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Govt clears ₹658 crore road upgrade projects

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DGCA acts as AI flight strays into Pak airspace

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'Elle Woods always takes the high road'

IRAN'S NUCLEAR SITES

Deal first, inspections later

UN nuclear agency boss expects site visits under interim pact | Iran insists on final deal first

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO: The head of the UN's nuclear agency signalled Wednesday that Iranian nuclear enrichment sites would be visited by his inspectors, a key component in the interim deal between the United States and Iran to reach an end to the war.

The comment by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) head Rafael Mariano Grossi was the firmest yet from the United Nations agency, which is viewed as key in determining the status of Iran's nuclear stockpile.

Since Israel launched a 12-day war on Iran in 2025, the IAEA has been blocked by Tehran from visiting enrichment sites where the Islamic Republic is believed to store enough highly enriched uranium to potentially build as many as 10 nuclear weapons, should it choose to rush for the bomb. Iran long has maintained that its program is peaceful, though it is the only country in the world to have uranium enriched up to 60 per cent purity without a weapons program.

The US and Iran offered contradictory remarks Tuesday about whether those sites would be inspected. Grossi acknowledged the contradictions, calling it a "war of words" at the moment.

"I can understand political statements, they are part of the reality, but the fundamental thing I would like to remind you and draw your attention to is that there has been a Memorandum of Understanding, signed by both presidents," he told journalists at a news conference at the tsunami-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

The accord "says explicitly that the nuclear activities that are going to be carried out with regards to Continued on P4

Maryam al-Ghul holds a picture of her husband, Hezbollah fighter Zain al-Abidin Qubaisi, who was killed in battle against Israel, as she stands on the rubble of her family's house in the town of Nabatiyeh, southern Lebanon, on Wednesday AP/PTI

HIGHLIGHTS

- Since Israel launched a 12-day war on Iran in 2025, the IAEA has been blocked by Tehran from visiting enrichment sites
- Iran long has maintained that its program is peaceful, though it is the only country in the world to have uranium enriched up to 60 per cent purity without a weapons program
- The US and Iran offered contradictory remarks Tuesday about whether those sites would be inspected. Grossi acknowledged the contradictions, calling it a 'war of words' at the moment
- An Iranian diplomat rejected comments on Wednesday by the head of the IAEA, saying nuclear site inspections would only be possible after a final US-Iran deal

Gaza war claims over 20K children

UNITED NATIONS: More than 20,000 Palestinian children have been killed by Israeli forces in "deliberate, targeted" attacks since October 2023, according to a UN commission of inquiry chaired by Srinivasan Muralidhar.

Muralidhar, the former Orissa High Court Chief Justice, said in a press conference in Geneva on Tuesday that they found "indisputable evidence" concerning the "deliberate, targeted killing of Palestinian children, including since the October 2025 ceasefire".

Israel rejected the report and called it a "libelous sham". "The COI is a fundamentally flawed mechanism whose very purpose is to single out and vilify Israel rather than seek the truth," it said. See P8

PM MODI INVITED TO KHAMENEI'S FUNERAL

NEW DELHI: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is learnt to have invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the burial ceremonies for the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, diplomatic sources said on Wednesday.

The funeral ceremonies will be held from July 5 to 9.

There is no confirmation from New Delhi on the invitation to PM Modi. Khamenei, who ruled Iran for three decades, was killed on February 28, the first day of massive US and Israeli air strikes on Tehran. The funeral is slated to be held in Tehran and Qom on July 5, 6, and 7. The final ceremony will take place in the city of Mashhad on July 9. MPOST

TARIFF DEADLINE NEARS

India-US trade pact: Closer, not closed

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: India and the United States reviewed the progress on an interim bilateral trade agreement during the two-day ministerial meeting, discussing issues, including market access, digital trade and non-tariff barriers, but gave no indication that all differences were resolved ahead of a key tariff deadline next month.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and visiting US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer held discussions on the first phase of a proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA), which both sides have been negotiating since reaching a framework understanding earlier this year.

In a statement at the conclusion of talks on Wednesday, the Commerce Ministry said the two ministers conducted a "comprehensive review" of key elements of the proposed pact, including enhanced market access, digital trade, supply chain resilience, reduction of non-tariff barriers and cooperation in strategic sectors.

The ministry said both countries discussed pathways to conclude an interim agreement and reaffirmed their commitment to a deal that is "balanced and commercially meaningful".

Greer's June 22-24 visit comes at a time when New Delhi and Washington race to finalise an interim arrangement before the expiration of a temporary 10 per cent US tariff regime on July 24, a deadline that has added urgency to negotiations.

While the statement said 'substantial' progress has been made, the two sides did not say if outstanding issues had been resolved.

"Discussions focused on pathways to conclude an interim agreement as an important milestone toward a comprehensive BTA," the ministry said. It added that the two ministers reaffirmed their commitment to a trade agreement that is balanced, commercially meaningful, and delivers tangible benefits for businesses, farmers, workers, and consumers in both countries.

"Recognizing the growing significance of the India-US economic partnership amid evolving global trade dynamics, both sides reiterated their shared goal of expanding bilateral trade, fostering innovation, and building resilient, trusted supply chains," it added.

Earlier in the day, Goyal said in a social media post that the two sides reviewed the progress of the ongoing India-US trade discussions.

"I appreciate Ambassador Greer's leadership and the sustained efforts of both teams in advancing our discussions in a constructive and forward-looking manner," Goyal said.

Meanwhile, the USTR said that India has a long history of agriculture and manufacturing, and they Continued on P4

KEY POINTS

- The Commerce Ministry said the two ministers conducted a "comprehensive review" of key elements of the proposed pact
- The ministry said both countries discussed pathways to conclude an interim agreement and reaffirmed their commitment to a deal that is 'balanced and commercially meaningful'
- Greer's June 22-24 visit comes at a time when New Delhi and Washington race to finalise an interim arrangement before the expiration of a temporary 10 per cent US tariff regime on July 24

Nirav faces $11m bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON: Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi is liable to pay Bank of India over $11.5 million, including accruing interest on a personal loan guarantee, the High Court in London has ruled.

The 55-year-old jeweller, who remains in prison fighting extradition to India in a separate $2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud and money laundering case, had disputed the enforceability of the personal guarantee related to a loan to a Dubai-incorporated firm, Firestar Diamond FZE, associated with him.

In a judgment handed down at the London Circuit Commercial Court on Tuesday, Justice Simon Tinkler found in favour of the Bank of India after a lengthy legal process complicated by paperwork transfer delays within the UK prison service.

"Mr Modi was validly served with the October 2025 Modi Demand.

Continued on P4

POST-MORTEM REVEALS SMOKE INHALATION CAUSED ALL 15 DEATHS

Lucknow fire victims died suffocating

CHANDAN KUMAR/PTI

LUCKNOW: The 15 people killed in the fire that tore through a building in Lucknow's Aliganj didn't have major burn injuries and suffocated to death after inhaling large quantities of smoke, according to the post-mortem report.

There was no clear evidence of extensive burn injuries or deep wounds that could directly explain the deaths, doctors associated with the post-mortem said.

However, the doctors observed swelling around the faces and eyes of several victims and detected soot and smoke particles inside their nasal passages -- an indication that they had inhaled large quantities of smoke before their deaths.

"The post-mortem examination has revealed that all 15 victims died due to suffocation caused by smoke inhalation. No major burn injuries or grievous external wounds were found that could be attributed as the direct cause of death," a senior doctor involved in Continued on P4

A woman takes a picture at the site as the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) team issues a demolition notice for the three-storey commercial building at the Aliganj area PTI

TRAPPED IN SMOKE

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- However, the doctors observed swelling around the faces and eyes of several victims and detected soot and smoke particles inside their nasal passages -- an indication that they had inhaled large quantities of smoke before their deaths
- Based on the findings, doctors concluded that all 15 victims died due to asphyxiation caused by smoke inhalation

Taratala warehouse collapse kills five, many feared trapped

MPOST BUREAU

KOLKATA: The sound of buckling steel and collapsing concrete shattered the afternoon calm in Taratala on Wednesday as a warehouse roof collapsed. Hours later, amid the whirr of cranes and the shriek of gas cutters, rescuers were still straining to hear cries for help from beneath the wreckage where workers remained trapped under tonnes of debris. By evening, five deaths had been confirmed, 21 people rescued and authorities feared more victims could still be buried underneath.

The tragedy occurred around 12.07 pm on Transport Depot Road near Brace Bridge when the roof structure of an under-construction multi-storey warehouse and cold storage facility gave way during concrete casting work on the third floor. Witnesses reported hearing a deafening roar before the structure collapsed, trapping workers underneath.

The Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Authority (SMPA) mobilised cranes, gas cutters, ambulances and medical teams. Firefighters, Civil Defence personnel and local residents Continued on P4

CRPF DIG suspended over CAPF Bill posts

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: The CRPF has suspended a senior DIG-rank officer for sharing content allegedly "against" the government during the recent passage of the CAPF Bill, which the cadre officers of these forces had called discriminatory.

This is the first such case among the approximately 15,000 cadre officers entrusted with leadership roles in the country's 10-lakh-strong Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

Officials identified the officer who faced action as Deputy Inspector General (DIG) B C Patra, posted at the force's Tripura Sector headquarters in Agartala.

The 1994-batch CRPF cadre officer returned to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in April after completing a deputation posting with the federal counter-terrorist commando force NSG.

Officials said Patra was suspended a few days ago under Sub-Rule (1) of Rule 10 of the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 pending a preliminary enquiry.

Continued on P4

MONSOON MAYHEM

Commuters wade through a waterlogged road after heavy rainfall, in Mumbai, Maharashtra PTI

Rain inspection turns dramatic

MUMBAI: A Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) supervisor fell into a water channel next to where Mayor Ritu Tawde was inspecting waterlogging in a Mumbai locality on Wednesday after overnight heavy rains.

A video of the incident, which took place at Gandhi Market in King's Circle area, went viral on social media, prompting opposition to slam the city's monsoon preparedness.

The BMC staffer, who fell into the water channel a few feet from where the mayor was standing, was immediately rescued. See P6

IN REBUKE TO TRUMP OVER IRAN CONFLICT

Senate okays war powers resolution, a first

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON: The Senate for the first time approved a war powers resolution, seeking to block US military action against Iran, as lawmakers warily watch President Donald Trump's efforts to resolve a conflict that the administration launched on its own and now needs Congress to fund.

It was the 10th time the Senate has tried to stop the war, and the outcome, on a vote of 50-48 on Tuesday, was a stunning turnaround from past efforts.

While the resolution is largely symbolic, and does not carry the full force of law, it reflects the growing concerns from a number of Republican lawmakers in both the House and Senate over both the war and the deal Trump struck with Iran to end it. The House approved the resolution earlier this month.

Trump responded angrily Tuesday night on his Truth Social platform, calling the vote "poorly timed and meaningless" and saying it "provided aid and comfort" to Iran.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said, "Time after time, the vast majority of Senate Republicans sided with Trump and his war instead of the American people."

Schumer said Americans have paid the price for "Trump's historic blunder in Iran. It'll go down in the history books as one of the worst foreign policy forays America has ever made."

In the past, as many as four GOP senators have voted for the war powers resolutions, and they Continued on P4

IRAN CONFLICT

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- Trump responded angrily Tuesday night on his Truth Social platform, calling the vote 'poorly timed and meaningless' and saying it 'provided aid and comfort' to Iran
- Americans have paid the price for Trump's historic blunder in Iran. It'll go down in the history books as one of the worst foreign policy forays America has ever made'

Passport is a travel document, not proof of citizenship: MEA

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: A passport is a travel document, not a citizenship certificate, the MEA said, highlighting biometric-enabled e-passports designed to enhance security and curb fraud, HT reported.

The external affairs ministry will organise a two-day Human Resource Mobility Forum next week to highlight legal pathways for migration and facilitate networking between foreign employers and Indian nationals seeking jobs abroad, the officials said on the occasion of Passport Seva Divas, observed on June 24 to commemorate the enactment of the Passports Act in 1967.

The passport remains a travel document, and not a document of citizenship, as it attests the nationality of Indians when they Continued on P4

Door row turns deadly on local

MUMBAI: A 22-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by a co-passenger on a Mumbai local train during an argument over whether the doors should be kept open amid the rains, in the second such incident this year, officials said on Wednesday.

The accused, subsequently identified as Sachin Ramesh Suvarna (30), was arrested hours later following a massive manhunt, which included the scanning of footage from nearly 400 CCTV cameras, an official said.

Victim Mayank Lohar was fatally assaulted by Suvarna inside a first-class compartment on Tuesday. See P4

GOVT WARNS AGAINST NEGLIGENCE COMPROMISING STUDENT SAFETY

Delhi govt orders safety audit of 923 coaching centres after Lucknow fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Two days after a massive fire in a Lucknow building claimed 15 lives, the Delhi government on Wednesday ordered a special inspection drive covering 923 coaching centres across the national capital to check compliance with fire safety and building norms.

The building, which caught on fire in Lucknow, housed an animation centre, among other establishments, and most of the victims who lost their lives were students.

Education Minister Ashish Sood directed the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Delhi Fire Service and Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) to launch inspections at major coaching hubs, including Mukherjee Nagar, Rajender Nagar and Katwaria Sarai.

The inspection teams will verify whether coaching institutes comply with fire safety requirements, building regulations and other mandatory safety norms. The MCD will provide the agencies with details of 923 coaching centres surveyed across Delhi to facilitate coordinated action, said a statement.

Sood also directed the Delhi Fire Service, Delhi Police, and other departments concerned to initiate action against institutions found violating prescribed safety standards or operating in contravention of applicable regulations.

The MCD has been asked to submit a daily action taken report to the minister's office on enforcement and compliance measures, according to the statement. The directions were issued during a high-level review meeting attended by officials from the Home Department, MCD, Urban Development Department, Delhi Fire Service, DDMA and the Directorate of Higher Education, it stated.

The minister also reviewed safety standards, infrastructure and the existing regulatory mechanism governing coaching institutes.

He informed that the Directorate of Higher Education is preparing a regulatory framework for coaching centres to address regulatory gaps, strengthen accountability, improve safety standards and establish a transparent oversight mechanism.

Sood asserted that student safety and welfare were the government's priority and warned that institutions found compromising safety through negligence or non-compliance would face strict action.

"The safety and welfare of students is our highest priority. Any negligence affecting student safety will not be tolerated. All coaching institutes must strictly comply with safety norms and guidelines issued by the Government and the Courts from time to time," the minister said.

Noida and Ghaziabad seal 58 establishments over fire safety lapses

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NOIDA/GHAZIABAD: A day after a devastating fire at a coaching institute in Lucknow's Aliganj area claimed 15 lives, authorities in Noida and Ghaziabad launched a large-scale crackdown on establishments allegedly flouting fire safety norms, sealing around 60 premises.

Officials said two coaching centres in Noida and 56 establishments in Ghaziabad, including coaching institutes, play schools and dispensaries, were sealed during the drive for failing to comply with mandatory fire safety requirements.

In Ghaziabad, the Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) carried out inspections across multiple zones and sealed establishments that failed to produce valid fire no-objection c ertificates (NOCs).

According to GDA officials, a list of 206 establishments without fire NOCs has been prepared, with further action likely in the coming days.

"During the drive, 56 establishments were sealed as they failed to produce fire NOCs. We have also written to the fire department to initiate action under the applicable fire safety regulations," said Rudresh Shukla, media coordinator of the GDA.

The enforcement drive covered Raj Nagar, Raj Nagar District Centre, Rajendra Nagar, Lajpat Nagar, Satyam Enclave and Ambedkar Road.

In Noida, district authorities sealed Om Education Centre in Sector 149 after finding it was operating without registration and a fire safety certificate. Authorities said inspections would continue across NCR, with 82 cases already filed against high-rise building violators.

'Encounter is not justice, hang him': Father of 11-year-old girl

Accused cab driver shot in leg during escape attempt

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: "Encounter is not justice, I want the accused to be hanged," said a grief-stricken father of an 11-year-old girl who was allegedly abducted, raped and murdered, as he watched her mortal remains being consigned to flames at a crematorium in south Delhi's Chattarpur here on Tuesday.

The father's remarks came after the Delhi Police shot the accused cab driver in the leg during an alleged escape attempt while he was in custody. Police said the accused, a native of Bihar, tried to flee during the investigation, prompting officers to open fire to prevent his escape. He was subsequently taken for medical treatment, and his condition was stated to be stable.

Recounting the horror of that morning, the victim's father said that they were sleeping on the pavement when the cab driver, whom he called a "darinda" (beast), kidnapped his daughter.

"My daughter also shouted. I ran behind the cab and even hurled a stick at his car," he said, with his voice choking with emotion.

He said that he noticed the car and he called the police. "Gave the number of the car to the police. The officer who came was very helpful. He told me 'chinta mat karo hum hain apke sath' (don't worry, we are with you)," the father added.

He said he learned that the police had encountered the accused. "But I want strict and capital punishment for him," he said, as his anguish became palpable.

The heart-wrenching scenes at the crematorium underscored the trauma of a family shattered by a crime.

KEY POINTS

- Recounting the horror of that morning, the victim's father said that they were sleeping on the pavement when the cab driver, whom he called a 'darinda' (beast), kidnapped his daughter
- 'My daughter also shouted. I ran behind the cab and even hurled a stick at his car,' he said

The minor's body was brought to the crematorium amid heavy police deployment, with officers stationed in and around the premises to maintain law and order.

The child's family members were inconsolable. They repeatedly broke down and had to be supported by relatives as they struggled to come to terms with the loss. Several family members were seen lying on the ground, crying uncontrollably. Many relatives fainted during the cremation and were assisted by those present.

"We have lost everything. The accused must be given capital punishment," a man shouted.

The atmosphere at the crematorium was filled with cries of grief as mourners gathered around the bereaved family.

According to police, the girl was allegedly kidnapped from a pavement in Mehrauli where she was sleeping beside her family in the early hours of Monday. A cab driver allegedly abducted her, raped her and later strangled her before dumping the body and hiding her body under stones in a forested stretch along the Faridabad-Gurugram road.

The accused was arrested within six hours of the crime after more than 20 police teams tracked him through CCTV footage and technical surveillance.

Tilak Nagar murder traced to weeks-old dispute over Rs 150

PRAJYOT DEOGHARE

NEW DELHI: A dispute over Rs 150 allegedly led to the fatal stabbing of a young man in West Delhi's Tilak Nagar area, with police apprehending three juveniles in connection with the murder.

The incident came to light after a PCR call was received at Tilak Nagar Police Station reporting that a man had been stabbed.

Police identified the victim as Paras, who sustained multiple stab wounds and later succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital.

An FIR was registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and an investigation was launched immediately.

According to police, a woman called the PCR on June 22 and reported that her brother had been stabbed in the thigh and back and was bleeding heavily.

Responding officers rushed to the spot and found bloodstains near the scene. The injured man had already been taken to hospital, where he later died.

A special investigation team was constituted to crack the case. During the inquiry, the victim's sister told police she had found her brother lying unconscious and injured near their residence and had no information about the attackers.

Investigators examined CCTV footage from the area and simultaneously gathered local intelligence. Based on technical surveillance and field inquiries, three juveniles were identified and apprehended from a park near B-Block, Chowkhandi, in Tilak Nagar.

During questioning, the juveniles allegedly revealed that around 40 to 45 days earlier, Paras had forcibly taken Rs 150 from one of them and had refused to return the money.

On the intervening night of June 21 and 22, they confronted him over the issue. Following an initial altercation, Paras fled the spot, but the trio allegedly tracked him down, assaulted him and stabbed him multiple times.

All three juveniles were produced before the Juvenile Justice Board and sent to protective custody. Further investigation is underway.

TAKEAWAYS

- Police identified the victim as Paras, who sustained multiple stab wounds and later succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital
- An FIR was registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and an investigation was launched immediately

ED raids Delhi locations in 2021 Mundra heroin case

NARESH BISWANI

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday conducted searches at multiple locations in Delhi as part of its money laundering investigation linked to the 3,000-kg heroin seizure at Gujarat's Mundra Port in 2021, one of the largest drug busts in the country.

Sources said the raids were carried out at five premises linked to Harpreet Singh Talwar, also known as Happy Passia, Shamshudern and their associates. The action was undertaken by the ED headquarters under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to trace assets allegedly generated through drug trafficking and uncover financial networks connected to the case. Officials said the probe is focused on allegations that proceeds from narcotics trafficking were routed through legitimate businesses, including entertainment establishments in Delhi, to conceal their origin. Investigators are examining financial transactions, property holdings and links between the accused and various commercial entities.

Documents and financial records seized during the searches are being scrutinised to determine whether illicit funds were laundered through seemingly lawful business operations.

Harpreet Singh Talwar, who was earlier arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in connection with the case, is currently out on bail. The ED is now concentrating on tracing the movement of funds allegedly generated from the narcotics trade.

The case stems from the seizure of nearly three metric tonnes of heroin concealed in cargo containers at Mundra Port in Gujarat in 2021. The consignment, estimated to be worth around Rs 21,000 crore in the international market, triggered a multi-agency investigation. Officials described the latest searches as part of a broader effort to dismantle the financial infrastructure supporting international drug trafficking networks and identify individuals involved in handling or concealing proceeds from the illegal trade.

L-G TS Sandhu congratulates CUET-UG topper Devina Gahlot

NEW DELHI: Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Wednesday congratulated Devina Gahlot for securing the All India Rank (AIR) 1 in the CUET-UG 2026, describing her achievement as a matter of pride for the national capital. The results of the Common University Entrance Test undergraduate (CUET-UG) entrance examination were declared on Tuesday.

In a post on X, Sandhu said, "Heartiest congratulations to Devina Gahlot, daughter of Shri Kailash Gahlot, on securing All India Rank 1 in the CUET-UG examination!"

"Delhi is immensely proud of this stellar achievement. Her hard work, perseverance, and dedication have yielded extraordinary results and serve as an inspiration to students across the nation," he said.

Wishing her success in the future, the L-G said, "May she continue to scale new heights and bring further glory to her family and Delhi." Devina is the daughter of Bijwasan MLA and former Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot. Reacting to her achievement, Devina said she couldn't believe the result and repeatedly checked her application number after seeing the scorecard. She credited her success to consistent preparation, regular revision and the support of her family and teachers, adding that she hopes to pursue English Honours and is considering journalism as a future career. MPOST

'Do not panic': DU VC advises students to fill maximum preferences on CSAS portal

NEW DELHI: Delhi University Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh on Wednesday urged students not to panic during the undergraduate admission process. He advised students to apply for as many courses and college preferences as possible once the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) portal opens.

His remarks came a day after the declaration of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET-UG) 2026 results on Tuesday. Singh addressed concerns over the ongoing CBSE re-evaluation process and pending revised Class 12 marks. He said admissions depend on CUET scores, so students need not panic.

"There is no need to panic. Admissions are based entirely on CUET scores. If there is any change in Class 12 marks after re-evaluation, students can submit the updated documents by September 30 and, if required, the deadline can be extended further into October," he said.

The vice chancellor advised aspirants to carefully read admission guidelines and opt for as many preferences as possible while filling the CSAS form.

"Many students make the mistake of choosing only four to six options. If they do not get those choices in the first round, they regret not filling more preferences," Singh said, adding that students should choose as many options as possible because they can always upgrade in subsequent rounds.

On the impact of CUET on admissions, Singh described the entrance examination as a "major reform" that has enhanced diversity in Delhi University's student population.

"Students are now coming from almost every state, district and tehsil of the country. Children from big cities, small towns and villages are getting admission through a common platform," he said.

He said CUET has helped address disparities in evaluation standards across school education boards.

"Earlier, admissions based on Class 12 marks and some boards were considered more liberal while others were stricter in awarding marks. CUET provides a common benchmark for all students, which has been implemented and has been giving us good results," he said.

Around 30 per cent of eligible students opted for the fourth year, which offers research opportunities and direct eligibility for one-year master's programmes, Singh said. PTI

2 minor sisters killed in GZB road accident

GHAZIABAD: Two minor sisters were killed and their cousin sustained critical injuries after a container truck allegedly rammed into their motorcycle near the Eastern Peripheral Expressway cut in the Wave City police station area on Tuesday night.

The deceased have been identified as Aanshika (17) and Pari (14), residents of Nayi Mandi Muradpur village in Hapur district. Their cousin, Ajay, a resident of Delhi's Najafgarh area, suffered serious injuries and is undergoing treatment.

According to police, the three were travelling on a motorcycle when a speeding container truck hit them near the expressway cut. The impact of the collision was so severe that all three were thrown off the motorcycle and dragged several metres along the road.

Local residents alerted the police and emergency services, following which the victims were rushed to the Community Health Centre (CHC) in Dasna. Doctors declared Aanshika dead on arrival, while Pari, who had sustained critical injuries, was referred to a hospital in Hapur. She later succumbed to her injuries during treatment.

Police said the bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination. Aanshika's post-mortem will be conducted in Ghaziabad, while Pari's body has been sent to Hapur.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Priyashri Pal said CCTV footage from the area is being examined and the container truck involved in the accident has been identified.

"Efforts are underway to trace the driver, who fled the spot after the crash," the ACP said. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway. Police said legal action would be taken against the driver after completion of the investigation. MPOST

Car crashes into tree in Saket; 6 hurt

NEW DELHI: Six people, including a woman, were injured after a speeding car crashed into a tree near Malviya Nagar Metro Station in south Delhi's Saket on Wednesday, police said. The accident took place in the Saket police station area when the driver lost control of the vehicle, which rammed into a tree, they said.

Six car occupants -- five men and one woman -- were rushed to Max Hospital, and their condition was not immediately known. Several beer bottles were recovered from the vehicle. MPOST

CAMPUS TO ACCOMMODATE UP TO 8,000 STUDENTS

New Rs 1,668 crore AUD campus to come up on 50-acre Dheerpur site: CM Rekha Gupta

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: In a major expansion of Delhi's higher education infrastructure, the Rekha Gupta-led government on Wednesday approved the construction of a new campus of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) at Dheerpur in North Delhi at an estimated cost of Rs.1,668 crore. The project, cleared by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC), is expected to significantly enhance the university's capacity and provide modern educational facilities to thousands of students. Spread across nearly 20 hectares (50 acres), the campus will be developed in phases and is ultimately designed to accommodate around 8,000 students. In the first phase, academic facilities will be created for 5,400 students, along with hostel accommodation for 840 students and residential facilities for faculty and staff.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the project would help strengthen Delhi's position as a leading education hub. "The new Ambedkar University campus at Dheerpur will not only enhance Delhi's higher education capacity but will also set a new benchmark for a modern, inclusive and sustainable academic environment," she said.

Campus would be developed as a GRIHA 5-Star green facility: CM

The new campus will feature academic blocks, a central library, administrative buildings, student activity centres, sports infrastructure and a 2,500-seat grand auditorium. The project will be implemented by the Public Works Department (PWD) following approval from the EFC meeting attended by PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh, Education Minister Ashish Sood and senior officials.

Emphasising sustainability, Gupta said the campus would be developed as a GRIHA 5-Star green facility. "The project is an outstanding example of the integration of education and sustainable development," she said.

The campus will feature solar and geothermal energy systems, rainwater harvesting and wastewater recycling. Officials said the project will provide a sustainable, future-ready learning environment and expand access to quality higher education across the capital.

Four nabbed in mule bank account racket

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police has busted a racket involved in supplying mule bank accounts and routing proceeds of cyber fraud, arresting four persons from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, officials said on Wednesday. The accused have been identified as Faeem Bag (26), Shubham Goyal (27), Deepak Parjapat (28) and Manoj Kumar Tailor (39).

