promised, it will build pressure on other MLAs'

Santosh Singh
Patna, August 12

OVER A week since he defeated the BJP in its bastion of Bankipur in a Bihar Assembly bypoll, Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) founder **Prashant Kishor** speaks about his win, the Jantar Mantar and Jharkhand protests, his vision for his constituency, and Bihar in the post-Nitish Kumar era. Excerpts:

EXPRESS interview

RAHUL SHARMA

PRASHANT KISHOR
JAN SURAAJ PARTY FOUNDER AND BANKIPUR MLA

Is there a broader signal from the Delhi and Ranchi protests and the BJP's bypoll defeats in Bankipur and Datia in Madhya Pradesh?

Though these events are not directly connected, what happened at Jantar Mantar and Jharkhand point towards a much larger problem: primarily, the growing dominance of the coaching institute mafia and paper leaks.

Earlier, paper leaks were an exception. But today, there is hardly any exam without them.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

J&K SIA officers conduct a search in connection with the 1990 double-murder case, in Anantnag on Wednesday. PTI

SIA searches 9 locations in 1990 abduction and murder of Kashmiri Pandit writer Koul, son

Naveed Iqbal
Srinagar, August 12

THE STATE Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir on Wednesday conducted searches at nine locations across Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the abduction and murder of Kashmiri Pandit writer and social worker Sarwanand Koul Premi and his young son, Virender Koul.

Residents of Soaf Shali in Anantnag's Kokernag, the Kouls were killed in 1990.

The FIR in the case was registered at the Dooru police station and is being investigated by the SIA.

According to sources, the searches mark a significant development in the long-running investigation, as the SIA intensifies efforts to uncover the circumstances surrounding the killings and bring the probe to a "decisive" stage.

Koul was a Kashmiri writer, poet and research scholar. He also worked in the J&K education department as a teacher from 1954-1977. He and his son were killed in May 1990, and their bodies were found hanging from a tree — kilometres away from their house. The surviving family members then fled the valley for Jammu.

This is the second such case being pursued by the SIA this year. In June, the SIA filed a chargesheet after probing the killing of Sarla Bhat, a 27-year-old nurse in Neonatology Department of the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura. Her body was found on the Mallabagh-Omer Colony Road in Srinagar on April 19, 1990.

The SIA's 737-page chargesheet, filed in a special NIA court in Srinagar, named then Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik as a key accused in her abduction and killing.

The investigation had concluded that the incident "formed part of JKLF's organised campaign of targeted killings against members of the Kashmiri Pandit community with the objective of creating terror, compelling mass migration and advancing its secessionist agenda."

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

Chandrasekaran to exit Tata Sons

Noel role

asked the Board to decide on the succession soon to ensure a proper transition," Chandrasekaran said in a statement.

"Chandrasekaran wrote a letter to the directors of Tata Sons about leaving the company and not seeking reappointment," a director at the Tata Group told *The Indian Express*.

The exit comes in the wake of differences of opinion in Tata Trusts, which hold a 66 per cent stake in Tata Sons. Some of the Tata Trusts trustees, led by Chairman Noel Tata, had informally decided against renominating Chandrasekaran as a director and renewing his tenure as Tata Sons Chairman. This plan was to be finalised at the Tata Trusts meeting on August 13, said a senior Tata Group director.

The Tata Group will have to search for a successor in the next six months, with sources saying they are "likely to consider people both from inside and outside the group".

'Six months, no resolution'

"My current tenure as the Chairman of Tata Sons comes to an end on February 20, 2027. Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and Sir Ratan Tata Trust had unanimously resolved and recommended the extension of my next term for a period of five years, which was recorded and recommended by the Tata Sons Nomination and Remuneration Committee and the Board," Chandrasekaran said in his statement.

"Subsequently, the resolution was tabled in the Tata Sons Board on February 24, 2026. However, the proposal was not carried through because one of the Board members did not support it, and in the absence of unanimous support, I chose to defer the decision," he said.

"It has been six months since that Board meeting, and no resolution has been reached till date," he said.

Pointing out that Tata Sons is a very large institution and there are many strategic projects under critical stages of execution, he said: "It is not only necessary to have a leader in place to lead the Group beyond February 2027, but also clarity on leadership is important for employees, investors, partners and other stakeholders."

"Under these circumstances, earlier today, I have communicated to the Tata Sons Board that I have decided not to offer myself for reappointment when my term ends on February 20, 2027," he said. "I have completed 40 years of professional life at the Tata Group. I am grateful for the immensely satisfying opportunity to contribute to this venerable institution. Leading Tata Sons over the past decade has been a great honour and a profound responsibility," he said.

Chandrasekaran, whose tenure as Tata Sons Chairman began in February 2017 and was given another five-year extension in February 2022, is also Chairman of many leading Tata Group companies such as Tata Steel, Tata Motors, TCS and Indian Hotels. All these companies will now have to get a new chairperson by February 2027.

At the Tata Sons Annual General Meeting (AGM) on August 18, shareholders were expected to consider the reappointment of Chandrasekaran as a director. "With some of the trustees against renewal of his tenure, he might have decided to announce his exit before the AGM," said a source.

The points of difference

On February 24, the outcome of the Tata Sons board meeting was unusual, with Noel Tata surprising other directors by raising questions about losses made by several unlisted companies in the $180 billion Group.

While Chandrasekaran's extension for a third term of five years was agreed upon earlier by Tata Trusts trustees, Noel raised several queries at the board meeting and put across a number of conditions for approving another term.

Four Tata Sons directors were then in favour of extending the tenure and were ready to put the issue to vote, but Chandrasekaran proposed postponement of the decision as he apparently felt decisions in Tata Sons should be consensus-based — a tradition followed by the late Ratan Tata.

A major reason for the differences of opinion between Noel Tata and Chandrasekaran is the losses suffered by unlisted Tata companies. Air India's losses more than doubled to Rs 22,238 crore in FY26 from Rs 10,859 crore in FY25. At the same time, its revenue declined to Rs 71,870 crore from Rs 78,636 crore during the year.

Tata Digital made a loss of Rs 4,974 crore during the year. The worsening of Air India's financial performance comes as the Tata Group continues to integrate and restructure its airline businesses. The Group has been investing in fleet expansion, technology and infrastructure, and in improving the customer experience, as it seeks to turn Air India into a globally competitive full-service carrier.

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.

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. This has added another layer of uncertainty to the crucial shareholder meeting.

Indian Hotels Company. So, these companies will also need to appoint new chairpersons by February 2027, marking one of the most significant leadership transitions for the conglomerate.

The selection of the next Tata Sons chairperson will be closely watched because of the pivotal role played by Tata Trusts, which collectively own about 66% of Tata Sons. Under Article 118 of Tata Sons' Articles of Association, a selection committee is required to be constituted to identify and recommend a candidate for the chairmanship, provided the Tata charitable trusts continue to meet the prescribed shareholding requirement in Tata Sons.

The committee is expected to include Noel Tata, who serves as Chairman of Tata Trusts. His involvement would give the Trusts a significant voice in what is likely to be a closely scrutinised succession process. The eventual appointment will be particularly important as the Group navigates a leadership transition while continuing to manage a diverse portfolio spanning technology, automobiles, steel, hospitality, consumer businesses and other sectors.

The Tata Group has followed a similar structured process in the past. After Cyrus Mistry was removed as Tata Sons Chairman in October 2016, a five-member selection panel was constituted to identify his successor. The committee comprised Ratan Tata, Venu Srinivasan, Amit Chandra, former diplomat Ronen Sen and the late Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya.

The panel unanimously selected Chandrasekaran, who was then the Managing Director and CEO of TCS, to take over as Chairman of Tata Sons. His appointment marked a significant shift, as he became the first non-Parsi professional to lead Tata Sons in its modern history.

Chandrasekaran formally began his tenure as Tata Sons Chairman in February 2017. He was subsequently given a second five-year term in February 2022, extending his leadership through February 2027.

The forthcoming succession process is therefore likely to attract considerable attention both within and outside the Tata Group. The choice of Chandrasekaran's successor will not only determine the future leadership of Tata Sons but could also shape the next phase of governance and strategy across some of India's largest and most prominent corporate institutions.

Two trustees of Tata Trusts — Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh — were pushing for listing of Tata Sons on the exchanges. Noel Tata and former Tata Sons directors were arguing for keeping the company unlisted. The RBI is likely to take a view on this in the coming weeks.

The Tata Group's growth will depend on the next chairperson as it is involved in investment in several projects — from technology to aviation.

Noel Tata's rising influence

Unlike his elder half-brother Ratan Tata, Noel's rise has been low-key. Soon after he took charge as Chairman, he faced stiff opposition from Mehli Mistry, a long-time confidant of Ratan Tata and an influential figure within the Trusts. Mehli, a cousin of the late Cyrus and Shapoor Mistry of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, was widely seen as a possible successor to Ratan Tata before Noel's appointment. When Noel got the job, the balance of power inside the Trusts shifted.

The breaking point came when the Mehli Mistry-led bloc opposed the reappointment of Vijay Singh as nominee director on the Tata Sons board, a move strongly supported by Noel. Mehli, meanwhile, sought to position himself on the same board, which Noel opposed.

When Mehli's three-year term as trustee came up for renewal on October 28 last year, his reappointment was rejected. On November 5, Mehli called it a day, issuing a statement that said "precipitating matters would cause irreparable harm to the reputation of the Tata Trusts." His departure effectively ended months of internal tension.

With Mehli's exit, Noel has emerged as the undisputed head of the Trusts, a position with enormous influence over the entire Tata Group. He will also be able to bring his own nominees on the boards of Tata Trusts and Tata Sons.

His difference of opinion with Chandrasekaran came out in the open earlier this year. On February 24, the outcome of the board meeting of Tata Sons was unusual as Noel surprised other directors, raising questions on losses made by several unlisted companies in the Group. While Chandrasekaran's extension for a third term of 5 years was agreed upon earlier by Tata Trusts' trustees, Noel raised several queries at board meeting, putting across several conditions for approving another term for him.

Four Tata Sons directors were then in favour of extending the tenure and were ready to put the issue for voting, but Chandrasekaran proposed postponement of the decision as he apparently felt decisions in Tata Sons should be based on consensus, a tradition followed by the late Ratan Tata. In short, he wanted Noel's approval for the extension.

Noel strengthened his position within the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) by bringing his son, Neville Tata, onto the board. The move consolidated the Tata family's presence in the Trust's decision-making structure.

With Chandrasekaran's exit from the leadership race, Noel is now likely to wield considerable influence over the selection of the next chairperson of Tata Sons. His position within the Tata Trusts, combined with his growing role in the Group's governance, could make him a key voice in determining the leadership transition at the apex of the Tata conglomerate.

Tata Sons is the principal investment holding company and promoter of Tata companies. Sixty-six per cent of equity share capital of Tata Sons is held by Tata Trusts and 18.3% by Shapoorji Pallonji group. The aggregate revenue of Tata companies increased 7.8% to Rs 16.24 lakh crore in FY2026, according to the Tata Sons Annual Report. These companies collectively employ over one million people.

Justice Varma's reply 'false'

cleaning work around 3 am" on March 15, 2025.

The report said the committee accepts that Justice Varma "was not physically present when the fire broke out and when the first responders (firefighters) reached the premises". However, it said, the judge, "who was aware of the whole incident and was in touch with his daughter", the aide and the Private Secretary, "does not say that he took any step in the matter, or asked for seizure of currency notes and preparation of inventory".

"He also does not say that he lodged any report or insisted on any police report being lodged. His whole defence is false and adds to grave suspicion against him," the report stated.

The report added that "the currency was seen". "It was not preserved. The storeroom was not sealed immediately. Cleaning activity occurred after the first responders had left. The material was not later available. No satisfactory explanation has been furnished as to how currency notes seen by several official witnesses disappeared or became unavailable... It is admitted that the Judge was in touch with not only his daughter but also (the Private Secretary and aide)... The inference is that they have acted at the instance of the Judge under his instruction," the report stated.

On Justice Varma placing responsibility for the matter on fire and police officials, the committee said that "the premises remained the official residence of the Judge". "The persons seen near the store and engaged in cleaning work were not strangers to the premises... Their conduct in relation to the storeroom is not irrelevant to the institutional responsibility attaching to the premises," it said.

The committee said it was not resting its conclusion "on direct proof that the Judge personally removed the currency notes" but "upon failure to preserve, acquiescence in disturbance of the scene through the establishment under his authority, and the resulting loss of material evidence".

According to the committee, Justice Varma "failed to furnish a satisfactory explanation regarding the presence, source or ownership" and gave "evasive, incomplete and misleading" answers.

It noted that Justice Varma's defence "moved from denial of presence, to absence of seizure and verification, to possible fake currency notes, to possible removal by first responders, and to suspicions regarding staff". Yet, the report said, he "did not lead evidence to substantiate them" and instead withdrew from proceedings.

Responding to the allegations against him, the report stated, Justice Varma "consistently contended that the storeroom" where the cash was allegedly found "was detached from the main living area" of his official bungalow, "was near the staff/security quarters, was used for storage of old household articles, and was accessible to staff, CPWD personnel and others".

On this, the committee said: "...the material question is whether the storeroom was within the official premises allotted to and occupied by him. On the record, it was. The storeroom was not outside the compound. It was not under the independent occupation of a stranger. It formed part of the official residential establishment at 30, Tughlaq Crescent, New Delhi. It was under his control and possession."

The report said shared access "does not convert a storeroom within the official residence of a Judge into an unregulated public space. Nor does it explain how substantial currency notes came to be present therein".

It further noted that Justice Varma had said that "a liquor cabinet was kept in the storeroom and that the said liquor cabinet used to remain locked".

The report added, "A locked cabinet containing personal articles is not ordinarily maintained in a space which is wholly unregulated, wholly outside the knowledge of the occupant, or wholly beyond his effective control. The presence of such a cabinet, and the Judge's own assertion that it was kept locked, materially weakens the plea that the storeroom was merely an open, freely accessible and uncontrolled space near the staff quarters. It indicates that, notwithstanding access by staff or maintenance personnel for limited purposes, the room was not alien to the Judge's residential establishment. It was a space within the official premises which was capable of being used for keeping articles under his lock and key."

The committee noted that Justice Varma's explanation on March 22, 2025, to the then Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, and the subsequent stand he took, "did not exhibit the candour, transparency and institutional responsibility expected in the circumstances".

The report also criticised the judge's conduct during its inquiry. "Having participated in the proceedings up to completion of evidence in proof of charges and after seeking time to produce evidence on his behalf, (Justice Varma) suddenly decided to withdraw from the proceedings and made it clear that he will not participate in the proceedings any more. Thus, he has failed to co-operate with the committee in its proceedings," it said.

Justice Varma resigned in April 2026. The committee primarily probed three charges: discovery of "substantial unexplained Rs 500 denomination currency notes" in a storeroom at his official residence; failure to preserve material evidence, allowing interference that resulted in the unexplained disappearance of the burnt notes; "evasive and misleading explanations" for these events.

Earlier, after the incident first came to light, the Supreme Court Collegium on March 20, 2025, recommended Justice Varma's transfer from the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court. Two days later, CJI Khanna constituted an in-house inquiry committee to investigate the allegations.

The internal probe substantiated the charges and forwarded its findings to the President and Prime Minister for further action.

Subsequently, impeachment motions were introduced in both Houses of Parliament, prompting the Lok Sabha Speaker to set up the inquiry panel under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

Justice Varma moved the Supreme Court, challenging the in-house committee and the constitutionality of the Parliamentary Inquiry Committee. However, the Supreme Court dismissed both petitions, holding that established procedures were followed.

'If I deliver 10,000 jobs...'

At the same time, there is persistent stagnation and stress in the economy, agriculture, and related fields, while AI has created pressure on white-collar jobs.

This combination of economic stress, commercialisation, systemic corruption in education, and widespread unemployment has fueled deep unrest among the youth. What we saw at Jantar Mantar and now in Jharkhand is a manifestation of this discontent and it will continue to surface. This cannot be suppressed or managed casually, as the underlying cause points to structural dissatisfaction among the youth.

Why did the BJP lose Bankipur, a seat it held uninterrupted for over 30 years?

The Gen Z unrest had little direct bearing on Bankipur. The BJP lost Bankipur due to localised factors. The NDA appointed a Chief Minister (Samrat Choudhary) who lacks broad social acceptance. He is not widely accepted as the face of the NDA because of his political track record, his educational credentials, and his roots in the RJD.

If I were to pinpoint a single primary reason for the BJP's loss in Bankipur, it is Samrat Choudhary. Additionally, while the BJP previously relied on anti-Lalu (Prasad) negative voting, electors saw a genuine, credible alternative in the JSP and Prashant Kishor this time. Bankipur's result is not as unprecedented as it is being made out to be.

Why did you not target BJP chief Nitin Nabin, who is believed to have picked Neeraj Kumar Sinha as the party's Bankipur candidate?

I do not see a major role for Nitin Nabin here because he is not part of the state government. While he might have played a role in candidate selection as the party's national president, I do not see his direct involvement in the day-to-day affairs of the Bankipur Assembly constituency.

He likely wanted a placeholder for the seat. In fact, he could have easily remained the local MLA while serving as BJP national president. After all, Amit Shah continued as an MLA even after becoming party president.

Is your win, the JSP's first, the beginning of alternative politics in Bihar?

For a long time, voters backed the RJD out of fear of the BJP and supported the BJP or the NDA out of fear of the RJD. This pattern needs to stop. People deserve a real, constructive alternative, and we have been working tirelessly to build one.

I could not have won Bankipur without spending the last three years doing groundwork across the state. While voters didn't support us in previous contests, they placed their trust in us in Bankipur. Now, the onus is on us to perform better than other lawmakers.

What is your vision for Bankipur? Are you planning to fulfil your promise of 10,000 jobs for your constituents?

I made two or three core pre-election promises and I have added one more after my victory. First, I will ensure cardholders receive their full 5 kg free ration, not the 4 kg currently being distributed. I will ensure no citizen has to pay a bribe to get a ration card made.

Second, if the quality of education in local government schools does not improve within a year, the JSP will cover the cost of transferring those children to private schools.

I have also assured that at least one member each from roughly 10,000 families will get jobs. I am not promising government jobs. I will ensure people get suitable employment aligned with their educational and professional skill sets.

If one MLA can deliver this, it will build immense pressure on the remaining 242 MLAs in Bihar. I can guarantee one thing to the people of Bankipur: they will never be ashamed of their MLA. Over the coming years, my primary focus will remain strictly on education and employment.

The Bankipur bypoll saw the blurring of traditional caste, religious, and party calculations. Is this a template for the future, particularly to attract Gen Z votes?

I wouldn't limit this trend exclusively to Gen Z, but I can certainly commit to it for Bankipur. I say with absolute confidence that Bankipur will see tangible change in employment and education. If I fail to deliver on these promises, I will not ask for their votes again. But if I succeed, I will ask all of Bihar to support the JSP and urge voters to move beyond caste and religion to choose better candidates.

Your political positioning is explicitly anti-BJP and anti-RJD. Are you open to any strategic political alignments in future elections?

Call it alignment, realignment, adjustment, or alliance. I have witnessed it firsthand. In 2015, Bihar saw political realignments and such opportunistic coalitions do not serve the public. We saw initiatives such as "Saat Nischay" and the Bihar Vikas Mission, but they failed to bring about fundamental transformation.

I am focused on building a system that fosters holistic growth, restores Bihar as the centre of knowledge, and creates abundant job opportunities. Only when people from other states start coming to Bihar for employment can we truly claim that meaningful progress and real change have arrived.

Shah: Ready to answer questions

decide if it wanted a debate or create turmoil.

"Rules and procedures have been made for discussion in Parliament; someone asks me to just give a statement — something as serious as this cannot be debated like that. This may be in your tradition, but it is not the Parliamentary tradition," Shah said.

The Home Minister said the government was even willing to suspend Question Hour, subject to the Speaker's approval, to allow an extended discussion. "I am ready for a discussion until 3 pm tomorrow. I will be present myself, I will write everything myself, and reply to the discussion so that everything is clarified in front of the nation."

Shah took exception to Opposition leaders describing him as "*laapata* (missing)" and someone who had fled, saying such terms had entered public and parliamentary discourse only recently. "Since the session started, I have been coming to Parliament regularly. I have sat in my chamber," he said.

The minister also criticised the Opposition for preventing Parliament from functioning, saying there was little purpose in attending the House if proceedings were continuously disrupted. "Because the Opposition is just not letting Parliament function, what will one do after attending them?" he asked.

Shah placed the onus on the Opposition to decide whether it wanted a debate or continued disruption, saying, "Now the people should decide who is running away." Later, in a letter to Birla, he urged him to consult the Opposition for a discussion on the issue.

Responding to the comments, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the INDIA bloc wants Shah to answer specific questions.

"The balloon has burst, and now, at the last moment, they are trying to refill the gas. Amit Shah has no courage," Gandhi said, adding that said the Opposition was not interested in hearing the Home Minister's "imagination", "lectures or a discussion". Instead, the government must answer specific questions about the alleged use of force against protesting students, he said.

"Who blinded one of the students and shot one of the students in the ear? Who gave the order to beat the students with lathis with nails? "Did Mr Amit Shah give this order to shoot our children? If he did, he should resign because he is culpable. And if he did not, he should resign because he is incompetent," he asked.

Gandhi alleged that Shah had "disappeared" in the last 20 days despite visiting Parliament. "He used to come here (Parliament complex). His cars would come and go. There were 30 cars around him. Students should know this. If you go outside his house, there were thousands of policemen so that the students don't reach there," said the LoP.

The Congress leader also rejected the BJP's allegation that he had remained silent on violence against students in Jharkhand. "I am not quiet on that. I have said that we don't appreciate any violence against our students. I am openly saying this," he said.

Inside Parliament

At the start of the day, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla appealed to protesting Opposition MPs to allow the House to function. However, faced with an unrelenting Opposition, he adjourned the proceedings until 2 pm.

When the House reconvened, Lok Sabha Secretary General Utpal Kumar Singh laid on the table the report of the inquiry committee set up by the Speaker to probe the discovery of burnt cash at the official residence of Justice Yashwant Varma of the Allahabad High Court. Later, MoS (Home) Nityanand Rai moved the motion to refer the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, to a Joint Parliamentary Committee. This led the Opposition to rise in protest, with Congress MP K C Venugopal and DMK's T R Baalu demanding its complete withdrawal instead. They alleged that the Bill targets minorities.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju intervened at this point, saying the Opposition should welcome the government's decision since hearings in the JPC would help address any objections.

When the Lok Sabha reconvened at 3 pm, it passed the Mines and Minerals Bill. It was adjourned for the day soon after, even as Rijiju told the Opposition that the NEET paper leak could immediately begin if they allowed the House to function.

Meanwhile, the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed, with a voice vote, a Bill to rename Kerala as Keralam. The Lok Sabha had passed the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, on Tuesday. The Upper House also approved the National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to amend the National Co-operative Development Corporation Act, 1962, which the Lok Sabha had passed the day before. The Monsoon Session is set to end on Thursday.

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Strangled, electrocuted: Wife, friend held for man's murder

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 12

FIFTY-FIVE-YEAR-OLD BUILDER Munna Lal was found dead at his residence in South Delhi's Sangam Vihar in the wee hours of Monday. His wife Manju alias Nazia (45) informed the police. She appeared devastated when she told officers that a robber had allegedly sneaked in, ransacked the house and killed Munna.

Manju said when she stepped out of her room hearing a commotion, her husband was already lying on the floor.

Police said the couple's son was not home. He had gone to take part in the recently concluded Kanwar Yatra.

A case was registered and a probe launched. But when officers dug deeper, nothing substantiated Manju's version of the story.

Police said as footage of CCTV cameras installed around Munna's house were scanned, an unknown masked man was spotted entering the house around 1.45 am and leaving around 3.15 am.

When police scanned the call detail records of the members of the victim's family, they found that Manju had been in constant touch with one man. He was later identified as Chaman who was seen in the CCTV footage, they said.

"Forensic examination and technical surveillance followed. Manju was questioned. She and Chaman were subsequently nabbed," a police officer said. Explaining their role, police said that what they committed was not a crime of passion but a calculated, planned murder. They added that Manju had roped in her 20-year-old friend, Chaman, who works as a mechanic, promising him Rs 5 lakh for the job.

DCP (South) Anant Mittal said she even paid Rs 20,000 to Chaman on the night of the murder.

Police said Munna and Manju — who were married for 22 years — were frequently at odds. Manju allegedly fought with her husband over money.

Officers said that sending her son for Kanwar Yatra was also part of Manju's plan.

"On August 9, Chaman handed Manju sleeping pills. She ground the pills and mixed those in Munna Lal's food. When he fell into a deep sleep, the two allegedly attacked him. They thrashed the victim, strangled him with a rope and administered electric shocks to make sure he was dead," a police officer said.

The accused then cleaned the crime scene to hide and destroy evidence, police said. In a bid to stage the incident as a robbery-cum-murder, they made the house untidy to make it look like it had been ransacked.

The officer said Chaman's friend Kishan has also been detailed for allegedly harbouring him. Police are yet to ascertain if he had played any other role.

DCP Mittal said the motive appears to be financial discord and an extramarital relationship which Manju had got involved in. "The manner in which the crime was planned and executed indicates premeditation," he said, adding further probe is underway.

Students take part in Tiranga Rally led by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta at Kartavya Path in New Delhi on Wednesday. TASHI TOBGYAL

'FROM YOUNG TO OLD, ALL AFFECTED'

Rise in swine flu cases in Capital, tally reaches 1,449

Tabshir Shams
New Delhi, August 12

DELHI HAS recorded a sharp rise in cases of influenza H1N1 or swine flu this year, with 1,449 cases reported as of August 12, more than six times the 229 infections recorded during the corresponding period last year, according to National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) data.

"Of the 1,449 cases of H1N1 recorded so far this year, 63 were reported on August 11," Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Singh told *The Indian Express* on Wednesday. In 2019, Delhi had recorded 3,637 H1N1 cases and 31 deaths.

Singh maintained that Delhi government hospitals were equipped to deal with the situation. "There are special and separate wards in various Delhi hospitals like RML and Safdarjung to deal with the rise in cases," he said.

Dr S Chatterjee, internal medicine specialist at Apollo Hospital, said the reason for the current rise would be clear only after a genetic study of the virus. "Maybe the virus has mutated, or it's happening because people are coming into contact with each other more," he added.

The H1N1 virus, commonly known as swine flu, is a type of influenza virus that causes a viral infection of the nose, throat and lungs. Influenza viruses are classified into four types – A, B, C and D. Among these, Influenza A is the most common type that spreads from pigs to people. Common symptoms include fever, cough, headache, muscle aches, tiredness, sweating and chills.

Delhi has, meanwhile, also reported 184 cases of influenza B (Yamagata).

Dr Chatterjee said H1N1 can sometimes progress quickly from a mild respiratory illness to a severe condition.

"This year, from young to old, all age groups have been affected. People with weakened immunity and co-morbidities – like diabetes, hypertension, lung disease, heart disease – as well as pregnant women and elderly people, are more at risk."

There are a few cases, which have gone to respiratory failure as well, he said. "Treatment is symptomatic; antibiotics don't really work. Only one antiviral drug, oseltamivir, works, but it only works when the treatment is started early. So, going to the doctor or getting tested becomes crucial," he added.

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•EPIDEMIC DISEASES ACT, 1897

WHEN CAN IT BE USED?
The Act allows the Union or state government to take special measures when an epidemic poses a serious threat to public health and existing laws are not enough to control it.

WHAT DOES SECTION 2 ALLOW?
The state can take measures when it is satisfied that the ordinary provisions of law are not sufficient to control the epidemic, including segregating, inspecting and accommodating individuals or groups.

WHY WAS IT ENACTED?
The Act was passed in 1897, during British rule, amid an outbreak of bubonic plague in Bombay in 1896, which killed thousands.

H1N1 PRECEDENT
The Act was invoked in several states in 2009 during the H1N1 outbreak. According to NCDC data, The first case was reported in Hyderabad on May 16, 2009. India recorded 10,193 cases and 1,035 deaths by May 24, 2010.

GLOBAL PANDEMIC
In June 2009, the World Health Organization declared H1N1 a global pandemic, with over 74 countries affected.

JAMA MASJID AREA

431 protected birds seized from pet shops

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 12

AS MANY as 863 birds and animals were rescued from five pet shops in Kabootar Market near Delhi's Jama Masjid on Wednesday, including 431 birds of protected or scheduled species.

The rescued protected birds included 183 Ring-necked Parakeets, 72 Plum-headed Parakeets, 63 Alexandrine Parakeets and 113 Muniya birds, police said.

The raid was conducted by the Central District Police along with People For Animals (PFA), World Wide Animal and officials of the Forest & Wildlife Department. The operation followed information received by PFA on August 9 regarding the alleged illegal sale, possession and confinement of protected birds and animals at pet shops in the market.

DCP (Central) Rohit Rajbir Singh said that during the raid, teams found a large number of birds and animals confined in overcrowded and unhygienic conditions. "Apart from the 431 protected or scheduled birds, 432 other birds and animals were rescued: 148 Budgerigars, 57 Cockatiels, 96 Lovebirds, 18 Guinea Pigs, nine Grey Squirrels, 41 White Mice, 11 Rabbits and 52 non-protected parakeets and other pet birds," Singh said.

The protected birds were seized by WWF, while the animals and birds rescued on account of alleged cruelty and improper conditions were taken into appropriate care by PFA.

Police identified five residents of Kabootar Market in connection with the case; they have been bound down and a case has been lodged. Investigators are also attempting to trace the wider supply chain and identify possible suppliers, transporters, distributors and establishments allegedly connected with the trade.

Ring-necked parakeets, Plum-headed Parakeets, Alexandrine Parakeets, and Muniya birds are protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, making their capture, sale, or possession a punishable offence.

A 2025 study published in International Journal of Fauna and Biological Studies said, "mortality in consignments could be substantial, particularly for small passerines moved in bulk."

Last year, a report by DU's Animal Law Cell, reported then by *The Indian Express* had highlighted recurring violation patterns from pet shops across Delhi. It stated that the proliferation of irregular and often cruel pet trade stemmed from regulatory gaps, weak enforcement, and market demand.

The birds were seized from five shops in Kabootar Market.

IB staffer murder: Two brothers challenge conviction in High Court

Sohini Ghosh
New Delhi, August 12

TWO BROTHERS sentenced to life for the murder of Intelligence Bureau (IB) staffer Ankit Sharma during the 2020 North-east Delhi riots have filed appeals before the Delhi High Court, questioning the trial court's reliance on the testimony of a single witness.

Nazim and Kasim's appeals point to the testimony of public witness (PW-6) Pradeep Verma, which the trial court relied on despite no Test Identification Parade (TIP) being held. TIP is a procedure to identify an accused under the supervision of a magistrate.

The same testimony was also relied on to convict five accused and acquit five others, they said.

A bench of Justices Prathiba Singh and Vikas Mahajan Wednesday issued notice seeking the prosecution's response to their appeals, filed through advocate Bilal Anwar Khan. The case will next be heard on December 2.

The state counsel said it is also in the process of challenging the acquittal of six other accused.

On July 31, a Delhi trial court sentenced former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain and four others in the case.

Nazim and Kasim were accused of allegedly being part of the group that had dragged Sharma. They were arrested from Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, on March 30, 2020. A knife was allegedly recovered from Nazim.

The drain where Ankit Sharma's (left) body was found. FILE

The two were convicted of rioting and murder. Both were acquitted of criminal conspiracy charges; Nazim was also acquitted for the charge of being in unlawful possession of firearms under the Arms Act.

Curious case of the sole public witness

Verma, who ran a parking lot in Khajuri Khas, claimed to have witnessed rioting in the area on February 25, 2020, when Sharma was killed. His body was recovered from a drain in Dayalpur, which bore over 50 stab wounds.

The defence had argued before the trial court that Verma was running an illegal parking lot and was under police pressure to depose falsely. Verma had denied the allegation.

The trial court found Verma credible despite him being cited as a witness in nine other riot-related FIRs. It relied on his testimony to convict four accused, but did not rely on it to convict two others, who were acquitted.

The trial court relied on Verma's identification of Nazim and Kasim in police custody, rather than judicial custody, as members of the mob, despite him having mistakenly identified another accused, Haseen, as Nazim. Haseen was acquitted.

In their appeals, the brothers pointed out that Verma did not name them in his March 11, 2020, statement to the investigating officer. It was only on the day of their arrest that he identified them from photographs in the presence of police. They argued that his testimony contains contradictions.

Nazim and Kasim, in their appeals, also highlighted that the trial court deviated from the principle of parity. It said the court discriminated against them by relying on the same witness to acquit some others -- who Verma alleged were part of the mob -- and convict them.

राष्ट्रीय औषधीय शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान गुवाहाटी
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH GUWAHATI
Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers, Govt. of India

E/Notification No. 03/2026 **VACANCY NOTICE** Date: 03/08/2026

National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Guwahati invites applications for the post of **Finance & Accounts Officer** on Deputation basis from eligible Indian Nationals.

Date & time of commencement of Online Applications	03/08/2026 from 11:00 AM
Last date & time of Online Application	01/09/2026 up to 5:00 PM
Last date for receipt of hard copy of the online application along with all enclosures	08/09/2026 up to 5:00 PM

For detailed qualifications and other requirements, please visit the institute website: www.niperguwahati.ac.in

Sd/-, Registrar i/c

Hemwati Nandan Bhuguna Uttarakhand Medical Education University
New Central Hope Town, Bhayakhala, Seshambara,Dehradun
Pin-248011, Uttarakhand, India
web site:-www.hnbumu.ac.inEmail: info.hnbumu@gmail.com

No. 999/H.N.B.U.M.U/NEE T-UG/2026-27 Date: 12.08.2026

Notice

Important Notice Regarding NEET UG 2026 Uttarakhad State Centerlisized Counselling.

Online Counselling for all available M.B.B.S./B.D.S. Seats under Government/Private Medical/Dental Colleges/Universities of Uttarakhand will commence from 13 August 2026 on the basis of NEET UG 2026 merit. All information regarding counselling are being uploaded on the our official website **www.hnbumu.ac.in.**

All information in future too will be intimated through the website only.

Registrar

EXTRACT OF STANDALONE / CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2026

(₹ in Crore)

Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
	Quarter ended 30 June, 2026 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31 March, 2026 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30 June, 2025 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31 March, 2026 (Audited)	Quarter ended 30 June, 2026 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31 March, 2026 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30 June, 2025 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31 March, 2026 (Audited)
Total income from Operations	1800.27	2,997.79	1,664.19	8,478.86	1,955.83	3,188.98	1,786.28	9,071.05
Net profit / (loss) (before tax & exceptional items)	203.52	245.74	194.55	797.85	126.81	247.83	211.53	766.50
Net profit / (loss) (before tax & after exceptional items)	203.52	245.74	194.55	797.85	126.81	247.83	211.53	766.50
Net profit after tax	163.52	192.03	150.57	618.45	92.03	191.46	164.10	591.92
Profit is attributable to :								
Owners of the Parent	163.52	192.03	150.57	618.45	92.74	191.60	164.56	595.47
Non Controlling Interest	-	-	-	-	(0.71)	(0.14)	(0.46)	(3.55)
Total comprehensive income	167.54	191.37	150.17	622.73	96.04	190.70	163.70	596.09
Equity share capital	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10
Other Equity attributable to Owners of the Parent (Excluding Revaluation Reserve)				6,442.29				6,450.54
Earnings Per Share (Not annualized)								
(Face Value of ₹2/- each)								
(a) Basic (in ₹)	1.74	2.04	1.60	6.58	0.99	2.04	1.75	6.33
(b) Diluted (in ₹)	1.74	2.04	1.60	6.58	0.99	2.04	1.75	6.33

NOTES :

1. The above standalone and consolidated financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 12th August, 2026. The Statutory Auditors of the company have conducted limited review of the financial results for the quarter ended 30th June, 2026.
2. The Standalone and consolidated financial results have been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as notified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules thereunder and in terms of Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as Amended) and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.
3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of the financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended. The full format of the aforesaid financial results are available on the Stock Exchanges website of BSE (www.bseindia.com), NSE (www.nseindia.com) and Company's website at www.ircon.org.
4. Figures for the previous periods / year have been re-grouped / re-classified / re-casted to conform to the classification of the current period / year.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 12th August, 2026

For and on behalf of Ircon International Limited
Sd/-
Saleem Ahmad
Chairman & Managing Director and CEO
DIN- 10119432

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

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E-mail: investors@ircon.org; Website: www.ircon.org; Corporate Identity Number: L45203DL1976GOI008171

MPD-2047 CLEARED BY DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

New Master Plan: Redevelopment of smaller plots, easing of land pooling norms proposed

Draft plan expected to be notified by MoHUA in the next few days, say sources in LG Office and DDA

Devansh Mittal
New Delhi, August 12

ENABLING CHANGES to facilitate high density development in Outer Delhi and making it easier to redevelop existing residential areas are among the key changes in the draft Master Plan for Delhi (MPD)-2047, approved by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Wednesday.

The draft plan, which seeks to outline a vision for Delhi's development over the next two decades, will now be sent to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) for final approval and notification.

At the heart of the changes is an attempt to unlock more land for development in the National Capital where housing demand continues to rise and developable space remains limited.

By easing land pooling, allowing smaller parcels to be redeveloped and permitting higher density construction around expressways under the draft master plan, the DDA, sources said, hopes to bring more housing and commercial space into the market. The city has not seen a large increase in housing and commercial space over the last two decades.

Sources in the DDA and the Lieutenant Governor's Office said the draft plan is expected to be notified by MoHUA in the next few days.

Land pooling rules eased

Several changes have been made to the land pooling policy, under which landowners can now voluntarily pool their land for planned high density development instead of the DDA acquiring the same.

Under the earlier rules – issued in 2019 – 70% of landowners in a sector had to come together to form a consortium, a representative body responsible for making decisions regarding developing the sector on behalf of landowners.

"Forming a consortium is not necessary now. Landowners can approach DDA directly and the DDA will play the anchor role of planning," a source aware of the development said.

Forming a consortium was difficult due to landowners differing frequently over development plans, said sources.

The DDA, sources said, has also addressed another hurdle related to land use. Earlier, the land use of individual parcels would have to be changed every time if it differed from the consortium's proposed sector plan. Under the revised policy, the underlying land use will automatically be modified in accordance with the proposed sector plan.

Smaller plots can seek redevelopment

The plan, sources said, proposes to make redevelopment of existing colonies easier.

Under the earlier policy, landowners of at least 4 hectares had to come together to undertake redevelopment. This often proved difficult because of differences among landowners.

"Now, a landowner with 3,000 sq m of land can propose redevelopment under the public-private partnership (PPP) model, which makes it easier for more people to come in," a source said.

Officials indicated that areas taken up for redevelopment would also be allowed dense construction to make such projects financially viable and encourage more landowners to participate. The move is aimed at addressing haphazard development in several residential areas while creating scope for additional housing and infrastructure, they added.