The case surfaced after a 31-year-old woman from Wazirabad reported that Rs 1 lakh had been fraudulently transferred from her bank account on May 26. She told police that she had neither authorised the transactions nor shared her banking credentials with anyone. During the investigation, police analysed IP records, email IDs, mobile numbers, call detail records and the money trail across multiple accounts. Technical surveillance led investigators to Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh, where the accused were traced and arrested.

Police said Deepak and Shubham allegedly convinced Faeem to provide his bank account for a commission of Rs 2,000. The account details were then passed on through Manoj and allegedly used to channel cyber fraud proceeds. MPOST

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INCLUDES SAFETY AND DRAINAGE WORKS

Govt clears ₹658 crore road upgrade projects

AIMAN FATIMA

NEW DELHI: In one of the biggest road infrastructure approvals this year, the Delhi government on Wednesday cleared projects worth Rs.657.99 crore to strengthen 270.63 km of roads across the city, with the work set to cover major stretches in East, North and South Delhi. The projects, approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, will be executed under a new zone-wise tendering model aimed at improving quality control, monitoring and accountability.

The government has allocated Rs.147.08 crore for 58.29 km of roads in East Delhi, Rs.247.31 crore for 104.42 km in North Delhi and Rs.263.61 crore for 107.92 km in South Delhi. Together, the works will cover more than 270 km of key arterial roads and are targeted for completion by October.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said, "The project will make Delhi's roads safer, more durable and of better quality. It will improve the condition of several key roads across East, North and South Delhi and help strengthen road infrastructure in line with modern standards."

Among the prominent roads included in the project are Road No. 66 from Seelampur to Gokalpuri (3.8 km),

> Project monitoring will be carried out through the GSDL/DPMG portal

Outer Ring Road from Chandgi Ram Akhara to Wazirabad (2.5 km), GT Road (1.88 km) and Avtar Singh Marg (1.9 km) in East Delhi. In North Delhi, roads such as Pankha Road (2.48 km), Satguru Ram Singh Marg (3.4 km), Lala Ganesh Das Khatri Marg (1.27 km) and Major Sudesh Marg (1.9 km) will be strengthened. South Delhi will see upgrades on stretches including SSN Marg (10.5 km), Mandi Road (4 km), Barapullah Elevated Road Phase-I (4.3 km), Nelson Mandela Marg (4.04 km) and Pankha Road (4.08 km).

The project includes cold milling of damaged road surfaces, laying of Dense Bituminous Macadam (DBM) and Bituminous Concrete (BC), tack coat application, road markings, installation of signboards and safety infrastructure, and construction of kerb channels for drainage.

Highlighting a major policy change, Gupta said, "For the first time, Delhi is adopting a zone-wise composite tendering system in place of the conventional road-wise tendering model. This will help make project execution, quality control and monitoring more effective."

The Chief Minister said all contracts would carry a five-year Defect Liability Period (DLP). "If a pothole develops on any road during the liability period, it will be repaired within 48 hours," she said.

Project monitoring will be carried out through the GSDL/DPMG portal, with geo-tagged photographs uploaded before, during and after construction. Independent quality audits will be conducted by CSIR-CRRI and the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA).

Emphasising environmental safeguards, Gupta said the tenders have been prepared in accordance with CAQM norms. "Better roads will not only provide safer and smoother travel for citizens but will also help reduce dust pollution and contribute to a cleaner environment in the Capital," she said.

Capital races against monsoon: 30.91L metric tonnes silt removed, 1,900 km drains cleaned

AIMAN FATIMA

NEW DELHI: With the monsoon knocking on Delhi's doors and memories of flooded roads still fresh, the city government has launched an extensive pre-rain preparedness drive, claiming record desilting of drains and large-scale inspections across all 70 Assembly constituencies. Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh on Wednesday reviewed ongoing works in Moti Nagar and said the government was focusing on prevention rather than crisis management to minimize waterlogging this season.

According to the Delhi government, the Public Works Department has completed desilting of 1,900.15 kilometres of drains out of a total network of 2,125.87 kilometres, achieving 89.38 per cent completion ahead of the monsoon.

The Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department has meanwhile reported the removal of 30,91,242 metric tonnes of silt, significantly higher than the approximately 19 lakh metric tonnes removed last year.

Official data showed that 2,84,655 metric tonnes of silt were removed from 21 major drains, while the crucial Najafgarh Drain alone accounted for 12,77,172 metric tonnes. Combined desilting across 22 major drains reached 15,61,827

metric tonnes, while 15,29,415 metric tonnes were removed from 55 supplementary drains.

Officials said the exercise is expected to improve drainage capacity, facilitate faster discharge of rainwater and strengthen flood-prevention measures across the Capital.

Reviewing the preparations, Parvesh Sahib Singh said, "Across Delhi today, our senior officers, Chief Engineers and field teams are inspecting roads and drains before the monsoon. We have running maintenance contracts, but the reality of the work can only be checked on the ground."

He added that officers had been deployed across different constituencies and that inspections would continue over the coming days. "In the next 10 to 15 days, all 70 Assembly constituencies of Delhi will be inspected," the minister said.

Stressing accountability, Singh said the government's focus was to ensure residents do not face the annual problem of waterlogging. "Our objective is clear, Delhi's citizens should not face waterlogging during the rains. Every drain, every road and every vulnerable point is being reviewed. Wherever shortcomings are found, immediate corrective action will be taken," he said.

The minister further said the government was prioritising continuous monitoring, field-level supervision and coordination between departments. The citywide inspections and record desilting figures, officials said, are aimed at ensuring smoother traffic movement, better drainage efficiency and a more resilient response to heavy rainfall during the upcoming monsoon season.

MCD streamlines trade licence process with portal integration

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: In a major step towards promoting Ease of Doing Business and strengthening citizen-centric digital governance, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has integrated the General Trade Licence (GTL) facility with its Property Tax Portal with effect from 23 June 2026.

With this integration, traders and business establishments will no longer need to access a separate portal for obtaining a new General Trade Licence or renewing an existing one. The earlier GTL portal has now been discontinued for all fresh

licence and renewal-related services.

Under the revised mechanism, the General Trade Licence fee will be automatically calculated at 15 percent of the applicable Property Tax. Once the prescribed amount is paid through the Property Tax Portal, the online payment receipt generated by the system will itself serve as the valid General Trade Licence.

The initiative is aimed at simplifying regulatory procedures, reducing compliance requirements, and making services more accessible and efficient for Delhi's business community.

MCD remains committed to enhancing transparency, improving digital service delivery, and creating a more business-friendly environment in the national capital while encouraging continued feedback and cooperation from citizens and stakeholders.

Delhi plans new flood barrier along Yamuna

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Irrigation and Flood Control Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh has said that Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi will be roped in to carry out a study for the construction of a new flood protection wall along a 4-km stretch of the Yamuna.

Works on building the flood protection wall along the Yamuna to protect flood-prone areas will be taken up next year after a detailed study, officials said on Wednesday.

"For now, we will repair the existing wall along the Yamuna River to protect vulnerable areas, including Yamuna Bazar. The new project will be taken up next year after a detailed study by IIT Delhi," Singh said.

The Yamuna Bazar area near Kashmere Gate has been identified by the authorities as one of the top waterlogging hotspots in the city.

"In 2023, despite the protection wall, inundation reached 8 to 10 feet in the area, due to which evacuation was arranged; it is the first area to get flooded during the high tide of the Yamuna in the monsoon season," the minister added.

From the devastating floods of 1978 to more recent episodes in 2023 and 2025, this

> Works on building the flood protection wall along the Yamuna to protect flood-prone areas will be taken up next year

stretch has remained particularly exposed. According to the plan, a 4.72-kilometre-long wall will be built from Majnu Ka Tila to the Old Railway Bridge, with a target to complete the project before the next monsoon season. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has said the decision, formally cleared as part of the budget, is rooted in the city's repeated experience with severe flooding.

The wall is expected to provide a strong layer of protection to vulnerable localities such as Civil Lines, Kashmere Gate, Yamuna Bazaar and Majnu Ka Tila areas that have historically faced the worst impact whenever water levels rise.

In August 2024, a report of the Joint Flood Committee (JFC) had identified the construction of a flood protection wall along this stretch of the Ring Road as the most viable long-term solution.

Work begins on Central Vista Metro Corridor

NARESH BISWANI

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Wednesday commenced construction work at Central Secretariat Metro Station for the upcoming Central Vista Metro Corridor under Phase V(A) of the Delhi Metro network.

The project was launched in the presence of Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs and Power Manohar Lal, along with senior officials from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the DMRC.

The corridor forms part of the extension of the Magenta Line from Janakpuri West to RK Ashram Marg. Once completed, Central Secretariat will become a major interchange station connecting the Magenta, Yellow and Violet lines, significantly improving connectivity across central Delhi.

The nearly 10-km underground corridor will have nine stations — Shivaji Stadium, Yuge Yugeen Bharat, Central Secretariat, Kartavya Bhawan, India Gate, War Memorial-High Court, Baroda House, Bharat Mandapam and Indraprastha.

According to the DMRC, the corridor is designed to improve access to key government offices, courts, memorials and major event venues in the Central Vista area. Officials said the project will enhance connectivity, reduce travel time and help meet the capital's growing transportation needs.

Delhi intensifies anti-dengue drive ahead of monsoon

NEW DELHI: With the monsoon season approaching and mosquito-borne diseases expected to rise, the Delhi government on Wednesday reviewed its preparedness against dengue, malaria and chikungunya, directing all departments to intensify surveillance, vector-control measures and public awareness campaigns across the capital.

Chairing a high-level review meeting, Health Minister Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh said the government had strengthened its disease-monitoring and response systems to prevent outbreaks during the rainy season.

According to official data, Delhi has reported 347 dengue cases, 87 malaria cases and 19 chikungunya cases till June 20, 2026. No deaths due to dengue or malaria have been reported so far this year.

"The Delhi Government is fully prepared to tackle Dengue and other Vector-Borne Diseases. We have strengthened surveillance, hospital preparedness, diagnostic facilities and vector-control measures across the city," Dr. Singh said. He added, "The fight against Dengue cannot be won by government efforts alone. Public participation is essential."

> '347 dengue cases, 87 malaria cases and 19 chikungunya cases till June 20'

The minister informed that a network of 35 Sentinel Surveillance Hospitals is actively monitoring cases, while all government and private hospitals and laboratories have been directed to report infections in real time through the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP). A control room has also been set up at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) headquarters for continuous monitoring and coordination.

Highlighting preventive efforts by civic agencies, officials said that till June 20, over 1.81 crore household and premises inspections had been conducted to identify mosquito breeding sites. Additionally, more than 1.97 lakh houses were sprayed, around 38,500 notices issued, and over 4,200 enforcement actions initiated against violations linked to mosquito breeding.

Dr. Singh directed hospitals to remain mosquito-free and urged residents to prevent water stagnation, observe weekly dry days and use repellents. MPOST

Okhla landfill set for complete disposal by December: Mayor

ANAMTA FATIMA

NEW DELHI: Delhi Mayor Pravesh Wahi on Wednesday reviewed the ongoing bioremediation and waste management operations at the Okhla landfill site and said that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) was moving steadily towards eliminating the landfill within the stipulated timeline.

During his visit, MCD officials briefed the Mayor on the status of bio-mining activities and measures being undertaken to process accumulated waste at the site. Senior officials, including MCD Commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar, Additional Commissioner Dr. Satendra Singh Dursawat and Engineer-in-Chief P.C. Meena, were present during the inspection. Expressing satisfaction with the progress achieved so far, Wahi said that nearly

23 acres of land at the Okhla landfill site have already been cleared of waste, marking a significant milestone in the city's landfill remediation efforts.

The Mayor stated that disposal of legacy waste accumulated over the years is expected to be completed within approximately one week. He added that fresh waste reaching the site would continue to be processed systematically, with the objective of ensuring complete disposal by December 2026.

Wahi also noted that Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta is personally monitoring bio-mining operations across landfill sites in the Capital. He said that MCD personnel and machinery were working continuously to ensure timely completion of the project and fulfil the broader objective of making Delhi cleaner and reducing environmental burden caused by landfill waste.

Delhi govt identifies 169 waterlogging hotspots

9 underpasses flagged

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Ahead of the monsoon season, the Delhi government has identified 169 locations across the capital that are prone to waterlogging, including 31 hotspots along the Ring Road, according to the recently issued flood control order.

The order noted that persistent waterlogging was reported at these locations in 2025. Nine underpasses, including Minto Bridge, Zakhira, Dwarka, Moolchand and Pul Prahlad Pur, have been flagged as particularly vulnerable. Authorities said temporary pump sets have been installed and standard operating procedures put in place to manage water accumulation.

In addition, 445 waterlogging hotspots mapped using traffic police data from 2023, 2024 and 2025 are under close monitoring.

Key vulnerable areas include the ITO crossing, Delhi Secretariat, Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, Rajghat, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg and the Pragati Maidan tunnel approach roads.

The flood control order also outlines measures to tackle potential flooding from the Yamuna. Sixteen flood control posts have been established across the city, while 11 regulator drains will be operated to manage water discharge into the river and prevent backflow during high flood conditions.

Authorities have also identified 14 villages in the Alipur, Wazirabad and Shahdara areas as vulnerable to flooding during periods of high water levels in the Yamuna.

STRESSES TECH-DRIVEN CRIME PREVENTION

L-G Sandhu calls for proactive, citizen-centric policing in Delhi

SHIVANGI SHUKLA

NEW DELHI: Delhi Lieutenant Governor Sardar Tranjit Singh Sandhu on Wednesday chaired a high-level review meeting with the Commissioner of Police and senior officers at the Delhi Police Headquarters, stressing the need for proactive, humane, visible and citizen-centric policing across the national capital.

The meeting marked the Lieutenant Governor's first visit to the Police Headquarters. All Special Commissioners of Police, Joint Commissioners of Police and Deputy Commissioners of Police

attended the review.

Addressing senior officers, Sandhu emphasised that police personnel must remain approachable, empathetic and firm, while ensuring fairness and transparency in their conduct to strengthen public trust and confidence. He said policing should focus not only on law enforcement but also on prevention and proactive engagement with citizens.

The Lieutenant Governor endorsed the force's commitment to maintaining strict control over crime and reiterated that the safety and security of women, children and senior citizens remain non-negotiable. He directed officers to proactively identify vulnerable areas, prevent street crime and pay special attention to the safety of girl students.

To strengthen crime prevention and investigation capabilities, Sandhu asked the force to make greater use of modern technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), drones, Facial Recognition Systems and social media monitoring tools. Sandhu stressed cybercrime and POCSO training, stricter traffic enforcement, stronger community policing, transparent personnel policies, greater representation of women, and transforming police colonies into zero-waste communities.

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

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Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi'
Minister of Industrial Development
Uttar Pradesh

Jaswant Saini
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4	F-02	P-5, Builders Area	598	Hospital Facility	2,70,92,988/-
5	11 B	BETA -2	493.40	Nursing Home	2,26,46,073/-
6	N.H.-1	Sector-Eta-1	5167	Nursing Home	21,80,47,400/-
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BRIEFLY CROSSED INTO PAKISTANI AIRSPACE NEAR AMRITSAR

DGCA acts after Air India flight strays into Pakistan airspace

NARESH BISWANI

NEW DELHI: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has initiated interim action against an Air Traffic Controller (ATC) at Amritsar and the operating crew of an Air India flight after an aircraft briefly entered Pakistani airspace during its approach to Amritsar Airport on June 22.

Oversight authorities are now reviewing operational decisions made during that phase. One outcome has been the suspension of certain responsibilities pending further review. While such incidents remain rare, they prompt scrutiny of navigation protocols near borders. At present, investigations continue without public updates.

The DGCA stated, Air India flight AI-479, flown using an Airbus A321 marked VT-PPV along the Delhi to Amritsar path, received directions to circle due to ongoing checks after birds hit the runway. As the plane began descending, deviation into Pakistan's sky occurred momentarily under guidance from radar signals.

The aviation regulator stated that coordination occurred with Pakistani air traffic control bodies during the event, safety being maintained throughout. Following this, the plane gave up its approach, turned toward Delhi instead, arriving without complications after a redirected flight path. The DGCA noted that temporary measures were applied to both the Amritsar air traffic controller involved and the flight personnel, due to their failure to notify the event via official procedures.

Close to the India-Pakistan frontier, the event gained notice. Surveillance of air traffic across northern regions persists, shaped by ongoing alertness to potential threats.

Occasionally, flights near borders drift into neighboring skies while circling or being guided by radar - when coordination exists with appropriate control agencies.

Not uncommon is this shift during routine maneuvering, so long as communication channels remain active between operators and oversight bodies. Though proximity may increase complexity, alignment through procedural exchange tends to prevent disputes.

An investigation by the DGCA appears into what caused the aircraft to stray beyond its assigned airspace along with the failure to report it promptly. Despite this, authorities confirm there was never a risk to those on board because air traffic control maintained oversight during the entire episode.

Further investigation of the issue continues.

DGCA has launched a probe into the matter REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Highlights

- Oversight authorities are now reviewing operational decisions made during that phase. One outcome has been the suspension of certain responsibilities pending further review
- Close to the India-Pakistan frontier, the event gained notice. Surveillance of air traffic across northern regions persists, shaped by ongoing alertness to potential threats

Fight over keeping doors open turns fatal on Mumbai local

Police arrest accused after altercation amid heavy rains

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI: A 22-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by a co-passenger on a Mumbai local train during an argument over whether the doors should be kept open amid the rains, in the second such incident this year, officials said on Wednesday.

The accused, subsequently identified as Sachin Ramesh Suvarna (30), was arrested hours later following a massive manhunt, which included the scanning of footage from nearly 400 CCTV cameras, an official said.

Victim Mayank Lohar was fatally assaulted by Suvarna inside a first-class compartment on Tuesday, which also marked the arrival of monsoon in the city, between Andheri and Borivali railway stations in the western suburbs, he said.

Officials said Lohar and Suvarna got into an altercation as the train, a Churchgate-Nallasopara fast local, pulled into the Andheri station at 10.42 pm.

> The accused, subsequently identified as Sachin Ramesh Suvarna (30), was arrested hours later following a massive manhunt

One of them wanted the doors to be kept open, while the other objected, citing the rains. During the argument, Suvarna, who works at the Sahar Cargo complex of the Mumbai airport, pulled out "sattu" (a sharp weapon) from his possession and allegedly stabbed Lohar in the abdomen and chest, he said.

Lohar suffered grievous injuries and collapsed, while Suvarna, a resident of Mira Road, jumped out of the train at Borivali station before it came to a halt and ran away.

The youth was rushed to a nearby medical facility with the help of Government Railway Police (GRP) and personnel from the Railway Protection Force (RPF), the official said. He was then taken to a civic-run hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Sharing more details, the Western Railway administration said the train reached Borivali station at 11.04 pm, and GRP and RPF personnel reached the coach within three minutes and mobilised medical staff, along with a stretcher and porters.

The victim was brought to the emergency medical room at the station at 11.22 pm, where he was examined by a doctor.

Acting on medical advice, railway authorities coordinated his transfer to Shatabdi Hospital in Kandivali by an ambulance at 11.42 pm, with GRP and RPF personnel accompanying him during transit, an official said. The railway administration also secured CCTV footage and other evidence and handed them over to the investigating agencies.

From Page 1

Deal first

the nuclear material facilities will be supervised by the IAEA -- in all letters," he said. Those inspections are key for the deal, which calls for Iran's stockpile of uranium to be "down-blended" from highly enriched levels.

There was no immediate reaction from Iran. On Tuesday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei told reporters in Tehran that UN inspectors were not scheduled to examine nuclear sites bombed by the US last year, rejecting comments made a day before by US Vice President JD Vance.

The IAEA has been allowed to visit other nuclear sites in Iran since the 12-day war in 2025, such as the Bushehr nuclear power plant. But without accessing the enrichment sites, the IAEA says it is unable to verify the status of Iran's stockpile or check the cascades of centrifuges used to enrich uranium.

The US and Iran agreed to a deal last week that calls for Tehran to dilute its stockpile of enriched uranium and waives US-backed sanctions on Iranian oil, while giving each side 60 days to hammer out broader agreements.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrived in the Persian Gulf for a three-nation tour, beginning with a closed-door meeting and private working lunch in Abu Dhabi with Emirati President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the State Department said Wednesday.

Rubio is scheduled to travel next to Kuwait and then Bahrain for meetings with their leaders later Wednesday and Thursday.

An Iranian diplomat rejected comments on Wednesday by the head of the IAEA, saying nuclear site inspections would only be possible after a final US-Iran deal.

Kazem Gharibabadi, a deputy foreign minister, made the comment on X. He was reacting to remarks earlier in the day by Rafael Mariano Grossi in Japan.

"No meeting was held with Grossi in Switzerland, despite his request. Nor is there any plan for access to the facilities that were attacked or to nuclear material," Gharibabadi wrote.

In a Dubai datelined report, PTI said that India has advised its people to continue avoiding all non-essential travel to Iran until further notice, despite recent improvements in the security situation.

The Indian Embassy in Tehran said it has been closely monitoring the prevailing security situation in Iran and was issuing a revised advisory in light of recent positive developments and improvements in the overall situation.

"Notwithstanding the recent improvements, Indian nationals are advised to continue to avoid all non-essential travel to Iran until further notice," the mission said in its advisory - a copy of which was posted on social media.

The mission further advised Indian citizens presently residing in Iran, as well as those who may be required to travel to the country for unavoidable reasons, to exercise a high degree of caution, remain vigilant at all times and maintain constant awareness.

It urged them to closely follow local developments through credible sources of information and comply with instructions issued by local authorities.

The embassy also reiterated its advice to all Indian nationals currently in Iran, as well as those arriving in the country, to register their particulars with the mission at the earliest opportunity.

India-US trade pact

are moving forward in technology.

Greer added that President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have an "amazing" relationship that they have nurtured over many years.

The two countries aim to salvage and recalibrate the proposed agreement after changes in the US tariff policy upended a framework deal finalised earlier this year.

Securing preferential tariff treatment in the pact has become a central objective for New Delhi after changes in the US tariff landscape eroded an advantage India had expected to enjoy over regional competitors such as Vietnam and other ASEAN economies. WITH AGENCY INPUTS

Lucknow fire

the examinations told PTI on condition of anonymity.

Based on the findings, doctors concluded that all 15 victims died due to asphyxiation caused by smoke inhalation.

The post-mortem findings of severe smoke inhalation matched survivors' accounts of the choking conditions inside the burning building.

"Smoke was everywhere," 32-year-old Mohd Aasif, a survivor of the Aliganj inferno, told PTI on Tuesday.

"When we moved towards the staircase, we saw thick smoke coming from there. We then moved towards the front side, but smoke was coming from there too," he had said.

The observations of the post-mortem report have been shared with investigating authorities.

Explaining the findings of the autopsies, the doctor said fires in enclosed spaces often turn deadly because of smoke and toxic gases rather than direct exposure to flames.

"In enclosed spaces affected by fire, oxygen levels can rapidly decline while toxic gases accumulate, creating conditions that can lead to suffocation," the doctor said.

"In many cases, trapped occupants do not get sufficient time or opportunity to escape. The deceased must have lost consciousness due to heavy smoke before their deaths," the doctor told PTI.

UP Urban Development and Energy Minister A K Sharma had said on Monday that preliminary information suggested the fire may have started in the building's AC duct, and the smoke led to suffocation due to the absence of a proper exit route.

Senior doctors noted that fatalities in fire incidents are frequently caused by toxic gases present in smoke. When smoke engulfs a confined space, oxygen levels drop sharply, making breathing increasingly difficult.

The burning of plastic, foam and other synthetic materials can release poisonous gases such as carbon monoxide, which interferes with the body's ability to carry oxygen in the blood and can cause unconsciousness and death within a short period, they said.

A devastating fire ripped through a three-storey commercial complex, which housed an animation centre and a pet shop, Aliganj's Usha Mehta Marg on Monday afternoon, killing 15 people, most of them students, and injuring several others.

The tragedy triggered widespread outrage and prompted the Uttar Pradesh government to order a high-level probe into the incident.

A two-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been set up to probe the cause of the fire and possible lapses. The SIT visited the incident site on Tuesday.

While the site of one of Lucknow's deadliest fire tragedies in recent years remains cordoned off with yellow police tape, the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) on Wednesday pasted a notice on the building over alleged violation of building bylaws and unauthorised use of the premises, which had been approved for residential purposes.

After the statutory period expires, the building could be demolished, officials said.

Meanwhile, the police have registered a case against the building owner and other persons associated with establishments operating from the premises.

So far, four people -- building owner Virendra Prasad Shukla, gaming institute director Tushank Krishna Jaiswal, IT professional Suresh Kumar Sahu and pet shop owner Ram Krishna Upadhyay -- have been arrested.

The state government has also announced compensation for the families of the victims and directed officials to inspect educational and commercial establishments across the state to ensure compliance with fire safety regulations.

Nirav faces $11m bill

That was a valid demand for a liability to the Bank under the Personal Guarantee," Justice Tinkler ruled.

"The Personal Guarantee is not, as a matter of Indian law, void/unenforceable. Mr Modi is therefore liable under the Personal Guarantee to the Bank for the principal amount due of USD 4,105,189.34," he said.

The judge also pointed to "the interest on that sum for which Mr Modi is liable", which adds up to an estimated USD 11.5 million until March 2026, with further interest accruing following that date.

"The interest calculated on the basis set out by the bank is to be added to the principal sum in calculating the total amount due," the judge concluded.

Bank of India, represented by Milan Kapadia of Fladgate LLP, had been pursuing the case since 2018 when allegations began to circulate regarding companies associated with Modi.

"This case is a commercial banking recovery claim by Bank of India against Mr Modi as guarantor. It does not concern, and makes no findings in respect of, the wider fraud allegations against Mr Modi or the Punjab National Bank fraud," Fladgate clarified, following this week's judgment.

There were three main issues before the judge to determine: whether Modi had been validly served with a demand; whether that demand related to a liability he owed to the bank; and whether the personal guarantee was enforceable.

On all fronts, Justice Tinkler found in favour of Bank of India after the court also heard from Indian law experts in a case Modi had largely chosen to represent himself as a "Litigant in Person".

At several hearings over the past year, he sought adjournments on the grounds of suffering from severe vision loss, clinical depression and prison constraints.

The judgment records "significant disruption" caused when Modi was moved from HMP Thameside in south London to HMP Pentonville in the north of the city last October, without arrangements being made to transfer his case papers. The prison authorities at Pentonville also failed on two occasions to produce Modi to court despite valid court orders.

Taratala warehouse

launched rescue efforts as cries for help emerged from beneath the debris.

As the scale of the disaster became apparent, teams from the NDRF, SDRF, Kolkata Police, Kolkata Municipal Corporation and Fire Services joined the operation. The Army was called in around 2.30 pm and a full-scale rescue operation began by 3.15 pm. Four columns of the Eastern Command, including specialist engineers and medical personnel, were deployed, while sniffer dogs were brought in to locate survivors.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari visited the site, joining Urban Development Minister Agnimitra Paul, Health Minister Sharadwat Mukherjee, Fire Minister Kaushik Chowdhury, Behala West MLA and Sports Minister (Independent Charge) Indranil Khan, South 24 Parganas District Magistrate, KMC Administrator Smita Pandey and other officials. Adhikari said rescue operations were being carried out in coordination among all agencies.

According to the Chief Minister, Army and NDRF personnel had established contact with 12 to 15 persons trapped beneath the debris. Water and oxygen were being supplied to them. He said the prompt response by Civil Defence personnel, firefighters and local residents had prevented the death toll from rising further. Twenty ambulances were deployed and Kolkata Police created a green corridor for the movement of the injured.

Adhikari later visited the trauma care centre at SSKM Hospital in the evening. Health Minister Mukherjee and the Health Secretary also monitored treatment arrangements. By evening, five deaths had been confirmed by Adhikari, while two persons remained in critical condition. Rescue operations would continue through the night, he said, adding that authorities were yet to ascertain the total number of workers trapped at the time of the collapse.

Authorities identified two of the deceased as Rohit Chowdhari (40) and Krishna Chowdhury (30). The identity of a third deceased male, aged around 30 years, was yet to be established. Among those injured and undergoing treatment were Durbasha Mallan (56), Mani Chand Kumar (22), Sahid Kumar (26), Rajesh Ruidas (25), Biswa Prakash (28), Bodan Munda (28), Rajendra Rao (55) and Ram Prasad Choudhury (21).

The chief minister said preliminary findings suggested the collapse was not caused by rainfall or loose soil conditions. He said the building plan had received Kolkata Municipal Corporation sanction on January 17, 2026. According to Adhikari, an initial assessment by KMC engineers indicated possible flaws in the approved plan, though a detailed report was awaited. The report was expected later in the night and decisions on accountability and compensation would be announced in the Assembly by him on Thursday.

He further directed the KMC Commissioner and the Urban Development Department to begin a comprehensive review of under-construction projects.

In a major policy decision, the Chief Minister ordered an immediate halt till July 31 on construction work at under-construction commercial buildings and projects in KMC area allegedly built on filled-up water-bodies whose plans had been sanctioned during the previous regime. A joint audit by officials from the PWD, Civil Defence, Fire Services and KMC will verify site and building plans. Construction may resume from August 1 only after clearance, while emergency works have been exempted. Later, KMC too issued a notification to that effect.

Meanwhile, SMPA clarified that it had granted a 30-year lease from August 1, 2024, to M/s Behera Brothers for about 6,689 square metres of land to establish a warehouse and cold storage facility. The port authority said obtaining all statutory approvals and clearances before construction was the responsibility of the lessee.

Police have begun a criminal investigation into the collapse. Sources said an FIR was being drafted on Wednesday night. Three persons have been detained for questioning, though no arrests had been made till late in the evening.

Late in the evening, the Chief Secretary and Home Secretary reached the site to monitor the rescue operation, which continued under floodlights amid hopes that more survivors could still be pulled out from beneath the wreckage.

CRPF DIG suspended

They said the charges involve sharing audio-visual and pictorial content on social media platforms that allegedly called for "changing" the country's lawfully elected government during the passage of the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill 2026.

The Bill is now an Act after it received presidential assent in April.

CRPF Director General (DG) G P Singh confirmed the development to PTI.

"All serving and uniformed officers of the CRPF are bound by the rules and statutes and the oath taken.

"Any word(s)- written or spoken or action contravening the same would be dealt appropriately in consonance with the law of the land," the DG said.

Patra could not be contacted for comment.

However, officers privy to the case said the action against the DIG was "mala fide" and "unjustified".

They said the officer (Patra) is being targeted because he was the lead petitioner among the CAPF cadre officers who fought cases related to their promotions and service parity with the IPS up to the Supreme Court.

"The DIG is being unfairly treated and punished by the CRPF headquarters because he led the legal battle for the rightful claims of the cadre officers on par with the Indian Police Service (IPS) officers who join the CAPFs on deputation," a senior officer said on the condition of anonymity.

He claimed that about two dozen other officers of the force who prominently fought court cases were recently issued "hasty" posting orders.

An association of ex-CAPF officers has also called a press conference on July 2 against the "hasty and illegal" suspension of the DIG, in addition to targeting CAPF personnel whose families protested the CAPF Bill at the Rajghat in the national capital in April.

"DIG Patra is an outstanding officer who has been commended with multiple awards," said Ranbir Singh, general secretary of the Alliance of All Ex Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association (AAPWA) said.

In their representations sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), serving cadre officers stated that the Bill's provisions were "oppressive" and "discriminatory" and that they would continue to stagnate in their current ranks if IPS deputations were not curtailed as directed by the Supreme Court in an order issued last year.

The Centre filed an appeal against this order which the apex court rejected.

The government said the bill seeks to create a unified legal framework governing the service conditions of personnel across the CAPFs, replacing the current patchwork of separate service rule regimes for cadre officers and those coming on deputation from the Indian Police Service (IPS).

MHA officers have said that the deputation of IPS officers in CAPFs was a "valid requirement" as they are an all-India service and play supervisory role in the state police organisations too. WITH AGENCY INPUTS

MEA

are abroad, the officials said.

"A passport is issued after a lot of due diligence, and it is based on documents from several government agencies," an official said.

Senate okays

did so Tuesday — Republicans Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Susan Collins of Maine, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Bill Cassidy of Louisiana. One Democrat, Sen John Fetterman of Pennsylvania, voted against.

Trump bashed the four Republicans as losers, saying, "These senators have made my job more difficult."

On this vote, the absence of two Republicans, including Sen Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who was admitted to the hospital recently for an undisclosed matter, left the GOP without a full majority to halt the effort. Sen Dave McCormick also missed the vote.

The vote comes as the Pentagon is seeking USD 80 billion from Congress mostly for the Iran war as it backfills munitions and stockpiles.

The president is not pleased with the Republicans who have been critical of the deal he struck with Iran, according to one GOP senator granted anonymity to discuss the private dynamics.

The terms of the Iran deal are spelled out in a memorandum of understanding that Trump signed last week, starting a 60-day clock for the sides to reach a broader agreement over ending Iran's nuclear programme.

But Republicans have particularly objected to the $300 billion fund to help Iran rebuild, which is far greater than the USD 1.7 billion then-President Barack Obama refunded the country under his administration's 2015 Iran deal.

Over and again, Democrats have been forcing votes on the Iran war, almost since the US and Israel launched missile strikes on Iran on Feb 28.

The Pentagon early on had estimated the war cost USD 11.3 billion during its first week, and senators said experts put the overall price tag of Operation Epic Fury higher, at some USD 100 billion.

The Trump administration is seeking USD 1.5 trillion in defense funding this year — a nearly 50% increase — including USD 350 billion that it wants in a so-called budget reconciliation package.

CLAIMS BJP'S 'REAL TARGET' IS TO END RESERVATION

Congress alleges BJP eyeing 2/3 majority in LS to scrap quotas

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Wednesday alleged that the BJP is striving for a two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha as its "real and ultimate target" is to be able to amend the Constitution for ending reservation.

In an exclusive interview, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh claimed that the ruling party first wants to push delimitation in the garb of women's reservation with the ultimate objective being of ending reservation altogether.

Ramesh said if the government is really concerned about women's reservation it should implement the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam on the current strength of the Lok Sabha -- 543 --for the next general elections in 2029.

He alleged that Home Minister Amit Shah's efforts to split the TMC and Shiv Sena (UBT) vindicate the 2024 campaign of the Congress that the BJP wanted '400 paar' so that they can "amend the Constitution and finish off reservation".

Congress MP Jairam Ramesh speaks during an interview PTI

Asked about the spate of defections in the opposition ranks, Ramesh said, "The single cause for this is the humiliation that the self-styled Chanakya of Indian politics suffered on the 17th of April in the Lok Sabha. He promised prime minister (Narendra Modi) that he would get the three delimitation Bills passed. He could not muster more than 298 votes in the Lok Sabha."Shah thought he could brazen it out and could bamboozle and bulldoze his way through but his bluff was called, Ramesh said. "I think he decided to take revenge on that day for that humiliation he had been forced to suffer and now he is busy with the 'todh-phod ki rajniti'. He broke the TMC, he's breaking the Shiv Sena, all in his search for a two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha - you're seeing the truth of our 2024 campaign. They were asking for '400 paar' so that they can amend the Constitution to finish off reservation," the Congress general secretary in-charge communications said.

"That was the whole logic of '400 paar' and now you are seeing why he is splitting all these parties, he is splitting up parties in his search for a two-thirds majority to amend the Constitution," Ramesh claimed.

Asked if the BJP is striving for a two-thirds majority to target reservations, the Congress leader said the ruling party's immediate target is the delimitation bill but the real target is ending reservation.

"You look that in 2024 it was very clear what was happening. I mean the ultimate objective is to end reservation as the Constitution has provided and in spite of what the prime minister (Narendra Modi) says, you know the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh is on record as having said that reservation should be done away with, RSS leaders have weighed in against reservation," he said.

So, delimitation is the first milestone they want to pass but ultimately there are three years more left for this government, he said.

Key Points

» Ramesh said if the government is really concerned about women's reservation it should implement the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam on the current strength of the Lok Sabha -- 543 --for the next general elections in 2029

» 'So, delimitation is the first milestone they want to pass but ultimately there are three years more left for this government'

Centre to review anti-drug strategy at NCORD meet

Shah to chair meet with top officials to discuss strategies

NARESH BISWANI

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah will chair the 10th Apex-Level Meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) in New Delhi on Thursday, in a significant step towards strengthening India's fight against narcotics and advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a drug-free nation.

A focus emerges on refining strategies to counter narcotic substances across India. This meeting follows persistent efforts tied to national well-being goals set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Under coordination of the Narcotics Control Bureau, top-tier discussions unfold with delegates drawn from 44 central bodies. Participation includes 108 officials representing regional administrations and anti-narcotic units, connecting through mixed physical and digital modes.

Amit Shah will also present the NCB Annual Report 2025 FILE

One focus at the gathering involves unveiling the Vision Document on Narcotics Control, covering 2026 to 2029. Crafted after wide engagement across ministries, law enforcement bodies, alongside additional partners, it forms an overarching plan. This framework targets lowering drug demand, restricting availability, while also minimizing associated damage during the coming three-year span.

Facing new threats like lab-made substances, hidden web markets, theft-based distribution rings, youth misuse patterns comes first. Treatment access grows at the same time. A connected law enforcement model takes shape across regions. Public understanding efforts move forward through tailored messaging. Skills development continues within agencies working daily on cases.

During the event, Shah will present the NCB Annual Report 2025. Construction completed recently on regional NCB facilities in both Jammu and Guwahati - these sites will be formally opened by him. While one initiative marks progress in reporting standards, the other reflects infrastructure development across different parts of the country.

The gathering coincides with the start of a two-week initiative on drug disposal, during which around 2,09,500 kgs of confiscated narcotics - worth Rs 6,000 crore - are scheduled for destruction by central and state enforcement bodies following due process. Though planned in advance, the event aligns formally with procedural timelines set by regulatory frameworks governing such operations.

TARGETS CM MOHAN YADAV

Cong seeks SC-monitored probe in MP land deals

AAISHA SABIR

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Wednesday demanded a judicial probe by a sitting Supreme Court judge into alleged large-scale land purchases by family members of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, questioning what it termed the BJP's "intriguing silence" on the issue.

Addressing a press conference, Congress leader Pawan Khera and Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president Jitu Patwari alleged that the land deals were carried out under the patronage of the BJP and the RSS. Referring to the Buddhist chant "Sangham Sharnam Gachchhami," Khera claimed that those involved in land grabbing appeared to enjoy the protection of the RSS. He also criticised the organisation for not registering itself, alleging that it sought "all authority with no accountability."

Patwari further alleged two additional scams — a Rs 1,000-crore transfer racket spanning six government departments and the allotment of land worth Rs 500 crore to a trust for just Re 1. He claimed that members of the trust included the Chief Minister's cultural adviser. "Ujjain is only the beginning," he said.

Khera likened the land purchases to insider trading, alleging that the Chief Minister had prior knowledge of upcoming development projects and that his family members benefited from that information. Drawing parallels with the Adarsh Housing scam, he noted that the Congress had removed former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan over what he described as less serious allegations, while accusing the BJP of shielding its own leaders. Patwari also posed of questions to the CM, asking whether the land purchases had taken place, whether corridor policies had been altered and whether the government would make the timelines public.

BJP accuses Kharge of land grab

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Wednesday alleged that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and his son Priyank have grabbed land at various locations in Karnataka by misusing their "power and influence", and asked why Chief Minister DK Shivakumar doesn't take action against them. Party spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari alleged that Kharge and his son, a minister in the Karnataka government, are engaged in "land loot" in the Congress-ruled state through their Siddhartha Vihara Trust. "Their modus operandi is inspired by Robert Vadra and Rahul Gandhi family," he charged. AGENCIES

TN CM Vijay distributes job orders

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Wednesday handed over appointment orders to 401 persons, of whom 383 were assistant engineers (electrical) selected through the TNPSC.

Among them were 18 assistant accounts officers appointed to the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited. The orders were handed over at a function. AGENCIES

PK queries top officials' role in encounter

PATNA: Jan Suraaj Party founder Prashant Kishor on Wednesday demanded that the judicial inquiry into the death of a man in the recent police encounter in Bihar's Bhojpur district be conducted by a sitting judge. Addressing a 'maha panchayat' at Bilauti, the village to which the deceased Bharat Tiwari belonged, Kishor said the role played by "top officials sitting in Patna" must also be probed and warned of "a gherao of the Chief Minister's residence" if the demands were not met in 15 days. The political strategist-turned-activist addressed the 'maha panchayat' after visiting the residence of Tiwari and meeting the bereaved family members. "It must be investigated as to whether the police personnel had pulled the trigger of their own accord, or were they acting under instructions from top officials in Patna." AGENCIES

India-EU human rights dialogue focuses on civil liberties and AI

SIMONTINI BHATTACHARJEE

NEW DELHI: Reaffirming their common commitment to democratic values and international order based on rules and respect for human rights, India and the European Union on Wednesday held the 12th India-EU Human Rights Dialogue in New Delhi. They had extensive talks on global issues concerning human rights, new technologies, and other related topics.

In light of increasing geopolitical uncertainty and new challenges facing the international community, both parties examined the progress achieved since the last dialogue in January 2025 and exchanged opinions on their frameworks and accomplishments related to human rights and other relevant challenges.

The dialogue was jointly chaired by Piyush Srivastava, Additional Secretary (Europe West), from the Ministry of External Affairs, and Hervé Delphin, EU Ambassador to India. The officials from both sides stated that the talks were significant, open, and constructive, with particular emphasis being laid on the importance of keeping up such engagements on human rights in light of an ever-changing international scenario. It was based on the positive progress achieved at the 16th India-EU Summit which took place earlier this year in New Delhi. At this event, leaders expressed their intent to raise the India-EU Strategic Partnership through the common values such as democracy, pluralism, human rights, rule of law and adherence to international standards. It was stressed that the Human Rights Dialogue is an integral part of the increasing India-EU relationship that includes various areas including political, economic, technological and security cooperation.

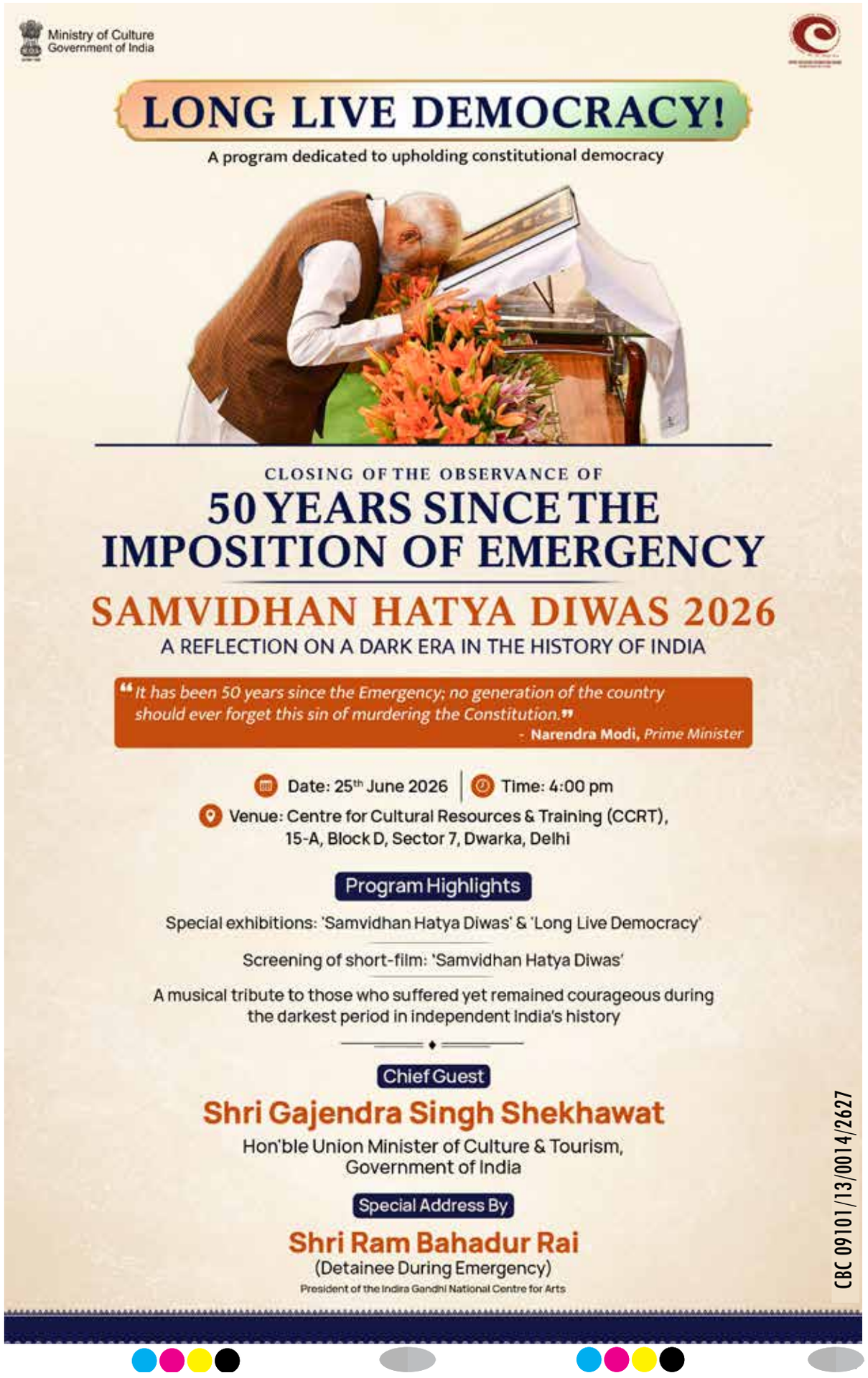
Both India and the EU are among the largest democracies and market economies in the world; together, they account for almost one-fourth of the world's population. They once again expressed their determination to promote and protect human rights in general, their universality, indivisibility and interdependence.

Both sides further exchanged their viewpoints on civil and political rights and social, economic, and cultural rights. Their talks also dwelt on how to address any form of discrimination and ensure equal opportunities for everyone in society. The topics that were thoroughly discussed included migration issues, religious freedom and freedom of opinion, both in the online space and in the physical world. They also talked about gender equality, LGBTQI rights, and child rights, among others.

Punjab CM denies fabrication charge

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday rejected allegations that the forensic report that gave a clean chit to him on a controversial video was fabricated and accused the ruling BJP in Haryana of threatening lab owners to target him, even as the Opposition demanded his resignation and social boycott. Mann's remarks came a day after the Haryana Police arrested two men following an FIR on a complaint regarding the alleged procurement of a fabricated forensic report related to the viral video.

The AAP leader also slammed the opposition parties, claiming that they have joined hands to form a "sanjha morcha" to defame him on religious grounds as they failed to challenge the work being done by his government. MPOST



India eyes $100 bn textile exports by 2030

Giriraj calls for faster execution, value addition and greater use of FTAs

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Textiles on Wednesday wrapped up the two-day Textiles Summit 2026, drawing together state governments, exporters, industry leaders and academia around a single ambition catapulting India's textile exports to $100 billion by 2030.

Union Minister Giriraj Singh, in his concluding address, struck an action-over-deliberation note, urging stakeholders to move swiftly from planning to execution. He stressed the need for an optimal product-market mix, value addition, and alignment with international sustainability and environmental standards, while pushing for sharper focus on niche exports and Free Trade Agreement (FTA) utilisation.

Textiles Secretary Neelam Shami Rao said the summit's deliberations represented a decisive shift from dialogue to action. She called for consolidating inputs from states, districts, industry bodies, and Export Promotion Councils into a comprehensive National Textile Export Roadmap, with high-value segments, innovation and sustainability at its core. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, urged the textiles industry to immediately capitalise on recently concluded FTAs. He flagged information asymmetry at the district level as a key obstacle for exporters and highlighted the government's revived District as Export Hubs (DEH) initiative, noting that the Department of Commerce has already conducted 500 FTA-awareness workshops.

Day 2 sessions zeroed in on quality and sustainability certifications including digital product passports and closed-loop recycling and on export enablement, with deliberations covering man-made fibres (MMF), ease of doing business, anchor investor attraction, and the building of globally competitive Champion MSMEs. Enhancing export finance and risk mitigation mechanisms were flagged as critical enablers for Brand India's international advance.

Meanwhile, officials of the Ministry of Culture also informed a parliamentary panel on the use of AI for preservation, promotion and better interpretation of India's rich cultural heritage. MPOST

Key Points

» Textiles Secretary Neelam Shami Rao said the summit's deliberations represented a decisive shift from dialogue to action

» Sessions zeroed in on quality and sustainability certifications including digital product passports and closed-loop recycling and on export enablement, with deliberations covering man-made fibres, ease of doing business

'WE NEED DOCTORS IN THIS COUNTRY'

SC declines to intervene in pvt medical college fee row

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: "We need doctors in this country," the Supreme Court said on Wednesday while refusing to entertain a petition which alleged that the fee structure in private medical colleges in Rajasthan was exorbitant.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi was hearing a plea challenging an order of the Rajasthan High Court. The High Court had dismissed a petition filed by a medical aspirant who alleged that tuition fee in private medical colleges in Rajasthan ranges between Rs 18.90 lakh and Rs 25 lakh per annum and it was wholly incompatible with the income ceiling of Rs 8 lakh for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) eligibility.

During the hearing, the apex court said one cannot say that self-financing institutions should charge the same fee as charged by the government institutions.

HIGHLIGHTS

- A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi was hearing a plea challenging an order of the Rajasthan High Court
- The HC had dismissed a petition filed by a medical aspirant who alleged that tuition fee in private medical colleges in Rajasthan ranges between Rs 18.90 lakh and Rs 25 lakh per annum and it was wholly incompatible with the income ceiling of Rs 8 lakh for the EWS eligibility
- During the hearing, the apex court said one cannot say that self-financing institutions should charge the same fee as charged by the government institutions
- The bench observed that one has the option to avail scholarship

REPRESENTATIVE PIC

The bench observed, "One person cannot say that it is exorbitant in private institutions and make it on par with government institutions."

The counsel appearing for the petitioner referred to the fee structure in Rajasthan and said it goes up to Rs 25 lakh.

The bench observed that one has the option to avail scholarship.

"We need doctors in this country," it said.

"We don't find any reason to interfere with the impugned order passed by the high court. The special leave petition is dismissed. Question of law, if any, is kept open," the bench said.

The petitioner had contended before the high court that the fee regulatory committee was duty-bound to frame a fee structure that was rational, equitable and commensurate with the financial constraints of the EWS candidates.

The plea said the petitioner had appeared in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate)-2025 under the EWS category.

Season's first rains disrupt road, rail traffic in Mumbai

Several parts of city receive over 300 mm of rainfall in 24 hours

MPOST BUREAU

MUMBAI: The season's first major spell of monsoon rain brought Mumbai to a standstill on Wednesday, inundating low-lying areas, disrupting suburban rail services and causing severe traffic congestion during peak morning hours.

According to civic officials, several parts of the city received more than 300 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours ending at 8 am. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert for Mumbai, Thane and Palghar districts, forecasting heavy to very heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms over the next 24 hours. The Colaba observatory in south Mumbai recorded 248 mm rainfall, while the Santacruz observatory logged 225 mm during the period. Malvani in the western suburbs received 340 mm rainfall and Parel in central Mumbai recorded 334 mm.

Heavy overnight rain led to waterlogging in several low-lying areas, including

Commuters wade through a waterlogged road in Mumbai, Wednesday PTI

Hindmata, King's Circle and the Andheri subway, affecting vehicular movement and causing traffic snarls. Suburban train services were also impacted as rainwater accumulated on tracks at several locations. Commuters reported delays and overcrowding on local trains, particularly on Central Railway routes. Services on the Trans-Harbour line between Thane and Vashi/Panvel were disrupted after a track cave-in between Turbhe and Koparkhairane stations.

Central Railway officials said the up line on the Thane-Vashi section was declared unsafe at 5.06 am and restored at 7.27 am with a speed restriction of 10 kmph. The down line resumed operations at 7.35 am with trains allowed to run at 30 kmph. Officials attributed the cave-in to excessive water flow.

The heavy rain also caused diversions on more than 24 BEST bus routes.

Meanwhile, a civic supervisor fell into an open drain while accompanying Mayor Ritu Tawde during an inspection of waterlogged Gandhi Market in King's Circle. He was rescued immediately and a video of the incident went viral on social media.

Over 6,100 new TB cases found in 35 days in Maha

MUMBAI: Maharashtra has detected 6,111 new tuberculosis (TB) cases within the first 35 days of the Centre's 100-day TB-Free India campaign, while 11,091 villages in the state were identified as high-risk through an AI-based assessment system, a minister informed the legislative assembly on Wednesday.

In a written reply, Public Health Minister Prakash Abitkar acknowledged that villages in Nagpur (482), Yavatmal (539), Amravati (504), Nashik (488) and Raigad (488) were among those identified by the Centre's AI-based system as high-risk under the "100-Day TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan".

He, however, said it was not correct that TB prevalence was unusually high in Vidarbha's cotton-growing belt or tribal-dominated regions compared to other parts of the state.

"Under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, risk-based screening, active case finding and registration on the Nikshay portal are carried out regularly in all districts. No specific geographical area has been found to have an abnormally high burden of tuberculosis," the minister said.

Providing district-wise details, he said Latur district recorded 729 new TB patients between January and April 2026 and currently has 1,020 patients undergoing treatment.

In Ahilyanagar district, 4,493 new TB cases and 92 deaths were recorded during 2025. Between January and May 2026, another 1,846 new TB patients and 10 deaths were reported, the reply stated.

Abitkar also rejected claims that diagnosis and treatment were being delayed due to a shortage of AI-enabled diagnostic equipment or CB-NAAT machines. The minister said Maharashtra currently has 117 AI-based handheld X-ray machines, 171 CB-NAAT machines and 746 TrueNAAT machines. MPOST

Punjab CM announces five-fold hike in sarpanches' honorarium

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday announced that the monthly honorarium of village sarpanches will be increased from Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000 from August 15, saying they deserve respect and recognition for their contribution to rural development.

Addressing a Sarpanch Milni programme in Bathinda, Mann said panchayats are the foundation of democracy and sarpanches work day and night for the welfare of their villages.

He said the enhanced honorarium would help them support their families while motivating them to work with greater commitment for village development.

> The monthly honorarium of village sarpanches will be increased to Rs 10,000 from August 15

The chief minister said previous governments had failed to fulfil promises made to sarpanches, but his government had ensured payment of an honorarium and was now increasing it five-fold.