Higher density allowed near e-ways

Under the draft plan, the DDA has proposed provisions for transit-oriented development (TOD) near expressways. As per the TOD policy notified in April, the government allowed dense construction near Metro corridors.

"In MPD-2047, we are also allowing more dense construction near expressways," a source said.

The measures are expected to open up more land for high density development and redevelopment, which DDA expects will result in an increase in the number of housing and commercial units, eventually bringing down prices.

Plan delayed for over five years

MPD-2047, approved at a DDA meeting chaired by LG Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Wednesday, comes after years of delay.

MPD-2041 was approved by the DDA on February 28, 2023, and sent to MoHUA for notification on April 13 that year. However, differences over some policies kept it pending for more than three years. It also missed several deadlines, including the 100-day deadline set by MoHUA after the Narendra Modi government returned to power for a third term in 2024.

"With Delhi's population projected to grow significantly by 2047, the Master Plan adopts an integrated approach towards housing, economic growth, mobility, environmental sustainability, infrastructure, heritage conservation, urban regeneration and citizen-centric governance," a DDA spokesperson said.

Rajiv Babbar, BJP leader and DDA member, added, "The plan focuses on affordable housing and decongestion of the National Capital."

Bhupender Bazad, chairman of the Delhi Master Plan Committee of the rural group Delhi Dehat Vikas Manch, estimated that the implementation of MPD-2047 and the land pooling policy will attract global investment of Rs 25 lakh crore to Rs 30 lakh crore to Delhi.

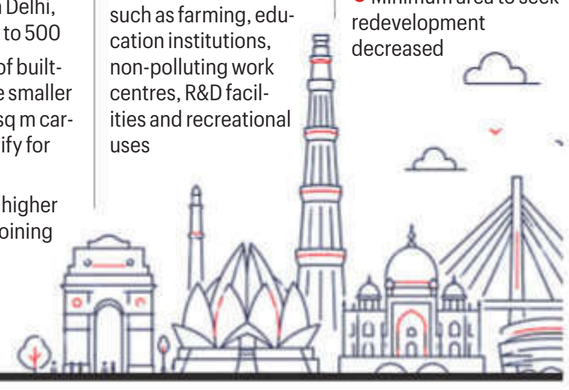
• WHAT'S AHEAD

LAND POOLING
- Envisages world-class neighbourhoods with high-rise residential buildings in the rural belt of Outer Delhi, such as Narela, Bawana and Najafgarh
- Landowners voluntarily pool land instead of the DDA acquiring and developing area directly; DDA gets 40% for common infrastructure, owners develop the rest
- Owners eventually get back flats and shops proportionate to the value of land pooled
- Covers 105 villages across six zones in outer Delhi, spanning about 20,600 hectares

TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT
- Clusters homes, offices and leisure spaces within walking distance of transit hubs to cut dependence on cars and increase public transport usage
- Applies within 500 m of a metro or RRTS corridor or station in Delhi, offering FAR up to 500
- At least 65% of built-up area must be smaller units under 65 sq m carpet area to qualify for higher FAR
- Will also give higher FAR on land adjoining expressways

GREEN DEVELOPMENT
- Regulates construction in Delhi's rural green belt
- Covers 70 villages on the border of Delhi, such as Kapashera and Bijwasan
- Limited plot size and road width-linked uses such as farming, education institutions, non-polluting work centres, R&D facilities and recreational uses

REGENERATION OF OLD HOUSING INVENTORY
- Planned rebuilding to renew ageing, structurally unsafe buildings and upgrade infrastructure around them
- Additional FAR to incentivise redevelopment and regeneration
- Minimum area to seek redevelopment decreased



• Skywatch

Forecast: August 13, 2026
Partly cloudy sky. Very light rain.

MAX: 33-35
0.8°C above normal

MIN: 24-26
1°C below normal

• AQI Tracker

Narela Satisfactory **AQI: 77**
IGIA Moderate **AQI: 196**
Anand Vihar Moderate **AQI: 194**
Aya Nagar Satisfactory **AQI: 94**

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

18 Metro stations for Ghaziabad to Jewar corridor

New Delhi: Ghaziabad, Greater Noida and Noida International Airport are among the stations proposed for Namo Bharat services on the 72.44-kilometre Ghaziabad-Jewar corridor, the NCRTC said.

The corridor will have 11 stations providing Namo Bharat services, while 18 stations along the route will provide Metro services. **PTI**

'Unsatisfactory': Minister on secy's reply to medicine purchase notice

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, August 12

DELHI HEALTH Minister Pankaj Singh on Wednesday termed "wholly unsatisfactory" the reply of the Secretary of his department on procurement-related information and directed him to submit a revised, comprehensive response by August 17.

The Minister had issued a show-cause notice to the Health and Family Welfare Department Secretary Rupesh Thakur over the alleged failure to submit an action plan on pending procurement of medicines, consumables, and medical equipment despite repeated directions.

Singh expressed his dissatisfaction with the reply in an official communication dated August 12. He said that merely stating that the matter was under probe by agencies could not be a ground for withholding factual information available in official records.

The information sought was related to procurement rates, GST, landed cost, quantities procured and other related records, including specifications, supply orders, delivery particulars and comparative procurement details in respect of ORS sachets, bed sheets and portable X-ray machines, according to the communication.

Pankaj Singh

The minister said payment bills were processed only after financial scrutiny as per provisions of the General Financial Rules and were accompanied by relevant supporting documents, including supply orders, invoices, GST details, inspection and acceptance reports, delivery challans, quantity verification certificates and comparative statements. Such records would ordinarily be available from payment and accounts records even if the original procurement files were under investigation, it said.

The communication also noted that no serious effort appeared to have been made to furnish the information from other records available within the department. "Such a casual and incomplete reply" to the specific queries was unacceptable, the minister said.

Singh directed the secretary to personally ensure that all available records maintained were examined and furnished.

EXPRESS special

Session on, 1.9 L students await uniform subsidy

Sophiya Mathew
New Delhi, August 12

PINKY, A homemaker, returned home near Krishi Bhavan on Wednesday afternoon after picking up her two children from school. Both the children — the son is in Class 7 and the daughter in Class 4 — were wearing school uniforms she had bought last year at the beginning of the academic session in April, worth Rs 10,000.

She was not supposed to bear the entire cost. The Delhi government's uniform subsidy for its students should have reached her when the new session began in 2025-26. It did not. This year, too, for the 2026-27 session, she applied for the subsidy.

However, the amount, Rs 1,250 for the girl and Rs 1,500 for the boy -- for both the academic sessions -- is yet to be credited to her bank account.

Pinky's experience reflects a larger delay affecting nearly 1.9 lakh students this academic session. Among the 8,29,304 students up to Class 8 enrolled in Delhi government schools under the RTE Act this year, 6,39,904 have received the uniform subsidy through direct benefit transfer (DBT), while 1,89,400 are still waiting, according to Education department data.

The department has attributed the pending payments to "deficient account details" and said the process of making payments to the remaining students is under way.

There was a similar gap last year. Of the around 8.4 lakh eligible students in 2025-26, 7,15,148 received the subsidy, leaving 1,25,152 pending, according to department data. About 77% of eligible students have received the benefit this year, compared with around 85% last year.

According to Pinky, she has been told by the school that the subsidy would reach her account by the end of August.

"There is a place in Lodhi Colony that stitches school uniforms. I paid Rs 3,000 for my daughter's uniform there," she said. But after buying a uniform for her son, her total expenditure came to Rs 10,000, she added. Her husband, who works in housekeeping at a hotel, earns around Rs 14,000 a month.

For parents, the delay does not mean they can wait to buy uniforms. Shiv Narayan, whose daughter studies in Nursery at MCD Co-ed Primary School, Lajpat Nagar III, said he had submitted his bank details during admission this year but was still waiting for the subsidy.

"They told me to pay Rs 500, which would be adjusted when the subsidy comes. Since the amount has still not come, I bought my daughter her uniform from my pocket," he said.

At Government Boys Senior Secondary School, Pandara Road, the father of a Class 7 student said he spent around Rs 2,500-3,000 on his son's uniform last year. He received the subsidy almost a year late – in March this year.

"Senior students get a slightly higher amount, around Rs 1,500. But everyone is feeling the squeeze from price rise... We still make do. The school provides the books," he said.

The delays are also a concern for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and Disadvantaged Group (DG) students studying in private schools. The Action Committee of Unaided Recognized Private Schools has raised concerns over timely reimbursement for uniforms, textbooks and writing material provided to these students under the RTE quota.

At Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalaya, Patparganj, a PGT (post graduate teacher) teacher said the school had recently held a parents' meeting to identify students whose bank details had not been submitted.

"Every working day, entries and other technical work are being done to complete the process and clear the pending cases," the teacher added.

Atal Adarsh Vidyalaya, Lodhi Road Principal Sabeena Sood said delays were generally linked to KYC or bank account details. "Sometimes, KYC is not done and the department cannot process the bank account details for DBT," she said, adding that her school faced such cases among around 2% of students.

The continued use of DBT is significant because the Delhi government had earlier proposed shifting to providing uniforms in kind to students from Nursery to Class 8 in government schools from the 2026-27 academic session.

The proposal came amid a long-running case in the Delhi High Court over the provision of free uniforms, textbooks and writing material to children under the RTE Act.

The government had told the court in 2025 that it could not provide uniforms in kind due to "operational difficulties" and instead proposed revising the rates.

The revised rates, notified in June 2025, are Rs 1,250 for Classes 1-5, Rs 1,500 for Classes 6-8 and Rs 1,700 for Classes 9-12. The rates had remained unchanged since 2017-18. The subsidy applies to students in government and aided schools, as well as EWS/DG students studying in private schools under the RTE quota. In January, the HC upheld the government's revised policy.

The latest status report was filed in contempt proceedings arising from the case. It recorded that the department has made DBT payments to most eligible students but continues to process the remaining cases.

The issue of delayed payments is not new.

Minutes of a Delhi government meeting in 2017 on implementation of the RTE Act had recorded more than two lakh pending cases involving money meant for uniforms, textbooks and writing material. At the time, the department had cited the absence of Aadhaar seeding with bank accounts as a reason for the delay.

Nearly a decade later, deficient account details remain the department's stated reason for pending uniform subsidy payments — while families like Pinky's continue to pay upfront.

GAJENDRA YADAV

EXPRESS

The Education department has attributed pending payments to deficient account details; (right) A relative of a student studying at an MCD school in Lajpat Nagar.

• 32-YEAR-OLD MAN RECOVERING FROM SURGERY THAT GOT HIM TO LOSE ALMOST 50 KG

At 209 kg, he couldn't breathe: How AIIMS team made patient fit for bariatric surgery

Tabshir Shams
New Delhi, August 12

VIVEK SAXENA, 32, has just begun to savour life and emerge out of his shell. He loves songs from the 1990s, especially those from the Bobby-Deol film *Soldier*, and now wants a future that once seemed impossibly far away: finishing his graduation, getting into an LLB programme and becoming a corporate lawyer. For now, though, even ordinary things require patience. He is recovering from a life-altering bariatric surgery at AIIMS Delhi, the one that got him down from 209 kg to almost 160 kg.

For much of his adult life, his world had grown smaller as his body grew heavier. He could not move easily, stand for long or breathe without difficulty. His abdomen measured nearly two metres around. Severe sleep apnea had compromised his breathing so badly that even a CPAP device support was no longer enough to ease his breath at night.

Eventually, he needed a tracheostomy — a tube insertion through a small opening in his neck and into his windpipe — for prolonged respiratory support just to stay alive.

Vivek didn't gain weight in a day. A recluse since childhood, he was diagnosed with depression at 19. "The anti-anxiety medication made me eat a lot and sleep most of the time," he says. His weight, around 120 kg in 2013, began to climb steadily. Over the next decade, it reached 200 kg as he tried herbal concoctions and fad diets.

When Vivek arrived at AIIMS on June 16, his BMI was 74 kg/m². He had hypertension, prediabetes, high cholesterol, acid reflux, severe obstructive sleep apnea and pain in both knees. "He was in an inoperable condition," says Dr Manjunath Maruti Pol, Professor of Surgery in the Surgical Disciplines Department at AIIMS Delhi and part of the multidisciplinary team that treated him. The team was concerned if they could make him fit enough to survive the operation. His breathing had to be stabilised. His infection had to be managed. His body had to be brought down to a size at which doctors could safely position him on an operating table. And the team had to wait for a narrow window in which his respiratory condition was stable enough to withstand the operation.

For 32 days, Vivek was kept on a medically supervised very-low-calorie diet. His weight fell from 209 kg to 172 kg. His abdominal girth shrank from 198 cm to 178 cm. Even the tracheostomy presented a logistical challenge. "Because of his size, the procedure itself had to be performed on his own bed inside the operating theatre — he could not be safely placed on a standard operating table," Dr Manjunath says.

On July 24, Vivek underwent bariatric surgery. The challenges were airway stabilisation and respiration. "We needed him stable for at least two hours before the operation could even be considered," he adds. The procedure took two hours and ten minutes. By the 13th day after surgery, he was talking, walking and passing urine on his own. When he was discharged on August 6, he weighed 160 kg — nearly 50 kg less than when he had first arrived.

The significance was not simply that bariatric surgery had been successfully performed in a patient with extremely morbid obesity. Rather, it was the way preoperative optimisation — particularly airway stabilisation, respiratory optimisation and a very-low-calorie diet — had made the surgery possible. It showed that extreme body weight is not a contraindication to bariatric surgery when a patient is managed by an experienced multidisciplinary team.

"Obesity is not merely excess weight, it is excess risk," says Dr Manjunath.

Explaining why weight loss isn't simply a matter of willpower, Dr Manjunath says, "Once excess fat accumulates, adipose tissue behaves like an active endocrine organ — it releases hormones and inflammatory signals that affect appetite, insulin sensitivity and metabolism. As obesity progresses, the body actively defends the higher weight, making sustained loss harder. Telling every patient to just 'eat less and exercise more' is often inadequate — this is a disease involving biology, behaviour and environment, not a failure of discipline."

• Takeaways from surgery

REDUCING GIRTH IS CRUCIAL: Shrinking the patient's abdominal size before surgery (from 198 cm down to 178 cm pre-op) mattered more for initial physical operability than total scale weight alone.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH: Endocrinologists, physicians, surgeons and physiotherapists must coordinate care for high-risk, "super-super obesity" (BMI over 60) cases.

TRANSFORMING INOPERABLE CASES: Pre-op medical preparation can turn an immediately life-threatening, inoperable profile into a safe candidate for bariatric intervention.

Karnataka: Shivakumar assigns portfolios to expanded Cabinet

Express News Service
Bengaluru, August 12

TEN DAYS after expanding his Cabinet, Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday allocated portfolios to 19 newly inducted ministers, while effecting changes in the departments assigned to a couple of ministers who assumed office earlier.

Ramalinga Reddy, who was given the Major and Medium Irrigation portfolio two months ago, will now handle the Forest, Ecology and Environment Department.

N Chaluvaraya Swamy, who was Agriculture Minister in the erstwhile Siddaramaiah government, will be the new Major and Medium Irrigation Minister. Meanwhile, K H Muniyappa has been moved from Food and Civil Supplies to the Social Welfare Department.

Several ministers of the Siddaramaiah Cabinet have retained their portfolios under Shivakumar. They include Santosh Lad (Labour and Employment minister); S S Mallikarjun (Mines and Geology and Horticulture minister); Madhu Bangarappa (Primary and Secondary Education minister); Shivaraj Tangadagi (Backward Classes Welfare; and Kannada and Culture minister) and B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan (Housing minister).

The Minority Welfare, Haj, and Waqf portfolio, previously handled by Zameer, will now be an additional responsibility for U T Khader, along with the Health and Family Welfare Department allocated to him.

Among the newly inducted ministers are Rizwan Arshad (Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs); Narendra Swamy (Agriculture); H C Balakrishna (Municipal Administration); K M Shivalinge Gowda (Excise); Ajay Singh (Minor Irrigation, and Science and Technology); T Raghumurthy (ST Welfare); K S Basavanthappa (Muzrai, Fisheries, Ports and Inland Water Transport); Vijayananda Kashappanavar (Small Scale Industries and Public Enterprises); and Rudrappa Lamani (Sugar and Textiles).

Others who made the list include Basvaraj Rayareddi, who handles the Higher Education portfolio. Others repeating their stint as ministers are C Puttarangashetty (Animal Husbandry and Sericulture) and B Nagendra (Planning and Statistics). Meanwhile, Lakshman Savadi is made Co-operation Minister.

Cap Lok Sabha strength at 543: TN to Centre

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, August 12

THE TAMIL Nadu Assembly Wednesday adopted a resolution urging the Union government to permanently cap the strength of the Lok Sabha at its existing 543 seats, putting the state formally against any expansion of Parliament through a fresh delimitation exercise and linking the dispute to a second unresolved question: the implementation of 33 per cent reservation for women.

The resolution, moved by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay after a nearly two-hour debate, called for the women's quota to be implemented from the 2029 Lok Sabha elections and in elections to state legislatures, without waiting for a delimitation that could alter the distribution of parliamentary representation among states.

"The 33% reservation for women should be implemented in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections itself, based on the existing 543 constituencies," Vijay told the Assembly. "The 33% reservation for women should not be delayed any further."

Vijay said women had outnumbered men among voters in Tamil Nadu and framed political representation as an issue of social justice. "Providing reservation for women is not a concession; it is a matter of social justice," he said.

CM Vijay speaks at the Assembly on Wednesday. PTI

The resolution placed four broad demands before the Union government: permanently retain the Lok Sabha's strength at 543; freeze the allocation of seats among states at their existing proportions; maintain the 2.2:1 ratio between the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha; and implement the 33 per cent women's reservation in 2029 based on the existing 543 constituencies.

The government argued that states that successfully implemented population-control programmes should not suffer a reduction in their relative political representation as a consequence of delimitation.

The resolution noted that constituencies had not been delimited on the lines of a fresh population count for more than five decades and referred to the next census scheduled for 2026. The question of how representation should be redistributed after such an exercise has become particularly sensitive in Tamil Nadu and other southern states, where concerns centre on whether states with slower population growth could lose relative influence in Parliament.

The Assembly resolution follows a meeting convened by Vijay on August 8 with MPs of parties supporting his government, including the Congress and Left, which decided to oppose the Centre's proposed delimitation exercise in its entirety.

HARERA GURUGRAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF THE RESIDENTIAL COLONY UNDER NILP POLICY - 2022 NAMELY

"SUNCITY'S MONARCH CLUB"

SITUATED IN SECTOR 78, GURUGRAM BEING DEVELOPED BY

M/S. DVOK BUILDCON LLP.

It is for the information of the general public that M/s DVOK Buildcon LLP has applied for registration of the project namely "Suncity's Monarch Club" under Section 4 of the Act of 2016 in the Authority over an area admeasuring 4.328 acres (Phase -2 & 3) out of total area measuring 20.625 acres under License No. 121 of 2025 dated 17.07.2025.
The Department of Town and Country Planning, Haryana has granted license no. 121 of 2025 dated 17.07.2025 in favour of M/s DVOK Buildcon LLP for Residential Colony under NILP Policy-2022 over an area measuring 20.625 acres in the revenue estate of village Sikhopur, Sector-78, Gurugram valid upto 16.07.2030.
Further, the Department of Town and Country Planning, Haryana has approved the revised zoning cum phasing plan vide drawing no. DTCP 11631 dated 20.11.2025. Thereafter, as per the approved phasing plan, Phase-1, namely "Suncity's Monarch Residences," out of the six phases, admeasuring 9.5060 acres, has already been registered with the Authority vide RC No. 09 of 2026 dated 22.01.2026.
Now, the promoter has obtained the approval of building plans for Phase-2 & 3 of Residential Colony (under NILP Policy) issued by DTCP, Haryana vide memo no. ZP-2198/PA(DK)/2026/20770 dated 11.06.2026.
The promoter has approached the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram, for the registration of the project namely "Suncity's Monarch Club" dated 06.08.2026 for Phase-2 & 3 over an area measuring 4.328 acres.
The relevant application and related documents are available in the office of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram which can be seen by any concerned on any working day during office hours upto 28.08.2026. Also, if anyone wishes to appear, may appear before the Authority on 31.08.2026 at 11:00 am during the hearing.
Given under the approval of the Authority and its seal.

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

Dated: 13.08.2026

एन एफ एल NFL A Navratna Company

NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Regd. Office: SCOPE Complex, Core-III, 7-Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003
www.nationalfertilizers.com | **CIN:** L74899DL1974GOI007417

EXTRACT FROM THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS (STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED) FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2026

(₹ in Lakhs)

S. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
		Quarter Ended			Year Ended	Quarter Ended			Year Ended
		30-06-2026 (Unaudited)	31-03-2026 (Audited)	30-06-2025 (Unaudited)	31-03-2026 (Audited)	30-06-2026 (Unaudited)	31-03-2026 (Audited)	30-06-2025 (Unaudited)	31-03-2026 (Audited)
1	Total Income from operations	451182	435939	354308	2156786	451182	435939	354308	2156786
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) from operations before exceptional items and tax	9534	15666	(4474)	23267	13781	19001	(5208)	27451
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) before tax after exceptional items	9534	15666	(4474)	23267	13781	19001	(5208)	27451
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax	7091	11819	(3210)	16965	11338	15154	(3944)	21149
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/ (Loss) and Other Comprehensive Income for the period)	7145	10755	(3186)	15972	11392	14104	(3920)	20170
6	Equity Share Capital	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year				235658				235040
8	Earning Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) *								
	(a) Basic	1.45	2.41	(0.65)	3.46	2.31	3.09	(0.80)	4.31
	(b) Diluted	1.45	2.41	(0.65)	3.46	2.31	3.09	(0.80)	4.31

* Not annualised in case of quarterly figures

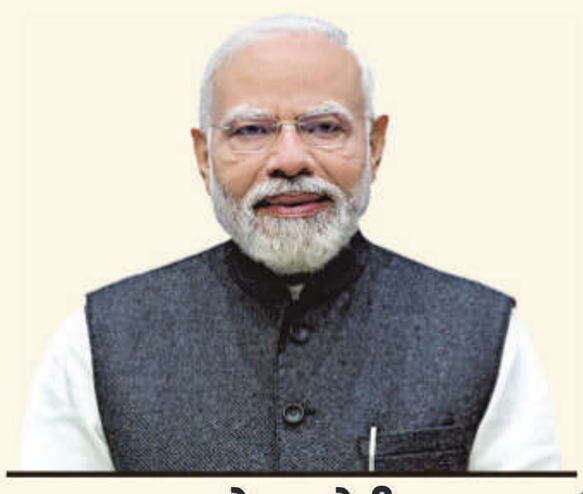
Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Yearly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchanges websites, **www.nseindia.com** and **www.bseindia.com** and website of the Company **www.nationalfertilizers.com**.

Place : Noida
Dated: August 12, 2026

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
(Dr. U. Saravanan)
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN : 07274628

SCAN FOR DETAILED RESULTS

NFL : FARMERS' FRIEND, NATION'S PRIDE


नरेन्द्र मोदी
प्रधानमंत्री

सत्यमेव जयते
दिल्ली सरकार

DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

रेखा गुप्ता
मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली

दिल्ली सरकार द्वारा 1300 से अधिक नवनियुक्त शिक्षकों का

नियुक्ति पत्र वितरण समारोह

मुख्य अतिथि
श्रीमती रेखा गुप्ता
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली

विशिष्ट अतिथि
श्री आशीष सूद
माननीय शिक्षा मंत्री, दिल्ली सरकार

गुरुवार, 13 अगस्त 2026 सुबह 10:00 बजे

भारत मंडपम, नई दिल्ली

शिक्षा निदेशालय, राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली सरकार

DIP/Shabdarth/Display/068/26-27

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

In Solidarity

AMID THE uproar over BJP MP Sushmita Dev's remark on CPM's John Brittas's attire, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, wore a Malayali '*mundu*' to Parliament on Wednesday in solidarity with the Kerala MP. Kharge, sources said, happily posed for a group photograph with MPs Haris Beeran, P Sandosh Kumar, Brittas and others — all wearing '*dhoti*' or '*mundu*'. Kharge even identified himself as one of those who wear the traditional attire, it is learnt.

House 'Hum'

AS HE joined the discussion on the Bill to rename Kerala as Keralam in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, MoS Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale took to his usual style of starting with a rhyme — "*Modi ji aur Amit Shahji mein hai dum, iss liye unke saath hai hum*". Looking towards the Opposition benches, which were nearly empty due to an INDIA bloc walkout, he remarked that the DMK and the AAP were "with us" as their MPs were still in the House. However, he immediately corrected himself, saying, "Arvind Kejriwal is not with us, but Sanjay ji [MP Sanjay Singh] can come with us", leading to laughter from both sides of the aisle, including Singh.

Proceedings against Justice Varma likely to continue as motion moved before he quit

Deeptiman Tiwary
New Delhi, August 12

THOUGH JUSTICE Yashwant Varma resigned as a judge of the Allahabad High Court in April this year while facing a parliamentary motion for his removal, government sources said Wednesday that his resignation would not affect the House proceedings initiated against him, as the motion had been admitted before he quit the judiciary.

"That motion remains in force as it started before he resigned. Despite his resignation, Parliament has to take into account his conduct and decide on his perks and pension," a Union minister said on condition of anonymity.

The three-member committee constituted by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla submitted its report on May 18, and it was tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, nearly 17 months after burnt currency notes were discovered at Varma's official residence in New Delhi following a fire.

The committee has found all three 'Articles of Charge' against him proved. The report itself does not determine the precise amount of cash found. Its findings rest on the established presence of substantial cash on premises under his effective control, the failure to preserve the evidence and the inadequacy of his subsequent explanations.

The findings bring back into focus the question of what Parliament can do with proceedings against a judge who has resigned before the process for his removal is completed. Varma had tendered his resignation on April 9, 2026, and withdrew from the statutory inquiry.

Justice Yashwant Varma quit as a judge of the Allahabad High Court in April this year. FILE

The controversy began on the night of March 14, 2025, when a fire broke out at Varma's official residence at 30 Tughlaq Crescent in Delhi, when he was a judge of the Delhi High Court. During the firefighting operation, substantial quantities of partly burnt currency notes were found in a storeroom on the premises.

The Supreme Court, then headed by CJI Sanjiv Khanna, initiated an in-house inquiry into the allegations. The inquiry committee subsequently found that Varma had "active or tacit control" over the storeroom where the cash was found. He was transferred to the Allahabad High Court in April 2025, though he was not assigned judicial work.

The next stage began with the proceedings in Parliament for his removal. On July 21, 2025, 146 Lok Sabha MPs submitted a motion seeking Varma's removal. Speaker Om Birla admitted the motion on August 12, 2025, and constituted a three-member inquiry committee under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. The committee was headed by Supreme Court Justice Aravind Kumar and comprised Bombay High Court Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Senior Advocate B V Acharya.

The committee continued its proceedings even after Varma resigned in April 2026 and submitted its report to the Speaker on May 18, 2026.

Of the committee's three 'Articles of Charge', the first concerned the discovery and possession of unexplained Indian currency at his official residence. The committee concluded that substantial Rs 500 currency notes were present in the storeroom and that the room formed part of the premises under Varma's effective control. It found that he had failed to provide a satisfactory explanation regarding the presence and ownership of the cash.

The second charge concerned the failure to preserve material evidence. The committee found that the scene was not adequately preserved after the fire and that the currency, which could have constituted crucial evidence, was subsequently unavailable. The committee's finding did not require it to conclude that Varma personally removed the cash.

The third charge concerned the explanations furnished by Varma. The committee found his explanations evasive and misleading, including his failure to satisfactorily account for the presence of cash and the subsequent disappearance of the material evidence. It also rejected alternative theories advanced during the proceedings in the absence of supporting evidence.

The committee has concluded that all three charges stand proved.

Remarks of Pal as LS presiding officer expunged 2nd time

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, August 12

BJP MP Jagdambika Pal's remarks, made while he was presiding over the Lok Sabha proceedings, were expunged by Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday — the second time during the ongoing Monsoon Session.

The expunged remarks referred to SP MP Chotelal. As the House re-assembled at 2 pm after an adjournment, Pal was trying to get the House in order, telling opposition MPs to get back in their place, and made a comment referring to Chotelal.

On August 5, Birla expunged remarks made by Pal while he was presiding over the proceedings ahead of the passage of the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026. Pal had made observations about SP's Ruchi Vira and Congress' K C Venugopal, who were protesting against police action on student protesters.

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

Parliament passes Bill to rename Kerala as Keralam

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 12

THE RAJYA Sabha on Wednesday passed a Bill to change the name of Kerala to Keralam, just over two years after the state Assembly passed a unanimous resolution, asking the Centre for the name change.

The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, which changes the name of the state to Keralam and makes the necessary amendments to the Constitution, including in the First Schedule, was passed by a voice vote. The Lok Sabha had passed the Bill on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, MoS Home Nityanand Rai introduced the Bill on behalf of Home Minister Amit Shah, who was not present in the House. During the discussion on the Bill, all MPs supported the decision to rename the state, while some sought to change the names of some other states, cities and railway stations.

Congress MP Jebi Mather Hisham welcomed the Bill. When she sought to raise an issue regarding the Home Minister, Leader of the House J P Nadda objected, asking the chair not to take on record the "political statement".

TMC MP Derek O'Brien pointed out that West Bengal's proposal to change the name of the state to Bangla had been pending for eight years. DMK MP Tiruchi Siva welcomed the Bill, recalling how the name of Madras was changed to Tamil Nadu. "We know the value of a name," he said, while congratulating the people of the state.

AIADMK MP M Thambidurai called for the strengthening of cooperative federalism and respect for regional languages. Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh, too, highlighted the need for respecting the various languages, attire and states in the country. Alleging that the Centre had not provided adequate funds to the state when it was hit by natural disasters, Singh said: "Don't just change the name, change your behaviour."

The House passed the Bill by voice vote.

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Protest Mode

Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, SP's Awadhesh Prasad, TMC's Mahua Moitra and other Opposition leaders demonstrate at Parliament on Wednesday over police action on student protesters and the alleged theft of Ram temple donations. ANI

Attire remark row: Sushmita Dev moves counter privilege notice against Brittas

Divya A
New Delhi, August 12

A DAY after CPM member from Kerala John Brittas moved a privilege notice against BJP MP Sushmita Dev, alleging she made a disparaging remark concerning his attire, the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday witnessed a major showdown, with Chairman C P Radhakrishnan calling both the members to his chamber over the issue. Dev also moved a counter breach of privilege motion against Brittas.

Opposition MPs came in support of Brittas when he raised the issue as soon as the Upper House began its proceedings and listed papers were laid on the table. The Treasury benches demanded that Dev be heard before passing any order. The BJP MP denied having cast aspersions on the attire of any state and then walked up to the Chair to seek permission to speak.

Taking a serious view of the exchange, the Chairman issued a formal observation, urging members to maintain decorum and respect regional sensibilities. Amid uproar from both sides, the House was adjourned till 2 pm.

Earlier, speaking on the incident in Rajya Sabha, Brittas asserted his pride in his regional identity and criticised the use of stereotypes in parliamentary discourse. "The other day, while I was speaking in the House, she made a derogatory remark... against me... I feel that the House should take a view on this," the MP from Kerala said. "I cherish every moment being Malayali ... When I retire from this House, the biggest takeaway will be diversity," he said, alleging that Dev had repeatedly interrupted him on Tuesday while he was fulfilling his duty of reading a resolution against a Bill.

Responding to the allegations, Leader of the House J P Nadda said Brittas' remarks have come on record, and Dev should also be allowed to speak, while distancing the government from such statements. "We do not subscribe to such statements...," he said. Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that since allegations were made against a specific member, she too should be heard.

BJP MP Sushmita Dev in Parliament on Wednesday. PTI

Meanwhile, the Chair said, "Certain instances have come to my notice regarding discourteous and undignified comments being made by Members interrupting the speech of other members in the House. I would advise that Hon'ble members should be careful not to hurt the sentiments and feelings of fellow members." He asked the members concerned to come to his chamber to resolve the matter and ensure the smooth functioning of the House.

When the House resumed, Dev sought to put her position on record and moved a breach of privilege motion against Brittas, pointing out certain remarks he made on the microphone on Tuesday on members who had changed parties and also related to their religious beliefs. "I am a Bengali from Assam. I have seen different states where we wear different attires and clothes. Neither I nor any members have cast aspersions on any state's attire. I wanted to put that on record," she said, adding no message from the Rajya Sabha should seek to divide India culturally or on the basis of religion.

Nadda then offered to resolve the "misunderstanding" between the two MPs. "If both MPs come to my chamber, this misunderstanding can be resolved," he said. Sources said both the MPs held separate discussions over the matter with Nadda and Rijiju.

National Cooperative Development Corporation Bill gets House approval

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 12

THE RAJYA Sabha on Wednesday passed the National Cooperative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which expands the role of the NCDC to giving loans and grants directly to cooperative societies.

The Bill, passed by the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, was introduced by the Minister of State for Cooperation, Murlidhar Mohol, in the Upper House on behalf of Amit Shah, the Union Minister of Cooperation, who was not present. The Bill provides for expanding the ambit of the societies covered in the Act by amending the definition of "foodstuffs" to include processed food and any other food items notified by the Centre.

It amends the National Cooperative Development Corporation Act, 1962, which was enacted to set up the NCDC in order to carry out programmes through cooperative societies for "production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agriculture produce, foodstuffs, industrial goods, livestock and certain other commodities and services", as per the Bill's statement of objects and reasons.

Murlidhar Mohol, MoS for Cooperation, introduced the Bill in the Upper House. ANI FILE

Speaking on the Bill, BJD MP Sulata Deo demanded that it be referred to a select committee, asking "Why are we giving power to the Central government". "Mahatma Gandhi said the soul of the country lives in the villages. Then, why are we taking away the power from the villages and states", she asked.

While supporting the Bill, YSR Congress Party MP Golla Babu Rao called on the government to ensure that the benefits of the cooperatives sector reaches farmers. Meanwhile, M Thambidurai of the AIADMK said states should not be bypassed and that the Union government should "work closely with state governments".

While replying to the discussion, Mohol said it was unfortunate that the Congress MPs had walked out. Earlier, INDIA bloc MPs had continued sloganeering and demanding Shah address the House on the police action on students last month.

Mohol said there were over 8 lakh cooperative societies in the country, with over 30 crore members. Regarding the issue of states' rights, he said all states had adopted the model by-laws for Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). The Bill was then passed through voice vote.

CAG flags Rs 3.20 crore variable pay to IIM Rohtak director, says payout retrospective

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, August 12

THE COMPTROLLER and Auditor General of India (CAG) has flagged a payment of Rs 3.20 crore in variable pay to IIM-Rohtak director Dheeraj Sharma, saying the institute retrospectively applied regulations to approve the amount "in violation of transparency and statutory procedures".

The premium business school failed to produce performance records or evidence that the director recused himself from discussions on his own compensation, CAG said.

The payment covered 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, even though the regulations governing the director's variable pay came into effect only on October 25, 2021, according to the audit report tabled in Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

The audit also found that approvals for variable pay in 2021-22 and 2022-23 lacked key documents, including the performance matrix, evaluation reports and confirmation of consultation with the Central government nominee.

The IIM-Rohtak regulations require its board of governors to develop and convey a performance matrix for the director, on the basis of which variable pay is to be determined. They also require the director to recuse himself from matters involving conflict of interest.

A review of the board's agendas and minutes revealed "several procedural deficiencies" in the approval of the director's variable pay, CAG said. "In the absence of recorded performance targets, evaluation data and supporting documents, the payment of variable pay lacked transparency and did not conform to the procedures mandated under the Act and the regulations," the report said.

The Ministry of Education, in its April 2026 reply, concurred with the audit observations and said the variable pay was not supported by regulatory provisions and proper documentation. The ministry said the amount paid as variable pay during 2018-19 to 2024-25 should be recovered.

Sharma, who has headed IIM-Rohtak since 2017, is already under government scrutiny over allegations that he misrepresented his qualifications.

Sweeping aviation model reforms sought for bus transport, terminals across India

Dheeraj Mishra
New Delhi, August 12

A NATIONAL Bus Terminals Authority — on the lines of Airports Authority of India — to develop, standardise and manage the bus terminals, a National Bus Digital Grid for live tracking and booking of buses just like trains, and chargeable entry of private buses into government-owned terminals are some of the major recommendations that a Parliamentary panel has made to the government.

The department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, in its report tabled in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, also recommended a unified All India Passenger Permit to streamline regulatory hurdles. It also proposed a National Bus Digital Grid for live tracking and booking like train, publish operator safety ratings and dedicated peak-hour services for women to build a modern and safer transit network of buses across India.

According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, there are around 4.4 lakh buses in India. Of these, around 1.1 lakh are owned by the state and central government and 3.3 lakh or 3 of every 4 buses are privately owned. The report emphasises that because buses carry more daily passengers than the railway network, they must move toward next-generation mobility with user-friendly services.

The panel recommended that a National Bus Terminals Authority should be constituted on the model of the Airports Authority of India to develop, standardise and manage the bus terminals across India. It said that the government should implement a policy where there should be a separation between the ownership of buses and management of bus terminals like the aviation sector, where an airline does not build its airport but obtains access to terminals on payment to the operator.

The committee's recommendations came in response to submissions by private bus operators, who argued that they are denied access to state-owned bus terminals on the grounds that these facilities belong to State Road Transport Undertakings (SRTUs) and, therefore, cannot be opened to their competitors. The operators said this system leaves terminal capacity underutilised and impacts their cash flow, as the denial of entry to private buses means the terminals lose an opportunity to generate additional revenue by charging a fee per bus. At the same time, passengers are often forced to board private buses from roadsides.

The report emphasises that as buses carry more daily passengers than the railway network, they must move toward next-generation mobility with user-friendly services. EXPRESS FILE

According to the report, Delhi and Tamil Nadu are the only two states which allow the halt of private buses at their bus stand. For instance, the interstate bus terminal at Kashmere Gate in Delhi charges Rs 500 per entry, which is collected through FASTag. In Tamil Nadu, private operators are permitted a 15-minutes halt at bus stands upon payment of Rs 500.

The report also called for a National Code for Bus Terminals. "A National Code for Bus Terminals be framed within one year prescribing minimum standards of sanitation, lighting, seating, security, signage, digital passenger information and accessibility, and serving as the reference for viability gap funding or other central support," it said.

The committee further recommended to notify the standards and design of a modern bus stop at a cost of Rs 10-12 lakh for expressways and highways and circulate it among all MPs to use their MPLAD fund to build such bus stops. It also highlighted that 95% of government buses halt on highway carriageway to deboard the passengers.

The transport committee also asked the government to build a National Bus Digit Grid to track a bus like train and book any bus at a single platform. It also recommended to launch a citizen vigilance channel, on the pattern of the Election Commission of India's cVIGIL application, through which any passenger can lodge a geo-tagged, time-stamped report, with photograph or video, of the condition or conduct of any bus, terminal or halting place, including overloading, the carriage of school children in unsafe conditions, and nonfunctional safety equipment, among others.

The report shifts focus from just vehicle standards to operator-level accountability. It recommended completing the Automated Testing Station (ATS) network to ensure objective fitness testing and published safety ratings for operators based on accident history, enforcement records, and passenger feedback. To modernise the aging national fleet, the committee suggests a Fleet Transition Compact that separates vehicle ownership from operation. This includes bulk procurement and leasing models for electric buses so that operators do not carry the full capital burden.

Noting that the state currently counts vehicles but not people, the report argues that a proper passenger census is essential for sizing terminals, pricing permits, and justifying budget allocations.

EXPRESS special

Goa fire probe: Nightclub owners knew emergency exit was locked

Pavneet Singh Chadha
Panaji, August 12

25 people were killed in Birch by Romeo Lane fire last year. FILE

FORGED DOCUMENTS to run the nightclub, an emergency exit that was locked, and a hasty flight to Phuket as tragedy unfolded — the chargesheet filed in connection with the December 6, 2025, fire at Birch by Romeo Lane in Goa has revealed several lapses that contributed to the blaze and how the owners acted afterwards. The fire had killed 25 people.

The 4,420-page chargesheet was filed by the Goa police against 13 accused, including Ajay Gupta (55) and brothers Gaurav Luthra (44) and Saurabh Luthra (40), partners of Being GS Hospitality Goa Arpora LLP, which owned the club. They have been charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder and forgery, among other offences. It also names Surinder Kumar Khosla, a UK national and the owner of the property where the nightclub was housed.

The chargesheet states that the Luthra brothers learnt of the fire at their establishment immediately after the incident, at around 11.45 pm. The managers informed the duo of the "gravity" of the situation and the "casualties" that took place, it states. At 1:13 am, Saurabh allegedly contacted their travel agent in Delhi's Kamla Nagar from his wife's phone and booked flight tickets for himself and his brother. At 5:25 am, the duo were on a flight to Phuket.

Gupta, it says, was in Goa from December 3-7 (until around 11:30 am). On learning of the incident, he allegedly headed to Delhi and "got himself admitted" at a hospital in Lajpat Nagar. It is alleged that he switched off his phone and was using his driver's mobile before being arrested on December 10. It states that after learning of the fire, Khosla "immediately fled to the UK and remained absconding". "Thereafter, a Blue Corner Notice was issued against him to secure his presence for the investigation. However, he is still absconding," it adds.

The chargesheet details the nightclub's precarious location — in the middle of a saltpan — and states that it had no fire safety equipment, no emergency evacuation plan, and no emergency exit doors in the basement and upper deck floor. "The interior of the upper ground/ deck floor was made up of dried reed grass, bamboo, wood and other combustible materials. To make the establishment soundproof, acoustic foam sheets were fixed below the roof's metal sheets. Despite having knowledge that fireworks in an enclosed and crowded premise could cause a major fire hazard, they all allowed and facilitated the fireworks during the events," it says.

It said a narrow concrete footbridge connecting the upper ground/ deck floor served as the main entrance and exit for tourists and staff. "On the west side, there was another similar narrow concrete footbridge... However, it was blocked... by locking the metal gate. There was no emergency exit for the upper ground/deck floor... or the entire basement," it states, adding that the accused were aware of this. "Keeping the western side door unlocked would have facilitated emergency evacuation of the stranded tourists/ employees."

The chargesheet also lists Roshan Redkar, the then-sarpanch of village panchayat Arpora-Nagoa, and Raghuvir Bagkar, the former secretary of village panchayat Arpora-Nagoa, as accused. It alleges that Gupta and the Luthra brothers acted in alleged connivance with the two and "maliciously" procured the trade/ establishment licence. It states that this helped the partners and the property owner procure further requisite permissions, no-objection certificates, and licences.

The chargesheet states that the application for licence had an "alteration" in blue ink, while the original application was in black ink. The partners did not renew the establishment/ trade licence for 2024-2025 and were running their club without a valid one. The chargesheet also notes that in order to procure the excise licence, the accused appended documents such as a police clearance certificate and a no-objection certificate from the Health Department. Upon verification, these were allegedly found to be forged.

"The accused persons... were fully aware that they will not get statutory licences for their establishment since the structure was illegal and constructed without obtaining permissions from competent authorities. Therefore, they decided to forge/ fabricate the documents for procuring some of the licences," it states.

Advocate Vaibhav Suri, who is representing the Luthra brothers, did not comment. Advocate Malak Bhatt, the counsel for Ajay Gupta, also declined to comment.

CJP's Saurav Das alleges intimidation as police visit family home; cops call it August 15 drill

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, August 12

CJP member Saurav Das

A VISIT by Puducherry police personnel to the family home of Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) member Saurav Das on Wednesday prompted allegations of political intimidation, with the police saying the questioning was part of a routine security exercise ahead of Independence Day celebrations.

Das, co-convenor of the CJP, said police officers had visited his family's home in White Town area and questioned its occupants – an action he alleged was intended to intimidate him because of his political activities. It is not immediately clear which of his family members were questioned.

"Two hours ago, the Pondicherry Police showed up at my family's home and subjected them to all kinds of questioning," Das wrote in a social-media post, asking who had ordered the visit and its purpose. "Why is the BJP government in Pondicherry intimidating my family?" he wrote, alleging that the action was undertaken at the behest of the Union government. Das said the visit would not deter him. "If the intention is to intimidate me into silence, it will not work... It only strengthens our resolve to build a better system, one where the police uphold the law instead of acting like goondas!"

But top police officers said it was a routine visit to all homes and establishments in the area. They said the Lieutenant Governor's residence is also nearby, and Police have a rehearsal for the Independence Day parade scheduled for Thursday.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, senior officer in-charge of crime and intelligence, Nithya Radhakrishnan, IPS, rejected the allegation that Das's family had been singled out, saying police were conducting routine Independence Day security checks across White Town, where the ceremonial parade is held.

The area includes Beach Road and several roads used by VIPs during official events. "As part of the security exercise, officers were checking residences and establishments along the relevant roads, including asking about people staying at the premises, guests and foreign nationals," Radhakrishnan said. "Only authorised establishments are permitted to accommodate foreign nationals, making such verification part of the exercise," she added.

Officers said Das's parents live in the area and his mother interpreted the questioning as being directed at the family because of her son's involvement in protests in Delhi. Police maintained that the questions were the same kind being put to residents and establishments elsewhere in the security zone. "He took offence," an officer said, referring to Das's response to the visit, while maintaining there was no targeted inquiry against him or his family.

West Bengal STF arrests suspected ISI operative from Bangaon

Tanusree Bose
Kolkata, August 12

THE WEST Bengal Special Task Force (STF) arrested a suspected Pakistani national along the India-Bangladesh border in Bongaon early Wednesday morning. Rana Rouf was allegedly living in India under the assumed name Wahab Alam using forged identification documents, the STF said.

Investigators suspect Rouf of having long-standing links with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and of being involved in espionage and terror-related activities.

According to STF sources, Rouf is originally a resident of Faisalabad, Pakistan. He allegedly entered India via Nepal in 2012 before settling in West Bengal. During the search operation, officers seized sensitive materials, including photographs of railway stations, train movements, and tracks across the country, as well as documents related to the Army.

Investigators found that Rouf had transmitted these images to multiple phone numbers. The STF is currently tracking those contacts to ascertain their identities and determine whether financial transactions were made in exchange for the intelligence.

Investigators are also looking into Rouf's contacts within West Bengal and trying to identify who was scheduled to receive him across the border in Bangladesh. During interrogation, Rouf disclosed that a carpenter residing in Kolkata's Topsia neighbourhood had helped him procure fraudulent Indian documents, including a voter card and an Aadhaar card. The duo had reportedly met in Nepal prior to Rouf entering India.

Bittu backs his grandfather's assassin Hawara's parole, meets Gov

Kanchan Vasdev
Chandigarh, August 12

FORMER UNION minister and grandson of slain CM Beant Singh, Ravneet Singh Bittu, Wednesday said his grandfather's assassin Jagtar Singh Hawara is likely to get parole to meet his ailing mother, as Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria has sent a positive report to the Centre on humanitarian grounds.

In a departure from his earlier stand, Bittu met Kataria at Punjab Lok Bhawan in Chandigarh on Wednesday evening "to thank him for sending a positive report". Bittu has been a strong votary of strict punishment for militants. After meeting the Governor, Bittu told *The Indian Express*, "I met him to thank him for sending a positive report. I was in touch with the Governor for the last 10 days over the issue. He has now sent a positive report. He had been in touch with the Union Home Ministry for the last 10 days."

He said the Chandigarh Police had also sent a positive report to the Centre, stating that Hawara's visit to meet his mother would not pose any threat to law and order or peace in the state. "He will certainly come out. He will meet his mother. I cannot say how many days of parole he would get. I had gone to thank him," Bittu said.

On why he had taken a divergent stand this time, Bittu said, "This is purely on humanitarian grounds. His mother is ailing. We have been told she misses her son. She has been remembering him and not drinking water. If something happens to her without meeting her son, it will be a reflection on our society as a whole."

Woman gang-raped, friend thrashed after 6 intercept car in Cuttack

Sujit Bisoyi
Bhubaneswar, August 12

A WOMAN was allegedly gang-raped by a group of at least six men after the car in which she was travelling with a friend was stopped late on Tuesday night in Odisha's Cuttack district, said police.

The incident occurred on Cuttack-Chandbali road when the victim and her male friend were travelling from Bhubaneswar to Kendrapada.

Police said that on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, the accused waylaid the car in which the victim and her friend were travelling, forced the duo to stop the vehicle, thrashed the man before gang-raping the woman. The group then fled the spot.

Police said the victim, in her 30s, and her male friend are colleagues at a firm in Bhubaneswar.

According to Cuttack Superintendent of Police (SP), Rural, Vinit Agrawal, the victim approached the police early on Wednesday morning following which a case was registered. A serious offence has been committed, said the SP.

"All the procedures have been followed. A senior police officer of deputy superintendent of police (DSP) rank has been assigned to lead the investigation. Multiple teams have been formed to trace and arrest the accused. We are hopeful that they will be arrested soon," Agrawal told The Indian Express.

Victim's condition is stable and she is receiving necessary medical care and counselling: Police

Police said they also seized the vehicle in which the victim and her friend were travelling to collect the evidence. Forensic experts have also been deployed at the crime scene to collect physical evidence, they said.

The condition of the victim is stable and she has been receiving necessary medical care and counselling, said the police.

According to a White Paper published by Odisha's home department in March, 2,994 rape cases were reported in 2025. Police said by the end of last year, charge sheets were filed in 1930 cases. In 2024, 3,054 rape cases were reported.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, in a written report to the state Assembly in March this year, stated that as many as 53,000 cases of crime against women were reported in Odisha between June 2024 and March 7, 2026 (the period after BJP assumed power in the state). The CM had stated that 4,713 cases of rape and 212 cases of attempt to rape were recorded during the period.

MP bans 'analogue paneer'

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav on Wednesday announced a ban on analogue paneer (or imitation paneer) in the state, saying the government would not promote cheaper non-dairy substitutes and would, instead, push products made from natural milk.

"We have decided that in Madhya Pradesh, the sale of analogue paneer will be discouraged. We will impose a ban on it. Other states in the country have also banned it," Yadav said. ENS

Phone seized from Karnataka ex-MP Prajwal Revanna's cell

Express News Service
Bengaluru, August 12

A MOBILE phone was seized from the prison cell of former Karnataka MP Prajwal Revanna, who is serving life sentence after his conviction in a rape case, during a search on Tuesday.

A case was registered against Revanna and another inmate at the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in Bengaluru under provisions of the Karnataka Prisons (Amendment) Act, 2022, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The search was conducted by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) between 2 pm and 9. During the search in Room No 4 on the first floor of Security Section 3, officials found a light-blue Redmi 5G mobile phone, a white charger, a blue pocket notebook and a black SanDisk pen drive.

The room was occupied by Revanna and Pratap Rai, an undertrial prisoner.

NIA makes first arrest in Manipur IED attack case

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has made an arrest in connection with an IED attack on a house in Manipur's Bishnupur district, which killed two minors and injured another in April this year.

"The accused, identified as S Palal Thadou, was arrested in connection with the attack at Tronglaobi Awang Leikai in Moirang on April 7," a NIA spokesperson said in a statement.

"The device struck the wall of a house, causing serious injuries to three members of a family. Two minor children later succumbed to their injuries while another person sustained injuries," the official added. "He was produced before the NIA Special Court, Imphal, which remanded him for 10 days," the spokesperson said. ENS

EXPRESS Careers

RASHTRASANT TUKADOJI MAHARAJ NAGPUR UNIVERSITY, NAGPUR

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

No. RTMNU/GA/674 **Date : 12th August 2026**

Applications in the prescribed form are invited from eligible candidates for appointment of **DIRECTOR, INNOVATION, INCUBATION AND LINKAGES,** Statutory Officer's Post for Open Category in the university.

Prescribed online application form and detailed information regarding particulars of the post advertised alongwith the requisite qualifications is available on the university website : www.nagpuruniversity.ac.in. The online application form should be accompanied by necessary supporting documents to be uploaded in pdf format.

Registration fee of Rs.500/- for Open category and Rs. 300/- for Reserved categories, to be paid by way of online payment gateway, on or before 15th September 2026.

Special Note : All concerned are hereby informed that the advertisement previously published by the University for the post of Director, Innovation, Incubation and Linkages (Reference. No. RTMNU/GA/161, dated 2nd October 2024) has been cancelled. This cancellation is made in accordance with Serial No. 19 under "Notes, Instructions, Terms and Conditions" of the advertisement published on 2nd October 2024.

(Dr. VIJAY KHANDAL)
Registrar (Add.'I Charge)

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Sr. No.	Programme	Post	Subjects & No. of Post	Category wise No.of Post
1.	B.Ed.	Assistant Professor	Perspectives in Education (Social Sciences) - 2	SC – 01, VJ (A) – 01
2.	B.Ed.	Assistant Professor	Curriculum and Pedagogic Subjects - (Maths - 2, Science - 2, Social Sciences - 1)	SC – 01, ST-01, VJ (A) – 01, SEBC-01, EWS – 01,
3.	M.Ed.	Professor	Education - 2	SC – 01, Open-01
4.	M.Ed.	Associate Professor	Education - 1	SC – 01
5.	M.Ed.	Assistant Professor	Education - 5	SC – 01, VJ(A) – 01, EWS – 01, SEBC-01, Open – 01
6.	B.P.Ed.	Associate Professor	Physical Education - 2	SC – 01, Open-01
7.	B.P.Ed.	Assistant Professor	Physical Education - 4	VJ (A) – 01, EWS - 01 SEBC-01, Open – 01
8.	M.P.Ed.	Professor	Physical Education - 1	Open -1
9.	M.P.Ed.	Associate Professor	Physical Education - 2	SC – 01, Open-01
10.	M.P.Ed.	Assistant Professor	Physical Education - 3	SC – 01, VJ (A) – 01, Open-01

Details of advertisement, Education Qualification, Eligibility, Category etc. information is available on college website www.coe.kces.in and KBCNM University website - www.nmu.ac.in. The candidates are informed to submit the complete application within 15 days from publication of this advertisement with all essential documents.

Note: - The appointment will be on the basis of final decision on Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai, Bench Aurangabad of WP12051/2015. Application address: **The Principal, K. C. E. Society's College of Education and Physical Education, M. J. College Campus, Jalgaon – 425002 Maharashtra**

Dr. K. P. Chaudhari
Principal

N. G. Bendale
President, K. C. E. Society, Jalgaon

KCE – A Profound Education Movement

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Parvati, Shahu College Campus, Pune – 411009 Ph : 020 24215142

VACANCIES

Applications from eligible candidates are invited for the following posts to be filled on regular and grant-in-aid basis from 2026-2027 in Yashwantrao Chavan Law College, Pune and Shri Shahu Mandir Mahavidyalay, Pune. Applications should reach the office within 30 days from the date of this advertisement.

Post	Subject	Total Post	Educational Qualification	Reservation
Assistant Professor	Law	4	**LLM,** NET/SET/Ph.D.	Open - 01, VJ-A – 01, OBC – 02 (1 Reserved for Female), SEBC – 01, EWS - 01
	Political Science	1	**MA,** NET/SET/ Ph.D.	
	Marathi	1	**MA,** NET/SET/ Ph.D.	

• Service norms and salary for the above posts are strictly as per the state government, UGC and SPPU rules and regulations. • Persons with disability from the Divyang group A and B may be considered as per the norms of the state government. • **Visit- www.abmsppune.org** for more details and application form for the interviews.

Smt. Pramila Gaikwad
General Secretary
A.B.M.S. Parishad, Pune

West Khandesh Bhagini Seva Mandal's
Arts and Commerce College For Women,
Vidyanagari, Near Datta Mandir Chowk, Deopur, Dhule - 424005
(MINORITY EDUCATION INSTITUTE)
Phone No.: 02562-272949

RECRUITMENT

Applications are invited from eligible and duly qualified candidates for the following **Aided** posts at the W. K. B. S. Mandal's Arts & Commerce College for Women, Deopur, Dhule (Minority Education Institute - Permanently Granted) Affiliated to SNDT Women's University, Mumbai.

Sr. No.	Post / Subjects	No.of Posts	Qualifications
01	Assistant Professor		1. Good academic record as defined by the concerned University with at least 55% of the marks or equivalent grade where grading system is practiced at the Master's degree level in a relevant subject from an Indian University, or an equivalent degree from an accredited foreign University. 2. Besides fulfilling the above qualifications, the candidate must have cleared the National Eligibility Test (NET) conducted by the UGC, CSIR or similar test accredited by the UGC like SLET/SET. 3. Holders of Ph.D. degree as on the date of Notification of these Regulations along with those candidates who are awarded a Ph.D. degree through a process of admission, registration course work and external evaluation as laid down in the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree),Regulations, 2009 and so adopted by the University shall be exempted from NET/SLET/SET. 4. NET/SLET/SET shall also not be required for such Masters Programmes in discipline for which NET/SLET/SET is not conducted subject to the conditions stipulated in UGC Regulations.
	Hindi	01	
	History	01	
	Economics	01	
	Sociology	03	
	English	01	

Note: 1. Permission as per NOC No. JDHE/Jalgaon/NOC/2026/00001 Dated 17 July 2026.
Pay Scale - As per the UGC and the State Government of Maharashtra.
For other details please see our **Website: www.wkbsmwomencollegedhule.org**
Mode of Applications - 1. Duly qualified candidates shall apply there with certified copies of the certificates / mark-sheets so as to reach the President of the Trust, on the above address within 15 days of publication of the advertisement in news paper.

President
West Khandesh Bhagini Seva Mandal, Deopur, Dhule

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(A wholly owned subsidiary of PFC Limited)
Regd. Office: First Floor, "Urjanidhi", 1, Barakhamba Lane, Connaught Place, New Delhi – 110001, Fax: 011-23443990

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Interested bidders may refer to the RFP notification and RFP documents available on the website **https://www.mstcecommerce.com** and **https://www.pfcclindia.com.**

The Bidders may obtain the RFP documents on all working days between 10:30 hrs (IST) and 16:00 hrs (IST) **from 13.08.2026 to one working day prior to bid submission for the projects mentioned below** on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 5,00,000/- or USD 7,000 plus applicable GST @18% from 9th Floor, Wing – A, Statesman House, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001, Tel.: +91-11-23443912; Fax: 91-11-23443990; e-mail: **pfccl.itp@pfcindia.com.** The RFP documents can also be downloaded from **https://www.mstcecommerce.com** and **https://www.pfcclindia.com,** however, in such case, interested party can submit Response to RFP only on submission of non-refundable fee of Rs. 5,00,000/- or USD 7,000 plus applicable GST @18% separately. The survey report and clarification to RFP documents shall be issued to those bidders, who have obtained/ purchased RFP documents by paying requisite fee at least one working day prior to bid submission date. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated regarding clarifications/ amendments/ time extensions etc., if any. The important timelines in this regard are as follows:

S. No.	Name of Transmission Scheme	Last Date for seeking clarifications (dd/mm/yyyy)	Last Date for submission of response to RFP (dd/mm/yyyy)	Date of opening of response to RFP (dd/mm/yyyy)
1.	765 KV GSS RUNDH GIDAWARA (ALWAR) ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION SYSTEM	02/09/2026	16/10/2026 up to 15:00 hrs (IST)	16/10/2026 up to 15:30 hrs (IST)
2.	400 KV GSS BHOJRAJKA (KHUSHKHERA) ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION SYSTEM	02/09/2026	16/10/2026 up to 15:00 hrs (IST)	16/10/2026 up to 15:45 hrs (IST)

Note: PFC Consulting Limited reserves the right to cancel or modify the process without assigning any reason and without any liability. This is not an offer.

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An Initiative of: Government of Rajasthan
Initiative Partner: Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam

Late Digambarrao Bindu Smarak Samiti's Bhokar, Dist.Nanded
DIGAMBARRAO BINDU ARTS, COMMERCE AND SCIENCE COLLEGE, BHOKAR, DIST.NANDED (Maharashtra State)
Affiliated to Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded

WANTED

Applications are invited from the Eligible candidates for the following posts in **Digambarrao Bindu Arts, Commerce, and Science College Bhokar Dist. Nanded** (Granted) run by **Late Digambarrao Bindu Smarak Samiti's Bhokar Dist. Nanded**. The applications duly completed should reach the following address within 15 days from the date of publish of this advertisement by registered post only. The candidates of reserve category should submit one copy of their application to the **Assistant Registrar, Special Cell, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded.**

Vacancies Grant-in-aid Courses/ Programmes.

Sr.No.	SUBJECT	Name of Post (Designation)	No.of Post	Reservation
01	English	Assistant Professor	01	SC-1 / ST-1/NTB-1/ NTD-1/SBC-1/OBC-1/ SEBC-1/EWS-1/OPEN-3
02	Political Science	Assistant Professor	01	
03	Mathematics	Assistant Professor	01	
04	Environmental Science	Assistant Professor	02	**Horizontal Reservation as per NOC** WOMEN-**01 (OPEN)** DISABILITY-**01** **(Blind / Low Vision Group-A)**
05	Commerce	Assistant Professor	02	
06	Hindi	Assistant Professor	02	
07	Chemistry	Assistant Professor	02	
		TOTAL	11	

Permission as per NOC No.: JDHE/Nanded/NOC/2026/00008 Dt. – 03.08.2026

Educational Qualification:
01. Minimum educational qualification for the Post of Assistant Professor will be as per Regulations of UGC (2018), G.R. of Govt. of Maharashtra Dt. 08 March 2019.

Please refer to the full advertisement displayed on the University and College websites **(www.srtmun.ac.in, www.dbcbhokar.edu.in)**

Sd/-
President
Late Digambarrao Bindu Smarak Samiti's Bhokar Dist. Nanded

Sd/-
Principal
Late Digambarrao Bindu Smarak Samiti's Bhokar Dist. Nanded

Top court orders CBI probe into Chhattisgarh custodial death

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 12

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday transferred the probe into the custodial death of a 34-year-old Chhattisgarh man from the state police to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta noted that the death occurred in January 2024, while the state police had registered the First Information Report (FIR) only on July 30, 2026, more than two years later.

Noting that the deceased was the sole breadwinner of the family, the court also ordered the authorities to pay Rs 25 lakh to the family as interim compensation. "The final quantum of compensation payable to the petitioners shall be determined while adjudicating the instant petition", it said.

The police had taken the man into custody on January 18, 2024, on the charge of possessing liquor for sale outside his grocery shop. He died three days later on January 21 in hospital.

"In the facts and circumstances of the case, we are of the firm opinion that the ends of justice require that investigation into the circumstances leading to the custodial death be entrusted to the Central Bureau of Investigation and that all officials found responsible for the custodial violence upon completion of the investigation be proceeded against and prosecuted in accordance with law," the bench ordered.

Asking the central agency to entrust the probe to a senior officer, it further directed that "the conduct of the concerned state officials, in failing to take appropriate steps pursuant to the submission of the judicial inquiry report, shall also be duly examined and made a part of the investigation".

"The findings recorded by the High Court that the deceased was the sole breadwinner of the family and that he died an unnatural death on account of violence suffered during the period of his custody with the State have not been disputed by the Chhattisgarh government," the court said.

The Judicial Magistrate First Class in a report attributed the death to complications resulting from the head injury caused by a blunt weapon, following which his wife and daughters moved the High Court for a probe. The High Court disposed of the plea, granting compensation of Rs 1 lakh but did not direct any probe, after which the family approached the Supreme Court.

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Two children among seven killed in Mumbai landslide

BMC had warned residents to vacate the area in Kurla before monsoon

Pratip Acharya & Purnima Sah
Mumbai, August 12

SEVEN PEOPLE, including two children, were killed and seven others injured after a portion of a hillock collapsed on four shanties in Kurla's Ashok Nagar early Wednesday, exposing once again the risks faced by families living in Mumbai's landslide-prone areas. The site had been classified as a landslide-prone zone by the BMC, which had issued notices to residents before the monsoon, asking them to vacate the area.

According to officials, the landslide occurred around 3.48 am at Hill No. 3 after a peepal tree at the top of the hillock got uprooted amid heavy rain, triggering a mass of rubble and debris that crashed onto the shanties adjoining the ridge.

The deceased were identified as Mohamed Samir Ansari, 14, Sahil Husen Abdul Kazi, 19, Mohamed Arif Shaikh, 45, Manjina Arif Shaikh, 27, Mannat Arif Shaikh, 4, Aban Arif Shaikh, 2, and Vijit Ramesh Yadav, 24. Arif, Manjina, Aban and Mannat belonged to the same family.

Another person, Saddam Hussain Khan, 29, remained trapped under the debris as of 6.30 pm, with rescue operations continuing.

Rescue operation underway at the landslide site in Kurla. DEEPAK JOSHI

The BMC disaster management cell said the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Mumbai Fire Brigade and civic teams were deployed for rescue work. However, the steep terrain made it difficult for ambulances and cranes to reach the site. Rescue personnel were forced to clear the debris manually using shovels.

Officials said over 25 people were initially trapped. Several were pulled out by local residents before the first responders reached the site. The injured were taken to Rajawadi Hospital in Ghatkopar and Bhabha Hospital in Kurla.

"The place where the incident occurred is a highly vulnerable zone and no one is allowed to reside there. After the monsoon gets over, we will take a joint review with the BMC of all such vulnerable paces and decide on the next course of action to evict illegal residents," said Mumbai Suburban Collector Saurabh Katiyar.

"The land belongs to the collector, we (BMC) are only empowered to send notices asking them to evict the spot, but we don't have the authorisation to remove the encroachers. The collector's office will have to initiate action and being planning authority we can mobilise resources," Avinash Dhakane, additional municipal commissioner (Eastern suburbs), told *The Indian Express*.

For residents of the settlement, the first warning came from the sound of the hill giving way. Ahmed Hussain Ansari woke up around 3.30 am to the sound of people scrambling outside.

"I heard a sound while I was sleeping and thought a fight had broken out. When I woke up and looked outside, there was a stampede-like situation with people shouting, 'the hill has collapsed, run, run!' When I came out, I saw that a hillside had indeed collapsed," he told *The Indian Express*.

Saira Banu, who was rescued from under the debris, said her entire family was trapped when the hillock collapsed.

"The incident happened around 3.30 am. The hill collapsed, and we were trapped under it. The entire house collapsed on us; the whole house was destroyed. We have been living here for 30 years, but an accident like this has never happened before," Saira Banu said. "Many people were trapped along with me, and everyone sustained injuries." Mayor Ritu Tawde announced financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh to the immediate next of kin of each deceased person and Rs 50,000 for each injured person.

• BRIEFLY

CM Yumnam Khemchand Singh, DGP Mukesh Singh and others inspect arms and ammunition in Imphal on Wednesday. PTI

MANIPUR

CM urges village volunteers to surrender arms within 15 days

MANIPUR CHIEF Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Wednesday urged village volunteers in both hills and valley areas of the state to surrender arms within 15 days, warning legal action against anyone found in possession of weapons after the deadline. The warning came during the 'Display on the Initiatives towards Bringing Normalcy in Manipur', held at the 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles Parade Ground, Imphal. CM Singh said the weapons should be surrendered to MLAs or the Superintendents of Police. The event had on display 1,422 arms, 7,010 rounds of ammunition and 1,137 explosives recovered between February 5 and August 11. Deputy Chief Minister Losii Dikho was also in attendance at the event, among others. ENS

2 workers die as soil caves in at underpass

TWO CONSTRUCTION workers died and three others were injured after a cave-in at an underpass construction site in Bengaluru on Tuesday morning. The cave-in occurred around 10.45 am at the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) Kanteerava Studio underpass. Police said, the incident occurred when workers were draining water before reinforced concrete work was to begin. One of the workers, Parimal Basak, 55, from West Bengal, died at the spot. Sunaram Tiria, 37, from Odisha, succumbed to his injuries at the hospital. ENS

Four dead as car falls into gorge in Himachal

FOUR PEOPLE died and nine others were injured after a Bolero camper veered off the road and plunged into a gorge in the Sangrah area of Sirmaur district, Himachal Pradesh, late Tuesday night, police said. The accident occurred around 12.45 am when the driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle near Gatlog. The vehicle carried kin and villagers of one Jagdish Sharma, who had died of a heart attack on August 11. The victims were identified as Rajendra Kumar (37), Des Raj (23), Rikhi Ram (58) and Ram Gopal (62), all residents of Sangrah. ENS

NEET-UG PAPER LEAK CASE

NTA lacks formal policy to choose subject experts: Witness testimony to CBI

Delhi court takes cognizance of the CBI chargesheet filed on July 28

Mahender Singh Manral
New Delhi, August 12

A MAHARASHTRA-BASED physics expert in his testimony to the CBI is learnt to have pointed out deficiencies in the National Testing Agency (NTA) policy for selecting and managing subject experts involved in question paper preparation, translation, and moderation. His statement is part of the agency's chargesheet, listing 360 witnesses, it is learnt.

The chargesheet filed on July 28 before a Delhi fast-track court names 13 accused. Special Judge Ajay Gupta took its cognizance on Wednesday, and the hearing of the arguments may begin on August 13.

The expert is learnt to have stated that there is no formal eligibility criteria or written conditions for selecting experts, and that the process largely depended on recommendations from persons already associated with the NTA. "Existing experts can recommend teachers ... for roles including item writing, moderation and translation," he is learnt to have said.

In his testimony, the expert is learnt to have told the CBI that once a question paper is prepared, it is translated to multiple languages by a team of two to four teachers for each language. "Teachers were also engaged for item writing and moderation, and that such work continued throughout the year. To my knowledge, there is no formally documented procedure governing these activities, and no written appointment letters or formal documentation are issued for such engagements," he said in his statement.

The witness also pointed to what he described as 'deficiencies' in the paper preparation system. Since question paper preparation involved subject experts, item writers, moderators and translators, he said, any of them could potentially become a source of leak in absence of adequate monitoring mechanisms. "I believe there is insufficient supervision over the individuals engaged in these roles," the statement said.

He also referred to one chemistry expert associated with the NTA for the last six-seven years. "That one chemistry expert had coordinated with NTA regarding workshops for training existing experts and prospective experts for future empanelment. He claimed that, after certain differences arose between the chemistry expert and an NTA official over questions set for a Sainik School entrance examination, coordination work was taken over by him," a source said.

The witness said several new experts were later empanelled on the expert's recommendations, mostly comprising friends or acquaintances from Pune.

The witness said the chemistry expert was referred to the NTA by Manisha Mandhare (now in custody) after another expert, Dr Bhatt, couldn't continue due to an injury. "Following her association with the NTA she introduced several teachers from different disciplines. Around 40 to 50 teachers were brought into the system through her references," the source said, citing the expert's testimony.

Maharashtra orders rollback of protest FIRs

THE MAHARASHTRA government on Wednesday formally set in motion the process to withdraw cases registered against students and others over NEET paper leak protests, issuing a Government Resolution (GR) that brings them under the existing mechanism for withdrawing cases related to political and social agitations.

The order is the first formal step towards withdrawing the FIRs, but those named in the cases will have to wait. The existing procedure requires the police to first investigate the cases and file chargesheets, after which the cases will go through government committees before the prosecution can approach a court for withdrawal. ENS

EXPRESS special

'There could well be many more wives': UP MLA 'cheated' by daughter's in-laws

Manish Sahu
Lucknow, August 12

AS HE prepares to retain his Sevta Assembly constituency in Sitapur for the third time in a row, having won it handsomely in 2017 and 2022, BJP MLA Gyan Tiwari has more pressing issues than the coming elections on his mind.

Tiwari has filed an FIR against his daughter's father-in-law Anuj Trivedi, accusing him of concealing a "criminal" past before the wedding was fixed, and of "entering into multiple marriages, faking his identity each time". This is a month after Trivedi was arrested by the Maharashtra Police, which said they were also probing similar charges against his son and Tiwari's son-in-law Prakhar. The latter is wanted, as per Sitapur police. Tiwari has announced severing of all ties with Trivedi and Prakhar.

Tiwari's daughter, Pragya, a doctor, and Prakhar, 31, were married in February 2024. In his FIR, the MLA has said that Trivedi, who is settled in Sitapur like him, had introduced himself as a real-estate businessman with operations in Mumbai. Trivedi said Prakhar managed a school as well as oversaw agricultural and horticultural activities in their village.

The MLA told *The Indian Express* he had made enquiries about the Trivedis before the wedding through several local people, including public representatives, and that all described the family as well-off, respectable and well-connected.

BJP MLA Gyan Tiwari says he believed the Trivedis were a respectable, business family

Tiwari said he never suspected anything till the Maharashtra Police arrived in Sitapur making inquiries. The authorities said they were investigating claims by two women each that the father and son had married them under false pretences and duped them of money, though no FIR has been registered in the matter yet. Police also said there may be other "victims". Tiwari believes so too. "There could well be more victims out there."

Additional District Magistrate, Sitapur, Ayush Chaudhary, said a probe is on. Hanumanth Lal Tiwari, Station House Officer of Rausa Police Station, where the MLA has lodged an FIR, said: "A team will be sent to Maharashtra to get the statement of Trivedi."

The Sitapur police said preliminary inquiries indicate that Trivedi and Prakhar targeted vulnerable women, such as those divorced or disabled, married them using fake identities and coerced them into parting with money. Once they had extracted some money and valuables, the two would allegedly disappear. The case in which the Maharashtra Police has arrested Trivedi was registered at Naya Nagar Police Station in Thane on March 4, 2022, by a fifth woman who claims to have been cheated by the father and son: Savita Suresh Bhandarkar, 69, who said Trivedi had got in touch with her as 'Ajay Agarwal' when she was seeking a match for her daughter, Shambhavi, who has a mild disability.

The wedding took place on March 1, 2019, she said, with only "Arival", introduced by 'Agarwal' as his step-brother, attending from the groom's side. Bhandarkar said 'Agarwal' would only have brief stays in Mumbai, claiming he needed to oversee construction at two houses he owned in Kolkata. Bhandarkar said in her FIR that later, claiming financial difficulties, he persuaded them to sell their flat and give him the money, in return for a flat in Lucknow.

Bhandarkar said the family handed over roughly Rs 82 lakh in cash to Agarwal, and that he later convinced Shambhavi to also hand over her jewellery to him. After February 26, 2022, he disappeared, the complaint said.

Tiwari, who hosted a grand wedding with around 15,000 guests for his daughter, said he feels "cheated". "At any cost, such a person as Anuj Trivedi should not be let out. If his son is also involved, strict action should be taken against him as well," said the MLA.

Ahmedabad: Muslim, Hindu women donate kidneys to each other's husbands

Express News Service
Ahmedabad, August 12

A HINDU woman and a Muslim woman donated their kidneys to each other's husbands in Ahmedabad after it was found that donation by their relatives was not medically possible, Sterling Hospital in Ahmedabad said.

A 45-year-old Hindu man from Ahmedabad and a 42-year-old Muslim man from Udaipur received the women's kidneys in simultaneous transplants on July 9, according to a hospital statement. These were the first kidney swap transplants performed at the hospital. The doctors carefully reviewed the scans and determined that the donor from the first patient's family met the criteria to donate to the second patient, and vice versa. The donor-recipient pairs were appropriately matched. Both families were counselled, and they agreed to proceed with the swap transplant, according to the hospital statement.

The hospital described the transplants as "a powerful example of compassion, trust, communal harmony, and the shared human desire to save a life".

Dr Sudhir Morad, Clinical Superintendent, Sterling Hospital, said, "This milestone represents much more than the success of a complex transplant procedure. A kidney swap gives patients a second opportunity when a willing donor cannot directly donate because of incompatibility. What makes this achievement particularly meaningful is the spirit of compassion, harmony, and trust demonstrated by the donors and families."

Both men have recovered well following the transplantation, the statement said, adding that all four people involved were discharged on July 18.

The transplants were performed by a multidisciplinary team led by Dr Sonal Dalal, Dr Javed Vakil, Dr Ketan Shukla, Dr Himanshu Patel and Dr Bhavin Mahetaliya, with the support of transplant coordinator Rahil Shah.

TN to Manipur to Malaysia: Vikram's gibbon video leads forest dept down a long trail

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, August 12

IT BEGAN as an affectionate, albeit ill-judged, social-media moment: Actor Vikram playing with a Lar Gibbon, the small ape comfortably clinging to him, fiddling with his hair as the camera rolled. The video appeared on Instagram, travelled rapidly across social media, sparked 'likes' and outrage, and was subsequently deleted.

But the story of the animal did not disappear with the post. The video has now prompted the Tamil Nadu Forest Department to begin tracing the gibbon's journey into a private home in Chennai, where the video seems to have been filmed. The issue has opened up questions about the possession and transfer of exotic wildlife, and a document trail that, officials say, stretches from Chennai to Erode to Manipur and, according to records, to Malaysia.

Forest officials have sought ownership and other statutory documents relating to the animal after the video drew criticism from wildlife activists.

After the controversy, the forest department found that the gibbon had since been moved from businessman C K Ranganathan's residence in Injambakkam to Erode. Ranganathan, founder-chairman of CavinKare, is the father of Manu Ranjith, who is married to Vikram's daughter Akshita. Reports said the video was filmed at Ranganathan's property along Chennai's East Coast Road.

At the centre of the inquiry is not merely who possessed the animal, but how it even arrived there. Native to Southeast Asia, the Lar Gibbon (Hylobates lar) is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List and is listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora. In India, the species also figures under Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act.

Its import and possession, consequently, involve a regulatory chain that can include CITES export and import permissions, Directorate General of Foreign Trade documentation, and permissions and registration requirements involving wildlife authorities. A senior forest department official said they have started examining how the animal reached Tamil Nadu and whether statutory requirements governing its possession and transfer had been complied with.