Emphasising the importance of rural development, Mann said the progress of villages is essential for the progress of Punjab.

He assured sarpanches that there would be no shortage of funds for development works and urged them to ensure transparent utilisation of public money.

He said Panchayati Raj Institutions play a key role in implementing government welfare and development schemes at the grassroots level.

While policies are framed by the government, sarpanches and panches ensure their effective execution, he added.

Mann called upon sarpanches to work above groupism and treat all villagers equally. MPOST

Flash floods leave 1 dead in Arunachal Pradesh

ITANAGAR: Incessant rain triggered flash floods in Arunachal Pradesh's Keyi Panyor district on Wednesday, leaving one dead and four others missing, injuring 17 others and damaging at least 18 residential units, while landslides disrupted road connectivity and stranded travellers, officials said.

The body of Nirmala Gupta (35), a teacher at Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya (VKV) on NEEPCO campus at Yazali, was found during search and rescue operations following the devastating flash floods, Keyi Panyor Superintendent of Police Angad Mehta said.

The search and rescue operations were suspended for the day, and would resume at the break of dawn on Thursday, Mehta said. Gupta was among the five persons who went missing from NEEPCO project colony near Poosa under Yazali circle. The remaining missing persons were identified as Elesh Marak (13), Balari Marak (30), Tao Anjina (46) and Sourav Kumar, State Disaster Management secretary Dani

Debris scattered across an area after a landslide and flash floods in Keyi Panyor PTI

Sulu said.

Of the 17 injured, three were in a critical condition and were evacuated to Ziro in Lower Subansiri district for treatment, Sulu said.

An under-construction retaining wall collapsed due to the heavy downpour, leading to waterlogging in low-lying residential areas in and around the colony, he said, adding at least 18 residential units were damaged in the incident.

District police and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel rescued one Bishu Sinha from Yazali reservoir, while a scientist of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) was rescued from a stretch of National Highway 13 affected by the calamity, police said. The administration has directed the additional deputy commissioner, deputy superintendent of police and circle officer concerned to rush to the affected site for assessment and coordination of rescue operations.

"A team of SDRF has been deployed, while the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been alerted and is moving towards the area to assist in relief and rescue efforts," Sulu said.

An IAF helicopter dropped SDRF personnel and a rubber boat near Pitapool, and all available reserve personnel and vehicles in Yazali area have been mobilised, while ex-servicemen have also been called in to support emergency operations, he said. AGENCIES

CISF renews ISO certification for IGI Airport security ops

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has renewed its ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) certification for security operations at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, reaffirming its commitment to maintaining international standards in aviation security and passenger services at the country's busiest airport.

The certification, awarded by international assessment agency DNV (Det Norske Veritas), will remain valid from April 14, 2026, to April 13, 2029. It covers security operations across Terminals 1, 2 and 3, cargo facilities and other operational areas of the airport.

The renewal follows a rigorous external audit and detailed assessment of CISF's security protocols, operational procedures and quality management systems. The certificate was presented by Delhi International Airport Limited Chief Security Officer Navdeep Singh Heera to Deputy Inspector General and Chief Aerodrome Security Officer Babu Ram in the presence of senior officers of the Aviation Security Group.

CISF officials said the force has continued to maintain high standards of security and passenger facilitation despite rising passenger traffic at the airport. Several technology-driven initiatives have been introduced to improve efficiency and passenger experience.

These include the implementation of Digi Yatra for seamless passenger processing, Automatic Tray Retrieval Systems (ATRS) to reduce waiting time at security checkpoints, dual-view X-ray machines for improved baggage screening, Computed Tomography Explosive Detection Systems (CT-EDS) for enhanced threat detection and Perimeter Intrusion Detection Systems (PIDS) for better surveillance of airport boundaries.

Choose path of development: Haryana CM to people of Punjab

MUKTSAR: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday appealed to the people of Punjab, where elections are due in 2027, to choose a path of development and good governance for the prosperity of the state.

Addressing a gathering here, Saini said Punjab could once again become a leading state in the country by reclaiming its legacy of progress and prosperity.

Saini targeted both the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and alleged that these parties had failed to fulfil the expectations of the people.

He accused the Congress of corruption and dynastic politics, while claiming that AAP

Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini being felicitated with a memento during a programme organised at Muktsar, Punjab

had failed to deliver on several promises made before the 2022 assembly elections in the state.

He said the AAP government had not fulfilled its promise of providing Rs 1,100 per month to women.

In contrast, he said the Haryana government had started providing Rs 2,100 per month to eligible women from poor families under the Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana.

Saini also raised concerns over drug abuse, crime, illegal mining and law and order in Punjab.

He alleged that drug trafficking, gang wars, extortion and rising crime had created an atmosphere of fear among the people.

He said many youths were struggling to find employment and were being forced to seek opportunities abroad. MPOST

UP govt cracks down on coaching centres

Allen, Paramount among institutes sealed after Lucknow tragedy

MPOST BUREAU

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh authorities intensified their crackdown on coaching institutes on Wednesday, sealing several prominent coaching centres and libraries across Lucknow days after a fire in an illegally operating building claimed 15 lives.

Acting on the directions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who said no coaching centre or nursing home would be allowed to operate from a basement, joint teams of the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) and Fire Department conducted inspections across the city. The drive is part of a statewide campaign

launched after the deadly fire exposed widespread violations of safety and building regulations. Twelve coaching institutes and libraries were sealed during the operation. Among those shut down were branches of Allen in Krishna Nagar and Hazratganj, Gravity in Kapoorthala, and major competitive examination coaching institutes Government Exam Wala and Paramount. Officials said the institutions were found violating fire safety norms, building regulations or operational guidelines.

The state government has ordered inspections of coaching institutes across all districts. Teams comprising officials from the police, district administration, fire department, development authorities and electrical safety departments have been tasked with checking fire NOCs, emergency exits, electrical systems, occupancy limits and compliance with approved building plans.

"No coaching centre or nursing home will be allowed to operate in a basement. Human life is precious and there can be no compromise on safety standards," Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said while reviewing the enforcement drive.

'TIMELY ACTION NEEDED IN CYBER FRAUD CASES'

PM Modi expresses concern over 'rising' misuse of digital platforms

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday expressed concern over the rising misuse of digital platforms to defraud people and stressed that such matters require coordinated, sensitive and time-bound handling by all concerned agencies.

Modi made the remarks while reviewing grievances related to cyber crime and digital arrest frauds.

He also reviewed four critical infrastructure projects across the road, power, industrial corridor and metro rail sectors, covering four states and costing around Rs 30,000 crore, an official statement said.

The reviews were done by the prime minister at the 52nd meeting of PRAGATI, the ICT-enabled, multi-modal platform aimed at fostering Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation by seamlessly integrating efforts of the central and state governments.

Reviewing the cases related to cyber crime and digital arrest,

REPRESENTATIVE PIC

KEY POINTS

- PM Modi made the remarks while reviewing grievances related to cybercrime and digital arrest frauds
- He also reviewed four critical infrastructure projects across the road, power, industrial corridor and metro rail sectors, covering four states
- The reviews were done by the PM at the 52nd meeting of PRAGATI

Modi noted that citizens should not be made to run from one department or agency to another and emphasised the need for clear ownership, faster response, better coordination among law enforcement agencies, banks and digital platforms, and stronger public awareness campaigns.

He observed that in cases involving cyber fraud, timely action is crucial to prevent financial loss and restore public confidence.

The prime minister asked all stakeholders to work in close coordination to strengthen prevention, reporting, investigation and grievance redressal mechanisms.

Modi emphasised that states should work towards enabling e-Zero FIR mechanisms for faster registration and response in cyber fraud cases.

According to the statement, the infrastructure projects, important for economic growth, regional connectivity, industrial development and public welfare, were reviewed with focus on timelines, inter-agency coordination, issue resolution and timely completion.

Modi underlined that delays in infrastructure projects not only lead to cost escalation, but also deprive people and industries of timely benefits.

He asked the concerned ministries and state governments to resolve pending issues in a mission-mode manner and ensure close monitoring at the highest level.

The prime minister emphasised the use of PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for efficient planning and timely implementation of infrastructure projects.

He also underlined the need for regular and timely updation of project details, utilities, infrastructure layers, clearances and other field-level information on the portal.

GUARDED BY PIT BULLS, FED CATTLE FEED ROTIS

UP: 13 workers held captive at factory

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

MUZAFFARNAGAR: For nearly a year, the gates of a disposable bowl and plate manufacturing unit in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district became a prison for 13 labourers, allegedly held captive, assaulted and forced to work without wages.

Among those rescued during a police raid this week were two minors aged 16 and 17. The workers, who had been lured from railway stations and bus stands with promises of employment, regular salaries and food, alleged that they were instead subjected to violence, hunger and confinement.

Jagdish, a resident of Sitapur, said he was held at the factory for 11 months and beaten whenever he asked to return home.

"My salary was fixed at Rs 12,000, but I never received any money. We were forced to work day and night and hardly got any sleep," he said after being rescued.

The workers alleged that they had been promised monthly wages ranging from Rs 8,000 to Rs 12,000 for manufacturing dona-pattal, disposable bowls and plates widely

used across north India. However, shortly after arriving at the factory, their mobile phones, Aadhaar cards and other identity documents were allegedly confiscated.

Ramu, a worker from Nainital, claimed that the labourers were denied proper food and contact with their families. He alleged that workers were fed poor-quality rotis and were frequently assaulted with belts and iron rods.

According to the rescued labourers, they were made to work long hours without wages and were often fed only once a day. Requests for wages, food or medical treatment allegedly resulted in beatings.

Police said medical examinations revealed fractures, wounds and other injuries on some of the workers. The labourers also alleged that pit bull dogs stationed inside and outside the factory premises were used to prevent escape.

The case came to light after one worker managed to escape and alert the police. A joint team of police, labour department officials and district authorities subsequently raided the factory and rescued 13 workers.

Senior Superintendent of Police Sanjay Verma said the victims had been brought from Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Nepal on the promise of jobs.

Police have arrested Shiva Tyagi and Pradeep Baliyan, while factory operator Ankit Baliyan remains absconding. Officials said the investigation is continuing.

EDITORIAL

ETHICAL BOUNDARIES

The Union government's decision to tighten the regulatory framework governing foreign contributions to non-governmental organisations has once again brought the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) into public debate. While critics often portray such measures as restrictions on civil society, the government argues that they are necessary to ensure transparency, accountability and national interest. The latest emphasis on scrutinising organisations allegedly involved in religious conversion activities reflects a broader concern that foreign funding, when linked to faith-based mobilisation, can sometimes move beyond charitable or developmental work and enter areas that have significant social and political implications. The debate, therefore, extends beyond finance and regulation. It touches upon questions of religious freedom, social harmony, national sovereignty and the role of foreign influence in domestic affairs.

India's relationship with foreign-funded organisations has always been shaped by caution. The FCRA itself was first enacted in 1976 during a period when policymakers were concerned about external actors influencing political and social processes within the country. The law was substantially revised in 2010 and further strengthened in recent years to address emerging challenges in financial flows and regulatory oversight. The principle behind the legislation is straightforward. Organisations receiving foreign funds are free to undertake legitimate charitable, educational, humanitarian or developmental activities, but such contributions should not be used in ways that undermine public order, political stability or national interests. In a country as large and diverse as India, where faith, identity and community relations remain deeply intertwined, governments of different political persuasions have historically maintained that external funding linked to religious activities requires closer scrutiny than ordinary welfare programmes.

The renewed focus on religious conversion stems from allegations that some organisations have used foreign contributions to support activities that blur the distinction between social service and faith-based persuasion. Supporters of stricter enforcement argue that when aid, education, healthcare or welfare benefits are tied directly or indirectly to religious conversion efforts, questions arise about the voluntariness of individual choice. India's Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and the right to profess, practise and propagate faith. At the same time, several states have enacted laws against conversion through force, fraud or inducement. The challenge for regulators lies in determining whether foreign-funded activities remain within the realm of lawful religious expression or cross into practices that violate existing legal safeguards. The government's argument is that monitoring financial flows is essential because the source and purpose of funding can reveal whether organisations are engaged in genuine charitable work or pursuing objectives that may create social tensions.

The issue becomes even more complex when viewed against the backdrop of India's social diversity. Religious organisations have historically played an important role in education, healthcare, disaster relief and welfare services. Across faith traditions, institutions run by religious groups have contributed significantly to social development, often reaching communities where state capacity remains limited. Excessive regulation can therefore create concerns that legitimate humanitarian work may suffer. Many civil society groups argue that burdensome compliance requirements and licence cancellations can weaken voluntary organisations that provide valuable services. They caution that the regulatory environment must not become so restrictive that it discourages philanthropy or undermines genuine community development initiatives. These concerns deserve serious consideration because a vibrant civil society is an essential component of any democratic society.

Yet it is equally important to recognise that transparency is not inherently opposed to freedom. In most democratic countries, foreign funding of political, religious or advocacy organisations is subject to some level of disclosure and oversight. Governments across the world increasingly seek to understand how external financial flows influence domestic institutions, public opinion and social movements. India is not unique in this regard. The rapid expansion of global networks, digital communication and transnational funding channels has heightened concerns about external influence in many nations. The government's position is that organisations receiving foreign contributions must be able to demonstrate clearly how funds are used, who benefits from them and whether their activities comply with Indian law. From this perspective, stricter enforcement of FCRA provisions is presented not as a restriction on civil society but as a mechanism to ensure public accountability.

The larger challenge is to strike a balance between vigilance and openness. Regulatory measures should be precise, transparent and evidence-based rather than broad or arbitrary. If organisations are found to have violated the law, action should be proportionate and supported by due process. Equally, genuine charitable institutions should not face uncertainty simply because they receive funding from abroad. The credibility of the regulatory system ultimately depends on consistency and fairness. Public confidence grows when enforcement is guided by clear legal standards rather than political considerations. For India, which aspires to strengthen both democratic institutions and social cohesion, the objective should be neither unrestricted foreign funding nor excessive state control, but a framework that promotes transparency while protecting legitimate freedoms.

The renewed attention to FCRA compliance and religious conversion reflects a wider debate about how an increasingly interconnected world intersects with domestic social realities. Foreign contributions can support valuable development work, but they can also raise questions when linked to sensitive issues such as faith and identity. The government's decision to tighten oversight indicates its belief that national sovereignty and social harmony require closer monitoring of such activities. Whether one agrees with the extent of the measures or not, the underlying principle is likely to remain relevant: transparency in foreign funding is not merely an administrative requirement but an important safeguard in a diverse democracy seeking to balance freedom, accountability and public trust.

NEXUS OF GOOD

Dhule's Digital Governance Revolution

From AI-powered decision-making to real-time citizen services, Dhule's e-Suvidha platform is redefining how district administration delivers accountability, efficiency and transparency

ANIL SWARUP

THE WRITER IS AN AUTHOR AND A FORMER CIVIL SERVANT

In an era where governments across the world are exploring artificial intelligence and digital governance, Dhule district in Maharashtra has emerged as a pioneering laboratory of administrative innovation

Technology can be a game-changer in administration and governance. This is being aptly demonstrated in Dhule District, Maharashtra, under the visionary leadership of a young Collector, Bhagyashree Vispute.

She has put in place a Unified Gateway for officers. It is a single workflow system used by every officer across Dhule district, from Gramsevak and Talathi at the village level up to the District Collector. All four talukas (Shirpur, Dhule, Sakri and Shindkheda), along with their Tehsil offices, Panchayat Samitis and Sub-Divisional offices, are mapped. All district departments (Revenue, Education, Health, Agriculture, Social Welfare, Public Works, Water Resources and others) are integrated. Any officer can assign a task to any office, set a deadline and monitor progress in real time. Missed deadlines trigger automatic escalation. Every action is recorded with a full audit trail.

It is enabling a transformation:

- Eliminates silos between offices and departments.
- Enables inter-departmental work to be processed in parallel instead of sequentially.
- Builds end-to-end accountability through audit trails.
- Reduces file movement delays from weeks or months to hours or days.
- Gives senior officers a live view of work across the district without needing manual status reports.

The initiative includes a self-hosted Large Language Model with full data sovereignty. The AI engine powering e-Suvidha is hosted entirely on government infrastructure. No government data or citizen information is shared with any external entity. The model is trained on Government Resolutions, departmental handbooks, circulars and administrative guidelines covering Revenue, Land Records, Social Welfare, Education, Health, Agriculture, Tribal Development, Urban Administration and other key areas. This facilitates:

- Complete data sovereignty for sensitive citizen and administrative data.
- No dependence on external AI providers or commercial APIs.
- Sets a precedent for secure, government-owned AI for other districts and states.
- Removes legal and privacy risks that come with sending data to third-party AI systems.

The *GR Sarathi* (AI-powered conversational assistant) is a ChatGPT-like interface designed for government officers. Any officer can type or speak a query in Marathi or English, such as, "What is the procedure for emergency land acquisition under the 2013 Act?" or "Which GR governs drought relief disbursement?", and receive within seconds the precise GR number, relevant sections, applicable procedure, required documentation and designated authority. The system reads, understands and synthesises information into contextual answers. This:

- Reduces time spent searching for the correct GR from hours or days to seconds.
- Removes the risk of officers applying outdated or incorrect GRs.
- Democratises institutional knowledge that earlier took years of postings to absorb.
- Gives newly posted officers the same quality of guidance as senior colleagues from day one.
- Reduces dependence on senior officers for procedural clarifications.
- Improves consistency of administrative decisions across the district.

The AI drafting system put in place automates the preparation of government orders, circulars and official correspondence. Drafts are produced in minutes in both Marathi and English, referencing the correct GRs through GR Sarathi and following prescribed formats. It:

- Reduces drafting time per letter from up to an hour to a few minutes.
- Frees up an estimated 20 to 25 officer-hours per day at the Collector's office alone, where 40 to 50 letters are dispatched daily.
- Ensures GR citations and formats are accurate and standardised.
- Redirects saved officer-hours to direct citizen service.

Under Collector Bhagyashree Vispute, Dhule has built a pioneering digital governance platform integrating every office

The Meeting Management System uses AI to generate meeting minutes in Marathi immediately after proceedings conclude. The system then automatically converts decisions into tasks, assigns them to mapped offices with deadlines and triggers reminders. This:

- Eliminates delays in circulating minutes.
- Ensures every meeting decision becomes a tracked task instead of being lost in notes.
- Removes the gap between deciding and doing.
- Creates a permanent, searchable record of what was discussed and what was assigned.

The Field Visit Tracking System maintains a digital record of every inspection, with GPS verification of location. Instructions issued in the field are converted into tracked tasks and monitored to completion. When an officer revisits a location, all previous instructions and their completion status are available instantly. It:

- Replaces episodic field reviews with continuous accountability.
- Prevents repeat issues at the same location from going unaddressed.
- Verifies that officers actually visited the locations they claim to have visited.
- Builds a longitudinal record of field administration that travels with the location, not the officer.

Under the Citizen Application Tracking System, every application received across every office is given a digital tracking number. Real-time status is visible to citizens at any time, and applications pending beyond the stipulated period escalate automatically. This:

- Eliminates the need for citizens to physically visit offices to check status.
- Removes uncertainty about whether an application has been received or acted upon.
- Forces timely action through automatic escalation.
- Builds citizen trust through visible, predictable progress.

A dedicated module allows MPs, MLAs and Ministers to forward citizen grievances directly through the system to the concerned office and track progress at every stage until resolution. It:

- Bridges the coordination gap between elected representatives and the administration.
- Ensures grievances raised through representatives receive the same systematic tracking as direct applications.
- Provides representatives with verifiable status updates for their constituents.
- Reduces ad hoc follow-up calls and letters between political offices and the bureaucracy.

A dedicated WhatsApp number accepts text and voice notes in Marathi, Hindi and English. Citizens can attach documents, submit applications and track status around the clock. No separate app installation or registration is required. The channel is powered by the same AI engine, so questions on schemes, eligibility and procedures are answered instantly. It:

- Uses a platform citizens already have and trust on their phones.
- Provides 24x7 access to district administration without staffing a call centre.
- Removes the need for separate app downloads and registrations.
- Scales effortlessly across languages and citizen segments.

The Performance Analytics platform generates department-wise and officer-wise data on task completion rates, average response times, pending workloads and escalation frequency. It:

- Enables data-driven administrative reviews at every level.
- Surfaces bottlenecks and underperforming offices that would otherwise remain hidden.
- Allows recognition of officers and teams based on measurable performance.
- Replaces anecdotal reviews with objective metrics.

These initiatives are already transforming governance in the district. They present a wonderful example of the Nexus of Good. The model should be replicated in other districts across the country.

Views expressed are personal

LEARNING LEAP

India's Higher Education Renaissance

Over the last twelve years, India's higher education ecosystem has expanded rapidly, combining access, quality, research, innovation, employability and global competitiveness

MANOJ KUMAR TIWARI

THE WRITER IS THE DIRECTOR, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT (IIM) MUMBAI

From new IITs and AIIMS to digital learning and global collaborations, India's higher education story is being rewritten

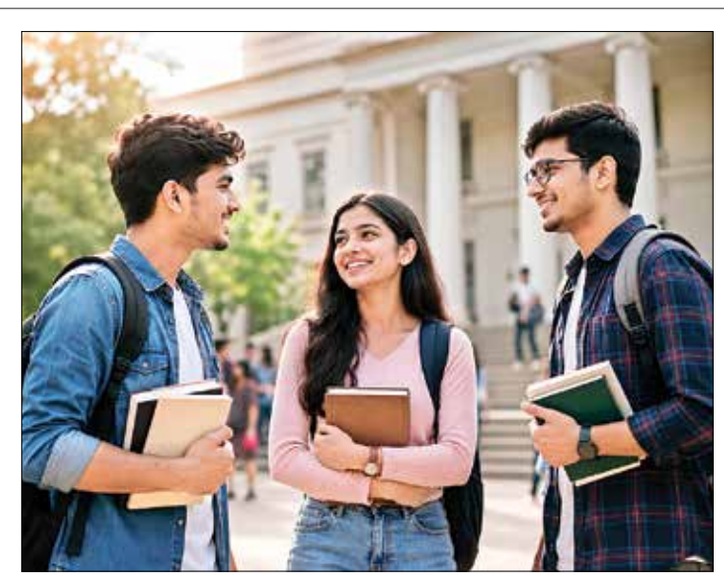
During the last twelve years, India's higher education landscape has undergone a remarkable transformation in terms of accessibility, quality, and technological innovation. Prior to 2014, the primary focus of the Indian education system was expanding access, but over the last 12 years, it has emerged as a globally competitive ecosystem emphasising employability, innovation, entrepreneurship, and research excellence.

The scale of expansion in higher education institutions itself is unprecedented. Since 2014, India has added seven new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), nine Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), sixteen Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), and approximately fifteen new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). During the same period, the number of universities increased from around 760 to more than 1,330, representing an addition of over 570 universities nationwide.

The expansion of premier institutions has significantly improved regional equity. New IITs were established in Tirupati, Palakkad, Bhilai, Goa, Jammu, Dhanbad, and Dharwad, while new IIMs emerged in Nagpur, Sambalpur, Bodh Gaya, Jammu, Sirmaur, Visakhapatnam, Amritsar, Mumbai, and Guwahati. Similarly, the network of IIITs expanded from 10 to 26 institutions, strengthening India's capacity in digital technologies and advanced computing.

Medical education witnessed equally impressive growth. Medical colleges increased from approximately 387 to nearly 780 institutions, while the AIIMS network expanded across several states, dramatically improving access to quality healthcare education and services.

During the same period, there has been a significant rise in student enrolment in higher education. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), which was around 23.7 per cent, has now increased to over 28 per cent. Millions of additional students, particularly women and learners from underserved regions and underprivileged social groups, have entered the higher education system.



New institutions, rising enrolment, and stronger research are reshaping India's academic future

One of the most significant changes in India's higher education system has been a noticeable shift from degree-oriented education to employability-oriented learning. Universities and other higher education institutions today emphasise internships, live industry projects, experiential learning, entrepreneurship, skill certifications, and multidisciplinary education. Programmes in Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, FinTech, Cybersecurity, Business Analytics, and Sustainability have become highly sought-after across academic institutions.

India's higher education institutions are increasingly aligned with the needs of Industry 4.0 and the digital economy. Industry-academia collaborations have helped strengthen curriculum design, research partnerships, innovation laboratories, internships, and placement opportunities. Such collaborations are now defining a new momentum in many higher education institutions by solving real-life problems of society.

The country's global academic standing has also improved considerably. Indian institutions are now increasingly visible in international ranking systems such as QS and Times Higher Education Rankings. IITs, IIMs, and leading universities have enhanced their reputation through stronger research output, innovation ecosystems, and global collaborations.

Research and innovation have emerged as central pillars of institutional development. Universities are now evaluated not only by enrolment and teaching quality but also by publications, citations, patents, startup creation, technology transfer, and societal impact. Incubation centres and innovation hubs have become common features across campuses, encouraging students and faculty to pursue entrepreneurial ventures.

Another historic development has been the internationalisation of Indian higher education. Recent reforms have enabled globally recognised foreign universities to establish campuses and academic partnerships in India. Similarly, leading educational institutions from India, both public and private, have opened their overseas campuses. This marks a significant change in India's positioning in higher education because the country has now emerged as a global education destination.

India's digital transformation capabilities have further accelerated the country's progress in educational attainment. Online learning platforms, virtual laboratories, hybrid classrooms, academic credit banks, and technology-enabled teaching methods have enhanced flexibility and accessibility for learners. The integration of technology into education has expanded learning opportunities far beyond traditional classroom boundaries.

The efforts of educators have been well supplemented by institutional reforms and far-reaching policies. In 2020, the Union Government came out with a new and apt policy for the country's education sector in the form of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. NEP 2020 aims to transform India's higher education system by making it flexible, multidisciplinary, and globally aligned, and has the ambitious goal of increasing the GER to 50 per cent by 2035. Overall, in the last 12 years, India's higher education system has made stupendous progress across almost all key indicators of education and is now poised for momentous growth, aligning with the Prime Minister's vision of a Viksit Bharat.

Views expressed are personal

'TARGETED' ATTACKS

Over 20,000 Palestinian kids killed by Israel since Oct 2023: UN commission

UNITED NATIONS: More than 20,000 Palestinian children have been killed by Israeli forces in "deliberate, targeted" attacks since October 2023, according to a UN commission of inquiry chaired by Srinivasan Muralidhar.

Muralidhar, the former Orissa High Court Chief Justice, said in a press conference in Geneva on Tuesday that they found "indisputable evidence" concerning the "deliberate, targeted killing of Palestinian children, including since the October 2025 ceasefire".

The Independent International Commission of Inquiry said in its 100-page report that between October 7, 2023, and October 7, 2025, at least 20,179 children were killed and 44,143 children were injured as a result of the hostilities in Gaza, constituting 30 per cent of those killed and 26 per cent of those injured during this period.

Israel rejected the report and called it a "libelous sham".

"The COI is a fundamentally flawed mechanism whose very purpose is to single out and vilify Israel rather than seek the truth," it said.

The commission examined violations and crimes against Palestinian children, including serious physical and psychological harm by the Israeli security forces since October 7 2023, when Hamas had attacked Israel.

Mourners cry during the funeral of Palestinian Shahd Ashour after she was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City AP/PTI

The Hamas-led attack on southern Israel killed about 1,200 people and 251 were taken hostage.

"The commission found indisputable evidence with regard to the deliberate, targeted killing of Palestinian children, including since the October 2025 ceasefire, the use of torture, inhumane and degrading treatment, including use of sexual and gender-based violence against Palestinian children, as well as targeting of critical infrastructure essential to children, such as orphanages, health care, and educational facilities," Muralidhar said.

He added that there has been "widespread and systematic" killing and harming of children between October 7, 2023 and October 2025.

The commission also examined a sharp increase in violence perpetrated by members of Israeli settlers against Palestinian children in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

It said that until October 7, 2023, roughly half of the population of the Gaza Strip was under the age of 18. "These children had already lived their entire lives under the Israeli blockade and occupation, experiencing multiple rounds of hostilities and trauma."

The commission "notes the increase in the proportion of children killed in comparison to previous escalations of hostilities wherein children made up approximately 24 per cent of the conflict-related fatalities in the escalations of hostilities of 2008-2009 and 2014".

The report said that children killed in Gaza represent around two per cent of Gaza's 1.2 million child population by October 2025. AGENCIES

Highlights

- The Independent International Commission of Inquiry informed in its 100-page report
- srael rejected the report and called it a 'libelous sham'
- The Hamas-led attack on southern Israel killed about 1,200 people and 251 were taken hostage

Pak assures Tehran of continued support for US-Iran peace process

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has assured his Iranian counterpart Eskandar Momeni that Islamabad would continue its efforts for lasting peace between Washington and Tehran, according to an official statement issued on Wednesday.

Momeni arrived on Tuesday as part of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's delegation on a one-day visit.

The US and Iran last week signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at restoring peace in west Asia.

Earlier this week, they engaged in technical-level talks in Switzerland, in the presence of mediators Pakistan - which has signed the memorandum as a "guarantor" - and Qatar.

After the talks, the US and Iran agreed on a roadmap towards a final peace deal in 60 days. According to the statement issued on Wednesday by the Ministry of Interior in Islamabad, Naqvi and Momeni discussed Pakistan-Iran relations and the latest regional situation. Naqvi congratulated Momeni on the joint communiqué signed in Switzerland, saying it would not have been possible without the sincere efforts of the Iranian government and Momeni's personal commitment.

"Pakistan has always sought peace and stability across the world," Naqvi said, adding that Islamabad would continue its efforts for lasting peace in the Middle East.

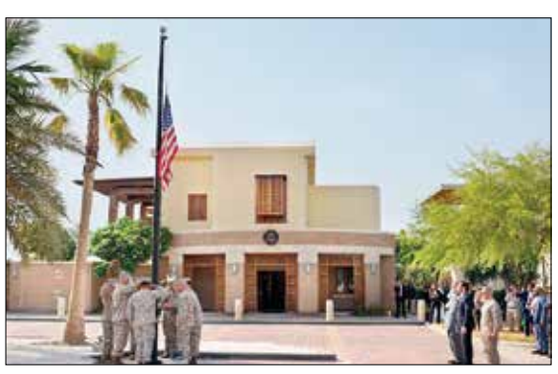
He expressed hope that the joint communiqué would have far-reaching positive implications for the region, the statement said. During the meeting, the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in areas including security, counterterrorism, cybersecurity and immigration, it said.

Momeni and Naqvi met several times in recent weeks as the Pakistani minister shuttled between the two countries as part of high-level diplomatic efforts.

Momeni said: "I will soon undertake a detailed visit to Pakistan, aimed at further advancing cooperation between the interior ministries of the two countries." AGENCIES

> THE US AND IRAN LAST WEEK SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AIMED AT RESTORING PEACE IN WEST ASIA

US reopens embassy in Kuwait months after Iranian attack



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

KUWAIT CITY: The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait resumed operations on Wednesday during a visit by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, months after services were suspended in March by Iranian attacks.

The embassy, located in Kuwait City, will immediately resume emergency services for American citizens while other services will be phased in, a State Department spokesperson said. The State Department shut down embassy operations in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in March after Iranian drones fired at the missions following U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran. Meanwhile, Rubio attended a flag-raising ceremony at the embassy on Wednesday during his trip to Kuwait for talks with allies on ending the war in Iran.

"The American flag: a symbol of liberty, unity, and freedom now flies proudly once again over Kuwait City. Kuwait is an indispensable partner for regional security and stability," he said in a social media post following the ceremony. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio met the leaders of the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait on Wednesday, vowing not to undermine their security as he sought to reassure Gulf allies sceptical of a proposed deal to end the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran.

The U.S.-Iran accord reached last week — the first signed by American and Iranian presidents since Iran's 1979 IslamicRevolution — includes a proposed $300 billion fund and the waiver of some sanctions for Tehran. AGENCIES

> The State Department shut down embassy operations in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in March

NATO's Trump whisperer heads to White House to soothe Prez

WASHINGTON: NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte will check in face-to-face with President Donald Trump on Wednesday, visiting the volatile US leader two weeks before the annual summit of the military alliance at a time when the Pentagon is reviewing the size of the US military footprint in Europe.

Trump has long been critical of NATO, arguing the US carries more than its fair share of military spending. But his grievances have been louder since the Iran war as he fumed over some member countries ignoring his call to help him restart oil trade through the shuttered Strait of Hormuz.

Trump has renewed his threats to leave the 77-year-old military alliance, raising the stakes ahead of the NATO leaders' summit in Turkey next month.

But Rutte, who has become known as a Trump whisperer for his abilityto charm the president, is expected to use Wednesday's White House meeting to try to appease him.

The visit comes after US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth last week lashed out at allies during a meeting at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

He announced a six-month Pentagon review of American forces in Europe.

Hegseth echoed some of Trump's critiques, faulting European allies for not letting the US use bases in Europe to attack Iran. AGENCIES

B'desh PM Rahman arrives in Beijing

Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman and Chinese Premier Xi Jinping

BEIJING: Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Wednesday arrived in Beijing, where he will hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on strengthening bilateral ties and charting the future course of relations between the two countries.

Rahman arrived in the Chinese city of Dalian from Kuala Lumpur on Monday. In the coastal city, he attended the 17th Annual Meeting of the New Champions organised by the World Economic Forum (WEF), aimed at translating technological promises into economic progress and employment opportunities.

Rahman on Wednesday took a high-speed train from Dalian to Beijing, where he will meet Xi, Premier Li Qiang and other senior officials in the next two days.

"The leaders will chart the future course of bilateral ties" in their talks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a media briefing in Beijing on Monday.

"Through the visit, China looks forward to working with the new government of Bangladesh to enhance strategic communication, carry forward the traditional friendship, advance high-quality BRI cooperation, expand exchanges and cooperation in various areas, and enhance coordination on multilateral affairs to bring the China-Bangladesh comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation to a new level", he said. AGENCIES

> RAHMAN ON WEDNESDAY TOOK A HIGH-SPEED TRAIN FROM DALIAN TO BEIJING

Senior IS leader killed by US airstrike on northwest Syria

DAMASCUS: An airstrike on northwest Syria last week killed a senior member of the Islamic State group, the U.S. Central Command said on Wednesday.

Ali Husayn al-Ulaywi was killed on Friday as part of ongoing U.S. efforts to 'disrupt and eliminate terrorists seeking to attack Americans abroad or the U.S. homeland," a CENTCOM statement said.

Syrian activists had initially reported that an airstrike on a motorcycle near the village of Deir Hassan close to the border with Turkey had killed one person.

It was not immediately clear at the time who had been targeted in the airstrike.

Despite its defeat in Syria in 2019, sleeper cells linked to IS remain active and have been claiming attacks against the country's new authorities following the December 2024 fall of the five-decade Assad family rule.

"CENTCOM and our partners remain committed to rooting out remaining remnants of ISIS to ensure its enduring defeat," CENTCOM commander Adm. Brad Cooper said, using an acronym to refer to IS. AGENCIES

AFTER UK PM TENURE ENDS

Keir Starmer to continue as member of Parliament

LONDON: Keir Starmer will continue his term as Labour Party member of Parliament for Holborn and St Pancras in London after his tenure as British Prime Minister concludes in the coming weeks, a Downing Street spokesperson said on Wednesday.

Starmer is serving in the role of caretaker Prime Minister after he announced his resignation as Labour leader, triggering the process for his colleagues to elect a new party chief who will go on to replace him at 10 Downing Street.

He is said to have held his first meeting with Andy Burnham, the newly elected MP for Makerfield andfrontrunner for the top job after pledging an "orderly handover of power" in his resignation speech on Monday.

"He is going to remain an MP," Starmer's spokesperson told reporters.

"Keir wants the next prime minister to succeed, he wants the Labour government to succeed, and he will do everything within his power to ensure that," the spokesperson said.

Asked whether he would consider taking up a Cabinet role if he was offered one, the spokesperson noted that he had told his ministers at their weekly meeting that "this is the end of my journey, but this is not the end of yours".

"The test for every Prime Minister is handing over the country in a better shape than they found it. I know I can do that," said Starmer, addressing his first weekly Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) session in the House of Commons on Wednesday. AGENCIES

Overwhelmingly low confidence in Trump's policies globally: Survey

The Trump admin's tariff policy was among the most unpopular

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump's approval ratings are "overwhelmingly low" globally, with 76 per cent expressing no confidence in his leadership, according to a new survey by Pew Research Centre.

The findings of the survey, released on Tuesday, showed that only 23 per cent of respondents trust Trump's leadership to handle world affairs, while confidence in him declined in 16 of 24 countries and improved in none.

As many as 42,151 people across 36 countries participated in the survey conducted between February 8 to May 13, 2026.

In India, 39 per cent of respondents expressed confidence in Trump's leadership, as against 36 per cent who had no confidence. Last year, 51 per cent respondents from India had expressed confidence in Trump's leadership.

The majority of Indians – 51 per cent – who participated in the survey expressed confidence in Russian President Vladimir Putin's abilities to steer world affairs.

In Israel, 81 per cent of respondents have a positive view of the US, and 66 per cent of respondents said they have confidence in Trump to do the right thing in world affairs.

The Trump administration's tariff policy was among the most unpopular, with 18 per cent approving of it, while 32 per cent of respondents found the US immigration policy favourable.

The Trump administration's tariff policies are widely unpopular, with 27 per cent approval in the UK, Canada (17 per cent), Japan (15 per cent), South Korea (14 per cent), Mexico (11 per cent), and Germany (8 per cent).

Kenya was the only country surveyed in which a majority (55 per cent) approve of how Trump is handling the issue of tariffs.

Across the 36 nations polled, a median of 32 per cent of adults think the US takes into account the interests of countries like theirs a great deal or a fair amount in its foreign policy decisions.

In three European countries – France, Germany and Greece – confidence ratings for Trump are among the lowest, often tied with Putin, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or both.

For instance, 16 per cent of Germans have confidence in Trump and a similar number say the same about Putin (15 per cent) and Netanyahu (15 per cent), a sharp contrast to the 72 per cent of Germans who have confidence in French President Emmanuel Macron.

Trump tends to receive particularly low marks relative to other leaders in the Muslim-majority publics surveyed. Among Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, for example, only four per cent have confidence in Trump. AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump

> Across the 36 nations polled, a median of 32% of adults think the US takes into account the interests of countries like theirs a great deal or a fair amount in its foreign policy decisions

World Briefs

10 ATTORNEY IN US TO BE FINED $2.5L OVER FALSE ASYLUM CLAIMS

NEW YORK: An Indian-origin attorney will be fined more than $250,000 by federal authorities here for allegedly filing fraudulent documents and false asylum claims on behalf of Indian nationals. Vinod Doddamani operates a nationwide practice in which he mostly represents Indian nationals and files asylum applications on their behalf before the immigration courts, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said in a statement on Tuesday. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) announced its intention to pursue a fine of more than $250,000 against Doddamani, who allegedly filed false asylum claims on behalf of his clients.

LIBYA'S GOVT BANS ENTRY FOR CITIZENS OF SUDAN, ERITREA, ETHIOPIA & SOMALIA

CAIRO: Authorities based in the eastern part of divided Libya have banned entry for people from four nearby African countries, a move likely meant to stem the influx of migrants seeking to set off for Europe from the country's northern coast. Libya's coast is a key departure points for migrants from North Africa trying to reach European shores for a better life there. They are typically packed by smugglers into small and unsafe boats, with thousands dying during the perilous sea journey. The ban, announced late Tuesday, says citizens of Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia are "prohibited from entering Libyan territory through all land, sea, and air ports." The government statement said exemptions will be made for diplomats and workers in health and education sectors. Separately, tensions have risen in the last few months in both eastern and western Libya against the resettlement of refugees from other countries.

सत्यमेव जयते

महाराष्ट्र वैद्यकीय वस्तू खरेदी प्राधिकरण, मुंबई

कार्यालय - १ ला मजला, आरोग्य भवन, सेंट जॉर्जेस रुग्णालय आवार, पी.डीमेले रोड, मुंबई ४००००१

दूरध्वनी क्रमांक ०२२-२२६११४७१, ०२२-२२७१७५०० ई-मेल maha.mmgpa२०२३@gmail.com

निविदा सूचना

जाहिरात क्रमांक - दिनांक - २४/०६/२०२६

मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, महाराष्ट्र वैद्यकीय वस्तू खरेदी प्राधिकरण, मुंबई हे खालील औषधी बाबीची खरेदी करण्यासाठी विविध नमुन्यात दोन लिफाफा पद्धतीने ई- निविदा मागवित आहेत.

अ.क्र.	निविदा क्र	बाब	निविदापूर्व सभा	निविदा विक्री व डाऊनलोड व सादर करण्याचा कालावधी	निविदा उघडण्याची दि
१	ई-३०५	Ayurvedic. Unani Medicine	दि.३०/०६/२०२६ दुपारी ०२.२० वा.	दि.२४/०६/२०२६ दुपारी ०५.०० वा ते दि. १५/०७/२०२६ दुपारी ०५.०० वा पर्यंत	दि.१६/०७/२०२६ दुपारी ०५.०१ वा
२	ई-३०६	Homeopathy Medicine			

१. अधिक माहितीसाठी इच्छुक निविदाधारक यांनी खाली दिलेल्या संकेत स्थळावर संपर्क साधावा.

२. मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, महाराष्ट्र वैद्यकीय वस्तू खरेदी प्राधिकरण, मुंबई यांनी निविदेतील बाबीची संख्या कमी /अधिक करण्याचे आणि कोणतीही कारण न देता निविदा नाकारण्याचे अधिकार स्वत: कडे राखून ठेवले आहेत.

३. निविदेबाबतच्या माहितीसाठी / मदतीसाठी कृपया खालील नमूद केल्या प्रमाणे संपर्क साधावा.

संकेत स्थळ - https://mahatenders.gov.in

ई मेल- maha.mmgpa2023@gmail.com

स्वाक्षरी
मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी
महाराष्ट्र वैद्यकीय वस्तू खरेदी प्राधिकरण, मुंबई.

Dgipr/2026-27/1303

Brazil detains Spanish citizen for racism

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil's federal police detained a Spanish citizen in Sao Paulo's international Guarulhos airport for racism on Wednesday, the latest in a series of high-profile arrests of foreign tourists on similar grounds.

Brazil has some of the strictest anti-racism laws in Latin America. Insulting a person on the basis of race carries a penalty of imprisonment from 2 to 5 years and a fine.

The crew of a LATAM airlines flight arriving from the northeastern city of Sao Luis called police, who arrested the Spanish national as she disembarked, after she allegedly made racially abusive remarks directed at the workers who unload the aircraft's baggage, police said in a statement. The airline company said that there was no justification for the aggression directed at its employees and condemned all forms of racism and discrimination. AGENCIES

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF SUMMER SPECIAL TRAINS

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of following Summer Special Trains as under:-

Train No.	From	To	Frequency	Earlier Notified Up-to	Extended Up-to	Trips
02877	Ranchi Junction	Anand Vihar Terminal	Saturday	27.06.2026	25.07.2026	04
02878	Anand Vihar Terminal	Ranchi Junction	Sunday	28.06.2026	26.07.2026	04
09119	Pratapnagar	Lalkuan Junction	Sunday	28.06.2026	26.07.2026	04
09120	Lalkuan Junction	Pratapnagar	Monday	29.06.2026	27.07.2026	04
09523	Okha	Shakur Basti	Tuesday	30.06.2026	28.07.2026	04
09524	Shakur Basti	Okha	Wednesday	01.07.2026	29.07.2026	04
09309	Indore Junction	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Fri, Sun	28.06.2026	31.07.2026	09
09310	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Indore Junction	Sat, Mon	29.06.2026	01.08.2026	09
09257	Bhavnagar Terminus	Shakur Basti	Friday	26.06.2026	31.07.2026	05
09258	Shakur Basti	Bhavnagar Terminus	Saturday	27.06.2026	01.08.2026	05

Note : Rest other instructions will hold good.

For detailed information, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

2182/26

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

Visit RailMadad website:- www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in

Download RailMadad app.

Please join us on

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Always at your service

Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites online tender for the work :

Tender No. T25R220481: Conversion of existing 220/33/11 kV AIS into 400/220/33 kV GIS Gopalpur along with augmentation of 66 kV GIS with Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 400/220/33KV GIS with complete civil works & automation of Turnkey Basis.

For completedetailsofthetenderpleasevisitfollowingwebsites:- **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in** (Tender ID No. 2026_DTL_294096_1) and www.dtl.gov.in with Unique No. DTL–0058-240626

Last date for bid submission:- **12.08.2026, at 01.30 P.M.**

All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/Date of Extension/Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

millenniumpost CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ARUN KUMAR S/O Sh. Ved Prakash residing at E-43, Pandav Nagar, Samaspur, Delhi -110091, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced SIKHISM and renounced HINDUISM with effect from 25.10.2017 and changed my name from ARUN KUMAR to AMANDEEP SINGH GILL.

PROPERTIES AVAILABLE IN AUCTION

Morgaged Property Address : Commercial - Unit No. 312-B, Third Floor, Iris Tech Park, Sohna Road, Sector-48, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122002, area 1223.69 sq. Ft. **("Auction bidding subject to terms and condition of the Bank"),**

PLEASE CALL FOR INSPECTION & DETAILS WITH BUYER PROFILE ON

9871532158

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 **Mahender Niyam S/o Lt. Ishwarnath R/o 4573/22, Basement Ansari Road, Prakash Deep Building, Daryaganj, Delhi also at I-603, Signature View Appartment, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 176/2018 U/s 332/461/466A IPC, P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Mahender Niyam** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Mahender Niyam** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Mahender Niyam** of case **FIR No. 176/2018 U/s 332/461/466A IPC, P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **25.07.2026.**

By Order
Sh. Nishat Bangarh
Judicial Magistrate First Class (NI Act) - 01
Room No. 108
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/7753/CD/2026 (Court Matter)

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor")**, the **physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is"** basis on **13.07.2026** from **05.00 P.M. to 06.00 P.M.**, for recovery of **Rs. 60,18,556/- (Rupees Sixty Lakh Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Six only)** pending towards **Loan Account No. HHLRHN00546785**, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till **20.06.2026** with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w. e. f. **21.06.2026** along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **VED PRAKASH and POONAM.**

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 40,10,000/- (Rupees Forty Lakh Ten Thousand only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit **("EMD")** will be **Rs. 4,01,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh One Thousand only)** i. e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

BUILT - UP SECOND FLOOR, RIGHT HAND SIDE WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, ON PROPERTY BEARING PLOT NO. 222 AND 223, AREA MEASURING 100 SQ. YARDS (I. E., 83.61 SQ. MTRS.) OUT OF 220 SQ. YARDS PLOT, ALONGWITH ITS COMMON ENTRANCE, PASSAGE, STAIRCASE AND ONE OPEN CAR PARKING (5.5' X 11') AT GROUND FLOOR IN THE BUILDING, OUT OF KHASRA NO. 63/6, SITUATED IN THE REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE HASTSAL, DELHI AND THE COLONY KNOWN AS MOHAN GARDEN, IN BLOCK B, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110059. BOUNDED BY :
EAST : OTHER'S PROPERTY
WEST : MIDDLE AND LHS UNIT / OTHER'S PROEPRTY
NORTH : OTHER'S PROPERTY
SOUTH : ROAD 20 FEET

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.sammaancapital.com; Contact No : 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id : auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionbazaar.com.

sd/-
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED (Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)

Date : 20.06.2026
Place : NEW DELHI

MADHYA PRADESH POWER GENERATING COMPANY LIMITED

Superintending Engineer (P&W), Office of the Chief Engineer (Gen.), Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power Station, Birsinghpur
Distt.-Umaria 484552 (M.P.), Email ID : sepnw.sgtps@mppgcl.mp.gov.in, Fax No. : 07655-260226

No. 511-0100/SGTPS/P&W/E-NIT-11/1332 Birsinghpur, Dtd. 24.06.2026

E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE

M.P. POWER GENERATING CO. LTD. Invites Electronic tenders from manufacturer/reputed supplier/contractor, for the supply/works of following items for SGTPS, MPPGCL Birsinghpur.

Sl. No.	MPPGCL Tender-Id	Particulars	Estimate (In Rs.)	Tender Cost (In Rs.)	E.M.D. (In Rs.)	Last Date of Closing of Online Submission	Due Date of E-Tender Opening
01	2026_ MPPGC_ 503474_1	Work for refurbishment of roof structure of conveyor 19 C/D & fabrication of covered stone pickers stand at conveyor 19A/B at Alternate coal path of wagon tippler system at SGTPS, MPPGCL, Birsinghpur.	72,38,787/-	2000/-	1,45,000/-	21.07.2026	24.07.2026
02	2025_ MPPGC_ 444490_2	Procurement, Installation and commissioning of new elevator in mill area at Boiler side between Unit No. 1 & 2 of PH-I and Unit No. 3 & 4 of PH-II at SGTPS, MPPGCL, Birsinghpur.	1,06,20,000/-	5000/-	2,00,000/-	15.07.2026	20.07.2026
03	2026_ MPPGC_ 512602_1	Procurement of "Critical Spares of TG Set" for AOH of Unit No. 3 & 4, at SGTPS, MPPGCL, Birsinghpur.	80,98,463/-	2000/-	1,62,000/-	6.07.2026	10.07.2026
04	2026_ MPPGC_ 509682_1	Annual Work Contract for providing Cleaning, Office Assistance, Manpower Deployment and other Allied Support Services in E.D. (Gen.) office along with Joint Director (F&A) and S.E. (civil) at SGTPS, MPPGCL,Birsinghpur.	1,44,51,041.11	5,000/-	2,00,000/-	14.07.2026	17.07.2026

These tenders are being invited through e-tendering system. For viewing detailed E-NIT, downloading tender documents and participating in Electronic Tender, for any clarifications and/or due date extensions or corrigendum, please visit the website **www.mptenders.gov.in** regularly. Any clarifications and/or due date extensions or corrigendum shall be issued on the website **www.mptenders.gov.in** only.

M.P. Madhyam/126547/2026 **"SAVE ELECTRICITY- SAVE POWER- SAVE MONEY"** SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (P&W)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: GSU/Elect/PRYJ/E-Tender Notice/2026/68 **Date:** 23.06.2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/GSU/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E- Tender, the details of the tenders are as under:-

Tender. No.: GSU-EL-WC-82-2026

Description of work: 25 kV OHE modification work at various level crossing No. 60, 26, 25, 24, 31, 32, 83, 85 Spl & 86B due to construction of ROB in between CNB-TDL section in Prayagraj division.

Advertised Value: ₹ 28842459.58	**Bid Security:** ₹ 576900.00
Completion Period: 12 Months	**Bidding system:** Single Packet

Tender Closing Date & Time: 16.07.2026 & 14.00 Hrs.

Tender opening Date & Time: 16.07.2026 & 15.00 Hrs.

Note:- (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders shall be available on Website **www.ireps.gov.in** 21 days prior to the date of opening of the tender. **(2)** Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate. **(3)** In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. **1437/26 (A)**

North central railways | @CPRONCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Akash @ Gajni S/o Sh. Moni Kumar R/o Jhuggi No. 20, Naraina, 2nd Floor, C-Block, Opposite-Kapoor Hospital, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 175/2016 U/S 380/457/411/34 IPC, PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Akash @ Gajni** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Akash @ Gajni** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Akash @ Gajni** of **FIR No. 175/2016 U/S 380/457/411/34 IPC, PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **17.08.2026**

By Order,
Sh. Vaibhav Garg
Judicial Magistrate First Class- 11
Central District, Court No. 138, 1st Floor
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/7776/N/2026(Court Matter)

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor")**, the **physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is"** basis on **27.07.2026** from **05.00 P.M. to 06.00 P.M.**, for recovery of **Rs. 24,81,033/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Eighty One Thousand Thirty Three only)** pending towards **Loan Account No. HHLNOD00502115**, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till **20.06.2026** with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w. e. f. **21.06.2026** along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **JUNAID, MOHD. UVAIS and MARYAM ANSARI (GUARANTOR).**

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 15,79,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit **("EMD")** will be **Rs. 1,57,900/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred only)** i. e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. - FF - 1, ADMEASURING TOTAL COVERED AREA 500 SQ. FEET I. E., 46.45 SQ. MTRS., M. I. G. 1ST FLOOR, WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, FRONT RHS, PLOT NO. B 15/7, DLF ANKUR VIHAR, SADULLABAD, LONI, GHAZIABAD - 201102, UTTAR PRADESH. BOUNDED BY :
EAST : ROAD
WEST : STAIR CASE AND FLAT NO. FF - 4 (L. I. G.)
NORTH : PLOT NO. B 15/8
SOUTH : FLAT NO. FF - 2 (M. I .G.)

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.sammaancapital.com; Contact No : 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id : auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionbazaar.com.

sd/-
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED (Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)

Date : 20.06.2026
Place : GHAZIABAD

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED

(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi–834004.
fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com/**gmsp.jbvnl@rediffmail.com**

Short E-Procurement Notice

JBVNL invites online short e-tender from reputed, technically experienced and financially sound manufacturers/ supplier only for procurement of following Materials :-

Sr	NIT/Tender notice No. and description of item	Tender fee	Date of publication of tender on website	Document download start date & time	Online Bid Submission start date	Pre-bid meeting date	Online Bid Submission end date	Technical bid opening date and time
1	**169/PR/JBVNL/2026-27** Vehicle mounted with hydraulic elevated platform with complete fitting	Rs 10000/- + GST	25/06/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	25/06/2026 from 13:10 Hrs.	25/06/2026 from 13:20 Hrs.	29/06/2026 from 15:30 Hrs.	08/07/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	09/07/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs.