Screengrab of Vikram with the Lar Gibbon from the video

The paper trail under examination begins in Manipur. Records cited by officials show that Laikhuram Singh, a Manipur-based stockholder, declared eight Lar Gibbons — four males and as many females — in 2020 under the then mechanism for declaration of stock of exotic live species through PARIVESH (Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous, and Environmental Single Window Hub). Malaysia was recorded as their country of origin.

A later Form I filed under the Living Animal Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules, 2024, records the transfer of three gibbons — one male and two females — from Singh to S K Keshavanathan of Perundurai in Erode district. The transaction, dated June 5, 2026, describes the transfer as being for "adoption". The application is yet to receive the approval of Tamil Nadu's Chief Wildlife Warden.

When Forest Department officials inspected the premises in Erode, however, they found only a male and a female gibbon.

K V Appala Naidu, District Forest Officer, Erode, said Keshavanathan had informed officials that he had applied for possession of three animals but that one had subsequently died. "We need to verify if the animal actually died or if there was an undocumented transfer," Naidu said. The trail then moves to Chennai.

Another Form I records the transfer of one male and one female Lar Gibbon from Keshavanathan to Chinni Krishna Ranganathan of Injambakkam on August 5. The document lists the mode of transfer as "purchase" and the purpose as "pet". That application, too, is pending approval by the Chief Wildlife Warden, according to the records. Officials say the existence of declarations and applications does not, by itself, settle whether the original acquisition, possession or subsequent transfers were lawful.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
LEVEL 6TH, C-WING, DELHI SECRETARIAT, NEW Delhi- 110002

PUBLIC NOTICE

Complete Ban on sharp synthetic/nylon kite flying thread including popularly known "Chinese Manja"

This is for the information of the general public that in order to prevent the adverse effects on human beings, cattle population, birds, soil and ecology and in exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) read with Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs' Notification No. SO 667 (E), dated 10th September, 1992, **a Notification was issued on 10.01.2017 by order and in the name of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of the NCT of Delhi with the following directions:-**

1. **There shall be complete ban on the sale, production, storage, supply, import, and use of kite flying thread made out of nylon, plastic or any other synthetic material including popularly known as "Chinese manja" and any other kite-flying thread that is sharp or made sharp such as by being laced with glass, metal or any other sharp materials in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.**
2. **Kite flying shall be permissible only with a cotton thread, free from any sharp/metallic/glass components / adhesives/ thread strengthening materials.**

Any breach of the above directions may be reported to the office of the following:

S.No.	Designation	Email ID	Helpline Number
1.	The Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police	cpdelhi@delhipolice.gov.in	112
2.	The Divisional Commissioner, GNCTD	divcom@nic.in	1077/1070/238 31077
3.	The Chief Wildlife Warden, GNCTD	ccfgnctd@gmail.com	01123378513
4.	The Commissioner, Delhi Municipal Corporation	commissioner@mcd.nic.in	155305

Note: The violation of directions issued under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, or the rules made thereunder shall be punishable under section 15 of the said Act. The matter regarding ban on sharp manja is being monitored by the various Hon'ble Courts.

The above said NOTIFICATION is available at: https://environment.delhi.gov.in

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0179/26-27

भरतपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, भरतपुर

क्रमांक :- लेखा/भ.वि.प्रा./2026-27/11687 - 98 दिनांक :- 04/08/2026

अल्पकालीन ऑनलाईन निविदा सूचना सं. 35/2026-27

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से भरतपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, में उपयुक्त श्रेणी एवं विभिन्न विभागों में E1/EWSD-1 श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रकिया से कुल 01 कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है।

उक्त कार्य का विस्तृत विवरण, निविदा शर्ते, अनुमानित लागत राशि, निविदा बेचने, प्राप्त करने एवं खोलने की दिनांक आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेवसाईट **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://bhda.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** portal पर देखा जा सकता है।

निविदा से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** portal का अवलोकन करें।

UBN विवरणः– 01. WAQ2627WSOB00100

अधिशाषी अभियन्ता (विद्युत)
भरतपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, भरतपुर

राज.संवाद/सी/26/9523

कार्यालय, जिला अभियंता, लातेहार

संशोधित सूचना

इस कार्यालय के द्वारा निविदा संख्या–18 / 2026 – 26 प्रकाशित करायी गई है जिसका PR 386262 (Rural Development)2026-27 (D) है। उक्त निविदा में जिला परिषद लातेहार अन्तर्गत निबंधित समुचित श्रेणी के संवेदक ही भाग ले सकेंगे।

शेष शर्ते यथावत होगी।

जिला अभियंता,
लातेहार।

PR.NO.387378 Rural Development(26-27):D

JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE
DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU

0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F),
email-sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

LOOK OUT NOTICE

SHO P/S Domana, Jammu has intimated that on 07.08.2026 one male dead body in decomposed condition, found/recovered FROM A Jhugi (SLUM) near Brick Klin at Nagbani, Domana in suspicious circumstances. To ascertain the actual cause of death, Inquest proceedings U/S 194 BNSS, was initiated at P/S Domana vide DDR No. 43 dated 07.08.2026 and enquiry thereof started.

For identification of said decomposed dead body wide publicity is required to be published on daily newspapers for identification / Public in general, having any clue related to the dead body. If any missing report is lodged, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers.

Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-

1. DPO, Jammu:-	0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D:-	sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu:-	0191-2542000
4. 4. SP Rural:-	0191-2605949
5. 5. SDPO Domana:-	0191-2604220
6. 6. P/S Domana :-	0191-2604214

For **Sr. Superintendent of Police Jammu**

No. CRB/26/ DIP/J-7976/26 - DATE 12.08.2026 Date:- .08.2026

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement)

BESCOM invites tender vide Enquiry No: BESCOM/2026-27/ EL/WORK_INDENT1165 through e-procurement platform from eligible Bidders for "Reactive Power Compensation at 11kv Feeder Level by installing Capacitor Units in **Davanagere and Harihara Divisions** of BESCOM Jurisdictions on Total Turnkey on Percentage Quoting Basis"

Bid Documents available: 14.08.2026. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 15.09.2026 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 16.09.2026, 17:15 Hrs.

The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Ele.,), Procurement, BESCOM

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 84 BNSS)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Amandeep S/o Bhupinder Singh R/o H. No. 61, 1st Floor, Kh. No. 17/10, Nilothi Extn., Nihal Vihar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 24/2025 U/s 64(2)(m)/115(2)/ 351(3)/127(2)/3(5) BNS, PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Amandeep** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Amandeep** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Amandeep** of case **FIR No. 24/2025 U/s 64(2)(m)/115(2)/351(3)/127(2)/ 3(5) BNS, PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **14.09.2026.**

By Order
Sh. Komal Garg
Ld. Judicial Magistrate First Class-03
West Dist., Room No. 292
Tis Hazari Court, New Delhi

DP/11090/OD/2026
(Court Matter)

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited

Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad- 500003, Telangana, India
CIN: U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

HOD-C&I, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of:

1	**Tender Enquiry No. 186/GATP/IMD/BTG/20017969 dated 12/08/2026** **"Procurement of Auma MOV Spares"** **Area of 2 x 270 MW Thermal Power Plant GATP, Goindwal Sahib"** at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications.

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 12/08/2026 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

No. 14169/PB **GATP-79/26**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
INVITATION OF TENDERS
THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Tender Notice No. 34 /2026-2027 **Dated: 12.08.2026**

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	07260452	PRIMARY SPRING (OUTER) FOR LHB NON AC COACHES	9600 NOS	02.09.26
02	09262045	SIDE FRAME FRICTION LINER.	21985 NOS	07.09.26
03	09262061	HORIZONTAL WEAR LINER	3898 NOS	09.09.26
04	09262507	OUTER SPRING	7407 NOS	21.09.26
05	09262042	KEY BOLT WITH NUT, SPRING WASHER	290528 NOS	05.10.26

NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for details.
2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

2790/26

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

MAHARASHTRA STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Maharashtra undertaking)
MSRDC
Corporate Office : Kohinoor Square Building, 21, 22 & 23 Floor, Central Tower, N. C. Kelkar Marg, R.G. Gadkari Chowk, Shivaji Park, Dadar (West), Mumbai-400028. Maharashtra State, India.
Tel. No. 022-26558175/26400190

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION

Invitation of Quotations for appointment of consultant for identifying suitable locations for advertisement structures such as hoardings, gantries, kiosks along Hinduhruday Samrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg (HSBTSM-NMSCEW)

Quotations are invited by MSRDC from the Interested Consultants for the above work.

SUBMISSION OF QUOTATION

- The MSRDC invites Quotations for 15 days, from 13.08.2026 to 27.08.2026.
- Interested Consultants shall submit Quotations in Sealed Envelope to Head Office: Kohinoor Square Building, 21, 22 & 23 Floor, Central Tower, N. C. Kelkar Marg, R. G. Gadkari Chowk, Shivaji Park, Dadar (W), Mumbai-400 028, Maharashtra State, INDIA. Tel. No. 022-26558175/26400190
- The quotation shall be submitted in two parts:
  - Technical Proposal
  - The Financial Proposal

The Quotation shall include the following documents:

- Company Profile
- Experience Certificates
- GST Registration
- PAN Card
- Relevant Credentials and other documents as specified in the Terms of Reference.

SCHEDULE

Date of Publication: 13/08/2026 (Time: 17:00)
Last Date & Time for Submission: 27/08/2026 (Time: 17:00)

Corporate Office: Kohinoor Square Building, 21, 22 & 23 Floor, Central Tower, N. C.KelkarMarg, R. G. Gadkari Chowk, Shivaji Park, Dadar (W), Mumbai-400 028, Maharashtra State, INDIA

Vice Chairman & Managing Director
MSRDC (Ltd.), Mumbai

Date : 13.08.2026

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RCD, ROAD DIVISION, JAMSHEDPUR, JHARKHAND

e-Procurement Notice
For National Competitive Bidding
e-Tender Reference No. RCD/JAMSHEDPUR/ 1607, Date-11.08.2026 (3rd Call)

1.	Name of the work	Reconstruction of Manushmudia of Bahragora to Darishol Chowk Road for year 2025 26. Total Length 10.274 KM
2.	Estimated Cost of Work (in INR)	**Rs 37,03,07,800.86** (Rupees Thirty Seven Crore Three Lakh Seven Thousand Eighty Hundred & paise Eighty Six Only)
3.	Initial Bid Security (Rs In Lacs)	**Rs 37.04 Lakh (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh Four Thousand Only).**
4.	Initial Bid Security in the shape of	Initial Bid Security - As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
5.	Cost of Bidding documents	**Rs 10,000.00 (Rs Ten Thousand) only.**
6.	Time of Completion	**12 (Twelve Months)**
7.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	**14.08.2026 at 12.30 P.M.**
8.	Start date of bidding	**14.08.2026 from 12.30 P.M.**
9.	Last date & Time for online bidding	**09.09.2026 up to 02.00 PM.**
10.	Type of Bid	**Two envelope mode (Technical and Financial Bid)**
11.	Last date & time for receipt of Bid Security and other documents in Online form	09.09.2026 Through e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
12.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	**10.09.2026 at 3.30 PM by Chairman e-Procurement Cell, Room No. 330 A, 3rd Floor, Road Construction Department, Jharkhand Mantralaya, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004.**
13.	Date & Time of Pre Bid Meeting	**24.08.2026 on 12.30 P.M. At Office of the Chief Engineer (Communication), Road Construction Department, Engineers Hostel No.2, Dhurwa,Ranchi-834004**
14.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur, Road No.- 1, CH Area.
15.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	0657-2227724
16.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Above informations are only indicative. Detail NIT & SBD publised on Tender portal shall be final and mandatory. Details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Superintending Engineer
- cum -Executive Engineer
RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur

PR 387336 (Road)26-27*D

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e-AUCTION NOTICE FOR LEASING OF SLR/LVPH

e-Auction Notice No. LEASE-KGP-26-10 & LEASE-KGP-26-12 **Date : 12.08.2026**

For and on behalf of the President, Union of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur Division, South Eastern Railway invites e-Auction for leasing of SLRs/LVPHs for a period of 03 (three) years for transportation of parcels in the trains which are notified in the **https://www.ireps.gov.in/website**.

Category	Catalogue No.	Date of e-Auction	Auction Start Time	Auction Closing time
Parcel	LEASE-KGP-26-10	21.08.2026	10:30 hrs.	16:00 hrs.
	LEASE-KGP-26-12	27.08.2026	11:30 hrs.	12:20 hrs.

Interested parties and contractors to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for details of the trains and related information about the e-Auction notice. For enquiries/clarifications, if any, please contact the office of the undersigned.

(PR-604) **Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur**

South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

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verka®
Har Din Da, Har Dil Da www.verka.coop

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.
SCO 153-155. SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. Contact NO. 0172-5041866.

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE

Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh **Bopp Tape** i. Jumbo Tape 650 Mtr. ii. Bopp Tape 65 Mtr. iii. Bopp Tape 100 Mtr.	**Half Yearly/** **250 Boxes** **375 Boxes** **1500 Boxes**

NOTE:
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. **www.verka.coop** & e-Tendering portal i.e. **eproc.punjab.gov.in.**
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

General Manager (Purchase)

WEB EXCLUSIVE
'Jharkhand's protesting youth are tired of "timepass" and sitting.'
— *By Kunal Shahdeo*
Log on to www.indianexpress.com

WORDLY WISE
It is far better to grasp the universe as it really is than to persist in delusion.
— *Carl Sagan*

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

Tata chief exit frames a challenge & opportunity

TATA SONS chairman N Chandrasekaran's decision not to seek reappointment when his term ends in February 2027 came only six days before the holding company's annual general meeting, which was expected to consider the matter. His announcement noted "the absence of unanimous support" for his extension, drawing attention to a fractured board. This decision brings an end to the uncertainty over his tenure at the helm of the group, which has been witnessing bitter internal conflicts for some time. Sharp differences of opinion had cropped up between Chandrasekaran and Noel Tata, chairman of Tata Trusts — which collectively holds a 66 per cent stake in Tata Sons — especially on the issue of losses incurred by some of the group companies. Disagreements have also come to light between the Tata trustees — Mehli Mistry has clashed with Noel Tata and other trustees. All of this has played out in a manner that has raised questions of governance and succession at the group. Going ahead, there will be challenges, of course — but there will also be the opening up of new possibilities.

The infighting has come at a critical time for the Tatas, when several issues need to be addressed. For one, the matter of listing Tata Sons. Tata Sons is in the RBI's Upper Layer list of non-banking financial companies, which requires it to be listed on the exchanges. The listing is favoured by the Shapoorji Pallonji Group — it has a stake of 18.4 per cent in the entity — as that would allow it to address its financial challenges. But this is not favoured by others, including Noel Tata. The application by Tata Sons to deregister as a core investment company is still under consideration. Alongside, there is increasing scrutiny over capital allocation across the group and the mounting losses of some of its businesses. Air India's losses have soared to Rs 22,238 crore in 2025-26, up from Rs 10,859 crore the year before. There are also concerns over TCS, with the large-scale global adoption of AI.

Differences are bound to emerge in the running of a large conglomerate. These should be amicably resolved and not allowed to fester, as they seem to have done in this case. Under Chandrasekaran, the group not only acquired Air India, but also ventured into new areas such as semiconductors, electronics and electric vehicles. The next chief has the opportunity to chart a new course and steer the group, whose trajectory has in a sense mirrored India's economic path, in the age of disruption.

The next step to the Moon

AMID THE volatility of India-US relations, the one aspect of the partnership that has continued to make steady progress is space cooperation. The two space agencies, ISRO and NASA, have never worked so closely together. Now, NASA has asked ISRO to join its Moon Base programme, an ambitious project to establish a permanent research station on the Moon, where astronauts can live, work and carry out experiments for extended periods of time. Humans haven't been to the Moon since 1972, and efforts have now begun to stage a return, this time to prepare the ground for longer stays. Unsurprisingly, the effort is being spearheaded by the US, through its Artemis programme, which aims to land humans on the Moon before 2028. The Moon Base programme is the logical follow-up. NASA realises this goal could be achieved much faster, and more efficiently, if other partner countries and private companies join the effort. ISRO, which has its own plans to land human beings on the Moon by 2040, will get valuable hands-on experience in executing complex crewed missions, and access to technologies. India has already signed up to the Artemis Accords, a US-led coalition of space-faring countries. India and the US have also agreed to develop a "strategic framework for human spaceflight cooperation".

The exploration of the Moon is no longer just a scientific enterprise. Over the next few decades, the Moon could become strategically and economically very important, as countries begin to extract lunar resources. But there are potential pitfalls as well. The Artemis Accords are increasingly being seen as a US-led alliance. Two major space powers, China and Russia, are not part of it. The Accords sidestep, and seek to replace, the 1979 Moon Agreement, which seeks to develop a multilateral governance framework for use of lunar resources.

India has been wary of joining such international structures. Having signed on to the Artemis Accords, however, it has made a choice. Accepting the offer to join the Moon Base programme could be the next logical step forward. But it is extremely important that ISRO does not get locked into NASA's technology ecosystem. That would once again make ISRO vulnerable to technology denial. The cooperation on the Moon Base programme should help ISRO to achieve its own goals faster and more efficiently, and not abandon or delay them in the service of someone else's goals.

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

What AI doesn't tell you: Your stories matter

IT WAS, so the literary rumour mill goes, a lunch wager that led Ernest Hemingway to come up with what is said to be the world's shortest short story: "For Sale: Baby shoes, never worn". Hemingway may or may not have written it, but the shortest horror story, most certainly written by American science fiction writer Fredric Brown in 1948, is marginally more expansive: "The last man on Earth sat alone in a room. There was a knock on the door." Would either of these have stood a chance if they had been written in this age of AI? A new multi-university study, published in the journal, *Judgment and Decision Making*, seems to indicate the competition would have been tough.

For the study, readers were given six short stories — three by humans and three generated by ChatGPT — with each AI-generated story similar in theme to the human one. Participants were told whether they were reading a human- or AI-written story, though this information was not always accurate, and asked to rate them on the basis of how engaging the stories were. The AI-generated stories received higher ratings.

The result, though, should not come as a surprise. In May this year, the Commonwealth Short Story Prize faced a controversy when one of its regional winners was accused of using AI to generate his story. *Granta* eventually withheld publication, but questions over authenticity, over what masquerades as human experience, have become more urgent than ever. After all, to write is to leave a trace of oneself in the world, against time, against fear, against vanity, memory, and mortality. It is, like life, at once ordinary and momentous, imperfect and still full of small miracles. Could LLMs ever better that?

What was promised by NREGA's new version, where it falls short

NIKHIL DEY

ARUNA ROY

ALL IT took was one newspaper article with hard facts to puncture the BJP government's mythical narrative on its flagship VB-G RAM G law. The Centre says that the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) is an "enhanced" version of the now-repealed Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). It claims an increase in the days of "guaranteed work", universal rollout across rural India, and the "highest ever" monetary allocation by the Centre, complemented by an additional 40 per cent allocation secured from the states. It would be natural to assume that workers are flocking to work sites to claim their full 125 days of work. The reality is quite the opposite.

An Indian Express report ('In its first month, VB-G RAM G sees almost 50% y-o-y dip in rural jobs', IE, August 10) reveals that in the first month of the VB-G RAM G's implementation, the government's own statistics show a sharp decline in work being provided — almost 50 per cent less than the same period last year. The number of households reporting for work has also reduced by 50 per cent.

At a press conference last month by the NREGA Sangharsh Morcha, department statistics were cited to show that in a comparison of the work provided from January to June 2026 with the same period in 2025, total person-days fell from approximately 335.4 million to 215.2 million, a decline of 35.8 per cent. A similar decline can be seen when compared to the average of the previous three years. This is in a country reeling from pervasive unemployment and distress from drought. The idea of 125 days of guaranteed employment is a "*jumla*", and the human cost of this deprivation, especially in rural households, is hard to imagine. Every day of work matters. Every household demanding work matters. Converting this reality into data and statistical debate running into lakhs and crores allows us to paper over the pain.

The new law was not welcomed by anyone except the ruling party. It was bulldozed through Parliament, with the entire Opposition appealing for consultation and re-examination, if not for its withdrawal. The government asserted that this was, in fact, an improved version of the landmark MGNREGA, and that VB-G RAM G would provide 125 days of guaranteed employment at enhanced wages with better digital and tech-based monitoring and delivery.

There are at least five myths being propagated that have undermined the guarantee that served as an imperfect but critically important lifeline for India's rural workforce. These myths help the BJP claim that it is strengthening the work entitlement, even as it deliberately and cynically weakens it.

First, the government has advertised the enhanced number of days it is providing under VB-G RAM G. However, in most parts of the country, people are being turned away from work, and there is little evidence of guaranteed employment being provided. The Centre has cleverly passed a law making it obligatory for the state government to "guarantee" 125 days of work without making provisions for the resources needed to service this guarantee.

> The Centre has cleverly passed a law making it obligatory for the state government to 'guarantee' 125 days of work without making provisions for the resources needed to service this guarantee

Second, the Centre has asserted that it has made the largest allocation of Rs 95,000 crore this year. Along with the mandatory allocation of 40 per cent by the states, the available resources would be a total of Rs 1,55,000 crore. But this is in the realm of fantasy. If work is not provided in the first place and the state is not incentivised to run the programme, then whatever the notional allocation, it will only be on paper. The objective of this notional allocation with complex and untenable cost-sharing arrangements is that the Centre will have succeeded in creating an impression that it is either the state or the people who don't want the programme.

Third, the Centre has recently notified a floor-level wage of Rs 300 per day. This remains below the minimum wage in most states and is far below the BJP-appointed Satpathy Committee's recommendation of Rs 375 per day at June 2018 prices. But even this is notional. Wages are paid as per measurement, and in any case, if you don't give work, you don't have to pay wages at all.

Fourth, the tech-driven VB-G RAM G implementation system has caused immense exclusion and pain for workers across India. E-KYC requirements have led to crores of job cards being deleted, which might explain in part why the number of households coming to work has dropped so dramatically. The NMMS facial recognition app, where workers' photos have to be matched twice a day, causes subsequent exclusion even for those who do manage to find a way to get work.

Finally, by mandating a 40 per cent contribution by states to VB-G RAM G, the government claims to have ushered in a new era of cooperative federalism. In fact, without consulting the states, the funding mechanism imposed under the VB-G RAM G is a violation of Article 258 of the Indian Constitution, a safeguard that requires the Centre to pay for any financial burden that may have to be borne by states for the implementation of a central law. While Opposition-led states did object in the beginning, they have all seemingly fallen in line.

The Opposition seems to have also absolved itself of its moral obligation to stand with the working poor and has done woefully little. The states have not legally challenged the VB-G RAM G. Nor have they tried to enact an alternative guarantee for work in their states. All this while India's most vulnerable workers, most of whom are women, are paying the price and losing even this imperfect but critically important lifeline of the right to work. The ruling party would do well to remember that behind the protest of India's young is their desperate need for employment. VB-G RAM G has undermined the only framework of guaranteed employment that India had. Who benefits from this is a question that India's political and economic ruling elite needs to answer.

Dey and Roy are social activists and founding members of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan

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With new agreement, Islamabad is upping the ante

AJAI SHUKLA

ISRAEL HAS demonstrated through its bombing campaign of Iran-linked targets that it would accept no restraints in protecting what it regards as its legitimate security interests. Meanwhile, the US has made clear the limits on its security guarantees to its West Asian allies. In this new security landscape, three key players — Riyadh, Ankara and Islamabad — have come together to sign a mutual defence pact. The "Mecca Joint Defence Agreement" marks a shift away from the US security umbrella and towards greater self-reliance. This landmark pact borrows elements of Article 5 of the NATO charter, including its collective security clause.

Both treaties mandate that an armed attack against any one of their member countries will be regarded as an attack against them all. However, there has been no clarification from Brussels or Ankara on how they will reconcile their collective security responsibilities under the Atlantic Charter with simultaneous responsibilities that may arise from the Mecca Agreement. For example, if Israel strikes a Saudi nuclear fuel enrichment facility, Turkey will be required by the Mecca Agreement to respond. If that leads to hostilities between Turkey and Israel, will the 32 NATO countries be treaty-bound to militarily support Turkey against Israel? Such a matrix of interlocking military alliances triggered World War I; it would be odd if this blunder were to be repeated.

The Mecca Agreement brings together the strengths of three Asian power centres. First, a South Asian declared nuclear power, Pakistan, contributes a powerful conventional military and a functional nuclear arsenal, though it is unclear whether Islamabad has offered a nuclear umbrella. Of the two West Asian powers, Saudi Arabia provides political and financial clout as leader of the Sunni world and controller of one of the world's largest oil reserves. Finally, Turkey, the successor of the Ottoman Empire, brings in a powerful military and a highly capable defence industry. The unstated targets of the allies are the other two West Asian power centres: Iran, leader of the Shia world and a major influence in Houthi-controlled Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon through its proxies, including Hezbollah and Hamas; and Israel, a military and intelligence powerhouse and an undeclared nuclear power.

> Pakistan has a long Cold War record of hitching its wagon to pacts, alliances and treaties to oblige Western governments to derive a geopolitical advantage against India

Much of this is old wine in a new bottle. Pakistan has provided military training and technical assistance to the Saudi Arabian defence forces for decades. In September 2025, Riyadh and Islamabad signed a bilateral "Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement", which has evolved with the participation of Ankara in the trilateral Mecca Agreement. Last May, Pakistan deployed some 8,000 troops, a squadron of JF-17 fighter aircraft, drones and HQ-9 air defence systems to Saudi Arabia. Riyadh, in turn, has repeatedly provided financial bailouts to Islamabad. Turkey and Pakistan have exchanged warships and training aircraft.

India's foreign ministry says it is tracking the situation carefully. It must do so, given Pakistan's long Cold War record of hitching its wagon to pacts, alliances and treaties to oblige Western governments to derive a geopolitical advantage against India. In 1954, Pakistan obliged the US by joining the Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO), ostensibly to act as a regional bulwark against the spread of communism. In fact, it did so to obtain advanced weaponry and economic aid from America for the struggle against India for J&K. Today, Saudi Arabia and Turkey are piggybacking on Pakistan in seeking a bigger strategic role in Asia, especially to challenge India's ambition to lead the Global South.

Similar motivations are probably driving Pakistan's current play in West and South Asia, that is, its initiative to mediate between Washington and Tehran and its high-profile role in the Mecca Agreement. There is little need for Islamabad to up the ante in this manner. Since 2019-2020, when the Chinese military intruded into Indian territory in eastern Ladakh, New Delhi has taken steps to de-escalate military tensions with Rawalpindi. The Indian Army has converted a 60,000-man strike corps that was configured for the terrain on the India-Pakistan border into a mountain strike corps configured for the China border. Two more mountain divisions raised in the last two decades were assigned entirely to the China border. Whereas 70 per cent of the Indian Army was once earmarked for the Pakistan border, only about 55 per cent is today. Pakistan's West Asia initiative, therefore, provides an opening for India to use the changing military balance on the border as a springboard for further de-escalation.

The writer is a retired Army officer and journalist

The song we haven't learned to hear

GEORGE JOHN

IN GOOD faith

BEFORE A superb fairywren chick has seen the sky, and even before it has broken through its shell, it has already begun learning something essential to its survival: A password. During incubation, the mother repeatedly sings to her eggs. Embedded in her call is a distinctive signature sound. The developing embryos learn it, and after hatching incorporate elements of it into their begging calls. It is an extraordinary system of recognition. Belonging has a sound. Human beings have passwords too.

We prefer to believe that our schools, universities and workplaces judge people according to intelligence, character and ability. Yet almost every institution develops an invisible code of belonging. It may be an accent. A vocabulary. A manner of speaking.

Consider two equally intelligent children entering the same prestigious school. One comes from a family familiar with such institutions. At home, adults discuss books and current affairs. Questions are encouraged. Confidence in speaking to authority has been cultivated almost unconsciously. The other child may be the first in the family to enter such a world. The intelligence may be identical. The cultural preparation is not. Perhaps one simply learned the song before hatching. Those who understand these unwritten rules move through organisations with an ease easily mistaken for superior ability. Those who do not may begin to doubt themselves. This is where belonging becomes a mental-health issue. We often locate this discomfort entirely within the individual. But perhaps we should also examine the institution.

India should understand this particularly well. We are a country in which language, schooling, caste, class, geography and family background can determine which social codes a child learns long before talent has had any opportunity to reveal itself. English fluency, for example, can open doors. But fluency can also become confused with intelligence itself.

Genuine meritocracy requires us to distinguish qualities essential to excellence from social codes that merely resemble excellence because those already in positions of power recognise them. A university should demand intellectual rigour. It need not demand that intelligence always speak in the same accent. A workplace should demand competence. It need not assume that the most confident voice in the room is the wisest. This is also why diversity cannot be reduced to counting how many different kinds of people enter a room. The more difficult question is what happens after they arrive.

Can they speak without translating themselves into somebody else's idea of acceptability? Can they question established assumptions without being treated as troublesome? There is, of course, a fundamental difference between ourselves and the fairywren. For the bird, recognising the wrong call may be a matter of survival. Nature is not required to be inclusive.

There will always be codes of belonging. The moral question is what we do when somebody does not know them. Do we immediately hear the unfamiliar note as evidence that the person does not belong? Or can we recognise that talent, intelligence and human possibility sometimes arrive speaking in a voice we have not yet learned to hear? The fairywren survives by listening for the familiar song. A humane society must learn something more difficult: How to listen beyond it.

> There will always be codes of belonging. The moral question is what we do when somebody does not know them. Do we immediately hear the unfamiliar note as evidence that the person does not belong?

The writer is a retired psychiatrist

40 YEARS AGO
August 13, 1986

INDIAN EXPRESS
Art 249 to be applied only to western border: Buta
Special alert by police for I-Day
AI to buy Boeing 747-SP for VVIPs
Bill to hike judges'

Special alert by police for I-Day

IN THE wake of the recent assassination of Gen Vaidya in Pune, a special alert has been sounded by the Delhi Police for the forthcoming Independence Day celebrations. Police sources said pre-Independence Day briefings by the Police Commissioner to his senior officers this year were on a much sterner note. They had been ordered to supervise their men closely as they would be held responsible for any security lapse.

AI to buy Boeing 747-SP

AIR INDIA has decided to go in for a Boeing 747-SP special purpose jetliner for long-range VVIP flights in place of the present 707s. The government has floated a global tender for the purchase of a second-hand Boeing 747-SP, which will basically be a replacement for AI's "Kanishka".

Bill to hike judges' salaries

THE LOK SABHA passed the Constitution (54th) Amendment Bill and the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill which seek to substantially raise the salaries, allowances and perks of High Court and Supreme Court judges. Both bills received wholehearted support from members of all parties.

Row over Article 249

OPPOSITION PARTIES, except for the AIADMK and the BJP, strongly opposed in the Rajya Sabha the Government's first ever resolution under Article 249 of the Constitution, seeking powers to legislate on matters in the state list. The opposition parties ruling in various states — the CPI(M), the Janata, the Telugu Desam and the Akali Dal — denounced the resolution as an attempt to erode the powers of state governments and damage the federal structure.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

Netanyahu has no interest in agreeing to a deal. For relief to come to Gaza, real US pressure must be exerted.

— *The Guardian*

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On Mecca accord, let's keep our eyes peeled, ears cocked, and powder dry

THAROORTHINK

BY SHASHI THAROOR

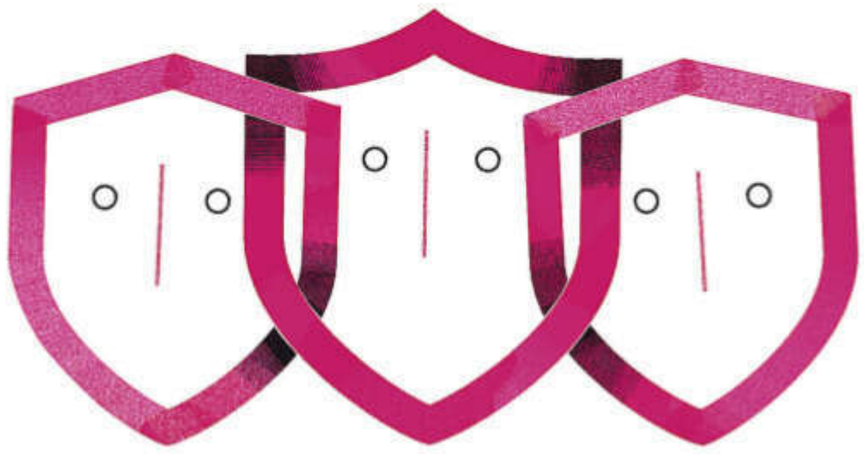

ILLUSTRATION: C R SASIKUMAR

THE SIGNING of the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement by Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan represents a significant realignment in West Asian security architecture that has raised eyebrows in India. By formally introducing a mutual defence provision, the pact establishes a tripartite axis combining Saudi capital and Islamic heft, Turkish military technology and NATO experience, and Pakistan's military manpower and nuclear status. Should India worry that this gives Islamabad a free pass to unleash terrorist attacks on us, believing that any retaliation from New Delhi will trigger the alliance's wrath? While headlines inevitably invoke the collective defence framework, calling the agreement an "Islamic NATO" at this stage is premature. NATO's efficacy relies on a unified command structure, pre-assigned forces, and deep technological interoperability, whereas the Mecca pact currently lacks an integrated military headquarters, joint command mechanisms, and institutionalised doctrine. Unless these evolve at a future stage, we are not looking at a formal, viable military alliance.

And the signatories hold divergent strategic priorities. Saudi Arabia is primarily focused on hedging against Iranian regional aggression, Houthi missile threats from Yemen, and perceived vulnerabilities in Western security guarantees (which Riyadh feels have proved inadequate during the recent hostilities). Turkey seeks to expand its defence export markets, assert leadership in the Islamic world, and maintain operational autonomy while managing its delicate balances with NATO, Iran, and Russia. Pakistan seeks external economic bailouts, diplomatic leverage against India, and technological upgrades for its military. Rather than a tightly integrated military alliance, the agreement seems to be conceived as operating primarily as a collective deterrence umbrella for West Asia, specifically the fallout of regional conflicts involving Iran.

The fear that Pakistan can now sponsor cross-border terrorism against India under a Saudi-Turkish shield misreads both the text of the agreement and the geopolitical realities of Riyadh and Ankara. Mutual defence treaties under international law apply strictly to unprovoked external aggression. Terrorism originating from Pakistani soil, even if ostensibly conducted by "non-state actors", followed by targeted Indian counter-terrorism strikes, does not constitute unprovoked aggression, and it seems unlikely that either Riyadh or Ankara would view Indian retaliatory action against terror infrastructure as a trigger for military intervention. It is true that Turkey provided Pakistan with diplomatic and rhetorical support in analogous circumstances during Operation Sindoor, but aside from the sale of drones, it stopped short of tangible military assistance.

Riyadh's relationship with New Delhi has evolved into a multi-billion-dollar strategic partnership spanning energy, trade, and intelligence-sharing. Saudi Arabia has consistently refused to allow its bilateral ties with Pakistan to dictate its relations with India, and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has no desire to imperil his nation's long-term economic vision by getting dragged into a South Asian military conflict on behalf of the generals in Rawalpindi. Pakistan's lack of operational involvement when Saudi Arabia faced Iranian and Houthi strikes despite their existing bilateral defence pact, and Saudi Arabia's passivity when Pakistan was embroiled in conflict with Afghanistan, suggest that transactional defence agreements in the region often feature high-level political rhetoric hand-in-hand with operational hedging. It is also instructive that, unlike Turkey, Saudi Arabia was silent during Operation Sindoor, signalling careful neutrality despite decades of military co-operation with Pakistan.

> While headlines inevitably invoke the collective defence framework, calling the agreement an 'Islamic NATO' at this stage is premature

Still, even if the pact does not offer Pakistan a blank cheque for terrorism, India (and Pakistan's other neighbours) cannot write it off as mere grandstanding. The real military substance of this trilateral arrangement lies in potential technology integration. Turkey's advanced defence industry, funded by Saudi capital and co-produced or deployed in Pakistan, enhances Rawalpindi's conventional military capabilities in areas such as UAVs, electronic warfare, and naval platforms. A deepened intelligence-sharing framework enhances Pakistan's operational capacity, while creating a formal political bloc that can coordinate positions in international forums like the UN and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation on issues of vital security interest to us, including Kashmir and maritime security.

So what should New Delhi do? India's studied official silence since the pact was announced is instructive. We should neither panic over the trio's collective defence rhetoric nor brush off a year-long negotiated agreement as inconsequential. We should, to recycle a trifecta of clichés, keep our eyes peeled, our ears cocked, and our powder dry.

A calibrated Indian strategy requires engaging Saudi Arabia candidly but discreetly, via high-level diplomatic channels, to seek clear reassurances that the Mecca pact's defensive clauses apply exclusively to the dynamics of the West Asian theatre and cannot be weaponised by Pakistan to cover sub-conventional warfare. Concurrently, New Delhi must maintain a firm deterrence doctrine, making it clear that Indian responses to state-sponsored terrorism will remain resolute and unaffected by third-party arrangements. India should also double down on its bilateral economic, trade, and strategic partnerships with Saudi Arabia and the broader GCC, highlighting its role as the primary anchor of stability in the Indian Ocean region.

Finally, Indian defence intelligence and procurement planning must closely monitor military-industrial co-development between Turkey and Pakistan, ensuring that indigenous defence research prioritises neutralising advanced drone technologies, electronic warfare systems, and joint naval platforms. This may require us to seek partners who are well ahead of us in these areas. The process should not be delayed and should be fast-tracked despite the labyrinthine bureaucratic procedures through which defence procurement has been laboriously conducted ever since the Bofors scandal.

Ultimately, the Mecca pact should be understood less as a binding warfighting pact and more as a sophisticated instrument of strategic hedging tailored to a volatile region. By fusing Saudi capital, Turkish military technology, and Pakistani operational manpower into a framework of collective deterrence, the three signatories have created a valuable political and economic shield, without assuming the burdens of a true military alliance. For India, a pragmatic strategy that combines firm counter-terrorism deterrence with deep economic engagement in the Gulf, and targeted defence innovation at home, should be response enough.

The writer is a fourth-term MP (Lok Sabha) for Thiruvananthapuram and chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs

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From Mohan Bhagwat, a lesson on dissent and democracy

RAKESH SINHA

RSS CHIEF Mohan Bhagwat's dialogue with students is more than just a political message. It should resonate across the political spectrum. He articulated the most crucial principle of democracy: Protest, dissent and agitations are a legitimate form of dialogue. This message is particularly important in the current moment, when there are extremely polarised opinions — both from intellectuals and the political class — in the country. The RSS has demonstrated its commitment to and conviction in democracy by discarding the extremes.