NOTE:- **(i)**Only e-tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website http:jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9470378503/ 9430348596, NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178
(ii) Tender fee & EMD must be paid through online mode.
(iii) Tender fee is non-refundable.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को 18003456570(कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

Sd/-
DGM (Purchases)

PR 383179 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd)26-27*D

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor")**, the **constructive possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is"** basis on **27.07.2026** from **05.00 P.M. to 06.00 P.M.**, for recovery of **Rs. 41,36,200/- (Rupees Forty One Lakh Thirty Six Thousand Two Hundred Only)** i. e. **Rs. 39,76,934/- (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Four Only)** pending towards **Loan Account No. HHLGRG00545863** and **Rs. 1,59,266/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Six Only)** pending towards **Loan Account No. HHEGRG00545763**, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till **20.06.2026** with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w. e. f. **21.06.2026** along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **AVNEET KUMAR RAGHAV and SUNITA RAGHAV.**

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 36,50,000/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Fifty Thousand only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit **("EMD")** will be **Rs. 3,65,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Sixty Five Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECES OR PARCELS OF LAND / PROPERTY AS UNDER TOGETHER WITH ALL THE PRESENT AND / OR FUTURE STRUCTURES, BUILDINGS, FURNITURE, FIXTURE, FITTINGS, STANDING AND / OR PLANT AND MACHINERY INSTALLED / TO BE INSTALLED AND / OR CONSTRUCTED / TO BE CONSTRUCTED THEREON AND ALL THE PRESENT AND / OR FUTURE RIGHTS, TITLE AND / OR INTEREST OF SUNITA RAGHAV THEREIN :
ENTIRE SECOND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF / TERRACE RIGHTS, BUILT ON LAND AREA MEASURING 100 SQ. YDS., OF BUILT - UP PROPERTY BEARING NO. 88 & 88-A, OUT OF KHASRA NO. 9, SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE BINDAPUR, COLONY KNOWN AS T - BLOCK, UTTAM NAGAR, GALI NO. 3, NEW DELHI - 110059, ALONGWITH COMMON 1/4TH UNDIVIDED SHARE (FOR ONE CAR AND ONE TWO WHEELER PARKING RIGHT) IN PARKING AREA AT STILT FLOOR, DULY FITTED WITH ELECTRICITY AND WATER CONNECTION IN RUNNING CONDITION, ALONGWITH PROPORTIONATE (25%) UNDIVIDED SHARE IN AND RIGHTS UNDERNEATH THE SAID PROPERTY, WITH COMMON PASSAGE AND STAIRCASE LEADING FROM GROUND FLOOR TO TOP FLOOR ALONGWITH WITH ALL OTHER COMMON FACILITIES OF THE BUILDING.
THE SAID PROPERTY IS BOUNDED AS UNDER : -
EAST : PLOT NO. 89 **SOUTH : ROAD 25 FEET WIDE**
WEST : PORTION OF PLOT NO. 88 - A **NORTH : GALI 10 FEET WIDE**

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.sammaancapital.com; Contact No : 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id : auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionbazaar.com.

sd/-
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED (Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)

Date : 20.06.2026
Place : NEW DELHI

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID

NOTICE

1. The Petitioner above-named has filed a petition before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for determination of transmission tariff for 2024-29 tariff block for **Petition-1:** Reactive Power Compensation on 400 kV Transmission Lines in Northern Region.
2. The beneficiaries of the Transmission system are: **(a)** Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. **(b)** Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. **(c)** Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. **d)** Punjab State Electricity Corporation Limited **(e)** Haryana Power Purchase Centre **(f)** Jammu & Kashmir Power Corporation Ltd. **(g)** Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. **(h)** BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. **(i)** BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. **(j)** Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. **(k)** Chandigarh Electricity Department **(l)** Uttaranchal Power Corporation Ltd. **(m)** North Central Railway **(n)** New Delhi Municipal Council. **(o)** Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board. **(p)** Central Transmission Utility of India Ltd. **(q)** HVPNL

Particulars	
Scheduled date of commercial operation	13.01.2024
Actual date of commercial operation	30.06.2025 (Asset-1)
	22.10.2025 (Asset-2)
	20.03.2026 (Asset-3)
	25.04.2026 (Asset-4)
Estimated Completion Cost (in Rs Lakhs)	83.92 Cr

3. Details of tariff for 2024-29 block: **(Rs. in lakhs)**

Asset	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Asset-1	-	105.38	224.58	229.80	229.85
Asset-2	-	55.49	158.07	201.04	215.78
Asset-3	-	16.54	534.45	581.12	596.97
Asset-4	-	-	277.45	338.26	357.19

4. A copy of the petition made for determination of tariff is posted on the website **www.powergrid.in**
5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the petition may be filed by any person, including the beneficiary through the e-filing portal of the Commission, with a copy to the Petitioner within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Gurugram **Sd/-**
Date: 25.06.2026 **Sr. General Manager (Commercial-CC)**

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110 016
Corporate Office: Saudamini, Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram, Haryana - 122 001
www.powergrid.in, CIN: L40101DL1989GOI038121

A Maharatna PSU

PG/CC/Notice-28/Advt-32/2026-27 Centum

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) PROJECT DIVISION NO. IST, JAMMU
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Short e-NIT No. 13 of 2026-2027 Dated 23-06-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S.No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of foot over bridge connecting NIA/ VWDC Court with Dome area at District court, Jammu.	PWD (R&B) Project Division No. Ist, Jammu	33.08/-	600	02% of the advertised cost	03 months	(1200 Hrs) on or after 01-07-2026	A & B Class

Position of AAA : Accorded
Position of Technical Sanction: In Process
The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website http://jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule :-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	**23-06-2026**
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	**From 23-06-2026 to 30-06-2026 upto 1600 Hrs**
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	25-06-2026 at 1400 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division No. Ist Jammu
4	Bid submission **Start Date**	**23-06-2026**
5	Bid Submission **End Date**	**30-06-2026 upto 1600 Hrs**
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	**01-07-2026 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division No. Ist Jammu**
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	**To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed**

1.Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division No. Ist Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/ BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division No. Ist Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division No. Ist Jammu at the time of allotment.
The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
3.The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division No. Ist Jammu. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
4.The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
5.The earnest money shall be forfeited, If :-
a)Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b)Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
c)Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/G/12660-87 dated 07-10-2021.
6.Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
6.2.To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
6.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.

No :- EE/R&B/PD-1/721-27 .Sd/- Executive Engineer
Dated :-23-06-2026 **PWD (R&B) Project Div. no. Ist**
DIP/J-4353/26 **Jammu**

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The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 15,31,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Thirty One Thousand only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit **("EMD")** will be **Rs. 1,53,100/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Three Thousand One Hundred only)** i. e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

PROPERTY NO. E - 172, THIRD FLOOR, LAND AREA MEASURING 40 SQ. YARDS OUT OF TOTAL LAND AREA MEASURING 80 SQ. YARDS, FRONT SIDE (EASTERN PORTION) WITH ROOF RIGHTS, BLOCK - E, MANSA RAM PARK, VILLAGE MATIALA, UTTAM NAGAR, KHASRA NO. 15/11/2, NEW DELHI -110059, ALONGWITH PROPORTIONATE UNDIVIDED SHARED IN THE LAND WITH ONE BIKE PARKING SPACE. BOUNDED BY :
EAST : ROAD 15 FEET WIDE **SOUTH : PORTION OF PLOT**
WEST : BACK SIDE PORTION OF PLOT **NORTH : PLOT NO. E -173**

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.sammaancapital.com; Contact No : 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id : auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionbazaar.com.

sd/-
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED (Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)

Date : 20.06.2026
Place : NEW DELHI

SENSEX JUMPS 790 POINTS

Mkts rebound on softening oil prices

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded sharply by around 1 per cent on Wednesday, propelled by softening crude oil prices and hectic buying in bank, financial and IT shares.

Besides, growing expectations of an India-US trade deal and foreign funds turning net buyers in the domestic market supported the firm trend in equities, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 790.54 points, or 1.04 per cent, to settle at 76,991.22. During the day, it surged 989.69 points, or 1.29 per cent, to 77,190.37.

A total of 2,215 stocks advanced, while 2,034 declined and 181 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 197.55 points, or 0.83 per cent, to end at 24,021.65.

From the Sensex pack, InterGlobe Aviation, Trent, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Infosys, HDFC Bank and Tata Consultancy Services were among the major winners.

In contrast, NTPC, Tata Steel, Maruti and Bharat Electronics were among the laggards.

The BSE SmallCap Select index edged higher by 0.44 per cent, and the MidCap Select index went up by 0.32 per cent.

Sectorally, the BSE Private Banks index climbed 2.21 per cent, Realty (2.17 per cent), Services (2.14 per cent), IT (1.81 per cent), Bankex (1.78 per cent), Focused IT (1.68 per cent) and MidSmall Private Banks Quality Tilt (1.64 per cent).

Industrials, Telecommunication, Utilities (0.79 per cent), and Power were among the laggards.

"The surge came on the back of falling prices of crude oil amidst relief about the situation between the USA and Iran, as well as the possibility of uninterrupted energy flow through the Strait of Hormuz. Favourable international factors, foreign institutional investors' purchases, strength in bank stocks, and IT companies were other positive factors for the market," Vikram Kasat, Head Advisory, PL Capital, said.

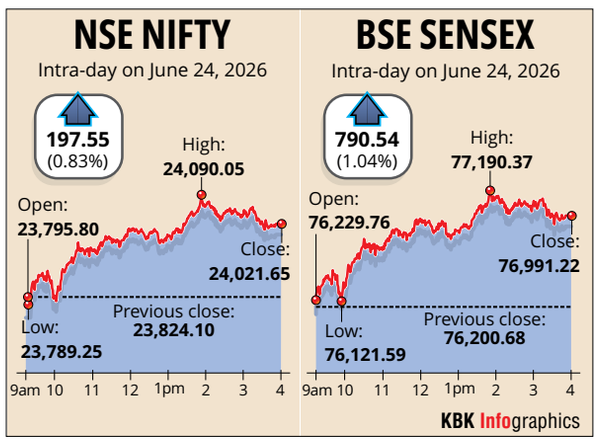
Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dropped 1.69 per cent to USD 75.78 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 17.86 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. A senior US official has said that the United States and India are "very, very close" to concluding a historic bilateral trade deal that will open the 1.4 billion-strong Indian market to American goods on reciprocal and mutually beneficial terms.

"Indian equity markets rebounded sharply from the previous session's sell-off, led by strong gains in banking stocks and a recovery in the IT sector. Sentiment improved as easing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, and a further decline in crude oil prices helped restore risk appetite and support broader market participation," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi climbed over 3 per cent after a steep decline in the previous trading session. Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index also settled higher, while Japan's Nikkei 225 index ended lower.

Markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note.



HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 2,215 stocks advanced, while 2,034 declined and 181 remained unchanged on the BSE
- The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 197.55 points, or 0.83 per cent, to end at 24,021.65
- Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 17.86 crore on Tuesday

RBI IN WAIT & WATCH MODE

Premature to discuss rate hike at this stage, says Guv

NEW DELHI: Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra has said the central bank is closely monitoring developments in West Asia and that it would be premature to talk about a rate hike at this stage.

"If we actually wanted to prepare them (market) for this (rate hike), then we would have changed our (stance)..., if it was so certain that we are going to hike in the coming months, then we would have changed the stance from 'neutral' to 'restrictive', right? We did not do that," he told ET Now.

"So, I think it will be premature to talk about a rate hike. What we have said is that we are cautious, we are aware that there could be risks, both on inflation, as well as on growth, especially inflation, because it is hitting the upper band...we are cautious, and we will continue to remain data dependent," he said.

Earlier this month, the RBI kept its benchmark repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent amid growing risks to growth and inflation from the prolonged West Asia conflict, elevated energy prices and global supply-chain disruptions.

FILE PIC

Observing that the de-escalation in the West Asia conflict is a big positive for the whole world and also for the Indian economy, Malhotra said it is good news both for growth and inflation. Besides, he said, crude prices have moderated, and urea prices have also plummeted, providing comfort to the Indian economy.

Stressing that the Indian economy is resilient, he said: "The government and the OMCs (Oil Marketing Companies) together cushioned the impact of the energy shock to a great extent, and all high frequency indicators show that India has weathered the shock quite well in very uncertain times".

"And as we said, in our monetary policy, we are in wait-and-watch mode. Let's see how long this truce continues and better times ahead for all of us," he said.

While acknowledging that risks have moderated, he cautioned that policymakers were not yet ready to draw definitive conclusions on the inflation outlook. "Upside risks have certainly reduced, but we'll have to...wait and watch as to where crude prices ultimately end up," he said.

On inflation, the governor said the RBI was closely monitoring whether fuel-led wholesale price pressures spread to the broader economy.

"We are not sure, frankly, as to whether we will have second-round effects or not. If you were sure, the monetary policy committee would have acted," he said. AGENCIES

London: India, UK set to discuss implementation of free trade agreement

NEW DELHI: Trade ministers of India and the UK will hold discussions this week in London on issues related to implementation of the comprehensive economic and trade agreement (CETA), which is scheduled to come into force on July 15.

Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal will undertake an official visit to London from June 25-27 for the discussions, an official statement said on Wednesday.

During the visit, Goyal will hold a high-level bilateral meeting with UK's Secretary of State for Business and Trade Peter Kyle.

"The bilateral discussions will focus on aligning regulatory roadmaps, streamlining cross-border customs coordination and finalising administrative mechanisms to facilitate the smooth implementation of CETA and the DCC (Double Contribution Convention)," the commerce ministry said.

The ministers will review preparedness for the implementation of CETA's tariff liberalisation commitments, which will provide enhanced market access opportunities for Indian exports in the United Kingdom, it added.

It said that discussions will also cover the operational roadmap for the DCC, which is expected to establish a streamlined mechanism to address dual social security contribution requirements for eligible temporary workers.

"The two sides will further discuss the operationalisation of mutual market access commitments across key services sectors and review measures aimed at strengthening bilateral trade and investment ties," it said.

FILE PIC

Piyush Goyal will undertake an official visit to London from June 25-27

Goyal will also participate in a series of Government-to-Business engagements with industry leaders, investors and corporate representatives.

He will meet senior executives of leading global companies, including HSBC (Global Trade Solutions) and Rolls-Royce, to discuss strategic investments, industrial collaboration and the expansion of manufacturing partnerships in India.

Further, he will attend a session hosted by the UK-India Business Council (UKIBC). The engagement will bring together C-suite executives and representatives from leading multinational companies, including Tata Group, HSBC, Prudential, De Beers and Baker McKenzie, to discuss opportunities for trade, investment and business collaborations. AGENCIES

BSE seeks Rajesh Exports' response on ED searches

NEW DELHI: The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on Wednesday sought a clarification from gold jewellery firm Rajesh Exports Ltd over reports of searches conducted by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) at multiple locations linked to the Bengaluru-based company.

The exchange's query came a day after the central agency searched nine premises connected to the firm under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

"The reply is awaited," Rajesh Exports said in a regulatory filing.

The development marks a fresh escalation in the legal troubles surrounding the company, which is already facing allegations of a massive financial fraud levelled by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

The company is already facing allegations of a massive financial fraud levelled by the Sebi

Rajesh Mehta, the company's Founder and Chairman, recently denied any fund diversion or wrongdoing in an interview. He said the firm would fully cooperate with the fresh forensic audit ordered by Sebi and would not challenge the market regulator's interim order against it. AGENCIES

ENERGY STRESS, SUB-PAR MONSOON

India's FY27 growth likely to slow down to 6.6%: S&P Global Ratings

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: S&P Global Ratings on Wednesday projected India's economic growth to slow to 6.6 per cent in 2026-27, citing energy stress, expectations of a below-normal monsoon and weakening global growth. The forecast matches the Reserve Bank of India's estimate for the current fiscal.

India's economy had expanded by 7.7 per cent in 2025-26 and 7.1 per cent in 2024-25. In its latest report, Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q3 2026: AI-Exposed Markets To Outperform, S&P said rising energy prices and weather-related concerns are likely to weigh on economic activity.

The agency noted that the impact of El Nino has weakened monsoon rains, with the rainfall deficit widening to 43 per cent by June 22. To mitigate the impact of deficient rainfall, the government has prepared state-wise contingency plans recommending alternative crops suited to dry conditions.

India, which imports nearly 88 per cent of its crude oil requirements, remains vulnerable to rising global energy prices. Higher oil prices increase the import bill, push up inflation and raise input costs for industries.

S&P said the effects of energy stress linked to tensions in West Asia are already visible, with industries facing higher production costs and delays in supplies. Rising fertiliser prices are also expected to affect agricultural output and contribute to higher food prices.

The agency projected consumer inflation to rise by 0.5 to 0.6 percentage points during the third quarter and average 5.1 per cent during the current fiscal year. Manufacturers are likely to pass on higher energy costs to consumers, while recent increases in petrol, diesel and cooking gas prices may add to inflationary pressures.

S&P also expects the RBI to raise policy interest rates during the second half of the fiscal year.

'BHIM app transaction volumes triple in 11 months'

HYDERABAD: The transaction volumes of the BHIM Payments App more than tripled between June 2025 and May 2026, according to NPCI BHIM Services Limited.

Monthly transaction volumes on the app, developed by NPCI BHIM Services Limited, rose from 79.64 million in June 2025 to 244 million in May 2026, a release said on Wednesday.

The platform processed transactions worth Rs 26,952 crore in May 2026, it said.

In Telangana, BHIM's growth mirrors the broader national trend, with transaction volumes tripling between June 2025 and May 2026.

In May 2026, groceries accounted for 23.9 per cent of merchant transactions on the platform in the state, followed by food outlets (18.1 per cent) and quick commerce (11.6 per cent).

Lalitha Nataraj, MD and CEO of NBSL, said the strong growth of the BHIM Payments App in Telangana reflected the increasing integration of digital payments into everyday life.

"What is particularly encouraging is that this growth is being driven by transactions across categories such as groceries, food outlets and quick commerce, indicating a growing shift towards digital payments for routine spending," she said. As consumers increasingly embraced convenient payment experiences, NBSL remained focused on building solutions that were simple, seamless and accessible for every user, Nataraj said. AGENCIES

Institutional investors put in bids worth Rs 1,900 crore in IRFC OFS

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Institutional investors on Wednesday put in bids worth over Rs 1,900 crore for Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) shares in its offer for sale, over-subscribing the portion reserved for them. Non-retail investors placed bids for over 21.87 crore IRFC shares, or 1.86 times of the 11.76 crore shares reserved for them. Indicative price for the bids is Rs 91.10 per share, stock exchange data showed.

The government is selling up to 2 per cent stake or 26.13 crore shares in IRFC at a floor price of Rs 91/share. The OFS includes a greenshoe option of 1 per cent stake.

REPRESENTATIVE PIC

Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Arunish Chawla said the OFS has received "enthusiastic response from the investors".

"The government has decided to exercise the green shoe option. Retail investors and employees get to bid on Thursday, 25th June 2026," Chawla said. At the floor price, bids for over 21.87 crore IRFC shares are valued at over Rs 1,900 crore. The floor price of Rs 91/share was set at a discount of 7.8 per cent over Tuesday's closing price of IRFC shares on the BSE. Shares of IRFC closed 6.24 per cent lower at Rs 92.53 on the BSE on Wednesday.

In the current fiscal year, the government has sold minority stakes in five central public sector enterprises, banks and insurance companies, taking the total disinvestment proceeds to Rs 16,480 crore so far. This includes Rs 5,542 crore from Coal India, Rs 4,357 crore from NHPC, Rs 3,090 crore from GIC, Rs 2,266 crore from Central Bank of India and Rs 1,223 crore from NLC India.

Gold declines Rs 1,200 to Rs 1.48 lakh/10 gm

NEW DELHI: Gold prices declined by Rs 1,200 to Rs 1.48 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday, and silver dropped by Rs 4,000, as the US dollar gained strength amid weak global trends.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity decreased by Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,48,100 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Tuesday's closing level of Rs 1,49,300.

Silver also extended its downward trend for the second straight day, falling Rs 4,000 to Rs 2,31,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes). It had settled at Rs 2,35,000 per kg in the previous session after plunging Rs 10,500, its steepest fall in over two weeks.

REPRESENTATIVE PIC

Analysts said the latest losses have pushed the white metal prices to levels last seen in early April, when the metal traded at Rs 2.37 lakh per kg, as traders continue to favour dollar-denominated assets.

In the overseas markets, spot gold slipped by USD 52.01, or 1.3 per cent, to USD 4,058.10 per ounce, while silver fell nearly 2 per cent at USD 60.48 per ounce. MPOST

'Shift from licencing regime': DoT notifies new authorisation norms

NEW DELHI: The government has notified rules that operationalise a new authorisation-based framework in the telecom sector, marking a transition from the legacy licencing regime. The Centre has also notified the 'Telecom eServices Portal' that enables the digital implementation of the provisions of the Telecom Act.

A set of norms have been notified under the Telecom Act, among them, the Telecommunications (Authorisation for Provision of Main Telecommunication Services) Rules, 2025, that effectively shift entities from the old licence regime to a new authorisation-based framework. Existing Unified Licence, UASL, ISP, NLD and ILD licensees can migrate to the new regime.

The draft of the rules pertaining to the authorisation-based framework was published on September 5, 2025, inviting objections and suggestions from stakeholders within 30 days - a window that was later extended to October 21, 2025. "...comments and suggestions received in that period in respect of the said draft rules have been considered by the Central Government," the notification by the Telecom Department said. The rules allow any eligible entity to apply to the government for authorisation to provide telecom services either as a network service operator, a virtual network operator (VNO), or both.

INSIGHT

- The Centre has also notified the 'Telecom eServices Portal' that enables the digital implementation of the provisions of the Telecom Act
- Existing Unified Licence, UASL, ISP, NLD and ILD licensees can migrate to the new regime

REPRESENTATIVE PIC

"Any person may apply to the Central Government under rule 6 to obtain authorisation, as network service operator or virtual network operator or both, to provide one or more telecommunication services that are within the scope and service area of any authorisation specified," it said.

This includes unified service authorisation for a national service area, access service authorisation for one or more service areas, wireline access service authorisation, internet service authorisation for a national service area or one or more service areas, and long-distance service authorisation for a national service area. According to the rules, any company wanting to establish, operate, or expand a satellite network must separately seek government permission and provide details of satellites, space capacity and gateway infrastructure.

"Every new authorised entity intending to establish, operate, maintain or expand a satellite network, or to provide principal telecommunication service using a satellite network, shall apply for permission of the Central Government, in such form and manner as specified on the portal," it said. AGENCIES

IRCTC CMD Sanjay Kumar Jain to demit office on Jul 20

NEW DELHI: IRCTC Chairman and Managing Director Sanjay Kumar Jain will demit office on July 20 after the Ministry of Railways accepted his resignation, submitted on personal grounds, on Tuesday.

Jain took charge as CMD in February 2024. During his tenure, IRCTC was elevated from 'Schedule B' to 'Schedule A' status and from 'Mini Ratna-II' to 'Navratna' status. The company also recorded its highest-ever financial performance in 2025-26, with revenue touching Rs 5,215 crore. Tourism revenue reached a record Rs 890 crore during the fiscal

Several initiatives, including AI-based monitoring of base kitchens, expansion of e-Pantry services and technology-driven improvements in e-ticketing, were introduced during his tenure. Before joining IRCTC, Jain served in key positions in the Railways and the Department of Public Enterprises. The Railways Ministry said orders regarding additional charge of the CMD post would be issued separately. MPOST

Oil prices may hinge on China even after Hormuz reopens permanently

'Beijing managed to cushion impact of supply disruptions by cutting imports'

NEW DELHI: As the United States and Iran negotiate a permanent reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and the restoration of Middle Eastern oil supplies, analysts say China has emerged as a key factor influencing global oil markets despite remaining outside the diplomatic process.

China, the world's second-largest crude oil consumer, has managed to cushion the impact of supply disruptions caused by the conflict involving Iran, which has affected access to more than 11 million barrels of oil per day. By reducing imports, drawing on strategic reserves and accelerating the shift towards clean energy, Beijing has helped limit the impact of higher oil prices both domestically and globally.

Despite supply losses estimated at more than one billion barrels during the conflict, crude prices have remained relatively stable. Earlier forecasts had suggested oil prices could rise to as high as $200 a barrel, but analysts say China's actions have prevented a sharper escalation, CNN reported.

KEY POINTS

- Despite supply losses estimated at more than one billion barrels during the conflict, crude prices have remained relatively stable
- Earlier forecasts had suggested oil prices could rise to as high as $200 a barrel, but analysts say China's actions have prevented a sharper escalation

REPRESENTATIVE PIC

Daan Walter, principal at energy think tank Ember, said China had played a crucial role in buffering the rest of Asia from the impact of supply disruptions, thereby supporting the global economy.

Analysts at Societe Generale noted that while the 1973 Arab oil embargo, which affected about 7 per cent of global supply, triggered a 134 per cent increase in oil prices, the present conflict has disrupted around 14 per cent of global supply without causing a comparable surge.

China has reportedly cut crude imports by nearly three million barrels a day, an amount roughly equal to Japan's total oil demand. The country had built up substantial inventories through discounted purchases of Russian and Iranian crude and now holds more than one billion barrels in commercial and strategic reserves.

At the same time, Beijing has restricted exports of refined fuels to safeguard domestic supplies. The rapid adoption of electric vehicles has also reduced oil demand, with the International Energy Agency estimating that China's EV fleet cut oil consumption by about one million barrels per day last year.

Analysts, however, warn that the same stockpiles that helped Beijing stabilise the market have been drawn down. Those inventories will eventually need replenishment. That is where China's next move becomes critical.

If prices soften further, China will likely return as a significant buyer, influencing the prices, say analysts, adding that Beijing's energy policies will remain critical to the global oil market even after the Strait of Hormuz fully reopens. AGENCIES

Daniel Munoz scores, Colombia edge Congo 1-0 to reach knockout stage

Colombia star forward Luis Diaz had 2 goals called back in quick succession

GUADALAJARA: Daniel Muñoz helped Colombia break through Congo's stingy defense and advance to the knockout stage of the World Cup with a 1-0 win on Tuesday night.

Munoz scored in the 76th minute after the Colombians had been held back by a strong performance from Congo goalkeeper Lionel Mpasi, who made five difficult saves in the first 20 minutes.

Mpasi had no chance to stop Munoz's left-footed strike from inside the area after the ball deflected off a defender. It was Muñoz's second goal in the tournament, and the Crystal Palace fullback was named the man of the match.

"We played with intensity and aggression, and we stuck to our style," Muñoz said. "We earned these three points as a team and for all the fans who came out to support us. This victory gives us a morale boost. We don't want to settle for this."

Congo twice came close to equalizing in stoppage time, with Colombia goalkeeper Camilo Vargas making a superb save of a long-range strike by Nathanael Mbuku and then stopping a header by Chancel Mbemba off the ensuing corner kick.

"We probably could have scored more goals, but Congo made it difficult and it was tense there until the end," Colombia coach Néstor Lorenzo said. "But I think we were the deserved winners."

Colombia star forward Luis Diaz had two goals called back in quick succession late in the second half, one for a foul in the 79th minute and another for offside in the 80th.

Congo had opened its first World Cup in 52 years with a surprising 1-1 draw against Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal.

Colombia has six points from two matches in Group K, two ahead of Portugal and five clear of Congo. Portugal routed Uzbekistan 5-0 behind a pair of goals by Ronaldo earlier Tuesday in Houston.

Colombia needs at least a draw against Portugal on Saturday to win the group. AGENCIES

Colombia players celebrate after the World Cup Group K football match in Mexico AP/PTI

52

Congo had opened its first World Cup in 52 years with a surprising 1-1 draw against Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal

Shubman Gill at No. 2 in ICC rankings for batters in ODIs

Henry joins Bumrah as top-ranked Test bowler

DUBAI: India captain Shubman Gill rose three spots to move to the second spot in ICC ODI rankings for batters, while New Zealand pacer Matt Henry joined Jasprit Bumrah as the world's top ranked bowler in Test cricket here on Wednesday.

Gill is now behind New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell by only 24 rating points as the Indian skipper reaped the benefits of his big scores against Afghanistan in the recently-concluded three-match ODI series.

While he did not bat in the final ODI which India won by 9 wickets, Gill scored 84 and 154 in the first two matches of the series.

Ishan Kishan moved up 21 positions to reach 43rd rank among batters while three Indian bowlers also made big gains in the latest rankings.