Every protest is not a referendum against the state. After the formation of a government, organised demands and demonstrations are seen as being "state vs people". This is a reversal of democracy. It was the reason that, in 1974, the Congress government used force to suppress the demands of students, eventually imposing the Emergency. The 2026 protests will be remembered for undoing the notion that people's protest is the devaluation of an elected government. PM Narendra Modi was progressive, spoke to students and listened to them as a means of enriching policy, instead of following the old tradition of ignoring and suppressing agitations. This is a nuanced evolution that shows there is no place for ego when it comes to advancing democracy.

From ancient times, at various stages of India's democratic evolution, non-partisan contributions have played an important role in the consolidation of democracy. The first of these in our recorded history is the "Vajji message" of Lord Buddha. His seven principles of welfare give the highest importance to dialogue and meetings in a cordial atmosphere. He said, "as long as the Vajji meet frequently and have many meetings, they can expect to prosper, not to decline". The context was the Magadha empire's ambition to wage war against the confederation of 34 republics, known as Vajji, which was led by the Licchavis.

Unfortunately, we have a class of intellectuals that not only carries prejudiced views against the BJP-RSS, but also uses the considerable ability and tools at its disposal to hijack movements, whether by farmers or students. Modi has rightly called them "andolanjeevis" whose role is to fracture democracy and prevent dialogue. The violent words and actions of a section of people not only damaged the democratic tradition but also the credibility of the agitations. Democracy does not fail due to confrontation but due to the manipulation of movements by a section of opinion makers who masquerade as the voice of people.

It is in this context that Bhagwat recalled B R Ambedkar's last speech in the Constituent Assembly in November 1949. Ambedkar called for abandoning the methods of protest practised under the colonial regime — like violent agitation, satyagraha and non-cooperation. He called them the "grammar of anarchy". That's why the RSS chief said that continuous dialogue and debate are essential. The RSS itself faced ideological untouchability to the extent that its ideological content has never been discussed by Nehruvians and Marxists. They dubbed it, unfailingly, an illegitimate entity. The Sangh has now emerged as a voice of the people. The ideology of the RSS has also brought to government, among opinion-makers and academics, a new set of people. The products and producers of the old regime are fighting their last battle for hegemony. The challenge for saffron intellectuals is not to be met only by heading institutions and universities. They must contribute to advancing universal virtues beyond their ideological commitment. Bhagwat has shown the path.

In an era of neoliberalism, new problems and grievances emerge. We need to look at democracy as a multigenerational relay race where we have to maintain continuity of change. It demands mutual faith. The responsibility for this lies with the older generations more than the younger. The salient question is about the role of the most important institution of democracy, Parliament. Are our parliamentarians equipped to discuss the transformations brought by the new economic philosophy the world has embraced, and to contribute to the framing of education policy accordingly? Bhagwat's argument is crucial. The commercialisation of education is dividing students into plebeians and patricians. The last person in line should not only have equality of opportunity but also equal means to avail the best education.

The philosophy of equality is being discarded by neoliberals all over the world, and this gives birth to new grievances and aberrations. Here, the RSS's intervention is philosophical, not polemical. The decline of debate and discourse is one of the reasons for the democratic deficit in the country. There was a time when the political class was filled with voracious readers and writers. Not any more. That's why PM Modi recently suggested parliamentarians spend at least two hours a day in the library. The quality of democracy also depends on the character and quality of its lawmakers. The student agitation shows that democratic consciousness is not a prisoner of self-appointed opinion-makers and even lawmakers. The RSS demonstrated the depth of its commitment during the 1970s when it fought for democracy. Bhagwat's recent words mark another phase in RSS history. The message is that democracy is made up of more than legislatures. It is the people's empowerment and their views that are its lifeblood.

The writer is former BJP Rajya Sabha MP

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mutual learning

MANOJ JHA offers an important reminder that Gen Z is not merely raising its voice but actively participating in democracy and demanding accountability from those in power ('What my generation can learn from Gen Z, and how we can help', *IE*, August 12). I agree that its use of humour, social media and peaceful collective action should be recognised as evolving forms of civic engagement rather than dismissed as immature. Older generations should listen to their concerns and support their efforts.

Stuthi Thilak V V, Kannur

OLDER GENERATIONS should neither dismiss young people as impatient nor romanticise every aspect of their outlook ('What my generation can learn from Gen Z, and how we can help', *IE*, August 12). Gen Z has grown up in a rapidly changing environment and is comfortable questioning established practices. The useful response is to create spaces where young people can participate meaningfully in civic and institutional life. Schools, workplaces and political organisations should encourage dialogue, mentorship and responsibility.

Arun Kumar, Tiruchengode

Public good

THE CONTROVERSY surrounding FIFA's leadership raises valid questions about transparency and institutional accountability ('Infantino foul play, FIFA own goal', *IE*, August 12). Football's governing bodies should not be treated as beyond scrutiny simply because they command global influence. Independent audits, clear conflict-of-interest rules and transparent decision-making can strengthen credibility. FIFA should also ensure that commercial partnerships do not compromise sporting fairness or national interests. Member associations must have meaningful oversight over major decisions.

Prajesh Paramasivan, Neelambur

Higher education faces three challenges

SUDHIR K JAIN

WHY DO Indian institutions not feature among the world's top universities in major global rankings? Why have universities in China, Singapore and Hong Kong climbed to the top in these lists even though only a few decades ago they were on par with India?

There is considerable discussion about the poor state of our higher education system, as well as the low employability of many college graduates. The usual explanations cite inadequate funding, excessive regulation, poor infrastructure and flawed policies. These factors do not fully explain the problem. Indians in and outside of India have demonstrated world-class capability in science, technology, medicine, entrepreneurship and research. Our challenge is not a lack of talent, nor simply resources. The real barriers, in my view, lie deeper. They can be understood through three challenges: Intention, concept, and execution.

The first is whether we consistently place merit, integrity, fairness, and the long-term interests of institutions above other considerations. In too many cases, appointments, promotions and admissions are swayed by factors that should have no place in decision-making. We cannot appoint favourites, regardless of merit, to responsible positions and expect good results. Students can sense favouritism and dishonesty, and they learn not only from what we teach but also from how we conduct ourselves.

> A culture driven by fear of failure discourages initiative; a culture that learns from failure fosters innovation and experimentation

We must ensure that we are solving the right problems in the right way. Universities are neither government departments nor corporate offices. They are unique learning communities and therefore require distinct governance models. Misunderstanding the nature of a university can lead to well-intentioned policies that are ultimately counterproductive. For instance, faculty members at many of our public universities are appointed on a one-year probationary basis. One year is inadequate to assess a candidate's suitability.

Universities cannot develop responsible adults if they treat students as children. Institutions cannot be expected to excel if they are denied autonomy while being held accountable for outcomes. Academic excellence is unlikely to flourish under excessive control; it requires trust, responsibility and a shared commitment to institutional goals.

Similarly, it is difficult to justify applying the same faculty recruitment and promotion policies across diverse institutions and disciplines. Policies should recognise differences among large and small institutions, among teaching-focused and research-focused institutions, and among universities in favourable environments and those in difficult geographies. A faculty member in the sciences cannot always be assessed by the same criteria as one in the liberal arts, while the performing arts may require an entirely different framework.

If universities are to nurture excellence, their governance systems must recognise the distinctive nature of academic work, institutional contexts, disciplinary cultures, and local realities. Even with the best intentions, we still face the challenge of ensuring effective execution. Building great academic institutions requires capable leaders, robust processes, continuous learning, and the humility to learn from mistakes. A culture driven by fear of failure discourages initiative; a culture that learns from failure fosters innovation and experimentation. We must also invest in developing academic leaders through systematic coaching and mentoring. Good ideas do not implement themselves. Leaders need the knowledge, skills, confidence, and institutional support to translate sound ideas into effective practices.

Higher education cannot improve through isolated islands of excellence. Weak institutions tend to pull down stronger ones, partly because policies are often designed to address the weakest institutions and then imposed uniformly across the system, and partly because faculty, non-teaching staff, and students move across the system.

We need to take a serious look at how we govern and support our higher education institutions. Funding, infrastructure, and regulation matter, but they will not be sufficient unless we also address the deeper challenges of intention, concept, and execution.

The writer was V-C, Banaras Hindu University and founder-director, IIT Gandhinagar

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For Champabai, who made the invisible visible

APARNA PIRAMAL RAJE

IT WAS when I first entered our home, gingerly carrying a newborn in my arms, that Champa Devi Paswan, our new *jhapa*, smiled. She must have thought to herself: "This *didi* doesn't know very much. I will have to teach her everything." She was right. I didn't know anything about taking care of newborns, and teach me she did. Over the next 18 years, she was my rock, helping me to raise my children, until, after much heartburn, I reluctantly agreed to let her go last year.

A few days ago, I received the news that she had died unexpectedly, collapsing while she was out grocery shopping in their hometown, Howrah, where she lived with her husband, sons, and grandchildren. She was in her mid-sixties.

Champabai was much more than my children's nanny. She was my friend, sister and ally. And I was, in different ways, her daughter, her friend, her didi and her madam. Without her, I could never have raised my boys, Amartya and Agastya, nor become the woman I am today. For Amartya, she was his most beloved grandmother, the one who could comically lumber around the living room, pretending to be a giraffe, and sing beautifully to comfort him when he was unwell.

When the tears subsided, I was left with a question I had never considered before: How do I grieve Champabai? What is the protocol to honour and respect her life? Her love, her labour, her lifetime of caregiving? Domestic helpers like her, who spend their entire lives looking after families — their own, and other families that slowly come to be their own — do not get remembered in prayer meetings or obituaries. Their work is intimate, essential and, too often, invisible. We think of them as family, but do we honour them as family when they pass away?

My family and I took *antim darshan* over a video call; we will hold a puja for her soon and, of course, continue to support her family financially through their bereavement. Her portrait is already there alongside our family photographs. But beyond the rituals, there was a larger role that she played in our lives that needs cherishing.

> I broke down when I heard the news of her death. When the tears subsided, I was left with a question I had never considered before: How do I grieve Champabai?

When Champabai left us last year, I had given her a collection of photographs of her time with us, and letters, in a photo book. After hearing about her passing, I shared a soft copy of it with close friends and family who knew her, and requested them to share their memories of her. Several of them recalled affectionately how she had tended to their children when they visited us. These are messages that we will hold on to in our grief. But more importantly, they led me to a larger question: Who is immortalising the everyday labour of women like Champabai? Who records the feeding, bathing, soothing, cooking, cleaning and comforting through which other lives become possible?

I found unexpected help in the young visual artist Saviya Lopes, who turns local and personal histories into art. One of her most striking works is a painting of three women sitting at a kitchen table, surrounded by domestic objects — breast pumps, milk bottles and fruit waiting to be cut. It reminds me of Champabai, who steered me through breastfeeding, babies and domesticity, and in doing so enabled me to have a life beyond them, as a working mother. Much of the work I have been able to make visible in the world was possible because of the work she did that remained largely invisible. The painting will remind me that the labour was never mine alone. Behind it was a cheerful, loud, loving woman who helped my sons and me become who we are today.

Piramal Raje is a writer and public speaker

A videograb of the assailants trying to overturn the vehicle after vandalising it.

Mob attacks doctor after his vehicle hits stray cow in Badaun, 4 arrested

Manish Sahu
Lucknow, August 12

Police said all four accused are aged between 25 and 30 years and do odd jobs for a living

A GROUP of people dragged a 36-year-old doctor out of his SUV and assaulted him after his vehicle struck a stray cow in Badaun on Tuesday.

The animal later died during treatment.

Purported videos of the incident show the assailants vandalising the doctor's vehicle, a Mahindra Scorpio, and even trying to overturn it in the course of the attack. Four persons have been arrested in the case, said Ankita Sharma, Superintendent of Police, Badaun.

Police said the incident occurred when Dr Rahul Siddharth, originally from Bareilly, was heading to the Badaun market from the Community Health Centre in Usawan where he is posted as medical officer in-charge.

In the Myaun area, his car struck a stray cow that was standing on the road and it collapsed. Witnessing the accident, villagers rushed to the spot. Police said the doctor could not escape from the car as the animal was lying close to the vehicle.

The enraged villagers allegedly beat the doctor even as he folded his hands and pleaded for forgiveness. Others vandalised his Scorpio, smashing its windows with bricks and sticks.

On being alerted, police arrived at the scene and rescued the doctor from the crowd. The injured cow was given treatment and sent to a cowshed (gaushala), where it later died.

Madhav Singh Bisht, Station House Officer of Alapur police station, said all four accused — aged between 25 and 30 years — hail from Bichpuri village and do odd jobs for a living.

Based on the doctor's complaint, Badaun Police on Wednesday lodged an FIR against seven named persons and several unidentified persons at Alapur police station for attempt to murder, rioting, mischief, intentional insult aimed at provoking a breach of peace.

The SHO said the doctor underwent a medical examination and no serious injuries were detected.

Police have seized the doctor's vehicle.

EXPRESS special

Now, from a Rajasthan village, a familiar question: 'If all acquitted, who killed 5 Dalits?'

11 years after the episode, involving tractors used to crush victims, two police personnel are still posted in Dangawas. But, for the Dalit families, justice seems farther than ever

Hamza Khan
Dangawas (Nagaur), Aug 12

ACQUITTING ALL 40 accused in the May 14, 2015, killing of five Dalits in Dangawas village of Rajasthan, a Special SC/ST Court said: "*Ghatna siddha hai, karta asiddha* (The event is proven, the doer is not)."

Author-activist Bhanwar Meghwanshi, who wrote a book on the episode, says that the single statement above encapsulates the tragedy of Dangawas. "The court believes that murders have been proven, the injuries have been proven and that mass violence has also been proven. But not any of the killers. So, who killed the six people that day?"

Govind Ram, 37, whose brother Ganesh, father Pancha Ram and uncle Ratna Ram, apart from extended family members, were among those killed, says: "So many among us gave statements, some of us even thrice. What happened then?"

The violence that lasted about half-an-hour abruptly ended Govind's preparations and plans to move to AIIMS-Patna following the completion of his nursing diploma.

Dalits number about one-sixth of the population in Dangawas as per the 2011 Census, with the Jats making up roughly three-fourth. Lying on the Ajmer-Nagaur road, just outside of Merta City, the village is like any other in the area but for a police tent with two personnel posted round the clock since 2015. At the unofficial centre of the village, a 'Baba Ramdevji' temple doubles up as a meeting point for Dalits.

A few minutes' drive away, farmlands give way to a dense overgrowth. It's here that the only remnants of the 2015 violence remain: a few bricks, which were once part of the room and hut built by the Dalit side, which were brought down by a tractor that day.

In the outrage following the incident, the then Vasundhara Raje-led BJP government had ordered a CBI inquiry.

Govind's uncle Khema Ram, who survived the assault, unlike his brothers and his son Ganesh, has metal rods in his legs and an arm. Recalling the day, he says the "250-300" men came on about 50 motorcycles and three tractors, encircled 16 of them – including six women – and started assaulting them with weapons. "Then, they ran a tractor over us... I saw one of the men being assaulted and stripped... I was left for dead," Khema says, adding that he was bedridden for two-and-a-half years.

Ratna and Pancha's wives, Bidami Devi and Sonki Devi, respectively, were among those attacked. "Our men were killed and now the judgment is also against us. How is this possible?" Bidami says, as Sonki shows lingering injury marks.

Even finding legal help was a problem, says Govind, with most of the lawyers in nearby Merta City tehsil headquarters turning them away.

Govind Ram, centre, sits on the footsteps of the Baba Ramdevji temple, the gathering point for local Dalits at Dangawas. HAMZA KHAN

The case

At the heart of the row is a roughly 23-bigha land plot allotted to Basta Ram, a Dalit, by the Rajasthan government in 1961. As per one version, in 1964, he mortgaged it to Chimnaram Jat for a loan of Rs 1,500. The arrangement was that Chimanram would not receive interest on the amount, and Basta Ram would not demand a share of the crop grown on the land.

In 1999, the land ownership was transferred to Ratna, who was Basta's adopted son. Ratna's decision to build a room on part of the land and to move in, so as to retake possession of the plot, was what triggered the 2015 clash, as per the Jat side.

Chimnaram's family protested, claiming that Basta had sold the land to them as he was unable to pay back the loan. And that, since it was not legally possible to sell land owned by a Dalit to a non-Dalit, the sale was executed in the name of Ghisa Ram, a Dalit.

The Dalit side questioned this sale deed, while the Jat family claimed that the certificate showing Ratna's adoption was fake.

The Dalit side also claimed that in the run-up to May 15, 2015, the Jats tried to browbeat them several times, including with a rape attempt, leading to an FIR.

On May 14, 2015, a panchayat meeting was called to resolve the matter, as per the Jat side, and it descended into chaos and a "free for all", "with no clarity on who assaulted whom".

As per another account, Rampal Goswami and Ramdev Khadav (a Jat) were sent as messengers to the panchayat on May 14, and that the Dalit side opened fire, leaving Rampal dead and Ramdev injured. Govind and others were acquitted in this incident, an order that has been challenged in courts.

Mahipal Chaudhary, who represented the 40 accused from the Jat side in the clash that happened, says they were up against many odds, including the fact that Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sohan Lal Kayal was a Dalit.

However, as pointed out by Meghwanshi in his 2018 book, the scales were heavily tilted in favour of the other side. "The sachiv, sarpanch, patwari, the SHO, the Deputy SP, Additional SP, the BDO, pradhan and zila pramukh were all Jats" at the time, he writes. Additionally, a minister in the Raje Cabinet, Ajay Singh Kilak, and then Nagaur MP C R Chaudhary were Jats with family links to Dangawas.

The arguments

Sitting behind a pile of court files in his chamber at the Merta District and Sessions Court, Chaudhary talks about how the Dangawas case was only the second ever CBI probe in Nagaur.

The lawyer pinpoints the many "issues" with the prosecution version, including "contradictions in witness statements to police, CBI and the court", and that the earliest X-ray of the injured was done five days after the incident.

On the violence, Chaudhary says that some accounts mentioned a crowd of 1,500 attackers, while the FIR mentions 200-300. "But, how can you identify 40 out of 1,500 or even 300?" Chaudhary asks, adding that many of those named were not in Dangawas that day.

He questions the projection of the clash as between two communities, saying it was actually between two families, and denies that tractors were used to crush the victims. Running someone down with a tractor would mean crushed, not broken, bones, Chaudhary argues.

To the Dalit families' argument of who killed their men, Chaudhary says: "The accused spent four to nine years in jail for something which they didn't do. Who will return their years?"

In their argument, the lawyer for the Dalit side said that "considering the rural environment, their educational level, the horror of the incident, the witnesses' old age, and the lapse of time, minor contradictions in their evidence cannot render the entire prosecution story suspect".

Says Meghwanshi: "This verdict reveals another horrifying truth: it's difficult for a poor Dalit family to access the court, to fight a case for years, to secure witnesses, to gather documents, and to monitor the investigation. And when the accused are acquitted, what is left for the family?"

Post-script

While former Congress chief minister Ashok Gehlot has slammed the "serious flaws in the investigation and prosecution", the usually outspoken Congress state president Govind Singh Dotasra, a Jat, is yet to comment on the issue, though he sent an emissary – Congress SC Cell chief Mamta Bhupesh – to Dangawas following the verdict.

Another senior Congress leader, Sachin Pilot, spoke only on August 11, on a day when Leader of Opposition Tika Ram Jully visited the victims' family in Dangawas.

Reserved for SCs, the Merta City Assembly seat is represented by the BJP's Laxman Ram. He told The Indian Express: "We will know the investigation's shortcomings once we have full court (order). If the victims aren't satisfied, then courts are open to them... If needed, I will also meet the CM."

However, the Dalits are losing hope: Even in 2015, despite the national outrage, there was no financial support beyond the provisions of the SC/ST Act, and only one of their 18 demands – a CBI inquiry – was accepted, they say.

"It feels like our family members have been killed once again," says one of the victims.

वैशाली समाहरणालय, हाजीपुर
(जिला योजना कार्यालय)
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

मुख्यमंत्री क्षेत्र विकास योजनान्तर्गत श्री महेन्द्र राम, माननीय स०वि०स०, राजापाकर द्वारा अपने विधानसभा क्षेत्र अन्तर्गत शिवप्रसाद सिंघेश्वर महाविद्यालय, जफराबाद, उफरौल, वैशाली तथा जदुराम चरित्र महाविद्यालय, नयागाँव, वैशाली में छात्र–छात्राओं के आवश्यकताओं को देखते हुए प्रायोगिक उपकरण / उपस्कर के क्रय एवं आपूर्ति की अनुशंसा की गयी है। तदालोक में उक्त महाविद्यालय के लिए प्रायोगिक उपकरण / उपस्कर का क्रय एवं आपूर्ति हेतु इच्छुक निविदादाता / प्रतिष्ठित प्रतिष्ठान / निर्माताओं से मुहरबंद निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। वित्तीय / तकनीकी अलग–अलग मुहरबंद निविदा को एक बड़े लिफाफे में रखकर मुहरबंद कर दिनांक 01.09.2026 को अपराह्न 01:00 बजे तक जिला योजना कार्यालय, वैशाली में रजिस्टर्ड डाक / कोरियर या स्वयं अथवा प्रतिनिधि के माध्यम से दाखिल कर सकते है। उसी दिन जिला क्रय समिति के समक्ष निविदा अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय प्रकोष्ठ में अपराह्न 02:00 बजे खोली जायेगी जिसमें निविदादाता या उनके प्राधिकृत प्रतिनिधि भाग ले सकते है। इच्छुक निविदादाता / प्रतिष्ठित प्रतिष्ठान / निर्माताओं अनुशंसित प्रायोगिक उपकरण / उपस्कर की सूची प्रत्येक कार्यदिवस में कार्यालय कार्य अवधि में जिला योजना कार्यालय, वैशाली से प्राप्त कर सकते है। निविदा वैशाली जिला के बेवसाईट www.vaishali.bih.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

उक्त सूचना www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

PR. No. 009835 (Planning) 2026-27

उप विकास आयुक्त,
वैशाली

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

Govt. of Bihar

Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM)
Youth, Employment and Skill Development Department,
A-Wing, 5th Floor, Niyojan Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-800001
Email: biharskilldevelopmentmission@gmail.com
Website: www.biharskilldevelopmentmission.in

Notice Inviting Request for Proposal

RFP No: BSDM/Stationery (RFP)-210/2026

The Secretary, Youth, Employment and Skill Development Department, Govt. of Bihar- cum- CEO, Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM), invites proposals under the Two Bid System from reputed and experienced agencies for the "Rate Contract of Stationery and Other Items for BSDM"

Kindly note that the selection of agencies under this RFP will not guarantee allocation of work and BSDM will assume no liability or cost towards it. BSDM makes no commitments, expresses or implied that this process will result in a business transaction between anyone.

Document Fee and Tender Processing Fee: All Applicants must pay a non-refundable Document Fee of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) and Tender Processing Fee of Rs.1,180.00 (One Thousand One Hundred Eighty only) through e-payment mode on E-Proc Portal (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in).

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): An EMD of **Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh) to be paid through e-payment mode only** on E-Proc Portal prior to the last date/time for submission of the Bid, failing which the bid shall be rejected. The EMD shall be non-interest bearing and refundable. If the selected bidder fails to submit the requisite performance security or to execute the agreement, this EMD will be forfeited.

The Proposal has to be submitted through online mode on https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in. Interested bidders may download the complete Request for Proposal (RFP) document from website: https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in. The application procedure, eligibility criteria, evaluation methodology, terms and conditions and the scope of work are detailed in the RFP document. The RFP will be available to download from the above websites from **10.08.2026**. The **pre-bid meeting** will be held at **03:00 PM of 19.08.2026 (physically).** The last date for uploading of proposal/bid will be **07.09.2026 up to 15.00 Hrs.** Technical Bid will be opened on or after **09.09.2026 post 16:00 Hrs. The Evaluation of proposals will be made as per criteria laid down in RFP.** Please refer to the RFP document for complete details.

This RFP is issued in accordance with Bihar Financial Rules, State Purchase Preference Policy, IT Act 2000-for e-procurement validity and other guidelines, as applicable and as amended from time to time.

BSDM reserves the right to issue addendum/corrigendum/modification or to amend any or all conditions of this RFP Document or to accept or reject any or all proposal(s) or to cancel the whole of this RFP at any stage without assigning any reason thereof and no bidders shall have any cause of action or claim against the BSDM for the same.

This information is available on **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also**

Mission Director
Bihar Skill Development Mission
Youth, Employment and Skill Development Department,
Govt. of Bihar

PR. No. 009786 (Art & Culture) 2026-27

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

VIBRANT GUJARAT GLOBAL SUMMIT 2027

Bhupendra Patel to be first Gujarat CM in over 25 yrs to visit US, Canada

Parimal A Dabhi
Gandhinagar, August 12

Bhupendra Patel

TO PROMOTE the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2027, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel will lead a high-level delegation to the United States and Canada between August 17 and 24. This will mark the first time since 1995 that a sitting CM will make an official visit to the US, sources in the government said.

Government spokesperson and senior minister Jitu Vaghani made the announcement on Wednesday during the weekly media briefing following the State Cabinet meeting headed by CM Patel.

"Last time, it was the then Gujarat CM, Keshubhai Patel, who had officially visited the US," a senior government functionary said.

In 2005, the then Gujarat CM Narendra Modi was denied a visa by the US authorities. After Modi became Prime Minister, his successor Anandiben Patel, who is now Uttar Pradesh Governor, went on her first foreign visit (as CM) to China in 2015. In 2019, the late Vijay Rupani (who was Gujarat Chief Minister at the time) had gone to Russia during his second stint in office.

Vaghani said CM Patel would visit the two Western countries to invite global businessmen, investors and technology leaders for the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit scheduled next year. He added that the CM's visit would be aimed at attracting maximum investment in Gujarat.

The CM visit comes even as sectors such as diamond manufacturing in Surat have suffered after the sanctions on Russia following the war with Ukraine and the US imposing higher tariffs on countries buying Russian crude, thus impacting Indian businesses.

CM Patel has visited the UAE and Japan in 2021 and 2023 respectively to promote the biennial event.

कार्यालय अधिशाषी अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग नगर खण्ड–द्वितीय, जयपुर

क्रमांक :– 1346 दिनांक :– 07/8/26

अल्पकालीन ई– निविदा सूचना संख्या: 12/2026–27

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों :–

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	संवेदक की श्रेणी	बजट मद	डिफेक्ट लाईब्लिटी अवधि	UBN No.
1.	Internal Renovation work at RUHS Nursing College (Ground Floor & First Floor) Pratap Nagar Under PWD Sub Dn.-I, SMS Hospital Jaipur. (Civil work)	"B" CIVIL	Deposit-III	अनुबन्धानुसार	PWD 2627 WSOB 09292
2.	Internal Renovation work at RUHS Nursing College (Ground Floor & First Floor) Pratap Nagar Under PWD Sub Dn.-I, SMS Hospital Jaipur. (Joinery work)	"F-1" JOINERY	Deposit-III	अनुबन्धानुसार	PWD 2627 WSOB 09293
3.	Construction of 3rd Floor with Prefab Structure at Nursing College, Jaipur (Civil Work)	"C" CIVIL	4210-03-105-07-01-72 4210-03-789-01-01-72 4210-03-796-01-01-72	अनुबन्धानुसार	PWD 2627 WSOB 09306

हेतु निर्धारित परिपत्र में ई–टेन्डरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट www.dipronline.org. www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in एवं http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

हस्ता/–
अधिशाषी अभियन्ता,
सा०नि०वि० नगर खण्ड–2, जयपुर

DIPR/C/14526/2026

How ritual for 'bountiful' rain has given BRS a chance to target Telangana CM

Srinivas Janyala
Hyderabad, August 12

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy performs a ritual — Varuna Yagam — on the banks of the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam. EXPRESS

ON MONDAY, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy performed a ritual — "Varuna Yagam" — on the banks of the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam to seek "bountiful rains" in the state.

The move has given a chance to his political rivals in the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) to attack and ridicule him, as they accused Reddy of using "diversionary tactics" instead of taking tangible steps to benefit the farmers.

The ritual assumes significance particularly because Reddy had earlier targeted BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), during the latter's stint as the CM, for performing similar yagams.

On Tuesday, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said that CM Reddy performing rituals would serve no purpose if public issues were not addressed. He said instead of indulging in mere diversionary tactics, Reddy should switch on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme motors to supply water to farmers. "Switch on the Kaleshwaram Project motors and pump water immediately to the farmers. Performing rituals after that might yield some results," he remarked.

A leaf from KCR's book?

In his stint as Telangana CM, KCR would often turn to spiritual rituals when faced with tough situations.

His latest was the Raja Shyamala Sahita Subramanyeswara Yagam, performed from November 1 to 3, 2023, just a month ahead of the Telangana Assembly elections. The yagam was performed ahead of filing of nomination papers for the elections on November 30 for the "well-being of the state and his party's victory" a third time round. Around this time, KCR was also aiming for a bigger role in national politics.

But a month later, KCR and his party suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of the Congress and Reddy became the CM.

The Yagam was conducted by the seers of the Visakha Sri Sharada Peetham, Swarupanandendra and Swatmanandendra, along with 170 Vedic priests from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, at the former CM's farmhouse in Erravalli village in Siddipet district. After his defeat, KCR did not hold any such ritual again.

Eight years before that, in December 2015, KCR had performed a five-day ritual called the Ayutha Chandi Maha Yagnam, involving 1,500 priests. KCR had hired choppers and chartered planes to personally fly down to invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi, then Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu and spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar besides other religious heads and seers for the event. The scale of the event had attracted criticism from the Opposition, including Reddy who was with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) then. Opposition leaders had accused KCR of resorting to rituals during an agrarian crisis when half the state was facing water shortage.

KCR performed the first such yagam, although on a much smaller scale, in May 2011, seeking the early formation of Telangana.

'Ritual for CM's own survival'

Meanwhile, following Reddy's yagam on Monday, BRS leader and former MLA Bollam Mallaiah Yadav accused the Congress leaders of performing the rituals "solely to safeguard their own positions". He said, "They should have apologised to the farmers before performing the ritual for letting them down by not arranging water for irrigation."

BRS leaders said that the Congress government ignored early scientific warnings about El Niño and is, instead, now relying on rituals. Said Yadav: "The rains stopped and the heat intensified immediately after the Varuna Yagam. The CM did not pray for rain; he prayed for the survival of his own position."

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Forest guard electrocuted while removing 11 KV live-wire traps set up by poachers in Telangana

Nikhila Henry
Hyderabad, August 12

A FOREST guard was electrocuted after coming in contact with a live-wire trap set up by poachers to kill wild animals in the forest area of Bhadradri Kothagudem district, Telangana.

The incident took place between 9 pm and 10 pm on Tuesday, district forest officer Sidharth Vikram Singh told *The Indian Express*.

On Tuesday, forest beat officer B Naveen, 37, who has been with the department since 2019, had managed to remove at least six such traps. He first got a call on Tuesday afternoon with a tip-off on poachers laying electric wire traps in Paloncha division.

"He went to the spot and removed at least six such traps and came back. He was again tipped off about poachers later in the evening," Singh said.

During the second tip-off, he was told that he could catch the poachers red-handed "if he visits immediately". "With the help of six other personnel, Naveen set out into the forest and did not come back alive," Singh said. Naveen was searching for the traps when his leg got entangled on an 11 KV live wire. "He immediately collapsed and died on the spot," Singh said.

TCS' FALL WEIGHS ON BENCHMARK INDICES

Tata group shares fall up to 4%, Sensex ends 188 pts lower

Akash Mandal
Mumbai, August 12

THE STOCKS of Tata group companies ended the Wednesday session as much as 4% down, wiping out over Rs 40,000 crore of investors' wealth within hours after Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran announced his decision to not seek another term.

Shares of all Tata group companies opened in the red after the news broke, and were down as much as 6% intraday.

Group companies like Tata Steel, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Tata Technologies, and Tata Elxsi eventually ended 1-3% lower.

Those of TCS, where Chandrasekaran serves as Chairman, ended over 4% lower, while the stocks of other IT companies like Wipro and Infosys were down by 1-1.5%.

TCS' fall dragged the Indian benchmark stock indices by as much as 0.8% during the session on Wednesday. The National Stock Exchange's Nifty 50 index eventually ended 0.2% lower at 24,435.95.

The BSE Sensex ended 0.2% lower at 77,966.35

Technical analysts do not expect Wednesday's knee-jerk reaction to be a norm, other than TCS. Analysts expect other stocks to see limited downside going forward due to well-organised and professional management teams at every group company, but TCS has charted a different path in recent times.

• STOCK REPORT

Performance of major Tata group stocks since Chandrasekaran took over on February 12, 2017

Company	Change in stock price
Trent	1,694%
NELCO	1,117%
Tata Inv.Corpn.	1,045%
Titan Company	1,015%
Tata Consumer	658%
Indian Hotels Co	542%
Tata Elxsi	396%
Tata Power Co.	351%
Tata Steel	298%
Voltas	256%
TCS	91%

SOURCE: NSE

While other major Tata group companies have delivered flat to low single digit returns so far in 2026, TCS has slumped nearly 28% in that period.

"Evaluating the stock's technical landscape, the daily chart shows TCS trading within a prolonged secondary downtrend following a primary distribution phase from its peaks above Rs 4,400 (reached in 2024)," noted Mayank Jain, market analyst at Share.Market by PhonePe.

Eyes on succession planning

Tata Sons controls the operations of around 30 companies part of the Tata conglomerate.

Chandrasekaran's resignation from the helm of Tata Sons may lead to a leadership vacuum in the Tata group and is perceived as a negative for the conglomerate, sending share prices tumbling. However, Chandrasekaran is expected to remain in office until his term ends in February next year, giving the board enough time to find a suitable replacement.

"It's too early to comment on what would happen. It depends on the succession planning. For now the market has just sentimentally reacted to the news," an analyst at a domestic broking firm said on the news.

The trajectory of the Tata group companies would thus depend on how smoothly the succession plan is implemented by the conglomerate. It would be interesting to see if the board goes for continuity, appointing someone from inside the Tata group like Chandrasekaran's appointment in 2017, or whether it would snap an executive from outside.

Chandrasekaran's exit also has wider implications as he serves in multiple important positions across the group, including Chairman of TCS, Tata Motors, and Tata Consumer Products. "Many large companies within the group also have emerged as institutions and also many of them have good firm level leadership up to CEO level. So the system would likely continue to run without much disruptions," according to G Chokkalingam, founder of Equinomics Research.

July household inflation edges up to 4.45%

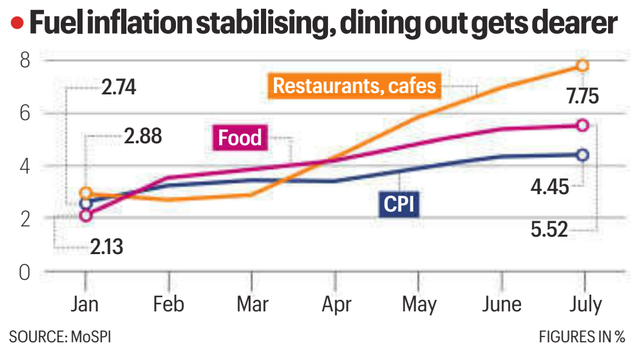
Siddharth Upasani
New Delhi, August 12

PRICES FOR Indian households rose 4.45% year-on-year in July, little changed from the 4.38% increase seen in June, although inflation for war-impacted categories remained elevated. According to data released Wednesday by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, food inflation rose in the country to 5.52% last month from 5.32% in June, while restaurants and cafes continued to charge diners higher prices.

Key food items also posted a sharp increase in prices. Onion inflation, for instance, jumped to 22.54% in July from 4.73% in June despite an unfavourable base effect as prices rose 26% on a month-on-month basis.

There was a similar movement elsewhere. While potato prices were down 17% on a year-on-year basis, they were up 8% in July compared to June. Tomato, on the other hand, was down 5% on-year and 4% on-month. Overall food inflation rose to 5.52% from 5.32% in June. It was as low as 2.13% in January.

• Fuel inflation stabilising, dining out gets dearer



SOURCE: MoSPI FIGURES IN %

"The increase in food inflation was driven by the cereals, meat & fish, dairy & eggs, and sugar and ready-made food categories," said Barclays economists Aastha Gudwani and Amruta Ghare. "We note accelerating momentum in cereals and ready-made food CPI in the past three months, while the sequential increase in meat and fruits CPI in July was more than expected."

According to Madan Sabnavis, Bank of Baroda's Chief Economist, food and overall retail inflation will continue to increase given the sub-par rains and area under cultivation.

"While monsoon has recovered substantially in July, there has been news of crop damage due to excess rains. This combined with a longer cropping period and hence, harvest will push up prices of pulses in particular," Sabnavis added.

According to economists, inflation in August will probably increase slightly to 4.5-4.7%. After August, as the base effect turns unfavourable, inflation is seen crossing 5%.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which last week left its policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25%, expects headline retail inflation to average 4.7% in July-September, 5.9% in October-December, 5.5% in January-March 2027, and 5.3% in April-June 2027.

"Persistent upside risks are posed by geopolitical tensions and El Nino weather pattern, though some improvement in the latter could be visible in the August print.

Crude price volatility is expected to continue with oil likely to hover around $80-85/bbl in the coming weeks," said Megha Arora, Director at India Ratings & Research.

While not a part of the 'food and beverages' category of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), prices charged by restaurants and cafes rose by almost 8% in July compared to the same month last year after increasing by around 7% in June. Eateries have been passing on higher commercial LPG prices to their customers. On the fuel front, inflation has begun to stabilise, albeit at elevated levels, for petrol and diesel.

Core inflation, or inflation excluding food and fuel items, remained unchanged at 3.9%, as per calculations by *The Indian Express*.

The RBI has forecast it will average 4.3% in 2026-27. So far, it has averaged 3.8% this financial year.

According to Arora of India Ratings, the stable core inflation print is indicative of absence of demand push to inflation and may come in lower than the RBI's forecast.

"In our view, while immediate policy tightening is unlikely, elevated inflation projections for Q3 FY27 through Q1 FY28, suggest that the next move on rates is going to be a hike. Evidence of a generalisation in inflationary pressures in the next few months could result in a rate hike in the December 2026 meeting," said Aditi Nayar, ICRA's Chief Economist.

FROM COFFEE TO CARS: INSIDE THE TATA EMPIRE AS ITS CHAIRMAN STEPS DOWN AFTER NEARLY A DECADE

AVIATION:

- The group's aviation business is anchored by Air India and Air India Express, which together operate a fleet of nearly 300 aircraft. In November 2024, Air India merged with Vistara under an agreement between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, creating a larger full-service carrier with an expanded network and fleet.
- The airline has posted losses in every year since the Tata Group took over in 2022 and is currently midway through a multi-year turnaround programme as it navigates supply chain constraints, mounting losses and the modernisation of legacy IT systems.

AUTOMOTIVE:

- Tata Motors has transformed from a domestic truckmaker into a global automotive group spanning commercial vehicles, passenger cars and EVs, propelled by its 2008 acquisition of British luxury automaker Jaguar Land Rover for $2.3 billion.
- Tata Motors completed its demerger in October 2025, splitting into two separately listed companies, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd, with a market value of about $13.43 billion, and Tata Motors Ltd, which manufactures commercial vehicles and is valued at roughly $17.39 billion. The passenger vehicle business sold 641,587 units, including electric vehicles, in the fiscal year 2026.
- Jaguar Land Rover swung to an annual loss after a cyberattack disrupted production, while the luxury carmaker also grapples with weaker demand in China and higher US tariffs.
- In 2025, Tata Motors agreed to acquire Europe's Iveco Group in an all-cash deal valued at $4.36 billion, combining the two companies' commercial vehicle operations to create a global company, helping it expand its geographic footprint beyond India into Europe and the Americas.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

- Founded in 1968, Tata Consultancy Services serves clients across banking, manufacturing, consumer goods and media worldwide. It has historically been Tata Sons' biggest source of recurring cash, by being the biggest contributor to its dividend income.
- The company's shares have lost more than a quarter of their value this year, leaving it with a market capitalization of about $92.85 billion, as customers rein in discretionary technology spending amid economic and geopolitical uncertainty.

STEEL:

- Founded in 1907, Tata Steel is one of the world's oldest steelmakers with operations spanning mining to finished products across India and Europe and a market capitalization of about $24.66 billion. The company cemented its global presence with the $12 billion acquisition of Corus in 2007.
- The company posted net profit of 159.69 billion Indian rupees ($1.67 billion) for the full year ended March 31, 2026, compared with 84.23 billion rupees last year.

ENERGY:

- Tata Power, one of India's largest integrated power utilities with a market capitalization of about $12.74 billion, operates across power generation, transmission and distribution, renewable energy, solar manufacturing and EV charging, with more than 16 gigawatts of installed capacity serving over 13 million customers.
- It reported a profit after tax of 51.18 billion rupees for fiscal 2026, up from 47.75 billion rupees a year earlier.

RETAIL AND CONSUMER:

- The Tata Group has a strong presence across India's consumer market through companies including watch and jewellery retailer Titan, fashion retail company Trent, packaged foods and beverages business Tata Consumer Products and air-conditioning and consumer durables maker Voltas.
- Its brands include Tanishq jewellery, Westside and Zudio fashion stores, Croma electronics outlets and BigBasket's online grocery business.
- The group also owns British tea brand Tetley, and is Starbucks' joint-venture partner in India, running a network of more than 500 outlets across 80 cities in the country as of 2026.

SEMICONDUCTORS:

- Tata Electronics, which is not publicly listed, is making a big bet on India's chip ambitions, building a semiconductor fab in Gujarat and a chip assembly and testing facility in Assam, backed by Taiwan's PSMC and Dutch equipment supplier ASML. The facilities are expected to serve customers in automotive, AI and consumer electronics.

FINANCIAL SERVICES:

- Tata Capital offers lending, wealth management and investment banking services through a nationwide network, while Tata AIA and Tata AIG give the group a strong presence in life and general insurance.

TELECOM AND DIGITAL:

- Tata Communications connects businesses across more than 190 countries and has expanded into cloud, cybersecurity and AI infrastructure, while Tata Play is one of India's leading pay-TV and streaming platforms.

($1 = 95.3775 Indian rupees)

SOURCE: REUTERS

RBI proposes new loan interest-rate framework

ENS Economic Bureau
Mumbai, August 12

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has proposed a comprehensive new framework governing interest rates on loans and advances, with tighter rules on floating-rate loans, greater transparency in pricing and safeguards for borrowers.

The draft Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rates on Loans and Advances) Directions, 2026, if finalised, will come into effect from April 1, 2027.

The framework will cover commercial banks, regional rural banks, urban and rural cooperative banks, all-India financial institutions and non-banking financial companies, including housing finance companies, for their domestic operations, the RBI said.

Lenders can offer loans at fixed or floating rates. Interest on advances will generally be charged at monthly rests and calculated on a daily reducing balance using the actual/actual day-count convention.

Agricultural loans will have separate provisions linked to crop seasons, it said.

A key change concerns floating-rate loans. Banks will have to link all floating-rate personal loans and floating-rate loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to an external benchmark. These can include the RBI policy repo rate, Government Treasury Bill yields or other benchmarks published by Financial Benchmarks India Pvt Ltd, the RBI said. The lender should not price a loan below the applicable benchmark for that loan, it said. The benchmark, reset frequency and reset date will have to be clearly specified in agreements. For most lenders, the benchmark reset period cannot exceed three months and, once chosen, cannot be changed during the loan's tenor.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

• BRIEFLY

Tata Motors Q1 net profit up 83% to Rs 2,556 cr

New Delhi: Commercial vehicle maker Tata Motors Ltd on Wednesday reported an 83% rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,556 crore in the first quarter, led by a mark to market gain on investments in Tata Capital Ltd. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,397 crore in the corresponding quarter previous year, Tata Motors Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations in the first quarter stood at Rs 20,667 crore as against Rs 17,324 crore in the year-ago period, it added. Vehicle wholesales in the quarter stood at 1,08,700 units, a growth of 26% over year-ago period, it said. PTI

Bank of America to acquire 49.9% stake in Jio Financial arm

Mumbai: Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL) of the Reliance Industries group and Bank of America Corporation (BofA) have signed a definitive agreement whereby BofA will acquire up to a total of 49.9% interest as a joint venture partner in JFSL's wholly-owned NBFC lending subsidiary, Jio Credit Limited (JCL) for Rs 18,268 crore. The investment will be made through a preferential allotment of equity shares and warrants. The transaction initially gives Bank of America a 26.5% equity interest in JCL, which can go up to 49.9% upon exercise of the warrants. ENS

• MARKETS

Sensex	NIFTY	Gold ▲	US Dollar ▼
77,966.35	24,435.95	₹1,53,419	₹95.34
-187.90	-35.75	Silver ▲	Oil ▲
-0.24%	-0.15%	₹2,37,214	$92.24

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 11, 2026

No manipulation seen in closing auction sessions: SEBI Chairman

Press Trust of India
Mumbai, August 12

SEBI CHAIRMAN Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Wednesday said that the capital markets regulator has not observed any manipulations in the newly introduced closing auction sessions mechanism.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event here, Pandey urged the broader ecosystem to understand the new system and adopt it.

He said a lot of markets, including those in Australia, Europe, the US and Japan, have adopted a similar system for over two years and India is behind its counterparts. He said such a system, which was started on August 3, is useful for passive investors, generation of the correct net asset values for mutual funds and index investors. The earlier system had the risk of manipulation with late trades, he added.

When asked if the regulator has seen any manipulation in the new system, he said no manipulation has been observed. "Basically, the CAS is a transparent market, the pricing there is always visible and participation should grow in it," Pandey said, adding that SEBI is engaged with all the stakeholders to understand their feedback.

कार्यालय जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर

क्रमांक :- राजकाज 23926975 दिनांक :- 10/08/2026

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या- MP/MLA-LAD/08/2026-27

जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर की ओर से प्राधिकरण एवं राजकीय विभाग में उपयुक्त श्रेणी मे पंजीकृत संवेदक जिनका पंजीयन नियमानुसार पुनरावलोकन (Review) किया हुआ हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र मे ई–प्रोक्युरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। जो निम्नलिखित दिनांक अनुसार डाउनलोड तथा खोली जायेगी। इन कार्य की अनुमानित लागत, निविदा बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की दिनांक, निविदा शर्ते आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट www.jodhpurjda.org, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

UBN No. :- JOD2627WSOB00241

राज.संवाद/सी/26/9483 अधिशाषी अभियंता (Zone Project - II)

कार्यालय जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर

क्रमांक :- JDA/2026-27/EEHQ/1066 दिनांक :- 06/08/2026

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या- मुख्यालय/23/2026-27

जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर की ओर से प्राधिकरण एवं राजकीय विभाग में उपयुक्त श्रेणी मे पंजीकृत संवेदक जिनका पंजीयन नियमानुसार पुनरावलोकन (Review) किया हुआ हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र मे ई–प्रोक्युरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। जो निम्नलिखित दिनांक अनुसार डाउनलोड तथा खोली जायेगी। इन कार्य की अनुमानित लागत, निविदा बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की दिनांक, निविदा शर्ते आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट www.jodhpurjda.org, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

UBN No. :- JOD2627WSOB00232, JOD2627WSOB00233

राज.संवाद/सी/26/9479 अधिशाषी अभियंता

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd.,JAIPUR.

निविदा सूचना/2026–27

निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों एवं उनके अधिकृत संगठनों में पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रकिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है

कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की कुल अनुमानित लागत (रू०)	निविदा सूचना संख्या
Fabrication, Installation & Finishing of Custom Made Fixed and Loose Furniture, Interior Joinery, Allied Fit-Out & Furnishing works for Civil Services Officers Institute, HCM RIPA, Jaipur. UBN: RRC2627WSOB00484	230.39 Lakh	अल्पकालीन–ई–297/26–27
Electrical work, LAN & CCTV work, Airconditioner work and Lift Floor Extension work at Family Court Building at Gandhi Nagar, Jaipur. UBN: (1)RRC2627WSOB00482	346.65 Lakh	अल्पकालीन–ई–299/26–27
SITC of HVAC, External Electrical and Sub Station and MGPS System and MOT work in Construction of 300 Bedded Satellite Hospital at Sanganer, Jaipur.(03 No. works) UBN: (2) RRC2627WSOB00472 (3)RRC2627WSOB00476 (4)RRC2627WSOB00483	1320.89 Lakh	

निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र में निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाईटः http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in तथा http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।

महाप्रबंधक

No. NIT/2026-27/5930-44 Date: 11.08.2026

Meta trial biggest test yet of youth social media litigation

Reuters
California, August 12

META PLATFORMS will face a coalition of state attorneys general in a California federal court trial beginning on Wednesday over claims it engineered Facebook and Instagram to be addictive to children, a case that could expose the company to massive damages and force it to make sweeping changes to its platforms.

The trial in Oakland, expected to last seven weeks, will test Colorado, Kentucky, California and New Jersey's allegations that Meta designed its platforms to keep young users hooked and misled consumers about their safety. It will also address claims by 29 states that the company illegally collected and used children's data in violation of federal law. Jury selection is on Wednesday, with opening statements slated to begin August 18. Meta founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg is expected to testify, as is Instagram head Adam Mosseri. In terms of potential damages and implications for Meta, the trial is the biggest test yet of youth social media litigation and comes amid a broader reckoning across the globe over social media's effects on young users. Meta has said the damages could be as high as $1.4 trillion, near the company's market cap of $1.5 trillion, though the attorneys general have not publicly disclosed how much they may seek.

Meta has said the damages could be as high as $1.4 trillion. REUTERS

The attorneys general of Colorado, Kentucky, California and New Jersey are also asking the judge to issue an order forcing the company to implement age restrictions, eliminate infinite scroll and make other changes to its platforms.

A Meta spokesperson said the company strongly disagreed with the allegations and was confident evidence would show its longstanding commitment to supporting young people. "We've listened to parents, worked with experts and law enforcement, and conducted in-depth research to understand the issues that matter most," the spokesperson said in a statement.

The states' lawsuit, which was filed in 2023, stemmed from a multistate investigation into Instagram and Facebook's impact on young users. The investigation was announced following disclosures by Meta whistleblower Frances Haugen, who testified before a US Senate committee in 2021 that the company knew its products could harm young users and how to make them safer, but chose not to make those changes in favour of pursuing higher profits.

"Meta knows its platforms are harming children and teens but continues to keep kids addicted, as we've alleged in our lawsuit," New Jersey Attorney General Jennifer Davenport said in a statement ahead of the trial. A *Reuters/Ipsos* poll last week found an overwhelming majority of Americans — 85% — think social media can be addictive for children, with 61% of respondents saying social media companies need firmer oversight.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BOLANGIR
e-Procurement Notice

25001/914/2627

1.	Name of work	:	Construction of different School Buildings and R.W.Division office Building in the district of Bolangir for the year 2024-25 and 2025-26
2.	No. of works	:	10 (Ten) works
3.	Time for completion	:	9 (Nine) Calender months
4.	Approximate estimated cost varies from	:	Rs. 121.58 lakhs to Rs. 157.90 lakhs
5.	Mode of Submission of tender	:	Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in
6.	Other details are as follow		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last date and time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of Tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W Circle, Bolangir	BLGR. Online 18/2026-27	19.08.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	02.09.2026 upto 5.00 P.M	01.09.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	03.09.2026 at 11.00 A.M	The date will be intimated Iater on

- *Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in*
- *Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.*

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
R. W. Circle, Bolangir

OIPR- 25001/25118/1/26-27/0019

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

SEP DEVENDRAPPA

On 13 Aug 1985, you made the supreme sacrifice while serving for the mother land in J&K. We remember your selfless service, courage and determination and you continue to be an inspiration to all of us.

SUB BHUTALI KHARAT

On 13 Aug 1985, you made the supreme sacrifice while serving for the mother land in J&K. We remember your selfless service, courage and determination and you continue to be an inspiration to all of us.

Commanding Officer and all Ranks BraveAath

BORDER SECURITY FORCE

SH N C SHARMA, COMMADANT, PPMG 194 BN BSF 05.03.1941 – 13.08.1994

CONSTABLE AFTAB ALAM, PPMG 194 BN BSF 12.07.1971 – 13.08.1994

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant officer Sh. N C Sharma, Commadant, Constables Aftab Alam and Nimai Chandra Nandi on their Balidan Diwas. On this day, they sustained fatal bullet injuries in a fierce encounter with militants in area of Batmaloo, Srinagar (J&K). They fought bravely and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Their sacrifice and gallant action have been aptly recognized by GOI by awarding them with PPMG (Posthumously).

HC/RO UGRASEN LENKA 95 BN BSF 10.02.1974 – 13.08.2000

HC/RO B ANANDA KUTTAN 135 BN BSF 22.05.1967 – 13.08.2000

CT ASHOK SINGH JADON 124 BN BSF 05.06.1973 – 13.08.2000

CT SHNIDE PANDURANG RAMCHANDRA 183 BN BSF 10.01.1969 – 13.08.2000

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawans Head Constables/ Radio Operator Ugrasen Lenka, B Ananda Kuttan, Constables Ashok Singh Jadon and Shnide Pandurang Ramchandra on their Balidan Diwas. On this day, they sustained fatal injuries in an IED blast in area of Kud, Udhampur (J&K) and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

INSPECTOR GURDEEP SINGH 67 BN BSF 02.10.1940 – 13.08.1994

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Subordinate officer Inspector Gurdeep Singh on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal injuries in a grenade blast in Pampore area, J&K and later succumbed to his injuries.

CONSTABLE NIMAI CHANDRA NANDI, PPMG 26 BN BSF 06.11.1966 – 13.08.1994

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Nimai Chandra Nandi on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal bullet injuries while fighting militant in Srinagar, J&K. He fought bravely and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. His sacrifice and gallant action have been aptly recognized by GOI by awarding them with PPMG (Posthumously).

INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP)

Head Constable Hira Singh

ITBP salutes its braveheart Head Constable Hira Singh of ITBP Academy, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in Dehradun in 2000.

Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee

(Market of National Importance)
(Govt. of NCT of Delhi)
Office Complex, NFM Phase-II,, Azadpur, Delhi-110033
Ph. 27691807, 27691804,Fax: 27691762, 27691668
Website: www.apmcazadpurdelhi.com e-mail: apmcazadpur@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online bids are invited through the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** portal from eligible and experienced agencies for the following service:

Name of Work: Hiring of Sanitation Service (Manpower Based Model) at APMC MNI Azadpur.
Scope of Service: Cleaning, sweeping, scavenging, transportation of collected garbage from APMC(NSM&NFM) market yard to dhallows i/c. cleaning of piaos and urinals of APMC Azadpur.
Contract Period - 01 Year
GeM Bid No.: GEM/2026/B/7866545
Date of Bid: 02.08.2026
Estimated Bid Value: ₹ 16,15,32,358/- plus 18% GST
EMD: ₹ 32,31,000/-
Bid End Date & Time: 17.08.2026 up to 03:00 PM
Bid Opening Date & Time: 17.08.2026 at 03:30 PM

Detailed terms and conditions of the bid are available on the GeM Portal. Interested eligible bidders may participate in the bid through the GeM portal.

Deputy Secretary(S)
APMC MNI Azadpur

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0178/26-27

Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Online bids on items rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Rajgarh on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag.

Sr. No	Description	E/ Cost	E/Money	Time	Cost of Form
1	RRD under PDNA Damage Schemes Sr. No. 8371 FIS Deothi Majhgaon dated 07-19-2023 at location 30' 58'30" N 77 23"24' E under Jal SHakti sub Division Chandol in Tehsil Rajgarh Distt. Sirmour (SH:- C/O RCC storage tank 25000 ltrs capacity 1 No. & Providing Laying and Jointing of HDPE pipe in distribution system)	999333/-	20000/-	3 Months	350/-
2	RRD under PDNA Damaged Scheme Sr. No. 794 LWSS Shillangi in GP Shillangi under Jal SHakti Sub Division Rajgarh in Tehsil Rajgarh Distt. Sirmour (SH;- Providing Laying and Jointing of GI pipes in distribution system and Providing & installation of submersible pumping machinery with allied accessories in existing motor 20 HP)	1000822/-	20020/-	6 Months	500/-
3	RRD under PDNA Damaged scheme Sr. No. 7987 GWSS Kuniser 07-18-2023 at location 30' 57'46 N 77' 20' 36" E under Jal SHakti Sub Divisoin Chandol in Tehsil Rajgarh Distt. Sirmour (SH:- Providing, Laying and Jointing of GI pipes in main line and distribution system)	759638/-	15200/-	6 Months	350/-
4	RRD under PDNA Damaged Scheme Sr. No. 8375 FIS Shaya Sanora dated 07-19-2023 at location 30 56'08' N 77 21'44 E under Jal Shakti Sub Division Chandol in Tehsil Rajgarh Distt. Sirmour (SH:- Providing Laying and Jointing GI pies of 100 mm dia in main line)	899973/-	18000/-	3 Months	350/-
5	RRD to GWSS Kanog Dhadrel in GP Shillangi in Tehsil Rajgarh Distt. Sirmour (SH:- Providing Laying Jointing and Testing of GI pipes in main line and distribution system for habitation Kanog Dhadrel (under PDNA)	825936/-	16520/-	3 Months	350/-
6	RRD to LWSS Kujji in Tehsil Pacchad Distt. SIrmour (SH:- C/O wire crates to protect the sumpwell, WTP, Sedimentation Tank & in Flood portion)	1033551/-	20700/-	3 Months	500/-
7	RRD under PDNA Damaged Scheme GWSS Chogtali (8042), GWSS Jon Meyog (8070 & 8072) LWSS Kottla Mangan (8100) GWSS Bhuira (8066, 8067) , GWSS Rodubhuil (8029) LWSS Dhudham Batol (8018) LWSS Karganoo (8012), GWSS Dhamoon (8037) GWSS Tikker (8078) under Jal SHakti Sub Divisoion Rajgarh Distt. SIrmour (SH:- Providing, Laying Jointing and testing of GI pipes of various dia in distribution system and Main line at various GWSS under Jal Shakti Sub Division Rajgarh under Division Rajgarh)	7000084/-	130000/-	6 Months	2000/-
8	RRD under PDNA Damaged Scheme under Jal SHakti Sub Division Chandol in Tehsil Rajgarh Distt. Sirmour (SH:- Providing, Laying, Jointing and testing of GI pipe of various dia in distribution system and main line at various GWSS under Jal SHakti Sub Division Chandol under Division Rajgarh)	6999886/-	130000/-	6 Months	2000/-

1. Tender documents and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal http://hptenders.gov.inby the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.
1. As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable venders or from any authorized agency at the earliest.

2. Key dates will be as under:-

1	Date of Online publication	07-08-2026 AT 5:00 PM
2	Downloading of e-tender Documents	From 07-08-2026 at 5:00 PM up to 1:00 PM on 20-08-2026
3	Date of submission of e-tendering	From 07-08-2026 at 5:00 PM up to 1:00 PM on 20-08-2026
4	Physical submission of earnest money deposit and cost of tender documents	Up-to 1:00 PM on 20-08-2026
5	Date of opening of Cover-1 (Eligibility criteria) and Cover-2 (Technical bid)	20-08-2026 at 1:30 PM
6	Date of Opening of Financial Bids Cover-2	Shall be intimated separately.

The Terms and Conditions may be read online in E-Procurement site.

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAPARK

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Division, Rajgarh

No. 2609_2026-2027

Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.

Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
07	CE / IT-RAPDRP	Provision of SMS gateway services for outbound messages from TNPDCL for 2 years
M 242	CE / MM	Procurement of LT 20-100 A Meter

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit the websites **www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/2570/Tender/2026

बंगाल केमिकल्स एण्ड फार्मास्यूटिकल्स लिमिटेड (भारत सरकार का एक उपक्रम)
Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

(A Government of India Enterprise)
सीआईएन सं./CIN No.: U24299WB1981GOI033489
6,गणेश चन्द्र एवेन्यू, कोलकाता:700013, फोन संख्या:033 22371525/22371526
6, Ganesh Chunder Avenue, Kolkata-700113, Phone No.: 033 22371525/22371526

BCPL Invites Expression Of Interest (EOI) from Pharmaceutical Stockists & Liaison Distributors for its Pharmaceuticals Products for a period of three years. Please refer to the detailed tender document at the tender section of our website: **www.bengalchemicals.co.in** vide reference number **BCPL/MKTG/2026-27/EOI/00,** please refer to the above website for further communication or any amendment(s).

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

On Line Bid based open E- Tenders are invited by Sr.D.M.E/C&W/Co./N.E. Railway/Lucknow for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works.

Tender Notice No. & Description of works- Tender Notice No-39-2026-CW, Supply & fitment of F Clamp, U Clamp and SS Cage for modification of S-trap of lavatory commodes at GKP, BNY, ASH and GTNR Coaching Depots in a period of 06 Months'. Approx. Value (In Rs.)- ₹ 65,50,885.43, E.M.D. Money (In Rs.) ₹ 1,31,000.00 Contract period -06 Months

E-Tender can be uploaded by tenderer, up to 15:00 Hrs. on 04.09.2026 and will be opened after 15:00 Hrs on 04.09.2026. Detailed information, minimum eligibility criteria, Terms and conditions regarding this e-tender are available at website **www.ireps.gov.in.** Tenderer should check any correction/corrigendum related to this e-tender notice on web site before uploading their offer.

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer/ CPRO/Mech-69 C&W/Co, Lucknow

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, DELHI WATER SUPPLY MAINTENANCE UNIT
U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN)

ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 245 M.L.D. GANGAJAL WTP CAMPUS, SIDDHARTH VIHAR, GHAZIABAD-201009
E-mail: dwsupjn@gmaiL.com

Letter No.: 873 / Nivida / 49
Dated: 12.08.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

On behalf of U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) Offline tenders for execution of **"Maintenance and Repair works in UP Jal Nigam Residential Colony Rajnagar Ghazaiabad"** Works were invited under Deposit Program. Bids are invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible, reputed and experienced bidders. Tender documents will be available for purchase **from 13.08.2026 at 10:00 Hrs. onwards**. Bid can be submitted **till 12.09.2026 up to 03:00 Hrs.** and technical bid shall be opened **on 12.09.2026 at 03:30 Hrs.** in the office of the Executive Engineer, Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Unit, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Ghaziabad in presence of contractor or their authorized representative, Tender Cost is **Rs. 1,180.00 (1,000.00+GST@18%).** Details are available on U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) website **www.jn.upsdc.gov.in.**

MECHANIZED CLEANING OF COACHES PREMISES AT LUMDING DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. Mech-LMG-ET-05-2026-27 Dated: 11-08-2026. Works tenders through "E" Tendering system for and on behalf of the president of India are invited for the works as detailed below:- **Name of work:** Mechanized cleaning of Coaches at Pitlines along with Pit & Depot Premises cleaning, pad locking/ Unlocking, Hydrant Maintenance, Garbage Collection, PF return trains (Agartala & Sabroom) & supply of Toiletries of Trains at Agartala Coaching Depot for a period of 02 years. **Tender Value:** ₹8,31,61,616.60/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹5,65,800/-, **Date & time of closing of tender:** At **12.00** hrs. on **31-08-2026.** The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr.DME, Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

North Eastern Railway

Open Tender Notice No. : NER-BSB0SnT-OT-45-2026

"Open Tenders" through online (E-Tendering) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecomm)/ Varanasi/N.E. Railway for and behalf of the President of India for the following works:

S.N. : 1, Tender Notice No. and Description of Work : NER-BSB0SnT-OT-45-2026 : Name of Work : Signalling work in connection with provision of second goods shed common running line of 750M at Phariya station of BSB Division, **Approx. Value :** Rs. 3,72,52,717.59, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 7,45,100.00, **Cost of Tender Form :** Rs. 00.00, **Completion Period :** 12 Months, **Tender Closing Date & Time :** 04.09.2026 up to 15.00 Hrs.

1. Tender Online will be submitted up to 15:00 Hrs. on date 04.09.2026. **2.** For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the official website of Indian Railways i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Divl. Rly. Manager (S&T)
CPRO/Sig-96 N.E. Railway, Varanasi

Do not travel with inflammable article in train

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE FOR PROVISION OF ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING

E-Tender Notice No.:11-SNT-Proj-R-Tender-26, Date: 07.08.2026

Name of the Work : Provision of Electronic Interlocking at Risama(RSA), Gundardehi (GDZ), Latabor (LBO), Balod (BXA) and Kusumkasa (KYS) stations including new loop line at Risama (RSA), Latabor (LBO) in Durg-Dallirajhara section of Raipur Division.

Tender Value: ₹ 60,82,28,970.71 (Rs. Sixty Crore, Eighty-Two Lakh, Twenty-Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred Seventy and Seventy-One Paise only). **Bid Security (Earnest Money) : ₹ 1,21,64,600.00** (Rs. One Crore Twenty-One Lakh, Sixty-Four Thousand, Six Hundred only). **Closing of tender :** Up to: 15.00 hrs on 08.09.2026.

For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Dy.CSTE/Proj./R or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Dy. Chief Sig. & Tele. Engg. (Proj./Raipur)
CPR/10/339 S.E.C. Railway, Raipur.

South East Central Railway @secrail

Office Of The Municipal Board Malpura District Tonk (Raj.)

Sr.No. NPM/2026-27/4708 Date :- 07.08.2026

Notice Inviting Bid

Nagar Palika Malpura Bids For 36/2026-27 Nib No DLB2627A6816 of subject matters of procurement are invited from interested bidders Last Submission End Date 18.08.2026 Other Particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**
UBN :- DLB2627WSOB17396

Executive Officer
Municipal Board Malpura

Raj.Samwad/C/26/9619

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location:-	103-SRDEE-G-DLI-2026-27, Provision of compact sub-station and outdoor feeder pillar at TKJ Railway Colony, New Delhi.
Approx cost of the works in :-	Rs. 7734060.00/-
Address of the office:-	Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, DRM Office, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055
Earnest Money:-	Rs. 154700.00/-
Last Date & time of submission of tender :-	03.09.2026, 13.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender :-	03.09.2026, 13.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board :-	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2786/2026

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Rail Coach Naveenikaran Karkhana, Sonipat (Tender Notice)
Invitation of tender through E-tendering (e-Procurement Systems)

NIT No.	11-RCNK-OPN-RWH-2026
Name of Work and its location:	Tender for "Repairing Work of Rain Water Harvesting System of Factory and Colony Premises of RCNK/SNP (As per Scope of Work)."
Approx Cost of work:	Rs. 30,14,144.80/- including GST (Rs. Thirty Lakh Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Forty-Four & Paise Eighty only)
Earnest Money	Rs. 60300.00/-
Completion period of work	03 months from date of LOA
Cost of Tender document on cash/by post	NIL
Date and Time for submission/Closing of tender	Upto 15:00 hrs on 03/09/2026

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. 11-RCNK-OPN-RWH-2026 Dated: 12/08/2026 2787/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 9646118754)

Tender Enquiry No. 357/HPs/ED-II/RSD-153 Dated: 07.08.2026

Dy. CE/ Hydel Projects, PSPCL, Shed A-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala Invites E-Tender for Design, manufacturing, supply & commissioning of latest technology LT ACB 415V AC Circuit breakers for replacement of existing old LT ACB 415V AC Circuit breaker of different capacities at RSD Project, Shahpurkandi for 4x150MW RSPP.

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 13.08.2026 onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum and Addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

No. 14170/PB C 788/26

उत्तराखण्ड पावर कॉरपोरेशन लि०

(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल (ग्रामीण) 18 ई०सी० रोड, देहरादून
दूरभाष: +91-135-2653601

"ई-निविदा तिथि विस्तार सूचना"

अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा ई-निविदा संख्या **34/EDCRDDUN/2026-27** आमंत्रित की गई थी जिसको खोलने की तिथि **11.08.2026** थी, को अपरिहार्य कारणों से विस्तारित किया जाता है। निविदा अब दिनाँक **20.08.2026** को 1200 बजे तक ऑफलाइन/ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है जो उसी दिन 1500 बजे खोली जाएगी। निविदा की शेष नियम व शर्तें पूर्ववत रहेंगी।

उपरोक्त निविदा की अधिक जानकारी हेतु वैबसाईट **www.uktenders.gov.in** पर देखें। "विद्युत बिलों के **24x7** ऑनलाईन भुगतान हेतु **www.upcl.org** पर जायें"

पत्रांक: 2880/वि०वि०मं०ग्रा०दे०/उपाकालि दिनांक: 11/08/2026 **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता**

"राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें" टोल फ्री नं0 1800-419-0405

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
NIZAMABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Tender Notice No. EE/NMC/15/2026, Dt.12.08.2026

On behalf of the Nizamabad Municipal Corporation Expression of Interest (E.O.I) is invited from the Similar Experienced Firms for the Maintenance and Management of **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT** Establishment of 185 TPD Municipal Solid Waste Processing, Treatment and Management Facility on EPC (Engineering Procurement and Construction) and O&M Basis at Nizamabad Dump Site for a Period of 5 Years under SBM (U) 2.0 and Sale of RFP Dt. 13.08.2026 and Last Date for Submission of RFP Dt. 24.08.2026 @ 05.00 PM. For further details see on e procurement platform i.e **http://tender.telangana.gov.in**. For Further Details, Contact: 6309506351.

Sd/-
Commissioner
NMC

Ro. No. : 7769-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Date: 12-08-2026

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	HSAMB JIND	ANNUAL REPAIR OF MC PROPERTIES AT NGM ALEWA JIND FOR THE THE YEAR 2026-27 + 1 WORKS	10.08.2026 17.08.2026	11,94,981/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01681252003 eejjind38.hsamb@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in **No. 48121/HRY**

JHARKHAND EDUCATION PROJECT COUNCIL
DoSE&L, GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND

Old HEC High School, JSCA Stadium Road, Sector-III, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
Phone No.- 0651-2444501, 2444502, Fax-0651-2444506, email: jepcranchi1@gmail.com

Very Short Term e-Procurement Notice

On behalf of DoSE&L, Govt. of Jharkhand & JCERT, JEPC invites Separate Technical & Financial Bids through e-procurement method from eligible and interested bidders for Supply and 1 year maintenance of approx. 194 piece Laptop computer and 78 piece Mobile Smart Phones. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to submit their proposal online latest by **20.08.2026 at 03:00 PM**. All documents required for Technical evaluation must be uploaded online. Cost of Bid and EMD must be paid online through portal **https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in**.

The details of the Tender can be seen & applied through website **https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in** only.

Bid Ref. No. -MIS/06/2022/176(Partfile-I)/3136. Date :10/08/2026

Sd/-
(Shashi Ranjan)
State Project Director

PR.NO.387285 Jharkhand Education Project Council(26-27):D

Government of Tamil Nadu
TAMIL NADU URBAN HABITAT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

No. 5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai - 600005, Tamil Nadu, India.

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (IEOI)
(Consulting Services – Consulting Firm)

Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB), Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing construction of housing tenements for the urban poor under the Inclusive Resilient and Sustainable Housing for the Urban Poor Sector Project (IRSHUPSP) financed by the Asian Development Bank. TNUHDB now invites eligible Consulting Firms to indicate their interest in providing the services for the below mentioned assignment for Project Monitoring Unit of TNUHDB under the Asian Development Bank financed IRSHUPSP.

Selection of Consulting Firm:

Package No.	Description of Activity
IRSHUP/CS/05	Quality Audit Agency (Consulting Firm)

The detailed IEOI and Terms of Reference are available in the ADB's Consultant Management System (CMS) Portal. The firms which are registered in ADB's CMS Portal may access the Portal for the IEOI details and submit their Expression of Interest along with the documents required therein. The EOI shall be submitted directly to the ADB's CMS Portal.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (FAC),
Project Monitoring Unit, TNUHDB.

DIPR/ 690 /DISPLAY/2026

Metro Railway, Kolkata

CSTE/Project, Metro Railway, Kolkata for & on behalf of The President of India invites e-Tenders against Open Tender due to open on 01.09.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of work:** Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Train Arrival Countdown Timer along with Power Supply Arrangement for Telecom equipment for Blue & Yellow Line of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Tender Value:** ₹ 85,46,065.14. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,70,900. **Completion Period:** 06 months. The tender can be viewed at website **https://www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tender.

Tender Notice No.: S&T/Work_24-2026

Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

AYODHYA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AYODHYA

Vashishtha Kunj Awasiye Yojna - Phase-1 (Part-4)

Authority is inviting online registrations for the Vashishtha Kunj Awasiye Yojna Phase-1 (Part-4) from Dated- 13.08.2026 to 14.09.2026. Interested applicants may complete their online registration within the prescribed period. The Registration Brochure containing complete details of the scheme can be downloaded from the Authority's Yojna website: https://vashishtkunj.ayodhyada.in/login, For further information, Please contact the Helpline No.-7388898904 during official office hours.

पत्रांक:-83/अयो०वि०प्रा०/2026-27 दिनांक:-12/8/26 **Secretary**

ICICI Bank

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara – 390007, Gujarat

Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai – 400051, Maharashtra

Branch Relocation Notice
On Behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd., Kundli Branch

Dear Customers,

We wish to inform you that with effect from September 14, 2026, we are relocating to a more convenient location. The address is as mentioned below:

New address: ICICI Bank Ltd., SCO-43, Commercial Complex, HSIIDC, Phase-1, Sector-53, Kundli , Distt-Sonipat, Haryana-131028.

There would be no change in your account numbers or the security items issued to you. Assuring you of the best services at all times.

Sincerely,
Branch Manager, Kundli Branch

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only))

BESCOM invites tender vide inquiry No: **BESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT1153** through KPP Portal from eligible bidders for **"Conversion of existing HT Overhead line by HT Covered Conductor and LT Overhead Line by LT Aerial Bunched Cable in Devanahalli Sub Division of Devanahalli Division of BRAZ, BESCOM Jurisdiction on Total Turnkey Basis on Percentage Quoting Basis".** Bid Documents available from: **13.08.2026,** Last date for Bid Submission: **11.09.2026 17:00 Hrs.** Opening of Bid Document: **15.09.2026, 11:00 Hrs.**

The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Ele.,), Procurement, BESCOM, 2nd Floor, K.R. Circle, Bangalore-560 001.

For Electricity Related Complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM MITHRA Mobile App.

Directorate Of Veterinary Services, Chhattisgarh
Indrawati Bhawan, Block-3, Nava Raipur

Phone No. 0771-2331393,94,95 Fax No. 0771-2331392/95
email-dirvet.cg@nic.in

e Tender Invitation Notice

Online Tenders are invited from licensed manufacturers/importers for supply of Pharmacopoeial Drugs for financial year 2026-27 of Department of Veterinary services, Chhattisgarh. The detailed schedules are as follows.

S.NO.	Tender Details	Name of Work
1	Tender No.4474 Date 10.8.2026	RATE CONTRACT AND SUPPLY OF PHARMACOPOEIAL DRUGS
2	Starting Date of online Tender Submission 12.08.2026 at 5:30 PM	
3	PreBid Meeting Date 17.08.2026 Time 1.00 PM (Venue-DVSCG Indrawati Bhawan, Block-3, Nawa Raipur)	
4	Last Date of Tender Submission 02.09.2026, Upto - 5:30 PM	

The detailed tender documents and the list of items are made available under Department-Livestock Development Department (LDD) on website **https://www.eproc.cgstate.gov.in** and **https://agriportal.cg.nic.in/ahd**

Sd/-
Veterinary Services
Chhattisgarh

R.O. No. 262702709/3

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Notification No :- DRM/C/Agra/Halt/2026/02 **Date : 10.08.2026**

E-Tender Notice

On behalf of the President of India, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, North Cental Railway, Agra invites application for appointment of halt agent/commission agent on the following halt stations for the period of 05 years.

Name of Section	Name of halt Station	Name of Serving Station	Number of halt Agent for appointment
BCP-BKI	Noh Bachhaamdi	Ikran	One
HK-BKI	Talchera Barolian	Kherli	One
HK-BKI	Bhajera	Karanpura	One
AGC-UDMR	Dhimshri	Shamsabad	One
AGC-UDMR	Manikpura	Fatehbad	One
AGC-UDMR	Jaitpur Kalan	Bah	One
IDH-BAMA	Singarpur	Fatehpur Sikri	One
IDH-BAMA	Nagla Tula	Bandh Bareta	One
IDH-BAMA	Birambad	Bandh Bareta	One

Applicant can obtain Application forms along with terms and conditions from the office of Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), North Central Railway, Agra on cash payment of prescribed amount Rs.1,000/ + Rs.180/-(18% GST) = Total Rs.1180/- (One thousand one hundred eighty only) to Chief Booking Supervisor, Agra Cantt.on any working day from the date of publication to **14.09.2026 upto 17:00 hrs.** The Application form is not transferable and its cost is not refundable.

The Notification, application forms, terms and conditions are also available on the website of North Central Railway http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in & Government of India portal http://www.Tenders.gov.in. If the application documents are downloaded from the website, then, the applicant will have to attach the prescribed cost of application form Rs.1,000/ + Rs.180/-(18% GST) = Rs.1180/- (One thousand one hundred eighty only) in the form of DD (In Original) issued by any Nationalized /Schedule Bank in favour of Sr. Divisional Finance Manager N. C. Railway- Agra, otherwise the application shall be rejected.