Arshdeep Singh moved up 16 positions to reach 22nd, Prasidh Krishna moved up 34 places to get to 58th while all-rounder Washington Sundar climbed 17 spots to reach joint 71st. Virat Kohli slipped to the third position after missing the Afghanistan series due to a hamstring injury while Rohit Sharma remained at the fourth position. AGENCIES

US OPEN

Treesa-Gayatri advance; Rounak Chouhan enters main draw

FULLERTON: Indian women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand advanced to the second round of the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament after overcoming Spain's Paula Lopez and Lucia Rodriguez in a three-game battle here. Making her return after an ankle injury layoff, Treesa, partnering Gayatri, defeated the Spanish combination 21-12 14-21 21-13 in a 51-minute opening-round contest.

The Indian duo will next take on Japan's Sumire Nakade and Miyu Takahashi.

In the men's singles qualifiers, Rounak Chouhan secured his place in the main draw with two victories. He first beat France's Enogat Roy 21-19 21-16 before rallying past Chinese Taipei's Kuo Kuan Lin 13-21 21-14 21-10.

Chouhan will now face fellow Indian S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian in the opening round. Treesa and Gayatri started strongly, racing to an 8-3 lead in the opening game. Although the Spaniards narrowed the gap with a four-point burst, the Indians regained control, moving to 17-11 before comfortably taking the game.

Paula and Lucia responded well in the second game, opening up an 11-7 advantage at the interval and maintaining their edge despite a late challenge from the Indians to force a decider.

The Indian pair regained the initiative in the third game, establishing an 11-6 lead at the mid-game break. They maintained the momentum thereafter and closed out the match without much trouble.

India will also have a sizeable presence in women's singles, with Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj, Shriyanshi Valishetty, Anmol Kharb, Devika Sihag, Tanya Hemanth, Aakarshi Kashyap and Tanvi Sharma featuring in the competition. AGENCIES

"THE INDIAN DUO WILL NEXT TAKE ON JAPAN'S SUMIRE NAKADE & MIYU TAKAHASHI"

Iyer, Gill can help ease Suryansh into international cricket: Mentor Paranjape

NEW DELHI: It's a "lucky break" but Suryansh Shedge can turn his unexpected India call-up into a memorable learning experience by simply being observant inside an experienced dressing room with some help from young captains Shreyas Iyer and Shubman Gill, says his mentor and former national selector Jatin Paranjape.

Paranjape, also a former India player who has guided the Mumbai all-rounder over the last one-and-a-half years, said Iyer's T20 leadership could be particularly reassuring for the 23-year-old Shedge as the two have shared a successful association in Mumbai and Punjab Kings.

"Yeah, I think not only Shreyas but also (ODI captain) Shubman. Because both of them are young captains. And both of them are captains with a lot of empathy," Paranjape told PTI after Shedge's maiden India call-up for the white-ball tour of Ireland and England following the injury-forced withdrawal of Nitish Kumar Reddy.

"And they will understand the pressure Suryansh will be feeling, the nervousness that he will be feeling. Shreyas definitely, because they know each other, Suryansh has played under him. So, there will be a lot of comfort."

With both Hardik Pandya and Reddy out of the UK tour, Paranjape feels even in ODIs, Gill can guide Shedge.

"Mainly because he is young and he will be able to relate to what's going on inside that debutant's mind, basically."

For the upcoming tour, beginning with two T20Is against Ireland from June 26, Paranjape's advice is simple: absorb as much knowledge as possible.

"If you are able to be a sponge... And my advice to him is to be a sponge around all the champions in that dressing room. So, I think if he is able to adapt to that atmosphere, I think England is a great location," he said.

Paranjape said the opportunity has come through hard work and should be embraced with humility.

"This has come as a lucky break. He accepts it with all humility and he will try to do his best for the team. That's the message. Always be a teamman. Think like a captain and try to win games for your team," he said.

Paranjape said he first met Shedge through a mutual friend and immediately recognised a profile that Indian cricket desperately needs.

"I have been involved with him for probably the last year and a half. And he is a very, very talented cricketer and he has shown glimpses of that talent in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

"But what really enthuses me is that here is an all-rounder and we are looking for all-rounders. We are looking for fast bowling all-rounders, batsmen who can bowl medium pace. We are looking for spin all-rounders as well."

According to Paranjape, Shedge's progress accelerated once he was able to address the technical gltches that many young cricketers encounter on their way up.

"So, I knew about him. But when we met, there were a few things which were kind of impeding his progress. And these are very natural roadblocks that top-flight cricketers face on their journey. AGENCIES

Shreyas Iyer

Harmanpreet needs to play her natural game: Shikha Pandey

NEW DELHI: India captain Harmanpreet Kaur needs to stop thinking about the wickets falling around her and focus on playing her natural attacking game, believes former pacer Shikha Pandey, who says the batter can transform into a completely different player once she gets settled at the crease. India are in a tricky position ahead of their ICC Women's T20 World Cup clash against Bangladesh after suffering a defeat against South Africa in Manchester.

Speaking on JioStar's 'Game Plan', Shikha and Veda Krishnamurthy analysed Harmanpreet's strike rate, Jemimah Rodrigues' form and the possible changes India could make to their playing XI.

Shikha felt a tweak in the batting order could help Harmanpreet regain her rhythm, suggesting the skipper could move up to number four while Jemimah Rodrigues drops down the order.

"Harmanpreet Kaur's strike rate is a cause for concern for India's middle order. If a wicket falls early, we have seen Yastika Bhatia walk in, with Jemimah Rodrigues at number four. We might see Harman come in to bat at number four and Jemimah drop down to number five," she said.

"But wherever she bats, Harman should stop thinking about the wickets that have fallen and not try to rebuild because we have seen that when Harmanpreet Kaur is on song, she is a completely different player altogether.

"Once she gets set, we'll see those straight drives and those shots over deep mid-wicket. She is excellent against spinners, so if she can just get set, it will be great for India," she added. Shikha also praised young left-arm spinner Shree Charani for her outstanding performance in the tournament, having picked up 10 wickets in three matches. "The way Shree Charani has bowled in tandem with Deepti Sharma has been great to watch. In the three games she has played so far, she has taken 10 wickets. She has been varying her pace really well," she said.

"The wicket she got of Annerie Dercksen was probably the best ball you would want to bowl as a left-arm spinner, pitching on off and middle and taking out the off stump. She has been phenomenal with her lengths while keeping the stumps in play all the time." AGENCIES

I would say I am an all-rounder now, says Shafali

MANCHESTER: India's explosive opener Shafali Verma says her growing effectiveness with the ball is no accident as meticulous preparation and visualisation have helped her evolve into an all-rounder capable of contributing in multiple roles for the team.

Known primarily for her aggressive batting, Shafali has emerged as a useful bowling option in recent months, often chipping in with crucial breakthroughs. With her off-spin she had even opened the attack against South Africa in India's last World Cup game.

"It's not like that I have never bowled before," Shafali, who claimed two crucial wickets in the final of the ODI world Cup, told reporters on the eve of their T20 World Cup match against Bangladesh.

"Whenever I played domestic cricket for Haryana and even when I was captain, I always gave myself time to think about how I would execute if I got a chance to bowl for India. "I have visualised those situations. If I am bowling in a particular match situation, what do I need to think about? It's not like I am bowling just like that. I have prepared for it and worked hard on it. That's why I am able to execute well." AGENCIES

Known primarily for her aggressive batting, Shafali has emerged as a useful bowling option in recent months, often chipping in with crucial breakthroughs

Andreeva loses Wimbledon tuneup in Bad Homburg

BAD HOMBURG: Mirra Andreeva lost in her first match since winning the French Open, beaten in her only grass-court tuneup before Wimbledon by Ekaterina Alexandrova on Wednesday.

The two Russian players hugged at the net after Alexandrova overcame Andreeva and the heat wave baking Europe to win 6-3, 6-4 for a place in the quarterfinals of the Bad Homburg Open.

In the second set, the 19-year-old French Open champion pulled off a table tennis-style trick shot which had so much backspin it landed on Alexandrova's side of the court before bouncing back over the net to win Andreeva the point.

Alexandrova next faces Naomi Osaka at Bad Homburg.

Top-seeded Iga Swiatek also lost Wednesday, struggling with her serve in a 7-5, 2-6, 6-3 defeat to Emma Navarro. Swiatek had six double faults in the first set alone. The runner-up in Nottingham last week, Navarro improved to a 6-2 record on grass this season and will play Elena Gabriela Ruse in the quarterfinals.

The top three seeded players at the tournament are all out.

French Open quarterfinalist Elina Svitolina, seeded third, withdrew Wednesday ahead of the quarterfinals, citing fitness issues after her second-round win over Liudmila Samsonova.

"It took a little bit more than expected out of my body, so therefore I need a few more days to recover," she said in a video statement. AGENCIES

AHEAD OF WIMBLEDON

Sinner set for exhibition match in London heat wave

LONDON: Top-ranked Jannik Sinner is scheduled to play an exhibition match amid a heat wave on Wednesday, just under a month after the Italian star struggled with dizziness in a stunning second-round loss at the French Open.

Sinner is set to play in the Giorgio Armani Tennis Classic against Cameron Norrie with southern England under a " red warning " for extreme heat issued by Britain's national weather service.

The early afternoon temperature in Fulham, where the event is being held, is 33 C (91.4 F).

Sinner, the defending champion at Wimbledon, wore a cooling vest while practising earlier Wednesday at the All England Club.

In Paris, he was ahead by two sets and 5-1 in the third before losing to Juan Manuel Cerundolo 3-6, 2-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-1. The temperature on Court Philippe-Chatrier rose to 32 C (90 F) during the match, and Sinner was clearly having a tough time cooling himself down as he reached for multiple ice bags.

Sinner, who has a history of problems with heat and cramps, didn't blame the heat entirely after the loss. "I think many things together caused this problem. I just need my time now to process what went wrong here," he said.

At the grass-court major a year ago, Sinner beat Carlos Alcaraz 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in the final for his first Wimbledon title. AGENCIES

Sinner is set to play in the Giorgio Armani Tennis Classic against Cameron Norrie

Eyes on Nabi as India A take on Sri Lanka in red-ball series

GALLE: Pacer Aquib Nabi will have a point to prove when he takes the field alongside some of the Test regulars in the two match red ball series between India A and Sri Lanka beginning here on Thursday.

Nabi not being considered for the one off Test against Afghanistan after his stellar 60 wickets show in J&K's historic Ranji Trophy triumph was questioned by his supporters and experts alike.

If the right-arm pacer does well on the docile pitches of Sri Lanka, he would make it tougher for the selectors to keep him out of the national team. After Sri Lanka, India's next big Test tour is of New Zealand where his style of bowling could come in handy on seam friendly surfaces.

Gurnoor Brar, who made a successful India and ODI debut against Afghanistan, is also part of the squad.

The two Test series in Sri Lanka is expected to favour the spinners but if Brar makes an impact in the A, he could retain his place in the senior squad.

Test regular Dhruv Jurel will captain the side in both games to be played in Galle.

The series will provide a good opportunity for Sai Sudharsan to get runs under his belt which would boost his confidence ahead of the two Tests in August. AGENCIES

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Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL)** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Loan Account No./Branch	Brief details of secured assets	Date of Demand Notice & Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Possession Taken Date
1.	Sandeep Nagar/ Geeta/ DEL-HL-000698/ DELHI	All Piece and Parcel of Plot Land Measuring 100 Sq. Yds, Along With Construction Thereon Out of Khasra No. 407 Min, & 4076M, 4077M 4083 Situated at Village Loni Pargana & Tehsil Loni Distt Ghaziabad, U.P. Boundaries : East: Plot of Others, West: Plot of Others, South: 15 Ft. Rasta, North: Plot of Others	30-Mar-2026/ Rs. 17,80,006/- Rupees Seventeen Lakh Eighty Thousand Six Only.	24-Jun-2026

Date: June 25, 2026,
Place: Ghaziabad

Sd/- Authorized Officer,
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Reese Witherspoon's advice helped Lexi Minetree understand the heart of Elle Woods

'ELLE WOODS ALWAYS TAKES THE HIGH ROAD'

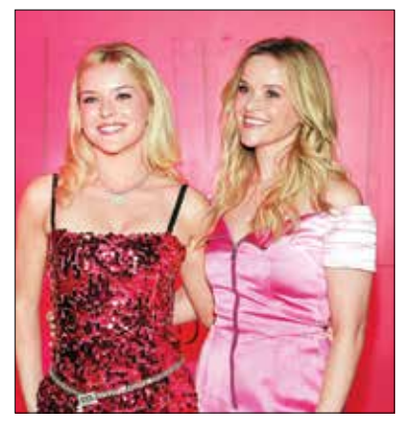
OUR CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of its highly anticipated premiere on 'Prime Video', 'Elle' revisits the early life of Elle Woods, years before audiences first met her in 'Legally Blonde'. The coming-of-age prequel follows a younger Elle as she navigates high school, friendships, heartbreak and the experiences that shape her into the confident, optimistic woman audiences know and love.

Like many people, Lexi Minetree grew up with Elle Woods. So, when she landed the role, she threw herself into understanding every part of the character, from the way she speaks and carries herself to the qualities that have made audiences love her for nearly 25 years.

Speaking about her preparation for the role, Lexi shared, "I must have watched 'Legally Blonde' over 150 times during the casting process and then even more after I got the role. At one point, I could probably do a one-woman show of it."

"For me, I didn't just want to get her attitude and resilience and charm. I really wanted to nail her voice, mannerisms and movement. That's such an important part of the character. It would be so easy to play her as a stereotype or do a valley girl accent, but Elle doesn't have any of that.



She's very specific. There's a melodic quality to her voice and a really perky physicality. Every single morning, I'd do a voice and body warmup. When you wake up at 4 am, you can sound pretty rough and I needed to get my voice to a bright, lifted place. I worked with this wonderful voice coach, Kate Wilson, who helped me find the right placement. It's all connected - the attitude, the energy and the voice all work in tandem," she added.

Lexi also revealed that Reese Witherspoon offered a piece of advice that helped her stay true to the heart of the character. "And as for advice, Reese has been so wonderful throughout this whole process. One thing that really stuck with me was the moment she pointed out from the movie: when Elle is talking to Warner after everything and he suddenly wants her back. She has every opportunity to call him out and she doesn't. She never goes low. She always takes the high road. She's never a bully, even to people who are unkind to her. Reese reminded me of that and for me, that's the core of who Elle is. I try to hold onto that in scenes when she could easily lash out."

'I really wanted to nail her voice, mannerisms and movement,' says Lexi

Created by Laura Kittrell, season one of 'Elle' includes Lexi Minetree as Elle Woods, June Diane Raphael as Elle's mother Eva and Tom Everett Scott as her father Wyatt, alongside Jacob Moskovitz, Gabrielle Policano, Chandler Kinney, Zac Looker, and Amy Pietz.

'Elle' will premiere exclusively on July 1.

'We hit it off instantly right from the reading sessions'

'Made in India...' continues to strike a chord with audiences

OUR CORRESPONDENT

As 'Made in India: A Titan Story' continues to strike a chord with audiences across the nation on 'Amazon MX Player', viewers have been particularly drawn to the relationships, ambitions and defining moments that shape the narrative. For Vaibhav Tatwawadi, who essays the role of Akash, the experience of bringing the story to life was marked by moments that underscored both the magnitude of the world being recreated and the camaraderie that developed behind the scenes.

Reflecting on a memory from the shoot that left a lasting impression, Vaibhav shared, "There was a scene where we were supposed to show the expanse of the Hosur plant and I remember the lights were going to turn on one by one as I delivered my dialogue. Looking at the sheer scale of it all, I realised this was not something ordinary; it was something truly remarkable. That was the moment when the scale of the story really hit me, and I knew we were creating something very special."

Vaibhav Tatwawadi talked about his camaraderie with Jim Sarbh in 'Made in India: A Titan Story'

Speaking about his experience working alongside Jim Sarbh, who portrays Xerxes Desai, Vaibhav added, "We hit it off instantly right from the reading sessions. There was a wonderful camaraderie between us and I think that naturally translated on screen as well. Chemistry comes from the comfort and trust you share off-screen. We were genuinely comfortable around each other and there was a great deal of mutual respect. I'm really glad that audiences are connecting with the friendship, the banter and the moments Akash and Xerxes share throughout the series."

Keanu Reeves to feature in 'Lego' film

Hollywood star Keanu Reeves is in negotiations to feature in a live-action hybrid 'Lego' film.

The 'Universal' film is directed by Josh Cooley and also reunites the actor with the filmmaker after their collaboration on the 2019 'Toy Story 4', where Cooley directed and Reeves voiced the stuntman toy Duke Caboom. It will be produced by Jill Wilfert and Ryan Christians under the banner of 'The Lego Group'. The plot details are kept under wraps, but reportedly, the film will be a combination of live-action and animation, according to the entertainment news outlet 'Deadline'.

The 'Universal' film is directed by Josh Cooley

'Universal' signed a five-year exclusive deal with 'The Lego Group' in 2020 to develop, produce and distribute theatrical releases. Previously, there have been four major Lego films, including 'The Lego Movie' (2014), 'The Lego Batman Movie' (2017), 'The Lego Ninjago Movie' (2017) and 'The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part', which was released in 2019.

Reeves' latest work is 'Outcome', which was released on 'Apple TV' on April 10. He will next voice the character of anti-hero Shadow the Hedgehog in 'Sonic the Hedgehog 4'. He will also feature in the 'Constantine' sequel and Netflix's 'BRZRKR' film. PTI

I am truly honoured: R Madhavan

The actor is grateful for receiving the Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian award in India

R Madhavan is deeply honoured and grateful for receiving Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian award in India.

The actor, known for his acclaimed performances in films such as 'Rang De Basanti', 'Vikram Vedha', '3 Idiots', 'Tanu Weds Manu' and others, was awarded the honour by President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday in Delhi.

Madhavan was awarded in recognition of his outstanding and distinguished contributions to Indian cinema across multiple languages and genres. The actor shared a picture from the ceremony on his 'Instagram' handle, which featured him receiving the award and thanked his supporters and audience.

"I am deeply humbled and profoundly grateful and truly honoured to be conferred with the Padma Shri. My heartfelt gratitude to the Government of India for bestowing upon me one of our nation's highest civilian honours. I am equally thankful to the Government of Maharashtra for recommending my name and placing their faith in my journey. This recognition is something I will cherish for the rest of my life," he wrote in the caption.

Madhavan said that the recognition reminds him of a greater duty

He added, "To every person who watched my films, embraced my characters, celebrated my successes, forgave my shortcomings and stood by me through the years - this honour belongs as much to you as it does to me. Your affection has been the driving force behind every milestone in my life and career. Today, I also feel a deep sense of responsibility."

The actor, who recently featured in 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge', said the recognition reminds him of a greater duty. "This recognition reminds me that every privilege carries with it a greater duty - to uphold the values of integrity, humility and excellence; to contribute meaningfully to the world of cinema that has given me everything; and to serve my country in whatever way I can," he said. PTI

'It is a scary thought'

Filmmaker Tom Hanks said the studio can replace his voice as Sheriff Woody in 'Toy Story' films with artificial intelligence and calls it a 'scary thought'.

Hanks has voiced the character of a pull-string cowboy doll in all the instalments of the franchise and is sure that, if the studio decides to, it has enough materials to replicate the voice with AI.

"Time is undefeated. The question would be whether or not we could cobble together some version of me. Every word we have ever recorded in time in 'Toy Story' is on digital media somewhere, so they could put together anything they would want," he told 'Entertainment Weekly' in an interview.

Asked if he would voice the character in the sixth film, Hanks said it should be worthwhile. "If you're gonna do another 'Toy Story', it better be worthwhile. It better be great. You'd better be examining some theme that is not just dragging it out because people like the title," he said.

He added, "I mean, it is a huge corporate business without a doubt. I'm not gonna discount that.

Tom Hanks quipped that the studio could replace his voice with AI in 'Toy Story' films

But unless it's good, new and fresh, there's no reason to do it at all."

'Toy Story 5' was released on June 19 and emerged as the highest opening weekend grosser at the global box office in the franchise. The film is directed by Andrew Stanton, with McKenna Harris serving as the co-director.

The film also featured Tim Allen as Buzz Lightyear, Joan Cusack as Jessie, Annie Potts as Bo Peep and John Ratzenberger as Hamm. PTI

AKSHAY KUMAR ON THE GENRE OF COMEDY

'IN THE AGE OF MEMES AND REELS, COMEDY HAS BECOME MORE CHALLENGING'

Akshay Kumar is gearing up for the release of the comedy film 'Welcome To The Jungle'

Superstar Akshay Kumar said it has always been challenging to make people laugh, but the job has become tougher in the social media age, where everyone is exposed to funny reels, memes and stand-up acts.

After 'Bhooth Bangla', Akshay is gearing up for the release of the comedy film 'Welcome To The Jungle'. The new film is part of the 'Welcome' franchise and is set to be released in theatres on Friday.

"It has become much more challenging. Today, there are reels, memes and comedy content everywhere. But comedy is like a huge river; it never dries up. There are so many forms of comedy. There's physical comedy, situational comedy, slapstick comedy and dark humour," Akshay told PTI.

The 58-year-old actor said today movies are not the only source of entertainment for people. "There are countless ways of making people laugh. If you open 'Instagram', you'll find endless memes and funny videos. People consume comedy every day. There are so many comedy shows and talented stand-up comedians creating fresh material. But making people laugh remains one of the most difficult things to do. People often underestimate comedy. I have tremendous respect for stand-up comedians. Standing alone in front of an audience and making people laugh is incredibly difficult."

He said today movies are not the only source of entertainment for people

'Welcome To The Jungle' revolves around a group of gangsters, criminals and quirky characters whose paths cross in a border-area jungle. What begins as a film-shoot-like operation turns into a series of absurd misadventures involving crime, confusion and action-packed situations. It will see Akshay leading a cast that includes over 30 actors, including Suneil Shetty, Paresh Rawal, Raveena Tandon, Arshad Warsi, Lara Dutta and many more.

The recently released trailer features several self-deprecating moments and Akshay said he enjoys being the centre of the joke.

"I think making fun of yourself is much better than making fun of somebody else. If I make fun of another person, there's not much joy in it. But if I joke about myself, that's far healthier." PTI

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites online tender for the work :

Tender No. T25R220484: Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 400/220/66kV GIS Tikrikhurd Sub-Station with complete civil works & automation on Turnkey Basis.

For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :- **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in** (Tender ID No. 2026_DTL_294145_1) and **www.dtl.gov.in** with Unique No. DTL–0060-240626

Last date for bid submission:- **18.08.2026, at 01.30 P.M.**

All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/Date of Extension/ Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites online tender for the work :

Tender No. T25R220474: Design, Engineering, Supply, Laying, Jointing, Testing and Commissioning of 220kV D/C 1x1200 sq.mm. U/G XLPE Cable from 220kV IP Substation to 220kV Rajghat Substation on turnkey basis.

For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :- **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in** ((Tender ID No. 2026_DTL_285876_1) and www.dtl.gov.in with Unique No. DTL–0059-240626

Last date for bid submission:- **11.08.2026, at 01.30 P.M.**

All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/Date of Extension/ Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited

Unit No. 101-102, U & V Block DDA Market, Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088
T + 91 (0)11 27488364 E : smbagh@jkbmail.com w www.jkbank.net

POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Mohammad Zahid as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated **04.11.2025** thereby calling upon the Borrower namely **Mr. Tapan Prakash and Gunjan Kumari** to repay an amount of **Rs.59,09,666.98 (Rupees Fifty Nine Lakhs Nine Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Six and Paisa Ninety Eight Only)** being the balance outstanding as on **31.10.2025** in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the **24th day of June of the year 2026.**

The said borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any Dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the **J&K Bank Limited** for the amount in aggregating to **Rs. 62,88,363.98/- (Rupees Sixty Two Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Three and Paisa Ninety Eight Only)** together with future interest thereon from **01.06.2026** and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

Equitable Mortgage of Entire Second Floor with Roof/Terrace rights out of built up property, built on Freehold MLU Plot no. 21, Area measuring 100 Sq Meters, situated at Block EP, Pocket 3, Bindapur, Dwarka, New Delhi

Date : 24.06.2026
Place : Delhi

Mr. Mohammad Zahid
Authorized Officer

Registered office Corporate Headquarters M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001 Kashmir, India T +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 F +91 (0)194 248 1928 CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048 E info@jkbmail.com W www.jkbank.net

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1	**Name of work :** Annual Zone work for PE 30/6/2026 for repair to service building & station building in the section of JE/Yamuna Bridge & SSB in the section of SSE/W/DLI/Line under ADEN/DLI.
2	**Approx. cost of work :** Rs. 1,49,99,371.98/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Nine Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Three Hundred Seventy One and Ninety Eight Paise only)
3	**Earnest Money to be deposited :** Rs. 3,00,000.00/- (Rupees Three Lakh Only)
4	**Cost of tender document :** Rs. 0.00/-
5	**Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender :** 22.07.2026 @15:00 Hrs.
6	**Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen : www.ireps.gov.in**
7	**Allocation :** 04-410-32

• The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No.: 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/30/2026-27/W-3 Dated:- 22.06.2026 2173/26

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

(Established under the Central Universities Act, 2009)
Tejaswini Hills, Periye, Kasaragod - 671325

No. CUK/RC/10/TEACH/EN/2026 Dated 10th June 2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR VARIOUS TEACHING POSITIONS

Online applications are invited from the eligible Indian Nationals/ Overseas Citizens of India for filling up various vacant teaching positions on regular basis.
1. Advt. No. CUK/RC/10/TEACH/EN/2026 dated 10.06.2026 (for vacant teaching positions in various departments)
2. Advt. No. CUK/RC/11/TEACH/ITEP/EN/2026 dated 10.06.2026 (for various teaching positions in the Integrated Teacher Education Programme - ITEP)
For more details, please visit: **www.cukerala.ac.in**
Linkforsubmissionofonlineapplication:https://curec.samarth.ac.in
Closing date of receipt of online application : 10.07.2026, 11:59 PM
Closing date of receipt of hard copy application : 25.07.2026, 05:00 PM
cbc 21353/11/0001/2627 Registrar

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 **Sher Singh @ Sheru S/o Jagdish R/o H. No. D-25, Bhagya Vihar, Mubarakpur Dabas, Delhi** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 1323/2017 U/s 33 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sher Singh @ Sheru** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sher Singh @ Sheru** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sher Singh @ Sheru** of case **FIR No. 1323/2017 U/s 33 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **31.07.2026.**

By Order
Ms. Shagun
Judicial Magistrate First Class
North West, Court No. 109, 1st Floor
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/8032/RD/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 **Kubra International Through Prop. D. Fairoze Ahmad, R/o Arbina Enterprises 11115-B, Gali Tant Wail, Motia Khan, Motia Khan, Pahar Ganj, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CC No. 516036/2016, U/s 356/379/34 IPC, P.S. DBG Road, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Kubra International Through Prop. D. Fairoze Ahmad** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Kubra International Through Prop. D. Fairoze Ahmad** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Kubra International Through Prop. D. Fairoze Ahmad Kumar** accused of **CC No. 516036/2016, U/s 356/379/34 IPC, P.S. DBG Road, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **30.07.2026.**

By Order - Ms. Preeti Rajoria
Judicial Magistrate First Class-07
Room No. 32, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/8245/CD/2026

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C / 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Mohd. Shamim** S/o Mohd. Dhannu R/o T-86, Vijay Choudhary Ka Makan, Nafisha Masjid, Sarai Kalen Khan New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence case FIR No. 352/2020 u/s 25/54/59 Arms Act & 349/2020 u/s 324 IPC at P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Mohd. Shamim** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Mohd. Shamim** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C / 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Mohd. Shamim** accused of FIR No. 352/2020 u/s 25/54/59 Arms Act & 349/2020 u/s 324 IPC at P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on **31.07.2026.**

By Order: Sh. Manuj Kaushal,
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03, (South-East)
Room No. 512,
Saket Court, New Delhi

DP/8489/SE/2026

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER GENERATION CO. LTD.