The application form will be received through sealed box in the office of Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), North Central Railway, Agra up to 15:00 Hrs. on 15.09.2026 and will be opened at 15:30 hrs on the same day. In case of the application form acceptance and opening day is holiday, then the next working day will be the last day for depositing and opening of application forms at the same time. Applicant or his authorized agent is permitted to be present at the time of opening of application. Application form received after the date & time specified above shall not be considered. Detailed particulars are available in the application form. Separate application form should be used for each halt station. The Railway Administration reserves all the rights to cancel or discharge complete application procedure without assigning any reason. Offer is valid up to 90 days from the date of opening of application form. **1853/26 (C)**

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

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Pushplata W/o Shri Gyanedra, R/o B-158, Gali No.1, Mahalaxmi Enclave, Karawal Nagar, North East Delhi is also known as Pushplata Thakur. Both names are of one & the same person.

0040871570-2

I,FOOL.BATTI, mother of, Narender Kumar, Presently, residing at,Village Misa,PO:Sihol,Tehsil & Distt.Palwal,Haryana-121102,have changed my name from FOOLBATTI to PHULAN DEVI,vide-Affidavit date-11.08.2026

0040871749-10

I, Vikash S/O Raj Kumar resident of Pure Beaju, Mubarakpur, Lalganj, Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh-229208, have changed my name from "Vikash" to "Vikash Babu". Henceforth, for all my future government and non-government documents and purposes, my name shall be read and known as "Vikash Babu".

0071053790-1

I,Vinod Kumar Khurana,S/o-Sh.Kanshi Ram,R/o H.No.8. Guru Angad Nagar Extn.,Laxmi Nagar,East Delhi-110092,inform that Vinod Kumar Khurana and Vinod Kumar,both names are same-person.

0040871741-10

I,SATISH KUMAR,S/O AMI CHAND,R/O-168 GALI BEHIND G.T.ROAD VILLAGE BHAROLA ADARSH NAGAR DELHI-110033.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SATISH,FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0040871749-3

I,MEENAKSHI,W/O PARMANAND,R/O H-16/20,Bapa-Nagar Tank Road-Karol Bagh Centre Delhi New Delhi -110005, declare that name of my minor Daughter has been wrongly written as ROSHANI PARSOYA aged-14 years in her school record,The Actual name of my minor Daughter is ROSHNI,Which may be amended accordingly.

0040871772-7

I, VIKAS B K, S/o Taluk Ram, R/o House No.490, Gali No.14, Bhowapur Kaushambi, I.E. Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010, I declare that my incorrectly mentioned as VIKASH in my Class XII CBSE (Year- 2022), Marksheet and Certificate, But Actual/ Correct name is VIKAS. which may be amended accordingly. for all future purposes.

0040871574-1

I KM SAVITA,W/O,PRAVEEN KUMAR ,R/O, B-708, CityApartment,Aditya World City,Bamheta, Ghaziabad,UTTAR PRADESH-201002, I have changed my name to SAVITA KUMARI.

0040871713-9

I Anand Kumar Agarwal, S/o Sh. S.K. Agarwal, R/o D1/7, 14, Rajpur Road, Delhi-110054 is also known as Anand Agarwal. Both names are of one and the same person.

0040871570-4

I,DUBEY HITESH DURYODHANPRASAD,residence of,42/2 MARUT CAMP chankyapuri,New Delhi-110003,have changed my minnor daughter's name from TRISHIKA to TRISHIKA HITESH DUBEY,vide-Affidavit, dated-12/08/2026.

0040871749-12

I, Savitri Devi W/o Harish Singh R/o H.No. 176,Gali No. 3, Pratap Vihar, Part-1, KirariSuleman Nagar, Delhi-110086, changed my minor Son's name Piyush alias Piyush Manral to Piyush Manral aged 15 years

0071053806-1

I,Ruchi W/o-Neeraj Kumar R/o-House.no.53/C,Madho Nagar,Hapur Road, Distt.Meerut,Uttar Pradesh-250002.have changed my name to Ruchi Rani for,all future,purposes.

0040871713-2

I,Manit Singh Khandpur,S/o Tarlochan Singh,R/o 101-A Pocket-D, Ashok-Vihar,North West Delhi, Delhi- 110052. have changed my name to Manit Singh.

0040871749-5

I Mukesh Garg S/o-B.S.Aggarwal R/o-170, Bharat Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Mukesh Kumar Garg for all purposes.

0040871581-1

I, Gagan S/o Chhinder Kumar, holder of Indian Passport no. V0915794, R/o Near Petrol Pump Vpo. Alawalpur, Jalandhar, Pin 144301, Punjab, India have changed my name Gagan and surname Kumar.

0040871707-1

I,APOORVA TIWARI,W/O INDERMOHAN SINGH,R/O PLOT.NO.124 & 125,2ND FLOOR,BACK LHS,PVT NO.204,BLOCK S,MOHAN GARDEN,DWARKA,DELHI-110059,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO APOORVA KAUR

0040871713-11

I, SUREKSHA THAPA, D/o SANDESH THAPA, R/o 12/13 Sagma Tea Garden (Sungma), Darjeeling, West Bengal-734216, hereby declare that SUREKSHA THAPA and SURACHA THAPA are one and the same person.

0040871571-1

I,RADHIKA CHOUBEY,W/O-JUGAL KISHOR,SHREE MANNARAYAN ASHRAM-29,PUSHPANJALI,BAIKUNTH PAHSE-2,VRINDAVAN, BANGAR-PIN CODE-281121, UTTAR PRADESH HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO RADHA PERMANENTLY.

0040871741-2

I,PRIYA SINGH,D/o-KAJAL BHOMIK & SATPAL SINGH,R/o-H.NO-B-149, NEW-ASHOK NAGAR, VASUNDHRA-ENCLAVE,EAST DELHI-110096,Declare that PRIYA SINGH and KAKALI BHAMIK M,both name is the same and one person.

0040871741-4

I, Vimal Kumar Jha S/o Binod Kumar Jha R/o Flat No FF-107, KHNO 1328, SatyamResidency Chhapraula GB Nagar Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201009, I have changed the name of my minor Son Siddharth Jha to Siddhant Jha aged 5 years

0071053812-1

I,Kanchan Devi Rajesh Kumar Gupta,D/o-Rajesh Kumar Gupta R/o 07/B18/203, F/F,Brahmputra Enclave, Sector-7,Siddhart Vihar, Ghaziabad,U.P.-201009,have changed my name to Kanchan Gupta.

0040871713-4

In passport no E7308599 of AMNA SAYEED SIDDIQUI r/o 5196/2 Ballimaran Delhi 110006, husband's name printed as MOHD SYEED SIDDIQUI, is actually MOHD SAYEED SIDDIQUI. Both are same person

0050294967-1

I,Avinash Kumar,S/o Vidhi Chand,R/o H.No.F-35,Ground Floor,Gali No.-10,Jagat Puri,Delhi-110051,have changed my name to Avinash Goyal.

0040871749-7

I, SHILPI KUMAR D/O MOTI LAL R/O 4/82, 3RD FLOOR, SUBHASH NAGAR, TAGORE GARDEN, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110027 have changed my name to SHILPI OBEROI for all purposes.

0071053764-1

I, Vidhya W/o Kishan Singh Pal R/o A-977, Budh Vihar, Phase-2 , Shyam Colony Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Vidhya Devi permanently.

0040871629-2

I,VANSH S/O-VISHAMBER SINGH R/O-H-306, GALI NO.-7, PART -2, RAJ NAGAR,PALAM COLONY, DELHI-10077 have changed my name to VIVEK

0040871741-7

I,Mohd Harish S/o Mohd Tarik,R/o H.No-629 Patti Musalmanan, Siyan Bulandshahr-245412(U.P.) Have Changed My Name To Mohd Haris For Future.

0040871741-6

I,Rajni,W/o-Surinder Kumar,R/o-HN-F.642,Dakshin-puri,Delhi-110062,I declare that My Name has been wrongly written as my Aadhar-card usha correct name is Rajni may be amended accordingly.

0040871772-3

I hitherto known as Amita Abbi D/o Surinder Mohan Abbi W/o Pratyush PremPrashant R/o 39/19, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi - 110060, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Amita Prashant.

0071053818-1

I,RAJ KUMAR,S/o Shri Ram Kumar,R/o L-4,Hauz Khas Enclave,Delhi-110016,have changed my name,from RAJ KUMAR to RAJ KUMAR GAUR,for all future purposes.

0040871772-1

I,NAIN DEVI,Wife of,late Shri Parmeshwar Singh,Presently.residing at RZ-202-L,2nd Floor,Right-Side,Galli.no.13,Sadhnagar,Palam,New-Delhi -110077, Have changed my name,from Nain kumari to Nain Devi,Vide Affidavit, dated-03/08/2026,Before-nct Delhi

0040871713-6

I, Vade Singh Mavi S/o Mavla R/o Tadvi Faliya, VTC-Khutaja Bada, PO-Badakhuntaja, Sub District-Bhavra, District-Alirajpur, Madhya Pradesh - 457882, have changed my minor son's name from Aakasa Bamniya Aged 17 Years to Aakash Mavi forever

0071053783-1

I, Shabana Parveen, hereby declare that my name and my husband's name in my son Sams Tarvez's 10th & 12th marksheet is wrongly written as "SHABANA" and "MOHD SHAKIL" and needs to be changed to "SHABANA PARVEEN" and "MOHAMMAD SHAKEEL ANSARI" for all purposes. 0130067903-1

I,Balveer Singh,S/o Sh.Ramkishan,R/o 244/15,Gali.No.3,Talab Chowk,Mandawali Fazalpur,Delhi-110092,have changed my name from Balveer To Balveer Singh in my son School records and other all documents if any.

0040871741-9

I,ANIL BANSAL,S/O-OM PARKASH BANSAL,R/O-HNO.B-2/7 FLOOR-1 NEAR SAGAR RATNA-RESTAURANT ASHOK-VIHAR PHASE-2 DELHI-110052.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANIL KUMAR BANSAL.

0040871749-2

I, MD IRSHAD S/o Taj Mohammad, 385, Block I-2, Gali-No-8, Sangam Vihar Delhi-62 have changed my name to MOHAMMAD IRSHAD.

0071053833-1

I, Rajesh Pyasi, R/o Makan No. 15, Ward No. 05, Gram Bharatpura, Post Bharatpura, Bharatpura, Bijawar, Chhatarpur, Bijawar, Madhya Pradesh 471405 have changed my minor child's name from Abhishek Pyasi to Anshu Pyasi, vide Affidavit dated 10/08/2026.

0071053706-1

I,Radhakrishnan Konar,S/o-Neva Veerihya Konar, Permanent,R/o-616/G-1, Agonda,Shri Ganpati Temple, Karashimol,VTC Agonda,PO Agonda,District South Goa, Goa-403702.Presently Residing at 24/415,Trilok Puri, Delhi-110091,have changed the name of my minor son Riyaansh R Konar alies R Riyaansh Aged-10years and he shall hereafter be known as Riyaansh R Konar.

0040871772-5

I,Mursal Rapoot,S/o-Sakeel Ahmad,R/o-80/380,Raja-Babu,Azad-Balding Works,Near-Meerut-Life Line Hospital,Bulandshahr,Uttar Pradesh-203001,have changed my name to Mursal Rajpoot,for all purposes.

0040871713-8

I Ashu Chopra, D/o Mr. Sunil Chanana, R/o B-3/55, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 have changed my name to Ashu Chanana for all purposes.

0040871570-3

I,DUBEY HITESH DURYODHANPRASAD,residence of,42/2,MARUT CAMP chankyapuri,New Delhi-110003,have changed my MINNOR SON's name from KRISHIV H DUBEY to KRISHIV HITESH DUBEY,vide Affidavit dated-12/08/2026.

0040871749-11

I, Jaybhagavan S/o Motiram R/o-179, Near Masjid, Salarpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP have changed my name to Jaibhagwan Bhati.

0071053794-1

I,UZMA SHAHEEN,W/O SULEMAN R/O-764 SHEESH MAHAL, BAHADURGARH ROAD, SADAR BAZAR,DELHI-110006,have changed my name to UZMA SHAHIN,for all future Purposes.

0040871713-1

I,Rajesh Kaushik,S/o-Ram Kumar Kaushik,R/o H.No.451,Maliyan Pana,Village Dichaon Kalan,Najafgarh, Delhi-110043,have changed my name to Rajesh Kumar Kaushik.

0040871749-9

I,Ms. Jagriti Baswal D/O Laxmi Kant Baswal R/O A-2-168-69, Madangir, Ambedkar-Nagar,Sec-3,Pushpa Bhawan,Delhi-110062 have changed my name to Jagriti Baswal.

0040871741-1

I,Sanjay Jain,S/o Surender Kumar Jain,R/o Kh.No.-737,Main Road D-5 Charvi Complex,Burari Delhi-110084,have Changed My Name to Sanjay Kumar Jain.

0040871749-4

I Ashmita, D/o Mr. Anil Dhyani, R/o Flat No.1070, Third Floor, Pocket-C, Block-B, Lok Nayak Puram, Bakkarwala, New Delhi-41, Hereby declare that my Mother Name is Seema Dhyani, That in some of my educational record, Identity Documents, and other documents my mother's name is mention as Seema, whereas in certain record it is mention as Seema Dhyani. Both Names refer to the same person. Therefore, my mother name may be treated and read as "Seema Dhyani" for all purposes.

0040871580-1

I,Shama, D/o-Mohd Shabeer,Resident of F-139,Vijay Vihar,Phase-2,Rohini, Delhi-110085,have Changed my name from Shama to Shama Parween.I shall hereafter be known and identified as Shama Parween for all purposes and records.

0040871772-8

I, Jaspal S/o Piara Lal, holder of Indian Passport no. P5080979, R/o Village new Abadi Narang Shahpur, Po. Satnampura tehsil Phagwara, Kapurthala, Pin 144402, Punjab, India, have changed my name Jaspal and surname Jaspal. 0040871700-1

I,MADHU SUDAN MALLIA,S/O,GOPI NATH MALLYA,R/O,Radha Krishan Bhawan,Aruangabad bangar,Mathura,UTTAR PRADESH- 281006,have changed my name to MADHU SUDHAN MALLIA.

0040871713-10

I, Gulshan Kathuria, resident of 2108, Rani Bagh, that my daughter's name was "Minor Baruni". I have now added my surname to her name. Henceforth, she shall be known as "Minor Baruni Kathuria" for all purposes.

0040871583-1

I,VISHAL MAHAJAN ADDRESS : J-701,JMD GARDENS, SECTOR 33,GURGAON, HARYANA-122001,HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR daughter name from AANYA to AANYA MAHAJAN.

0040871713-3

I,Krishan Chand alias Krishan Chand Garg alias Krishan Garg,S/o-Ram Dass Garg,R/o-D-22,Ashok Vihar,Phase-1, Delhi-110052,have changed my name to Krishan Chand Aggarwal.

0040871741-3

I, MUBINA W/o GULAM ALI, R/o 17-A, 3RD FLOOR, NEAR JAIN MANDIR, J-EXTENSION, LAXMI NAGAR, East Delhi-110092, have changed my name to MOBINA

0071053762-1

I Ishika D/o Rajesh Kaushik R/o H.No.451,Maliyan Pana Village Dichaon Kalan, Najafgarh,Delhi-110043,have changed my name to Ishika Kaushik.

0040871749-6

I,SUNITA BANSAL,W/O-ANIL KUMAR BANSAL,R/O HNO.B-2/7 FLOOR-1 NEAR SAGAR-RATNA RESTAURANT ASHOK-VIHAR PHASE-2,DELHI-110052.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUNITA RANI BANSAL.

0040871749-1

I,Mohamad Jahagir Alam Ansari,S/o-Mohamad Habib Ansari,R/o-E-77,Gali.No-66,Nanad-Ram Park,Mahavir-Enclave Part-3,Uttam-Nagar,West-Delhi Delhi-110059,Have Changed My Name To Mohammad Jahangir Alam Ansari,For Future.

0040871741-5

I, Jasmine Kaur,D/o Sh.Surinder Singh Madhok, R/o-J-130,Rajouri Garden,New Delhi-110027,have changed my name Jasmine Kaur to Jasmine Madhok, for all purposes.

0040871567-1

I,GAURAV SINGH,S/O-RAJESH SINGH PARIHAR,R/O-D-2501,APEX ALPHABET, TECHZONE-4,GREATER NOIDA WEST,GAUTAM BUDH-NAGAR,UTTAR PRADESH 201318,have changed my name to GAURAV SINGH PARIHAR,for all purposes.

0040871772-2

I, Umang Gupta S/o Hari Om R/o House No 1898 1st Floor, Street No 2, Shastri Nagar,Ashok Vihar, North,Delhi-110052, I have changed the name of my minor Son Ridhaan Gupta to Advik Gupta aged 6 years

0071053815-1

I,FURKAN ALIAS FURKAN KHAN,S/o MOHD SULEMAN, residing at MOHALLA MIYAN GANJ,BISWAN,SITAPUR,UTTAR PRADESH-261201,have changed my name to FURKAN KHAN,for all,future purposes.

0040871713-5

I GRIKSHIT SOLANKI son of Raj Kumar, residing at Flat13 Kailash Appartment Plot45. IPExtn. Patparganj, Shakarpur, EastDelhi - 110092 have changed my name to GRIKSSHIT SOLANKI

0050295005-1

I,Sonia Devi W/o Avinash Goyal R/o H.No.F-35,Ground Floor,Gali No.-10,Jagat Puri,Delhi - 110051,have changed my name to Sonia Goyal.

0040871749-8

I Vinod Singh Baghela D/o Hakim Singh Baghela and W/o Narender Pal R/o RZ-F-397, Gali No.-3, Mahavir Enclave Part-I, South West Delhi, Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Vinod Pal

0071053782-1

I,DEEPAK KUMAR S/O JAI NARAYAN,R/O C-5/97-98,Third Floor,Sector-11,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have,changed the,name of my minor daughter from SOMYA to SOMYA KHATRI.

0040871780-1

I, Vipra, D/o Pramod Kumar Mehresh R/o G-4 B, Sant Nagar Ext. Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name VIPRA to VIPRA MEHRESH for all future purposes.

0071053841-1

I,Ajay Khosla,S/o Suresh Kumar Khosla R/o-T-907,Stellar Jeevan,Greater Noida,Uttar Pradesh-201308,have changed my,name from Ajay Khosla to Ajay Kumar Khosla.Henceforth I would be known by the name of Ajay Kumar Khosla,for all,further purposes.

0040871741-8

I Dharamveer, S/o Sh. Sunder Lal, R/o 368, A-2, Sultan Puri, C-Block, North West Delhi, Delhi-110086 is also known as Rakesh Kumar. Both names are of one and the same person.

0040871570-1

I,MAAHI BAHUGUNA, W/o ADI KUMAR,R/o I-1001,1st Floor, SPS Residency, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram,Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014,have changed my name to MAAHI SAINI,for all future purposes.

0040871772-4

I, hitherto Known as SURAJATI DEVI, W/O BADE LAL SINGH, R/O 156, SABJI MARKET, SECTOR-9, R.K.Puram Sec 7, South West Delhi, Delhi-110022, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SURYAWATI SINGH.

0071053829-1

I,Shabnam Jahan,W/o-Mursal Rajpoot,R/o-Jasar, Sultannagar,Meerut, Uttar Pradesh-203001,inform that Given Name Shabnam and Surname Jahan,for all,purposes 0040871713-7

I, Kishan Singh S/o Charan Singh R/o A-977, Budh Vihar, Phase-2, Shyam Colony Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Kishan Singh Pal permanently.

0040871629-1

"IMPORTANT"

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LOST & FOUND

I, Amit Kumar Tiwari, S/o Subhash Chandra Tiwari R/o Flat No.261, Pocket -7, DDA Janta Flats Nasirpur, Dwarka, Delhi-45 have lost my CBSE Class XII Original Marksheet cum certificate, Roll No.26637425 Passing Year 2021. Lost FIR lodged vide LR No.514024/2026 DTD.05.08.26. Finder contact. Mob. 8920139576

0040871737-1

I,Mrs. Ritu Jhatta,W/o-Mr. Vineet Singh,owner of Flat No.1402,Second Floor, Sector-2,Pinewood Enclave,Wave City, Ghaziabad,hereby inform that my original Builder Buyer Agreement, Maintenance Agreement and Possession Certificate,have been lost. Anyone finding these documents may contact:- 9899125334

0040871749-13

I, Harsh Vardhan Singh, S/o Trilok Singh, R/o Hotel Gyan, Subhash Ghat, Haridwar, Tehsil Distt Haridwar. have lost my Original Provisional Allotment No. JGAAMN221701 Jaiprakash Associates Limited in respect of unit bearing No. JGAAMN221701 AMAN project, situated at jaypee Greens, Noida

0071053716-1

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SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Electrical Department (Tr-D)/ Open Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. TRD_NAG_TENDER 25-26_39R3 Dated 03.08.2026

Name of Work: Improvement of reliability of OHE with replacements of G-Jumper/Isolators jumper by160 sqmm jumper, rehabilitation of track circuited bonds, replacement of old dropper, provision of double contact over Modified RRA and provision of thimble inside the catenary suspension clamp over Nagpur division. **IRPSM ID:** 13.02.36.25.3.51.010, **Earnest Money (in Rs.):** ₹ 4,79,300.00, **Tender Cost:** ₹ 2,39,62,231.29

Last date of submission of electronic offer (on line): 25.08.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.

For the above tender, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in for further details.

Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer (TR-D) SECR/Nagpur

PAM/34/82

South East Central Railway @secrail

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, DELHI WATER SUPPLY MAINTENANCE UNIT
U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN)
ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 245 M.L.D. GANGAJAL WTP CAMPUS, SIDDHARTH VIHAR, GHAZIABAD-201009
E-mail: dwsupjn@gmaiL.com

Letter No. : 871 / निविदा / 47
Dated : 12.08.2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) Online e-tenders for execution of **"Internal Repair of Pipeline with chemical agents/compounds for 3200 mm dia RC pipeline on select locations between chainages 8.00 km to 12.00 under Maintenence of 270 cusec Scheme for DJB"** under Deposit Program. Bids are invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible, reputed and experienced bidders. E-tender documents will be available for download **from 13.08.2026 at 18:00 Hrs. onwards**. E-bid can be submitted **till 14.09.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs.** and technical bid shall be opened **on 14.09.2026 at 15:30 Hrs.** in the office of the Executive Engineer, Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Unit, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Ghaziabad in presence of contractor or their authorized representative, E-tender Cost is **Rs. 3,540.00 (3,000.00+GST@18%).** Details are available on U.P. Government e-procurement portal **http://etender.up.nic.in** & U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) website **www.jn.upsdc.gov.in.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL THAT MY CLIENTS, Mr Shri Ram Vaid and Mrs. Kavita Vaid R/o CB-61-B, Shalimar Bagh, North West Delhi-110088 hereby unequivocally declare, notify, and put the general public on notice that they have permanently severed all the relations and connections, personal as well as financial, with their son Sumit Vaid and his wife Preetika Manoshra. For the purpose of clarity any prior affidavits, declarations, statements, or representations, whether oral, written, registered, or notarized purporting to express parental satisfaction, harmony, reconciliation, or continuing association with Mr. Sumit Vaid or his wife Preetika Manoshra, stand hereby rescinded, revoked, nullified, and withdrawn ab initio as having been obtained under compelling circumstances, or misconception, and do not reflect their true state of affairs or intent. This public notice serves as an absolute, final, and unconditional disownment. It is being declared jointly that my clients do not have any responsibility or liability whatsoever for any acts, deeds, transactions, debts, obligations or liabilities incurred by Mr. Sumit Vaid or his Wife Preetika Manoshra, and neither of them shall have any authority to represent my clients or act on their behalf in any manner. My clients hereby declare that they have disowned and debarred them from all the movable and immovable properties, assets, investments, bank accounts and their other belongings, whether presently owned by them or acquired by them in future, to the extent permissible under law. This notice is issued to place the above declaration on public record. Sd./ Advocate Akshit Shah.

AKSHIT SHAH (ADVOCATE)
ENR. D/2812/2025 | DELHI HIGH COURT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public at large that Mr. Aneel Kumar S/o Mr. Madan Singh, resident of S-2/46, Second Floor, Old Mahavir Nagar, New Delhi-110018, is the lawful owner of Second Floor, Property No.20B/13AB, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018. It is hereby clarified that in certain previous registered title/ownership records, the name of the owner has been mentioned as "ANIL KUMAR", whereas his present name is "ANEEL KUMAR" ANIL KUMAR and ANEEL KUMAR are one and the same person, having the same identity, parentage, ownership rights and other personal particulars. There has been no change whatsoever in his identity or ownership, and his PAN particulars are also the same.

Sd/- B.B.N.DEO, Advocate
S.R.IIB, Campus, Janak Puri,ND-58

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known at public in large that my Client **Sh. Vikas Seth** & Smt. **Sonia Seth** both R/o 53/68, Second Floor, Ramjas Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 had previously issued a public notice on 27/11/2022 in daily newspaper namely "Jansatta & Indian Express" through **Kapil Dua** and debarred & disinherited their son namely **Manik Seth** from their movable & immovable property. Now, they have resolved their differences with their son. Therefore, they hereby revokes cancel and withdraw the aforementioned disownment notice. They have completely restored all their rights and relations as their legal heir. Moving forward, the general public and authorities are hereby notified that the previous disownment is null and void, and they shall resume all responsibilities regarding their son.

Sd/-
AMIT BATRA (Advocate)
Ch. No. 224, Civil wing,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mohammad Iqbal Zafar, son of late Mohammad Yunus and Nazarana Parveen, wife of Mohammad Iqbal Zafar, resident of T-69, Ward No. 6, Islam Colony, Mehrauli, New Delhi, has evicted his son Mohammad Faisal and daughter-in-law Nida from all his movable and immovable properties due to their indecent behavior and not being under his control and has severed all his family relations with them. If any person does any kind of transaction with them in future, he himself will be responsible for it and my client will have nothing to do with it.

Sameer Khan (Advocate)
Ch. No. 604, Saket Courts New Delhi-17

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that the Disownment Notice published in the newspapers "Dainik Jagran" and "The Indian Express" by my clients **Sh. Karam Chand** S/o Late Sh. Milkhi Ram and **Smt. Soma Devi** W/o Sh. Karam Chand, R/o B-67, Vikas Vihar, Kakrola, New Delhi-78, whereby they had disowned their son **Sh. Parveen Kumar**, his wife **Smt. Rashmi Dhiman**, and their son **Master Vaibhav Dhiman** from all their movable and immovable properties w.e.f 23-06-2016, is hereby revoked, withdrawn and cancelled with immediate effect.

Sd/-
Birjesh Kumar Yadav
Advocate
Chamber: #427, Lawyers Chamber, Dwarka District Courts. Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all concerned that our client **Sh. Subhash Chander Bajaj** S/o Late Sh. Ram Murti, Aged about 80 years and **Smt. Neelam Bajaj** W/O Subhash Chander Bajaj, Aged About 71 Years, R/O: E-301, Ground Floor, Tagore Garden Ext. Tagore Garden, Dist. West Delhi 110027, have severed all relations with their Daughter namely **Rajni AKA Rajni Gujral/ Rajni Saini,** aged about 38 years, and her Husband namely **Sunil Saini** and her Daughter namely **Vani Gujral** OR Any other Child born out of her wedlock. And have disowned and disinherited all of them from all their moveable and immovable properties as they have become quarrelsome and disrespectful to our clients and have been acting against their interests. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at his/her own risk and cost.

Sd/-
MEGHA CHADHA
Advocate
Ch. No. 494, Advocates Chambers
Patiala Hosue Courts, Delhi-110001

Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Limited

Date :- 10/08/2026

e- Notice Inviting Tender

NIT No. & Date	Description of Work
e-Tender no. RSMM/CO/GGM/(Cont)/Cont-15/2026-27 Dated 07.08.2026 UBN No. MML2627SLOB00099	"Security works on contract basic at & around and nearby areas Jhamarkotra Mines of RSMML. Contract value Rs. 850.00 Lacs, EMD in Rs. 17.00 Lac, Tender Fees Rs. 4720/-

Other terms & conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit us at our website **www.rsmm.com or www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or contact Sr. Manager (Contract) on above address.

Raj.Samwad/C/26/9508 **DGM (P & A)**

UTTAR PRADESH EXPRESSWAYS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (UPEIDA)

upeida 5th Floor, A-Block, PICUP Bhawan, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 ☎ +91-0522-4004523/4004527, Email:upeida2@gmail.com, Web: https://upeida.up.gov.in

UPEIDA has invited online proposals for **'Selection of Contractors for Development of following Way Side Amenities along Purvanchal Expressway with Concurrent Period of Five (05) Years for Defect Liability Period (DLP) and Operation & Maintenance (O&M) on EPC Mode':-**

(i) PE-1 Barabanki LHS (Ch-019+150), PE-2 Amethi RHS (Ch-63+00), PE-3 Sultanpur LHS (Ch-108+300), PE-4 Sultanpur RHS (Ch-144+300) (Tender Id: 2026_UPEID_1175568_1).

(ii) PE-5 Azamgarh LHS (Ch-195+600), PE-6 Azamgarh RHS (Ch-230+900), PE-7 Mau LHS (Ch-266+800), PE-8 Ghazipur RHS (Ch-310+450) (Tender Id: 2026_UPEID_1175617_1).

The Detailed RFP document can be downloaded from E-Tender Portal viz. https://etender.up.nic.in. All further notices, corrigenda and clarifications etc., if any, shall be hosted on the E-tender Portal only.

Contact Mob.nos.: **9415034883, 9415527175, 9415088198 and 7355102441.**

Addl. Chief Executive Officer

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135 - 2763508, 2763808 & Fax: 0135- 2763507
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

प.सं. 675 दिनांक 12.08.2026

Tender Notice

Office of The Executive Engineer (Civil-III), Lakhwar Multipurpose Project, Dakpathar (Distt-Dehradun) invites sealed and separate tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders are given below:

Tender No.12/EE (Civil-III)/LMP/2026-27

Name of work-"Hiring of one number Ambulance (Maruti Eeco/M&M Bolero/Tata Winger /Force Trax/etc. or model or higher model) along with driver for Lakhwar Project for the period of one year (2026-2027)"

Estimated Cost-Rs 5,84,000/- (excluding GST)

Date & Time of availability of bid document on website-13.08.2026, from 11:00 Hrs

Last date for submission of tender-02.09.2026, up to 13:30 Hrs

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The Tender documents can be downloaded from the NIGAM's website **"www.ujvnl.com".**

Executive Engineer (Civil-III)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

COURT NOTICE

In The Court Of Mr. Umed Singh, Principal District & Sessions Judge, South-East, Room No. 500, District Court Saket, New Delhi.
NOTICE
As per order: Case Reg. No.:
Cr. Rev. No.565/2025
NIDA AFREEN
Versus
KAMRAN & ANR.

To,
1. Tabrez R/o Mohalla Butt, Delhi Gate, Disst.Amroha, UP
2. Najbul R/o Kotwali Rajabpur Dargah Backside Rajabpur Mohalla, Distt Amroha, UP
3.Shantanu R/o Kotwali Rajabpur Dargah Backside Rajabpur Mohalla, Distt Amroha, UP
4. Mehfooz R/o Backside Of Jama Masjid Police Station Delhi-110006
5. Mujahid R/o Mohalla Butt, Delhi Gate, Disst. Amroha, UP
6. Faizan Hussain R/o Kotwali Rajabpur Dargah Backside Rajabpur Mohalla, Distt.Amroha, UP.
7. Zishan Hussan R/o Mohalla Peorjiyo, Kasba Dhakka, Tehsil Hasanpur, Distt Amroha, UP-244221

Whereas...**ACCUSED PERSONS** revision petition has been preferred before me and you are hereby informed through this notice that you are directed to appear in person or by pleader duly instructed on next date of hearing i. e. **20-08-2026.**

Sd/-
Principal District & Session Judge (SE)
Saket Courts New Delhi.

Office of The Executive Engineer, Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Unit, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Administrative Building, 245 M.L.D. Gangajal WTP Campus, Siddharth Vihar, Ghaziabad-201009
Letter No.: 872/Nivida/48
Date : 12.08.2026

NOTICE FOR INVITING E-TENDER (NIT)

U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) Online e-tenders for execution of **"Internal Repair works on 2800 mm dia RCC pipeline using chemical compounds on select locations from chainage 4.00 Km to 8.00 Km under maintenance of 200 cusec delhi water supply scheme"** works were invited under Deposit Program. Bids are invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible, reputed and experienced bidders.

E-tender documents will be available for download from 14.08.2026 at 18.00 Hrs. onwards, E-bid can be submitted till 14.09.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. and technical bid shall be opened on 14.09.2026 at 16:00 Hrs. in the office of the Executive Engineer, Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Unit, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Ghaziabad in presence of contractor or their authorized representative, E-tender Cost is Rs. 5900.00 (Rs. 5000.00 + GST@18%). Details are available on U.P. Government e-procurement portal http://etender.up.nic.in & U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) website www.jn.upsdc.gov.in.

"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.

कार्यालय नगर निगम अलीगढ़।

पत्रांक:-560/डि०वि०/न०नि०अली०/2026-27 दिनांक 12 अगस्त, 2026

Notice Inviting e-Tender (National Competitve Bidding)

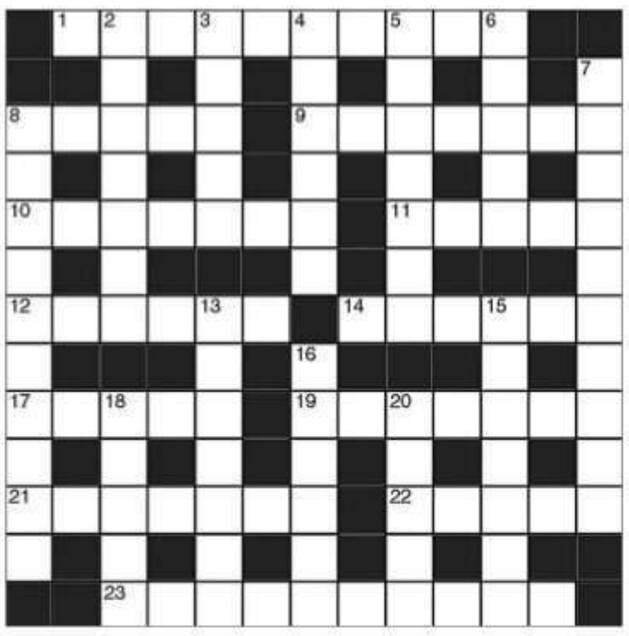
Municipal Commissioner Aligarh on behalf of Nagar Nigam Aligarh invites Bids on one stage two bid system through e-procurement for the following work:-

Name of Work	Minimum Concession Fees per. month.	Earnest Money Deposit /Bid Security	Concession Period	Date & Time for Pre-Bid Meeting	Date & Time for Publication of RFP	Last Date & Time for submission of bid (Bid Due date)	Date of Technical Bid Opening
Operation & Maintenance of Parking cum Food Cart Plaza and Park."	Rs. 3,00,000/- per month	Rs. 2,16,000/-	(3+2) Years	18-08-2026 03:00PM	13-08-2026 05:00PM	30-08-2026 05:00 PM	31-8-2026 11:00 AM

- A non-refundable amount of Rs.2,360/- to be paid as Tender Fee through online payment gateway.
- The detailed RFP is available at the website https://etender.up.nic.in
- Apart from the other conditions mentioned in the RFP, Bidder must also full fill the criteria mentioned in GOI Office Memorandum F.No. 6/18/2019-PPD dated 23rd July 2020 by Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, Public Procurement division. Bid would be summarily rejected in case of non-fulfillment of aforesaid Office Memorandum dated 23rd July'20 and EMD shall be forfeited for those bidders.

Sd/-

• CROSSWORD 6066



ACROSS
1 Indicating a need for quiet or nursing (10)
8 Tree planter we hear (5)
9 Warnings show domestic pets get welcome within (7)
10 Swift to provide a market permit (7)
11 One rand converted into an Arab currency (5)
12 An early walk (6)
14 This train may be held up by the attendant (6)
17 Be fearfully agitated (5)
19 Regains composure, eliminating a bad impression (7)
21 Runs second editions (7)
22 Address the account to right player (5)
23 Passenger-carrying flights (10)

DOWN
2 Called for as arranged (7)
3 In short your lot is decided in Austrian Alps (5)
4 Fastidiousness for exactness (6)
5 A driven out intruder (7)
6 Cereals normally seen in the woods (5)
7 His houses are heavenly (10)
8 Happen to reach a gap in the hills (4,2,4)
13 Conical shape in a manner of speaking (7)
15 Boat is dry-docked having another refit (7)
16 Container ship? (6)
18 Odd reason to have no article in old language (5)
20 A great cry of Stop! (5)

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 6065 **ACROSS:** 1 Martha, 4 Fracas, 9 Cabinet, 10 Scour, 11 Wilco, 12 Nonstop, 13 Part-payment, 18 Heave to, 20 Grant, 22 Camel, 23 Nunnery, 24 Shanty, 25 Halted **DOWN:** 1 Macaws, 2 Rebel, 3 Handout, 5 Risen, 6 Crouton, 7 Scrape, 8 Stand around, 14 Anaemia, 15 Magenta, 16 Chocks, 17 Stayed, 19 Eilat, 21 Agent

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.

There is only one ____ - to be able to spend your life in your own way. — Christopher Morley (7)

CEILS

BISTCU

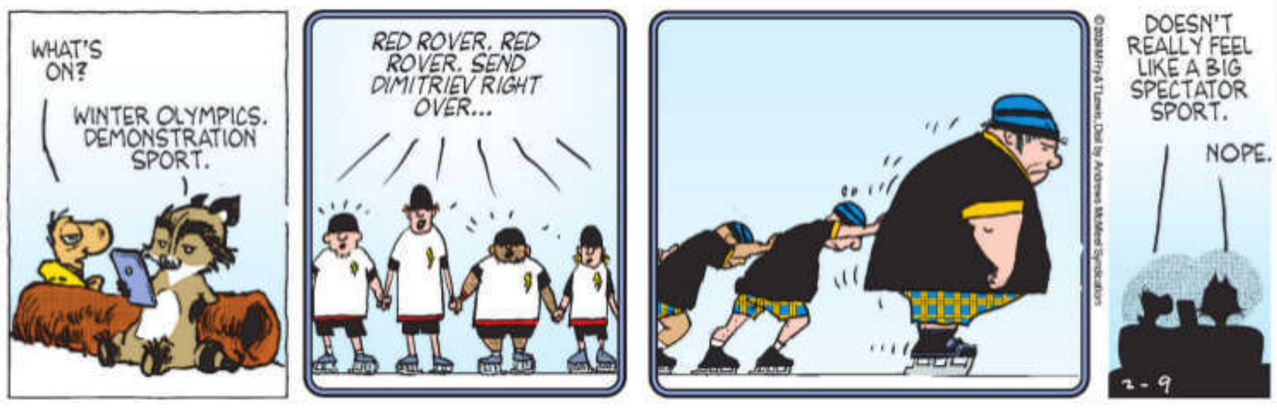
AGRSS

DEORRC

SOLUTIONS: Slice, Grass, Cubist/Cubits, Record
ANSWER: There is only one **success** - to be able to spend your life in your own way. — Christopher Morley

• OVER THE HEDGE

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS



• CALVIN & HOBBES

BY BILL WATTERSON

• MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

SUDOKU 6409

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 2s INSTRUCTIONS

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;
5s = Very Hard;
6s = Genius

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 6408

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

• ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20): This is an excellent day to make plans about your domestic needs as well as social occasions. You can accomplish a lot at work today because you have the necessary mental energy to get things done. Tonight: Work and get organised.

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21): You've been focused on home, family and real estate. Today is the perfect day to goof off and have fun. Some of you might be involved in a work-related flirtation. Tonight: Socialise.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21): This is a fast-paced week. Today you might need a breather. Put yourself first. Set aside some time to relax and get things in perspective. Tonight: Relax at home.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23): With Mars still in your sign, you have lots of energy and drive today. Furthermore, Mercury in your Money House could trigger moneymaking ideas or attractive purchases. No one is better than you at finding a bargain. Tonight: Conversations.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23): This is a marvelous day to give a lecture, and talk with others, because Mercury is in your sign dancing with fair Venus, which sweetens your words and makes you entertaining, charming and diplomatic. Tonight: Maintain your belongings.

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23): This is a restless day for you. Nevertheless, your ruler Mercury is dancing beautifully with fair Venus, and the Moon in your sign is energized by Mars. Having said this, be on the lookout for surprise dealings with authority figures. Tonight: You win.

LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23): This is an excellent day to make choices, especially about your romantic life. You might hang out with younger people today. It's certainly a popular day for you. Tonight: Enjoy quiet times.

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23): You continue to make a great impression on everyone this week because the Sun, Mercury and Jupiter are all at the top of your chart. Probably, people will ask for your advice or your assistance in something. Tonight: Be friendly.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22): You're noticed today and people can see you mean business. In fact, this puts you in a good position to direct the affairs of others and make decisions. It's also a great day to study, make travel plans and explore new avenues. Tonight: You're admired.

CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20): Do something different today. You feel the need for adventure. In fact, a lively discussion with a friend, or partner might generate adventurous ideas. Meanwhile, you might raise money or get a loan today. Tonight: Explore and learn something new.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19): Enjoy conversations with members of the general public, as well as partners and close friends. Travel plans and political ideas might appeal. Remember to get more rest. Tonight: Check your finances.

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20): Be accommodating with others today. It's a great day to socialise. Flirtations will appeal. In fact, discussions about romance are highly likely. Something unexpected might interrupt your home routine. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

SUPPLY WORKS

E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **SN. 1. Tender No.: NB265278A. PL Code (Group): 100000810047. Description:** Radiator set (01 set consist of 08 nos.) Part No- 81541089 Make- CAT [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **Earnest Money:** ₹1,91,780/-. **Date & Time of closing of tender: 14:30** hrs. of **07-09-2026. SN. 2. Tender No.: NB265348. PL Code (Group): 319003690021. Description:** CG Make Traction Motor Type TM2141C with Pinion Only. (Without any other accessories) FOR DETC/TOWER WAGON Make-CGL [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **Earnest Money:** ₹3,35,120/-. **Date & Time of closing of tender: 14:30** hrs. of **04-09-2026.** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Material Manager, New Bongaigaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Serving Customers With A Smile

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person Namely **Jashim Khan S/o Abdul Kalam R/o Ren Basera, Near Bangla Sahib Gurudwara Delhi Also At: A-215, Ram Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case **FIR No. 84/2020 U/s 457/380/411 IPC PS: Wazirabad, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Jashim Khan** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Jashim Khan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Jashim Khan** accused of **FIR No. 84/2020 U/s 457/380/411 IPC PS: Wazirabad, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **15.09.2026.**

By Order
Sh. Aakash Mohan Singh
JMFC-12, Room No 264
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/11224/N/2026
(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 (2) (ii) Cr. P.C.

Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Deepak @ Kalia S/o** Sh. Jaibhawan **R/o** H.No. A-1018, Near Max Fort School, Dwarka, Sector-07, New Delhi, have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR No. 158/2023 U/s 420 IPC & 27/54/59 Arms Act.**, has been registered at **PS: Dwarka North, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, **Deepak @ Kalia** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Deepak @ Kalia** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, **Deepak @ Kalia** under **FIR No. 158/2023 U/s 420 IPC & 27/54/59 Arms Act.**, registered at **PS: Dwarka North, New Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **14.09.2026.**

By Order
Sh. Rahul Katare
JMFC-06, Room No. 514
Dwarka Court, New Delhi

DP/11208/DW/2026
(court notice)

CHIEF ENGINEER (PROJECT) DEPARTMENT

PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Notice of Extention of tender

Pune Municipal Corporation's Chief Engineer (Projects) department had invited the tender for "construction of a flyover/grade separator from Sakhar Sankul to the Old Pune An advertisement (No. 3/406, dated 21/07/2026) was published by the-Mumbai Road" vide paper advt. no. 3/406, dated 21/07/2026

The tender submission period for this project expired on 11/08/2026. As ensuring adequate competition for the work is essential, a 7-day extension is being granted for this tender.

- **Tender Sale Period : Date 17/08/2026 upto 3.00 PM**
- **Tender Acceptance Period : Date 17/08/2026 upto 3.00 PM**
- **Opening of Envelopes: 18/08/2026 at 3.00 PM**

Rest of the Tender document/CSD etc. published earlier remains unchanged. All concerned are requested to take a note of this.

Sd/-(Dinkar Gojare)
Chief Engineer (Project)
Pune Municipal Corporation

जाहिरात क्र. ३/५५२
दिनांक : १२/८/२६

CSB Bank — PUBLIC NOTICE ON AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrower/s in specific and interested bidders in general, are hereby informed that on account of non-repayment of the Banks due by the borrowers as under despite the payment notice and recall/auction notice issued by the Bank, the gold ornaments pledged with the bank security by the respective borrowers for the loan availed by them will be sold in public auction on "as is where is" and "non-recourse" at branch premises on **29th August 2026 at 10.30 AM**. The auction may be adjourned to any other later date at the discreation of the bank upon publication of the same in the Bank's notice board. The borrowers are hereby further inform that the gold ornaments will be disposed of by Public auction/e-auction, if the auction is not successful and if there is a further balance to be recovered thereafter, legal action will be initiated against the borrower/s for recovery of the balance amounts due to the bank. "In case of Deceased borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs."

S. No.	Auction Center CSB Branch	Account Name	Client ID	No.of Acc.	Bal. Outstanding as on 10-08-2026	Weight (grams)
1	Ashok Vihar - Delhi	Dinesh	10179943	001	54,359.50	6.30
2	Ashok Vihar - Delhi	Khushboo Achhra	07171395	001	2,59,666.48	36.95
3	Ashok Vihar - Delhi	Rupal Devi	10006055	001	2,38,556.52	37.88
4	Ashok Vihar - Delhi	Yashika Uppal	10139751	001	8,46,121.71	94.80
5	Gautam Nagar	Shivani Ahuja	10293023	001	1,73,22,704.86	1,701.10
6	Palam	Deepak Khara	10177640	001	1,94,959.68	19.05
7	Palam	Parveen Kumar	05026181	001	61,371.31	10.30
8	Palam	Richa Tiwari	08251558	001	6,19,865.46	69.80
9	Palam	Seema Sharma	10236501	001	5,57,998.98	49.61
10	Janakapuri	Bhavik Peekay	10127204	001	7,87,642.30	66.66
11	Janakapuri	Naresh Kumar	10268735	001	4,79,977.98	40.61
12	Janakapuri	Ranjeeta Devi Raman	08359284	004	24,45,247.49	269.77
13	Janakapuri	Varsha Rani	10333741	001	5,78,201.74	48.93
14	Dwaraka	Payal Sangal	07746893	001	51,80,909.56	485.12
15	Dwaraka	Tanishq Kumar	10115331	001	5,75,720.33	76.65
16	Rohini Sector 7	Arun .	07329932	001	64,394.19	7.82
17	Rohini Sector 7	Deepak Khara	10177640	001	38,139.14	4.73
18	Rohini Sector 7	Deepanshu Bohara	10005704	001	26,360.71	4.56
19	Rohini Sector 7	Manjeet	10172775	001	28,06,573.17	239.74
20	Rohini Sector 7	Ramchander	04591621	003	4,25,178.88	80.90
21	Shalimarbagh	Aashish Kumar	05082061	001	4,63,876.86	50.97
22	Shalimarbagh	Praveen Kumar	10098908	002	3,75,649.32	39.58
23	Shalimarbagh	Saurabh Kumar	10049806	002	47,13,129.95	472.59
24	Okhla	Dinesh	04967368	001	3,52,341.02	37.35
25	Okhla	Rajesh Ghai	04627382	003	17,66,291.80	288.40
26	Okhla	Satya Prakash	04260559	002	2,50,404.88	42.40
27	Mayur Vihar–New Delhi	Bhawana Sharma	10179838	001	8,00,969.15	84.63
28	Dilshad Garden	Mohd Salim	04502692	001	49,452.00	9.78
29	Dilshad Garden	Sabbo	04787339	001	83,635.77	9.87
30	Dilshad Garden	Shahrukh	10006518	001	2,55,781.37	40.30
31	Rajouri Garden	Amit .	08314193	001	2,90,420.35	30.54
32	Rajouri Garden	Harjeet Singh Narang	04555838	001	8,77,152.35	92.00
33	Najafgarh, New Delhi	Hina Saini	10335215	002	7,03,016.35	61.82
34	Najafgarh, New Delhi	Nitin	10129453	001	9,96,866.98	121.40
35	Najafgarh, New Delhi	Rahul Kumar	04766421	002	11,84,984.94	102.60
36	Narela	Mukesh	10043034	001	1,29,517.31	15.91
37	Narela	Nand Lal	04851865	004	34,14,634.16	387.38
38	Narela	Sumitra .	05013666	001	7,01,618.25	76.25
39	Bhajanpura–New Delhi	Himanshu .	10258767	001	7,60,710.76	83.40
40	Bhajanpura–New Delhi	Raj Singh	08324122	003	7,15,422.50	114.53
41	Bhajanpura–New Delhi	Vivek Kumar	04566047	002	7,42,860.38	150.07
42	Krishna Nagar, New Delhi	Sadhna Mishra	04580663	001	12,01,541.91	143.25
43	Tri Nagar, New Delhi	Raju	10178604	001	4,23,478.02	50.10
44	Shyam Nagar–New Delhi	Moin Khan	04659851	001	83,822.58	9.10
45	Shyam Nagar–New Delhi	Naresh Kumar	10268735	001	2,35,411.99	24.70
46	Lajpat Nagar	Aarti Gupta	10287905	002	6,27,474.59	63.51
47	Laxmi Nagar	Anupam Kumari	10181597	001	1,11,150.01	13.77
48	Laxmi Nagar	Rizwana .	05071608	001	7,15,800.18	108.52
49	Laxmi Nagar	Vinod Singh Chauhan	08213842	001	25,93,528.36	285.90
50	Paschim Vihar	Hem Lata	10003317	001	7,26,703.31	102.42
51	Paschim Vihar	Mehak Arora	08284567	001	8,47,250.11	80.33
52	Paschim Vihar	Shiv Lal	08237835	001	7,56,341.45	112.16
53	Paschim Vihar	Shweta Madhok	10050674	003	9,22,153.12	93.59
54	Kalkaji	Jaspal Singh Bhalla	04898605	002	16,48,451.02	235.84
55	Punjabi Bagh-New Delhi	Harish Kalra	10180172	001	7,20,879.46	81.70

For more details/account wise information borrowers/interested bidders may contact respective branches and for participating in the auction

NCT Of Delhi
13.08.2026

Sd/- Authorized Officer,
CSB Bank

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person Namely **Sunny S/o Rampal R/o H No. 450, Gali No 2, Sewa Sadab Block Mandawali, East Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 80065792/2024 U/s 380 IPC PS: Mandawali, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sunny** cannot 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 **Sunny** accused of **FIR No. 80065792/2024 U/s 380 IPC PS: Mandawali, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **18.09.2026.**

By Order
Sh. Sachin
JMFC-03, Room No-16
Karkardooma Court, Delhi

DP/11006/ED/2026
(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ashu @ Ashish, S/o Sh. Bijender @ Shiv Kumar @ Vijender, R/o H.No. 969, Gali No. 8, Baba Enclave, Burari, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 321/2022, U/s 324/341/506/34 IPC, P.S. Hari Nagar, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ashu @ Ashish** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ashu @ Ashish** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ashu @ Ashish** accused of **FIR No. 321/2022, U/s 324/341/506/34 IPC, P.S. Hari Nagar, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **15.09.2026.**

By Order - Ms. Moksha Bains
Chief Judicial Magistrate-11, West District
Room No. 31, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/11161/WD/2026

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 person Namely **Vivek Kumar Singh S/o Raghuvansh Singh Mani R/o Latifpur PS Shahgang, District Jaunpur UP** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **case FIR No. 649/15 U/s 279/304A IPC PS: Swaroop Nagar, Delhi.** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Vivek Kumar Singh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Vivek Kumar Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Vivek Kumar Singh** accused of **FIR No. 649/15 U/s 279/304A IPC PS: Swaroop Nagar, Delhi.** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **22.09.2026.**

By Order
Sh. Sahil Gupta
JMFC -07, Room No-06
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/11153/ON/2026
(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C./ 84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **1. Mohd. Aman S/o Mohd. Idrish 2. Mohd. Idrish S/o Mohd. Rashid 3. Mohd. Suheb S/o Mohd. Idrish 4. Khushnuma W/o Mohd. Idrish 5. Mohd. Aslam S/o Mohd. Idrish all R/o H. No. 1463/1, Prem Nagar, Loni, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh** have Committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 200/2023 U/s 498A/406/34 IPC & 4 Dowry Act, P.S. Shaheen Bagh, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the above said accused cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the above said accused has absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the above said accused of case **FIR No. 200/2023 U/s 498A/406/34 IPC & 4 Dowry Act, P.S. Shaheen Bagh, Delhi** are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.09.2026.**

By Order
Ms. Kanika Handa
Judicial Magistrate First Class (Mahila Court)-02
Room No. 507
Saket Court Complex, Delhi

DP/10625/SE/2026 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Gulam Nabi S/o Yakub Asarfi R/o O-57, Loha Market, Welcome, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 727/2019 U/S 380/34 IPC, PS Welcome, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Gulam Nabi** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Gulam Nabi** has absconded (or is concealing themself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Gulam Nabi** of **FIR No. 727/2019 U/S 380/34 IPC, PS Welcome, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **15.09.2026**

By Order,
Ms. Deepakshi Rana
Judicial Magistrate First Class- 03
Room No. 19, First Floor, Shahdara District
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/10712/NE/2026(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rahul Kumar, S/o:** Shankar Sav, **R/o:** Village Ravalch, Thana-Bakhtiyarpur, District Patna, Bihar has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 818/2015, P.S.: Karol Bagh, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rahul Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rahul Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Rahul Kumar** accused of offence in case **FIR No. 818/2015, P.S.: Karol Bagh, New Delhi** and is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **15.09.2026.**

By Order
Sh. Nishat Bangarh
Judicial Magistrate First Class-01 (Central)
Room No. 180
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/11072/CD/2026
(Court Matter)

OPENERS IN FOCUS

Jaiswal's mission on the island

Sri Lanka series will not just test opener's ability to control his aggression — it will also offer a glimpse of how he can adapt to challenging conditions

Shankar Narayan
Mumbai, August 12

FOR YASHASVI Jaiswal, the first Test against Sri Lanka at Galle, starting on Saturday, will present a familiar challenge in new surroundings. To find the magic formula between attack and defence, when to hold back and when to go full-throttle, a chemistry he has been trying to perfect. He has both the games, but sometimes the dilemma has struck him and hastened his downfall.

Apparently, the best time to bat in Asia is when the ball is new, the wicket is fresh and there is pace on the wicket. Former India batsman Ajinkya Rahane talked enviously of the openers getting the best of the conditions to bat, as opposed to the middle-order batsmen. "The easiest position to bat in was top two in India at that time because the ball was new and the wicket was good. Batting in the middle order became tougher as the ball got older, started reversing, and the pitch deteriorated. Sometimes, even scores of 30 or 40 were really crucial," he told *The Indian Express*.

But it could be different in Sri Lanka. There could be swing on offer when batting first on the first day, as the curators leave grass for the surface to not dry up and deteriorate prematurely. Cheteshwar Pujara rates his 145 at SSC in 2015 as one of his toughest knocks because the ball swung viciously on the first day. Some decks, however, could spin exaggeratedly from the first ball. It could be a leap into the unknown. It would not invoke pre-game nightmares like the SENA pitches, but presents challenges of its own.

It's not a haven of runs for openers, Sri Lanka's former talisman Dimuth Karunaratne told *Cricinfo*. "It's the toughest place," he said. "Usually after a couple of overs, you can get a gauge on what the pitch is doing and whether the seamers or spinners are the bigger threat. Sometimes the spinner is on, and the new ball is jumping from here. Then a seamer bowls and it jumps from there. How to make sense of this? You have no idea what is going on."

That may be the simplest description of Jaiswal's challenge. It is not about blocking everything, but about making the right decisions. To make sense of the conditions and tailor his game accordingly. In recent times, specifically in the series against South Africa, he was split between attacking and defending, often veering to extremes. But he could revert to some of his knocks in the home series against England. In his 209 against England in Visakhapatnam in 2024, he batted through the first day as India lost six wickets at the other end to Shoaib Bashir, James Anderson, Tom Hartley and Rehan Ahmed. He absorbed the pressure early, scoring at a measured pace before gradually increasing his attacking intent.

That is the approach India will want from him in Galle: positive and attacking, but not rushed. Maintaining that balance will become increasingly important as conditions change and pitch starts to wear.

His second innings knock against New Zealand in Bengaluru later that year offered another example of that balance. Jaiswal was on 10 off 30 balls, but attacked once he felt more settled. He cut and drove through the off side and took on Ajaz Patel. He moved from 10 off 30 to 35 off 52, but then fell trying to attack Patel again, charging down the track only to be stumped by Tom Blundell.

It was Jaiswal in a nutshell. His aggression can change a Test match, but it can also get him out. The most productive shot can be his biggest weakness too. The cut shot gives him plenty of runs, but it has also dismissed him eight times, making the stroke both productive and risky.

It brings him runs because he trusts his hands and can hit the ball late. But the same instinct can make him play at balls that are not quite in his hitting zone. In the warm-up game, where he smoked a 46-ball 61 in the second innings showed both his sides.

His aggression has made him successful. Jaiswal has scored more runs than anyone else in the subcontinent since debuting in July 2023, amassing 1417 runs in 15 matches at an average of 54.50 with three centuries. All those runs have come in India, but batting in Asia is also about adapting when the pitch changes.

In Galle, knowing when to attack and when to show restraint could determine how long he stays at the crease. It will not just test his ability to control his aggression, but also also offer an early measure of how effectively he can adapt in Asian conditions beyond India.

Yashasvi Jaiswal will need to balance attack and defence in the two-Test series. CREIMAS

• Number Plate

1417

• Yashasvi Jaiswal has scored 1417 runs in 15 Tests in the subcontinent— all in India. Since his debut, no one has scored more runs in the subcontinent

Rahul: In search of daddy hundreds

Veteran has been a picture of assurance in adversity, but would want to convert his hundreds to big ones

Tanishq Vaddi
Hyderabad, August 12

KL RAHUL returns to Sri Lanka as one of the batting pillars of his side, a man for tough conditions, and already one of India's most successful Test openers. Yet, the two-Test tour offers Rahul a shot at ticking a box that has remained unticked in his career — to define a series with consistently big hundreds and stretch his average to a bandwidth that aligns with his true potential.

Rahul's career as an opener and his impact can't be truly measured in numbers. As most openers would vouch for, the last decade - especially in SENA countries - has been exceptionally harrowing for their ilk. His average of 38.13 (when opening) is not middling when compared with some of his contemporaries. It is an impressive 42 in the last five years. In this span, Rahul stacked hundreds on devilish tracks in England and South Africa.

Yet, he would feel aghast at himself for both squandering his starts as well as not kicking on to make daddy hundreds after reaching three figures. Three of his last hundreds ended at exactly 100; of his 12 centuries, only twice has he crossed 150, and six times perished between 100 and 110. It's the trademark of all great openers to convert their starts into something substantial. Rahul's century average (the mean figure of all his hundreds) is 128.45, significantly lower than Brathwaite (149.81) and Latham (152.62), not to mention some of the greats such as Virender Sehwag (175.71) and Graeme Smith (152.62).

Only Rahul could tell whether it is a case of him losing concentration, or feeling tired. Perhaps, it could be both. "Mentally, you have to be very, very strong," former opener Wasim Jaffer tells *The Indian Express*. "You need to be physically fit as well to bat for long hours, to concentrate for a long period of time."

In some instances, Rahul perished trying to release the pent-up pressure by playing a loose stroke. After completing his most recent hundred, against Afghanistan, he attempted an expansive drive to a widish full ball, a case of him hitting the ball too hard. Likewise, the ball after he had wrapped up an attritional hundred at Lord's the year before, he drove hard at a flighted ball from Shoaib Bashir.

He could be emotionally drained too, Paddy Upton, who once worked with the Indian team as mental conditioning and strategic leadership coach, had said.

"Players today arrive at Test cricket with their mental and emotional fuel tanks on load. Meaning: It is like your cell phone battery is at 25 percent. You cannot run a cellphone battery all day; it must be fully charged to last the whole day," Upton told this newspaper. It has been a pattern in Rahul's domestic career, where he has just one score of over 200.

"The time that India is playing T20s, he can use for his Test cricket practice, giving him a mental rest and also more time to prepare for Test cricket," Jaffer suggests.

More than the average, the metric of posterity would judge him. Rahul would want to define a series and rack up the big hundreds that could put him in the company of the elite.

KL Rahul's last 150+ knock in Test cricket came in 2016. CREIMAS

• Number Plate

128.45

• KL Rahul's century average (the mean figure of all his hundreds) is 128.45, which is significantly lower than his contemporaries like Kraigg Brathwaite (149.81) and Tom Latham (152.62)

Sports ministry suspends TTFI, IOA to appoint ad-hoc panel

TTFI was de-recognised for governance issues. FILE

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 12

THE UNION sports ministry has suspended the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI), citing governance issues. De-recognising TTFI as table tennis' national sports federation, the ministry has requested the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to appoint an ad-hoc committee for intermin administration of TT.

"The federation has failed to show good governance. The constant tussle between administrators has resulted into an administrative mess," a source close to the development told *The Indian Express*.

In January 2026, TTFI had suspended its secretary-general Kamlesh Mehta, alleging financial irregularities. The Olympian challenged the decision legally and found success at the Delhi High Court, which overturned his suspension. TTFI is headed by Meghna Ahlawat, wife of former federation president and politician Dushyant Chautala. Dushyant's father Ajay Singh Chautala, a former MP, has also led the body in the past.

A source said that TTFI's selection criteria violated sports ministry's policy. "The selection policy is disadvantageous to some meritorious athletes and puts restrictions on them," the source added. This follows star paddler Manika Batra's controversial exclusion from the Asian Games squad. Batra had gone public with her disappointment on the snub, alleging that the federation violated its own constitution and that its selection policy was ambiguous and unfair. She later backed down, citing "mental exhaustion".

The body has faced suspension for the second time in four years. TTFI was previously suspended in 2022 by the Delhi High Court after Batra's petition questioning the selection policy, which caused her omission from the Asian Championships that year. The court had ordered the appointment of an administrator then, stating that it was "appalled" by the "sorry state of affairs" in TTFI. The federation was restored after fresh elections. The issue of elections is again in the forefront, with the ministry pointing out TTFI's failure to conduct timely elections.

Nadeem pulls out of Lausanne Diamond League

Arshad Nadeem. FILE

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 12

PAKISTAN'S OLYMPIC gold medal winning javelin star Arshad Nadeem will not take part in the Diamond League meet later this month in order to focus on the Asian Games in Japan. "He has decided against competing in the Diamond League meet this month as he wants to be ready for the Asian Games," Nadeem's coach Salman Butt said. The Diamond League event is set to feature stars like Neeraj Chopra, Julian Weber and Anderson Peters.

Nadeem did not have the best of times in the recently concluded Commonwealth Games when he finished 9th in the medal round of the javelin throw event, missing out on a top 8 finish.

Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage eventually took the top spot.

• ESPORTS WORLD CUP

Arjun wins all-Indian battle, but loses semi-final

Mayank Chaudhary
Paris, August 12

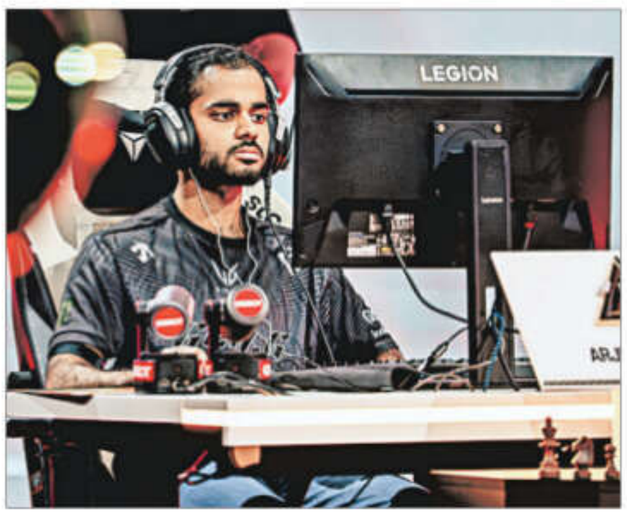
NIHAL SARIN carries a certain reputation. He is the one with nerves of steel, a calm that never cracks, and a composure that refuses to buckle under pressure. He thrives in fast-paced chess, is among the most experienced players in the computer-setup arena, and arrived in Paris for the Esports World Cup 2026 on the back of a demolition job over Alireza Firouzja to win the Bullet Chess Championship. He was the obvious Indian to follow.

Then he sat down at the buzzing arena inside Expo Porte de Versailles.

What followed was a letdown. In his very first round, the quarterfinals of Group Stage A, the draw handed him a familiar face and a familiar challenge against good friend and compatriot Arjun Erigaisi. And in the battle of the two Indians, Arjun triumphed over Nihal in brutal fashion.

Arjun beat Nihal at his own game, with his own style. An ice-cool Arjun, nerves of steel on full display, handed Nihal back-to-back losses with both colours and sent him tumbling into the loser's bracket.

But his joy of getting the better of his close friend was short-lived as Arjun ended up losing his semifinal to a very tough and determined Alireza Firouzja in a repeat of last year's clash at the same stage.



Arjun Erigaisi was beaten by Alireza Firouzja. ESPORTS WORLD CUP

Pranesh defeated

Another Indian in the fray, Pranesh M suffered a quarterfinal defeat at the hands of Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov. With that result, all three Indians - Arjun, Nihal, and Pranesh - now find themselves in the lower bracket, fighting to stay alive in the tournament.

In a tricky 10+0 format with no increment, Arjun struck first with white pieces against his compatriot. In the Caro-Kann, he had Nihal walking a tightrope straight out of the opening, forcing him to bleed time early.

Gaining momentum, Arjun kept pushing, and under the pressure of the ticking clock, Nihal's position crumbled.

With colours reversed, all Arjun needed was a draw. But after frustrating Nihal with a position that offered no edge, he capitalised on a one-move blunder to win the match 2-0.

Fortunately for Nihal and his compatriots, the tournament's unique format offers a lifeline. There is no straight elimination. The lower bracket gives losers a second chance, a path to redemption through a string of must-win matches.

"In this game, I had a bit of an opening mishap but once I got control, I pushed really well and played a very good game. The second game, it was more of an opening matter. Once I got a good position - he tried his level best, he put up a lot of good attempts - but I think my position was a bit too good," Arjun analysed after the twin contests.

Nihal admitted he doesn't really like playing against a good friend, but was honest in his assessment.

"He just played an amazing match, that's why I lost. I just got outplayed by the opponent. I could have played better, I guess. Especially in the first game, I believe I also played very decently, but he kept up the pressure very well... the board, the clock, the combined pressure was too much," he said.

Format favoured

Arjun believed the unique format at the Esports World Cup also worked in his favour.

"Nihal is extremely good, especially in non-incremental formats. He recently won the bullet championship as well, but this is 10+0, so I wasn't too worried about it because it would matter only if we reached that stage. It was a 50-50 match, I thought, and I just wanted myself to be on top of my game," he reflected.

American Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura wasn't surprised by the result either. He said Arjun has the best opening preparation among all the Indian players, and that's why he nearly made it to the Grand Finals in the last edition.

"He plays the most dynamic chess, so I am not surprised. Arjun played really well. The results aren't there yet, but Arjun is doing things differently, and he is on a very good path at the moment," said Nakamura.

Firouzja may have had a point to prove in Paris, which may have given him added motivation against Arjun.

The youngster, who moved from Iran to France in 2019, was recently dropped from the national team that will play at the Chess Olympiad in Samarkand later this year. The French Chess Federation took the call after Firouzja's repeated failures to represent the country at team events.

(The writer is in Paris at the invitation of the Esports Foundation)

Afghanistan to 'host' India in 3 Delhi T20Is

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 12

IN A first, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) will host India in a three-match T20I series in India in September.

The Afghans, who toured the country for a one-off Test and three ODIs in June, will return to New Delhi next month to take on Shreyas Iyer's side, shortly before the Asian Games.

The teams will play three games between September 13 and 17, all set to be played at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in the national capital.

"The BCCI is pleased to support the Afghanistan Cricket Board in hosting this T20I series in India. The India-Afghanistan cricketing rivalry has produced some thrilling encounters over the years, with both teams boasting quality cricketers. Afghanistan's players are also quite popular among fans in India, which is a reflection of the strong bond that has developed between the two cricketing nations. India hosting Afghanistan for their historic first Test in 2018 was another significant milestone in this journey, and since then, we have continued to see regular bilateral engagements between the two teams," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said.

All matches will be held at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. CREIMAS

Over the years, Afghanistan have adopted India as one of their secondary home venues after playing their first-ever Test in the country in 2018.

In June, India hosted the Afghans in the first-ever Test at the New Chandigarh Stadium. They recorded their biggest-ever Test win by an innings inside three days. The teams then met in a three-match ODI series, the first bi-lateral 50-over series between the sides that India won 3-0.

"We have hosted our home fixtures in both India and the UAE in recent years, and given the importance and scale of this series, we believe India provides an excellent setting for the event. We look forward to a successful series and to further strengthening our partnership with the BCCI," ACB chief Mirwais Ashraf said.

BWF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

India's next prodigy, raised on borrowed shuttles, unpaid loans

Hariharan to debut in Delhi next week carrying Gopichand's 'world class' tag and Satwik's own endorsement

Shivani Naik
Mumbai, August 12

HARIHARAN WILL make his India debut in men's doubles at the Delhi World Championships this week. Coach Pullela Gopichand calls him "world class," and the natural big jump smash has coaches drawing comparisons to Satwiksairaj Rankireddy himself.

It nearly didn't happen. His father, Amsakarunan, spent his working life booking flight tickets worth lakhs for other people, first at a travel agency in Singapore, then back home in Mannargudi, Thiruvarur district. But when it came to his own son's tournaments, criss-crossing India in back-to-back weeks, Hari remembers hesitating every time before asking him to book one.

"Junior tournaments happened one after another, so two-day train journeys weren't possible. But our finances were not great for expensive flight tickets," Hari recalls.

But the top tier almost didn't happen, till Satwik himself convinced him to shift to Hyderabad, where he is now India's No. 2 pair with MR Arjun.

"To ask my father for Rs 40,000 to play 3-4 tournaments used to be tough, though he always managed something. But if I lost in first round, I'd feel guilty to ask him for next, so I'd skip meets," the 22-year-old recalls.

His older sister Deepika first started out in the sport at school in Mannargudi. She would focus on studies, where she now pursues computer science, prioritising Hari's fast-rising career as his attacking style got coaches anticipating big things in the future.

"There are unpaid bank loans still from back then because badminton equipment and travel is expensive. But our father could see Hari was talented. He was determined to see him do well," she says.

The family would collect old shuttles, and Tamil Nadu seniors and benevolent coaches like Sudhakar in Tanjore, Nandakumar at Kamala Subramanian school and later Mahendran in Coimbatore chipped in with jerseys and shoes. But it all began on outdoor cement courts with plastic shuttles. "Feather shuttles were too much initially so we learnt to control plastic shuttles. Shoes, I needed to stitch them repeatedly. But the travel was the biggest expense because you finished Friday-Saturday and next meet started on Monday. My father insisted I go all out. He loves sport," he says.

Amsakarunan doesn't really understand badminton's Super 750, Super 1000 hierarchy, and his late wife, Hari's mother, didn't quite know badminton, only that her children enjoyed the sport. "After she passed away from illness (6 years ago), I was very sad and angry. I used badminton to focus on something because I would break down suddenly. I pushed very hard in practice in those 2 years," Hari recalls of managing his grief.

The smash, registered at 470kph+ at one international tournament, had an interesting story. His badminton itself had started as a trick his father conjured to ensure he reached school at 9.30 a.m. "I would wake up at 9 to reach school. I was average student and never liked studying or school. So my father decided to put me in badminton session which began at 7 a.m," he recalls. Naturally, he awoke at 6.30 only. But at least reached school on time.

Hariharan (left) will make his India debut in men's doubles at the World Championships next week. BAI

> **"There are unpaid bank loans still from back then because badminton equipment and travel is expensive. But our father could see Hari was talented. He was determined to see him do well."**
> DEEPIKA
> HARIHARAN'S OLDER SISTER

SatChi support

A U17 national title with another talented TN partner, Ruban Rethinasabapathi, shifted something within him. "I knew this is what I wanted to do. Local sponsorships started coming in. But it's only when I met Satwik-Chirag at the Nationals and he said, 'You come to Hyderabad. Don't worry. You are my brother' that I decided to move. They are both superb not just on court, but off it in guiding youngsters. They talk in a way that you start thinking you are good too," he says.

While he grew up borrowing smartphones to watch videos of Lee Chong Wei in singles, the jump smash took shape. "In juniors you throw yourself around with speed never fearing injury. But when I shifted to doubles and to Hyderabad I learnt to be technical in jumps and not careless. Satwik-Chirag are my role models, but I also admire Kevin (Sanjay Sukamuljo) and Marcus (Gideon), because they were also not so tall like me," he says of the famous Indonesian Minions.

Deepika says Hari now returns to Mannargudi for only 1 day every year. "Travelling to here takes him two days! His sweets eating is restricted but he stays disciplined, except for once a year chakkara pongal," she says. They make it a point to serve him his favourite sweet Pongal, cooked in the brass pathiram.

A livewire on court, Hari explodes on the backcourt and is set up by the canny Arjun. His base fitness is also thanks to his father. "He was an amateur athlete. And just for fitness he would make me do road runs timed at 30 minutes," he remembers. His jump and run combo and endurance is also down to those morning road runs. "Things are OK now," he says. The runway has smoothened out. Now, a takeoff is awaited. Not unlike the World Championships themselves.

Hockey's heavy lifter: Sushila on injuries, and a decade at top

Mihir Vasavda
Mumbai, August 12

THERE WAS a time when Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam had to squeeze hockey around shifts checking tickets at Mumbai's crowded railway stations. There was another when injuries and a dip in form had her contemplating quitting. The captain's armband has changed hands. So have the positions she plays. The game around her has changed too.

More than a decade on, Sushila, a veteran of 262 caps, is still here. On Sunday she walks out for another World Cup, still playing, still guiding. "There has been pressure, tension, a lot of joy... all emotions are mixed when I look back."

Now 34, Sushila belongs to the original generation of Indian women's hockey trailblazers who helped take the team from merely participating on the biggest stages to believing it belonged there. She captained India at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Ten years on, with Salima Tete wearing the armband, she remains a vital part of the squad. She has had a ringside seat to Indian hockey's transformation. "When we were young, there wasn't a lot of professionalism," she says. "We did not have a proper, structured place to learn."

There are academies across the country now. Young players arrive with a better understanding of the game, and Sushila no longer sees her role as teaching them everything from scratch. The change is not only technical. It has altered the culture inside the team. As a young player, Sushila was afraid of the seniors, the *didi log*. There was a distance between generations. Youngsters could not speak to seniors like friends; even hesitant to walk in front of them.

Foreign coaches, Neil Hawgood first and Sjoerd Marijne later, helped break down some of those barriers. When Sushila herself became a senior, she made sure not to perpetuate them. "We didn't want the following generations to experience that or feel the same way," she says. "So, we do everything in a friendly manner."

Sushila Chanu will compete in her second World Cup. HI

Changing positions

Sushila began as a sideback, moved to free defender, then centre-half, and now plays primarily as centre-back. The position has changed. The responsibility hasn't.

In Rio, that responsibility came with an armband. She was 24 when she captained India at the Olympics, but Hawgood, the coach then, made sure she did not carry the burden of captaincy beyond what was necessary. "He told me that the toss on the ground, that is your thing," she recalls. "And there is no need to take any pressure for the rest."

Today, Salima is captain. Sushila does not see that as a diminished role. "Whether I am a captain or a normal player, there is nothing like that," she says. On the field, she still speaks when needed. "Wherever there is a mistake, I will speak." That voice has been earned through a career of highs, lows and injuries. Sushila does not pretend longevity has been easy. "In my life, I have got a lot of injuries," she says. "Because of the injury, in my mind, mentally, sometimes I get weak. Every day, we can't always be positive."

In 2018, when she was left out of the Asian Games and World Cup squads, she contemplated walking away. "I thought of leaving everything."

Walking away

Her friends persuaded her to reconsider. If she wanted to quit, they told her, she should at least play one more game, even a test match, and then decide. She stayed. "After that, I did not give up. I did three times more hard work, and that never stopped."

The career that followed produced moments she still holds close. In 2013, she captained the junior team to bronze at the World Cup, India's first medal at the tournament. She led India on their return to the Olympics, in 2016, after more than three decades. Then came the Tokyo Olympics, where India finished fourth. "These two things will be memorable in my life."

There is hope that the next 45 days can revive some of Indian women's hockey's old highs. The World Cup and Asian Games offer two chances to make a statement, with Marijne back at the helm, the coach who led India to the Tokyo Olympics semi-final and a fourth-place finish.

Her own hockey life once had to fit around a job. After camps and tournaments, she would return to Mumbai and report for Railways duty, checking tickets at crowded stations in Sion and Masjid. Getting leave was difficult. Now, the equation has changed. "We are continuously at the camp," she says. "Even when we are on leave, we don't have to go to the office much. The focus is completely on training." In those years, she has gone from youngster to Rio captain to senior guide. On Sunday, she walks into another World Cup with Salima wearing the armband. Ten years after Rio, the captaincy has gone. Sushila's voice hasn't.

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