(A Govt. of Chhattisgarh Undertaking)

No. 03-03/ TN-134/899 Raipur, Dtd 23/06 /2026

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. TN-134/2026-27

Online bids are invited for Supply/ work as mentioned below:-

S. No.	Tender no. /RFx no.	Description	Submission Date & time
1.	DW-171/26-27 8100052246 (With RLA)	Engagement of a Liaisoning Agency for Monitoring of Coal Loading, Rake Movement, Coordination with SECL & Railways, and Supervision of LDCC/TRS Supply System for DSPM TPS Korba East, ABV TPS Marwa & HTPS Korba West	03.07.2026 Up to 15:00 Hrs
2	HW-172/26-27 8100052330 (With RLA)	Supply & Dozing operation of Coal Additive (SUDOCAD) in CSPGCL Thermal Power Station(West).	13.07.2026 Up to 15:00 Hrs
3	DW-173/26-27 8100052378 (Without RLA)	Deployment of Private Security Personnel for DSPM TPS, Korba East and KTPS, Korba East.	17.07.2026 Up to 15:00 Hrs

For details please visit our website **https://cspc.co.in** or e-bidding portal:– **https://ebidding.cspcl.co.in:50724/irj/portal**

SAVE ELECTRICITY samvad48259/1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR(S&P:GEN) CSPGCL:RAIPUR

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 CrPC / 84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **ARTI W/o** Sonu @ Sunny, **R/o** Kh. No. 376, Block-J, Gali No.-3, Khadda Colony, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No.: 117/23, U/S 33/38 Delhi Excise Act, PS Swaroop Nagar, Outer North Distt., Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **ARTI** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **ARTI** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that **ARTI** the said accused of **FIR No.: 117/23, U/S 33/38 Delhi Excise Act, PS Swaroop Nagar, Outer North Distt., Delhi,** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **27.07.2026.**

By Order
Sh. Sahil Gupta
Judicial Magistrate First Class-07,
(North), Court No.-06, Ground Floor,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/8558/ON/2026
(Court Matter)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. : 4220262027 **Date : 22.06.2026**

E-Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/ North Central Railway/ Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following works up to 13:30 hrs. on 15.07.2026. The details of the tenders are as under:-

Tender No. : 105 | **Approx Cost of Work (Rs.) : 20245193.53**

Name of Work : Combined Tender :(A) Construction of RPF Post at Phaphund under ADEN/ETW. **(B)** Construction of 20 bedded RPF barrack at Shikohabad under ADEN/FZD.

Bid security (Rs.) : 404900.00 | **Completion Period : 09 months**

Date of Opening of tender : 15.07.2026

Similar work for Eligibility Criteria : Construction of Building

Tender No. : 106 | **Approx Cost of Work (Rs.) : 19939202.65**

Name of Work : Provision of pathways at various stations in AAP-TDL section under Sr. DEN/III/PRYJ.

Bid security (Rs.) : 398800.00 | **Completion Period : 12 months**

Date of Opening of tender : 15.07.2026

Similar work for Eligibility Criteria : Any Civil Engineering Work.

Note : (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders is available on website **www.ireps.gov.in up to 13:30 hrs.** on the due date of tender opening i.e. 15.07.2026. The tender shall be opened at or after 15:00 hrs on due date of opening. **(2)** Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with **IREPS** website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by **CCA under IT Act-2000. (3)** Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightaway ignored and shall not be considered. **(4) Tender Nos. 105 & 106** are having advertised value more than 50 Lakhs, therefore, Annexure-V & V (A) (Document Verification Certificates) is required. The supplier/contractor of goods and/or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. **(5)** This tender notice has also been uploaded on **www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in (6)** In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. **(7)** Tender online can be submitted **up to 13:30 hrs. on 15.07.2026. (8)** E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. **(9) For tender nos. 105 & 106: The tenderers have to submit necessary documents in compliance of clause 10 to 18 (Part-I) of IRGCC-2022 (Works matter) mandatorily, otherwise their offer will be considered as Incomplete Offer and accordingly shall not be considered.** **1423/26 (C)**

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

SHREE SAIBABA SANSTHAN TRUST, SHIRDI

At.Post. Shirdi, Tal- Rahata, Dist. A.Nagar - 423 109
Phone No.(02423) 258500 / 258867
(Website - www.sai.org.in) E-mail – sanitation.sai.org.in

TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited on Outsource basis for Shree Saibaba Darshan Complex Work of Housekeeping Cleaning and Gardening Including Machinery etc. as well as mechanized housekeeping for Shree Saibaba Darshan Complex the duration of 2026-28. The tender details will be available on https://mahatenders.gov.in for downloading and terms & conditions visit our website www.sai.org.in.
Tender Publish starts date 25/06/2026 Time 11:00 am.
Tender submission end date 09/07/2026 Time 05:00 pm.

Goraksha Gadilkar, I.A.S
Chief Executive Officer,

Dgipr/2026-27/1288

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Mohit Singhal/ Suman Singhal/ LBGHZ00002865033	H.No M-146, Ground Floor, Sec-23 Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziabad/ June 23, 2026	August 29,2022/ Rs.10,91,710/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: June 25, 2026
Place: Delhi/Ncr

Sincerely Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

No.JHS/T.D./Dra.Se./Tender/Notice/149 **Dated 22.06.2026**

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction Distribution) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

S.N.: 1, E-Tender No.: JHS-TD-TENDER-2026-12, **Description of work:** Supply and Erection of Monkey Anti-Climbing device in Monkey prone area to prevent climbing of Monkey on Traction installation structures in Jhansi Division.

Approx Cost (₹): 1,03,04,871.71 | **Earnest Money/Bid Security (₹):** 2,06,100.00

Date of closing Tender: 15.07.2026, 15:00 pm.

S.N.: 2, E-Tender No.: JHS-TD-TENDER-2026-8R, **Description of work:** OHE modification work in connection with Longer loop line on 3rd line at BURHPURA Station in Jhansi-Bina section of Jhansi division.

Approx Cost (₹): 67,01,503.99 | **Earnest Money/Bid Security (₹):** 1,34,000.00

Date of closing Tender: 17.07.2026, 15:00 pm.

Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: For S.N.: 1 & 2:- 09 Months

(1) Tender online can be submitted up to **15.00** hrs on **15.07.2026** & **17.07.2026**. **(2)** For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in**. **1430/26 (MG)**

North central railways @CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies) availed from ICICI Bank. The Loan(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Asset(s) (NPA). A Notice was issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, at their last known addresses. However, it has not been served and are therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be enforced	Date of Notice sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Poonam Devi/ Sumit Maan (LBNOD00005797751) & Flat No. 2039, Tower F, 6th Avenue Gaur City G.R., Noida (West) Gautham Buddha Nagar Noida Surjpur - 201306	Flat No. A101 "Govardhan Heights" Tower/ Block No. "A" , Khasra No. 687/ 1076 Part- 687 Part- 688/ 1147, Jaisinghpura Bass Sanganer Jaipur, Rajasthan, Jaipur- 302026	26/05/2026 Rs. 11,56,545/-	05/03/ 2026

These steps are being taken for substituted service of Notice. The above borrower/s and/or guarantor/s (as applicable) is/are advised to make the outstanding payment within 60 days from the date of publishing this Notice. Else, further steps will be taken as per the provisions of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: June 25, 2026
Place: Delhi/Ncr

Sincerely Authorised Officer,
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies) availed from ICICI Bank. The Loan(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Asset(s) (NPA). A Notice was issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, at their last known addresses. However, it has not been served and are therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be enforced	Date of Notice sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Khurram Jamal Al Nasir/ Shakeel Ahmed/ LBNOD00001980915/ H No. D 235, Abul Fazal Enclave Jamia Nagar Okhla, New Delhi, Delhi- 110025	Apartment No. GDI0140202, 2nd Floor, Tower-14, Wishtown Garden, Isles Jaypee Greens, Sector 133 Noida U.P- 201301	06-06-2026 Rs. 40,06,596/-	13-Apr-2026
2.	Amit Singla/ Khushboo Kumari/ TBNOD00006627097/ C1-305, Sanskriti Appartment, Sector-1, Bishrakh, Greater Noida West Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, Noida- 201306	Residential House No. 55, Block- D, Sector- Beta-01, Allotement No. B019591, Situated In Greater Noida District Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida U.P.- 201307	02-06-2026 Rs. 48,21,582.27/-	06-Apr-2026
3.	Jagdish Kumar/ Priyanka Kumari/ LBDEL00006019654/ 29 Surikalan 1 Surikalan 1 Ps Surir The Mant, Uttar Pradesh, Mathura-281205	Residential Flat/ Unit Bearing No. 21135, 21st Floor, Block Chestnut , (Having Super Area 1100 Sq Ft. & Covered Area 900 Sq Ft) Along With One Single Covered Car Parking Space In The "Mahagun Mywoods" Built On Plot No. GH-04, Situated At Sector-16C, Greater Noida District Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh- 201318	05-06-2026 Rs. 33,12,589/-	03-Feb-2026
4.	Shubham Singh/ Ayush Singh/ LBGHZ00006224673/ TBGHZ00006219491/ H No. 64 Ground Floor ,sector 22, Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh, Noida- 201301	Studio Apartment No.1414 On 14th Floor, Kaveri City Center Situated At C-06 Delta One,uttar Pradesh, Greater Noida- 201310	05-06-2026 Rs. 49,880.52/- Rs. 18,30,116.54/-	11-Mar-2026
5.	Raginee Singh/ Annapurna Singh/ LBNOD00003084490/ 63J/ 4J Shivkuti Allahabad, Near Prathmik Swasthya Kendra, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, Allahabad- 211004	Flat No. D-2004, 20th Floor, Ratan Pearls Situated At GH-01D, Sector-16, Uttar Pradesh, Greater Noida (West)- 201307	30-05-2026 Rs. 17,35,430/-	24-Feb-2026

These steps are being taken for substituted service of Notice. The above borrower/s and/or guarantor/s (as applicable) is/are advised to make the outstanding payment within 60 days from the date of publishing this Notice. Else, further steps will be taken as per the provisions of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: June 25, 2026
Place: Delhi/ Ncr

Sincerely Authorised Officer,
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

Public Works Division, Ahilyanagar
Phone No. 0214/2325334 & 0241/2325086

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.05 FOR 2026-27 (Online)

e-mail- ahmednagar.ee@mahapwd.gov.in

online E-Tenders in B-1 Form for the following works invited by Executive Engineer Public Works Division, Ahilyanagar (Phone No. 0241-2325334/2325086) From the Competent and Interested contractors .(Not Necessary Registered with P.W.D.) If Global Company having its Branch/Sub Company in Indian they can Participate in Tender.

Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Ahilyanagar who reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason there fore.

Sr.No.	Name of Work	Estimated Amount in Lakhs	Estimated Amount in Words
1	Improvements to Parner Supa road SH 69 to vadner Haweli Ralegan Siddhi road MDR-218 Km 3/800 to 11/600Tal Parner.	Rs.817.00 Lakhs	Rs.Eight Crore Seventeen Lakhs
2	Improvement to Kedgaon Sonewadi Akolner Ghospuri Chikhali Road MDR-54 Km 4/500 to 9/00 (Part-Kedgaon to Akolner) Tal.Dist-Ahilyanagar	Rs.540.00 Lakhs	Rs.Five Crore Forty Lakhs .
3	Constrution of Causeway on Tal.Border Shrigonda to Mhatarpimpri to Dist.Border road Vr.59 at Km.4/00 Tal.Nagar (Near Shri Krishna Temple Mahanubhav Ashram) Tal.Dist.A.nagar	Rs.648.00 Lakhs	Rs.Six Crore Forty Eight Lakhs
4	Construction of Major Bridge on Dighol Malewadi Road (VR-23) km 3/200 Tal.Jamkhed Dist. Ahilyanagar	Rs.618.00 Lakhs	Rs.Six Crore Eighteen Lakhs
5	Concreting & Improvement to Kharekarjune Hingangaon Nimgaon Wagha Kedgaon Wakodi Walunj Road (M.D.R.170) Km. 17/220 to 19/400 Tal.Ahilyanagar Dist.Ahilyanagar	Rs.565.00 Lakhs	Rs.Five Crore Sixty Five Lakhs
6	Concreting & Improvement to Pune Ahilyanagar Road (Old S.H.60) Km. 118/800 to 119/800	Rs.1215 .00 Lakhs	Rs.Twelve Crore Fifteen Lakhs

Tender sale start Date - 25/06/2026 to 02/07/2026, at 18.00 Pm, Tender Opening Dt. 03/07/2026, Pre-Bid Meeting, Dt.29/06/2026 at 12.30 Hrs. In the Office of Chief Engineer, P.W.Region Office, Nashik

The details of works are provided on the websites as below.
1.www.mahapwd.com.
2.https://mahatenders.gov.in
(Change if any in above Schedule can be seen on above website)

Dgipr /2026-27/1286

Executive Engineer,
Public Work Division
Ahilyanagar

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 10/2026 **Date: 22.06.2026**

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTE/North Central Railway, Agra acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites **"Open Tender"** through Online only (E-Tendering) for the following work:

E-Tender NO.: AGRA-ST-2026-24 | **Approx. Cost of work:** 1,00,81,423 .62

Name of work: Provision of new conference system along with Screen and PA system in the Govardhan Conference Room in DRM office of Agra Division.

Tender closing date: 16.07.2026, For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway Website **www.ireps.gov.in**. Bidders wil be able to submit their original / revised bids through web portal **www.ireps.gov.in** up to **15:00 hrs** on above mentioned date. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **1426/26 (ADM)**

North central railways @ CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section Cr.P.C / 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused **Alok, S/o. Hariom Gupta, R/o.: B-1438, Jahangir Puri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **Case Reg. No.1.1.2014 3604/2016 U/S 200 Cr.PC** registered at **P.S Jahangir Puri, North West District, Delhi** and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said accused **Alok** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Alok** is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Alok**, accused of **Case Reg. No.1.1.2014 3604/2016 U/S 200 Cr.PC**, **P.S Jahangir Puri, North West District, Delhi** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **06.08.2026.**

By Order, Ms. Jyoti Nain,
Judicial Magistrate First Class-07,
North District, Court No.6, First Floor,
Rohini Courts, Delhi.

DP/8496/NW/2026
(Court Matter)

AROUND THE WORLD

- India ranks 13th in AI-economy readiness, but skills gap threatens growth: QS World Future Skills Index 2027
- IIT Hyderabad launches 2-month nuclear technology orientation programme
- IIM Lucknow collaborates with NIDM to advance disaster risk reduction and research collaboration
- IIIT-B workshop focuses on the next phase of digital public infrastructure

BUZZER ROUND

Q) WHICH COUNTRY HAS WON THE FIFA WORLD CUP MAXIMUM TIME?

Send us your replies to careersmp22@gmail.com. We shall publish the names of the first 3 correct entries in next week's edition

Answer to our June 18 edition question: **Faqir Chand Kohli**

Correct answers were sent by: **Sayantani Biswas, Ratul Singha, Pooja Basu**

NEWS & VIEWS

IIT Madras celebrated the achievements of 1,460 learners who became eligible to receive degrees and diplomas through its BS Degree Programmes at a convocation ceremony held on campus recently. The BS Degree Programmes currently have over 42,000 active learners from across India and abroad, making it one of the world's largest non-campus degree initiatives.

Achieving a major global recognition, 67 faculty members of NIT Rourkela have been featured in the prestigious SciRank Global World's Top 5% Scientists List. From NIT Rourkela, researchers from the Department of Chemistry accounted for the highest number of entries in the list.

AI, YOUTUBE & MOCK TESTS

NEW-AGE TOOLKIT FOR INDIA'S ENTRANCE EXAM ASPIRANTS

Rising costs and smarter technology are changing how India's aspirants prepare for entrance examinations

URJA SAHA

For many years, success in India's highly competitive entrance examinations depended largely on premium coaching centres, study materials, rigorous testing, experienced faculty and long hours of self-study. Students and parents were often made to believe that these top-tier coaching institutes were the only gateway to success in examinations such as JEE Main, JEE Advanced, WBJEE, NEET-UG, CLAT and CAT. Enrolling their wards in these coaching centres became one of the biggest financial commitments for many parents.

Then, in 2020, Covid-19 happened. While the world would never be the same again, neither would the education system. The education ecosystem underwent a dramatic transformation with the rise of online learning. Platforms such as YouTube, Skillshare and MasterClass democratised education in ways that traditional institutions had never anticipated.

For the longest time, coaching institutes were considered the gold standard for learning and cracking entrance examinations. However, this traditional model is now being challenged by the rise of video-based learning amid increasing educational costs and the rapid proliferation of Artificial Intelligence (AI). It is no surprise that learners, especially younger generations, are increasingly turning to YouTube and digital platforms alongside, and sometimes instead of, coaching classes.

AI chatbots, YouTube tutorials, social media study communities, Telegram channels, digital flashcards and online mock-test platforms are becoming integral parts of exam preparation for aspirants appearing for examinations such as UPSC, JEE, NEET, CUET, UGC-NET, CLAT and various university entrance tests.

Kolkata's Souritra Roy (20) cracked the WB JEE without enrolling in any coaching centre. His elder brother had joined a prestigious coaching institute in Kolkata to prepare for JEE Main, but Souritra wanted to chart his own path. From YouTube tutorials and online study materials to Claude, he made sure he had all the support he needed. Ranked 350 in WBJEE, Souritra is now pursuing BTech in Electronics and Communication Engineering at a prestigious university in Kolkata. "I wanted to give it a try and prove myself. I researched extensively online and learnt from YouTube tutorials. I also followed a self-paced study schedule, which helped me a lot," said Roy.

The shift reflects a broader transformation in education, driven by increased internet access and the growing availability of digital learning resources. Students now use AI-powered platforms such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude and others to simplify complex concepts, generate practice questions, summarise lengthy chapters and create personalised study schedules. Meanwhile, YouTube has emerged as a virtual classroom, offering free lectures and study materials from experienced educators and toppers alike.

Social media platforms such as Instagram, Telegram and Reddit have also become popular among aspirants. Students exchange notes, discuss current affairs, share preparation strategies and motivate one another through online study groups. For many candidates preparing independently without access to expensive coaching centres, these communities provide both academic support and a sense of belonging.

Meanwhile, mock tests have evolved into sophisticated digital tools, many of which are now AI-enhanced. Several platforms offer detailed performance analytics that help students identify weak areas, track progress and compare their performance against thousands of peers nationwide. Experts believe that regular practice through mock examinations can improve time management and exam temperament. Platforms supported by educational institutions and technology companies are increasingly offering such services for examinations including JEE, NEET and CUET.

Riya Dey, a UGC-NET aspirant, said, "I initially considered joining a coaching institute, but the fees were simply beyond my budget. Today, I rely on a combination of AI tools, YouTube lectures, social media study groups and online mock tests for my preparation." Dey believes that these resources allow her to study at her own pace while saving both time and money.

"For students like me, who may not be able to afford expensive coaching programmes, technology has made quality exam preparation much more accessible," she said.

The most crucial advantage of AI-assisted learning is its affordability. In a country where coaching fees for examinations such as UPSC, JEE and NEET can run into several lakhs annually, many students from economically weaker backgrounds struggle to access quality guidance. AI tools, free YouTube lectures, open-access study materials and low-cost mock-test platforms are helping bridge that gap. With nothing more than a smartphone and an internet connection, students can access personalised explanations, doubt-solving assistance, study plans and revision tools that were once available primarily through expensive coaching institutes.

However, many educators believe that technology works best when it complements rather than replaces traditional methods. Reading standard textbooks, solving previous years' papers, revising regularly and maintaining discipline continue to be the strongest predictors of success. Online communities of aspirants often echo this view, noting that while AI can help with revision planning and doubt-solving, consistent effort ultimately determines performance.

There are also concerns about misinformation. Social media often circulates unverified study tips, rumours about examination patterns and inaccurate content. Excessive screen time and constant notifications can further distract students from focused study sessions.

This is not to suggest that coaching institutes are being replaced by online tutorials. However, the landscape is certainly changing. Students now have alternative pathways to learning and exam preparation. Whether this model proves to be a sustainable long-term alternative remains to be seen. What is clear, however, is that students today have more choices than ever before. As India's examination ecosystem becomes increasingly digital, the role of AI and online learning is only expected to grow further.

BIT MESRA, IIT KHARAGPUR TEAM UP FOR RESEARCH

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Both institutions will also explore a joint integrated MTech -PhD programme and dual-degree pathways under the agreement

BIT Mesra and IIT Kharagpur have signed a MoU to establish structured collaboration across research, academics, and institutional capacity-building. The agreement establishes a five-year framework, extendable by mutual consent, covering joint PhD supervision, shared laboratory access, and a range of collaborative academic and research activities. The MoU was signed by Prof Indranil Manna, Vice Chancellor, BIT Mesra, and Prof Suman Chakraborty, Director, IIT Kharagpur.

"The collaboration with IIT Kharagpur represents an important milestone in BIT Mesra's pursuit of academic excellence, impactful research, and innovation-led growth," said Prof Manna. The MoU spans joint supervision of Master's and PhD students, undergraduate and postgraduate research collaborations, student and faculty exchange, summer and winter internships, and joint submission of research proposals to national and international funding agencies. It also includes shared access to research facilities, faculty development programmes, staff and officer training, and joint academic activities such as seminars, workshops, GIAN courses, and micro-credit courses.

The signing brings together two institutions with roots in the decade immediately after Indian independence. BIT Mesra was established in 1955 and elevated to the status of a deemed university in 1986. IIT Kharagpur, founded in 1951, is the first of the IITs and is recognised as an Institute of National Importance.

Both institutions will also explore a joint integrated MTech -PhD programme and dual-degree pathways under the agreement. A Joint MoU Implementation Committee, comprising representatives from both institutions, will oversee progress with biannual reviews.

"The MoU will facilitate knowledge sharing, joint research initiatives, and capacity building, benefiting both institutions and the broader academic community," said Prof Chakraborty.

ADMISSION ALERT

MTech in Flood & Water Resources Management from IIT Guwahati

OUR CORRESPONDENT

IIT Guwahati is inviting applications for the second batch of MTech degree programme in Flood and Water Resources Management. Offered by the Department of Civil Engineering, this degree programme will be conducted in hybrid mode (online classes, labs and final exam on IIT Guwahati campus). It is designed to equip students with advanced knowledge and applied skills to address complex challenges related to water scarcity, climate variability, and sustainable development.

The application portal for the second batch is now open.

A key feature of the program is that no GATE score is required to apply for the same. Candidates will be selected based on the written test/ interview conducted by the department. The application deadline ends on July 15, 2026 and the programme starts on August 10, 2026.

One requires a four-year Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in Civil/Agricultural Engineering or Allied Disciplines with at least 60% marks or 6.0/10 CPI for this course. Also, a minimum one year of professional experience in water resource sector is also required.

KNOW THE DETAILS

- THE PROGRAMME DURATION IS 2 YEARS, WHICH CAN BE EXTENDED UP TO 5 YEARS
- IT WILL FOLLOW TRIMESTER-BASED SYSTEM, WITH EACH TERM HAVING 12 WEEKS OF INSTRUCTIONS
- NO AGE OR LOCATION RESTRICTION FOR APPLICANTS
- ALL LABORATORIES AND EXAMINATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED ON IIT GUWAHATI CAMPUS

SCHOLARSHIP

UOW India offers scholarship for Business Analytics students

The application deadline is July 31, 2026

OUR CORRESPONDENT

The University of Wollongong, India, has announced the Merit Scholarship for their Bachelor of Business (Finance and Business Analytics), offering a 50% tuition fee reduction for the first year.

Applications for the upcoming intake are now open, and prospective students are encouraged to explore the scholarship opportunities as part of their admission process, as there is no separate application needed. Students must be commencing a Bachelor's program at UOW India in 2026, have a WAM of 75% or above, or 70% in a competitive exam with a WAM 65% to avail the scholarship.

KNOW THE DETAILS

- Scholarships available: UNLIMITED
- Commencement: TRIMESTER ONE 2026 (JULY 2026)
- Degree: BACHELOR OF BUSINESS (FINANCE AND BUSINESS ANALYTICS)

India's quest for economic leadership in changing world

Long-term economic leadership will depend on investments in human capital, technological innovation

DR INDRILA DEB & PROF (DR) ANUPAM MITRA

India stands at a pivotal moment in its economic journey. At a time when the global economy is grappling with geopolitical tensions, technological disruption, climate challenges, and shifting trade dynamics, India finds itself uniquely positioned to emerge as a major driver of global growth.

According to projections from international financial institutions, India is expected to remain one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, with growth estimated at around 6.5 per cent in 2026. At a time when global growth is projected to remain close to 3 per cent, India's economic momentum reflects the strength of domestic demand, public infrastructure investment, digital transformation, and a rapidly expanding entrepreneurial ecosystem.

One of the most remarkable developments in recent years has been India's digital transformation. The country has successfully built one of the world's largest digital public infrastructures through initiatives such as Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Digi Locker, and the Account Aggregator framework.

UPI transactions have crossed 18 billion transactions per month, making India a global leader in digital payments. Millions of individuals and small businesses now participate in the formal financial system through low-cost digital platforms. Artificial Intelligence is rapidly emerging as the defining technology of the 21st century. For India, AI presents a significant opportunity. The country possesses one of the world's largest pools of engineering and technology talent, a thriving start-up ecosystem, and a rapidly expanding digital economy. These strengths provide a strong foundation for AI adoption and innovation.

However, AI also presents critical policy challenges. Automation has the potential to alter employment patterns, particularly for routine and repetitive tasks. The challenge before India is not merely to adopt AI technologies but to prepare its workforce for an increasingly digital future.

India's financial landscape is also undergoing a transformation. Investors are increasingly directing capital towards sectors associated with future growth, including technology, renewable energy, digital services, AI and advanced manufacturing.

The growing participation of retail investors, expansion of fintech platforms, and increasing financial inclusion are contributing to deeper and more dynamic capital markets. Increasingly, value creation is being driven not only by physical assets but also by intellectual property, innovation, data, and technological capabilities.

This shift reflects a broader transformation in the global economy. The most valuable economic assets of the future may not be natural resources or industrial facilities alone, but knowledge, creativity, and innovation.

The defining challenge for India over the next decade will be to transform economic growth into sustainable and inclusive prosperity. Strong GDP growth provides an important foundation, but long-term economic leadership will depend upon investments in human capital, technological innovation, institutional quality, and infrastructure. The future of economic power may still depend partly on oil, but for India, the pathway to prosperity will increasingly be paved by algorithms, innovation, and human ingenuity.

The authors are professors, Faculty of Commerce and Management St.Xavier's University, Kolkata

ENERGY SECURITY IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

Recent geopolitical tensions in West Asia have once again demonstrated the vulnerability of global energy markets. India imports more than 85 percent of its crude oil requirements, making energy security a critical economic concern. Rising energy costs can also place pressure on the country's fiscal and external balances.

Recognising these challenges, India has accelerated its transition toward renewable energy. Significant investments in solar energy, wind power, green hydrogen, battery storage, and electric mobility are reshaping the country's energy landscape.