WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026

The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM of COURAGE

NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 26 PAGES

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Government of Haryana

"India's sporting landscape has undergone a remarkable transformation. Our Government remains committed to supporting athletes, building infrastructure and making India a global hub for sporting excellence."

– Narendra Modi

Haryana's Players - State's Pride - India's Glory

Gold

Sharmila Dhankar

Preeti Pawar

Jasmine Lamboria

Sakshi Chaudhary

Sachin Siwach

Priya Ghanghas

Ankush Panghal

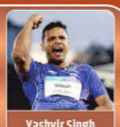
Silver

Neeraj Chopra

Narendra Berwal

Bronze

Seema Kaliraman


Yashvir Singh

State-Level Felicitation Ceremony

for the Medal Winners and Participants of the Commonwealth Games-2026

Athletes will be felicitated with a total cash prize of ₹13,97,50,000

Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Participating Athletes
₹1.5 Crore	₹75 Lakh	₹50 Lakh	₹7.5 Lakh

Chief Guest

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini

Chief Minister, Haryana

August Presence

Sh. Gaurav Gautam

Minister of State for Sports (Independent Charge), Haryana

Haryana's athletes won 28% of India's total medal tally

Date	Time	Venue
August 26, 2026	11:00 AM	Indradhanush Auditorium, Sector 5, Panchkula

Scan the QR code to join the programme

Athletes and Sports officials from across the State will participate in the ceremony

Sports Department, Haryana

Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in | Follow us on @dipharyana

Trade war: Canada declares retaliatory tariffs on $20 billion worth of US goods

Reuters
Ottawa, August 25

CANADA ON Tuesday announced retaliatory tariffs on $19.94 billion worth of United States goods, matching dollar-for-dollar new duties imposed by Washington, and unveiled financial support for Canadian businesses and workers caught in the escalating trade war.

The counter-tariffs take effect on US goods from September 8 and will impose duties of 15%, 25% and 50% across 700 products imported from south of the border.

In terms of financial support for affected workers and industries, Canada announced a $5.4 billion package of new and enhanced measures including support for small and medium-sized businesses, a stream for funding cash flows of companies, and support for workers at risk due to the new tariffs.

From Saturday, President Donald Trump's new 50% tariffs across $20 billion of Canadian imports took effect after talks between the two countries to avert the tariffs collapsed.

The new tit-for-tat tariffs mark a new low in the Canada-US relationship. "Our dollar-for-dollar, rate for rate counter-tariffs as well as a multi-billion dollar support package will protect workers, farmers, families, and businesses," Canada's Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne said.

The new tariffs are designed so that the impact on Canadian consumers and businesses is minimal and could still hit the US, a government official said.

The 50% tariffs are on some important sectors such as steel, aluminum, furniture and clothing, 25% tariffs on cheese, appliances, whil 15% tariffs will be on electronics and tools.

Lake Ontario to 'Lake America': Trump's new idea

Washington: President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he is considering changing the name of Lake Ontario to "Lake America" as the trade war between the United States and Canada intensifies.

"The United States is giving serious consideration to changing the name of Lake Ontario to Lake America in that we don't expect to doing much business with Ontario any longer," Trump said Tuesday on social media.

Ontario is Canada's most populous province and is home to country's auto industry. **AP**

CHINA SAYS ITS TIES WITH TEHRAN LAWFUL, SHOULD NOT BE DISRUPTED

Iran vows to resist widened sanctions, says US seeks talks

'Mediator' Pak says 'significant progress' in talks over Strait

Reuters
Cairo, Washington, August 25

IRAN DENOUNCED on Tuesday expanded US sanctions aimed at isolating its economy as an act of "gross lawlessness", expressing confidence that many countries would not join the pressure campaign.

Almost six months into a conflict the US has struggled to resolve, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent unveiled the measures on Monday but stopped short of the most punishing options.

While he said countries that continued trading with Iran risked being forced out of the dollar-based financial system, he declined to give a timeline or identify which may be targeted, saying he would give them time to comply with new directive.

There have been signals of a potential return to mediation to end the war. Iran and Oman said they had discussed a proposal on Tuesday for a "joint temporary navigational corridor" through the strait and a plan to clear the strait of mines.

US President Donald Trump repeated earlier assertions that all mines in the strait had been removed or detonated, adding Iran had been told that any ship or boat placing new mines would be destroyed.

Iran's Foreign Ministry described the latest US sanctions as a threat to international law and the UN charter, saying "the issue is no longer limited to Iran". "No honourable state that values its sovereignty and national interests will accept normalization of such gross lawlessness and systematic bullying," it said.

China has been the biggest buyer of Iranian oil for several years. However, the US blockade of Iran's ports has cut those oil flows to China since Washington resumed it in mid-July.

Trump has said he expects to host Chinese President Xi Jinping next month, and US is keen to avoid any curbs on China's exports of critical minerals.

China said Tuesday its cooperation with Iran was conducted within the framework of international law and should not be interfered with. Iranian Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh said neither China nor Russia had "accepted" the US measures, predicting that other countries would resist them.

Mediator Pakistan made "significant progress" in the latest talks with Tehran, which focused on preventing further escalation and reopening the Strait, Pakistani military said.

Abbas Goroo, head of the foreign relations committee in Iran parliament, said Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir had delivered a message from the US to Iran Monday. "It seems the main goal was to revive the stopped political process," he said.

There was no immediate comment from the White House or the State Department.

Iran expressed a general willingness to resume peace talks during meetings between Iranian and Pakistani officials while expressing concern about sanctions, a Pakistani source said. "Pakistan told them the US will reverse those decisions either before, or during a new round of negotiations," the official said.

Vessels in the Strait of Hormuz near the beach of Bandar Abbas, Iran, on Tuesday. REUTERS

US Secret Service 'aware' of Iranian video threatening Barron Trump

Washington: The US Secret Service has confirmed it is aware Iranian state media has aired a video that appears to threaten life of Barron Trump, President Donald Trump's youngest son.

"The US Secret Service is aware of the video and investigates anything that can be perceived as a threat toward our protectees," Secret Service spokesman Nate Herring said.

"Out of concern for operational security, we do not discuss matters of protective intelligence," she added.

CNN previously reported that the Secret Service had knowledge of the Barron Trump threat. **AP**

• BRIEFLY

UNITED STATES

Google expands Gemini AI platform for law firms, lawyers

Alphabet's Gemini logo

ALPHABET'S GOOGLE on Tuesday expanded its Gemini Enterprise artificial intelligence platform with new tools for lawyers and law firms, accelerating a race among technology companies to meet legal sector demand for AI. The company said its Gemini Enterprise for Legal would help law firms use AI to manage routine and complex work to allow lawyers to focus on high-value services, while keeping their data secure and confidential. Google said it was also unveiling industry tools for the financial services sector. REUTERS

FRANCE

39 injured, 300 homes wrecked as tornado hits

A TORNADO ravaged a small village in southern France, leaving dozens injured, local authorities said Tuesday. Rescue teams were continuing their search after the tornado left the village of Pomas in ruins. Marie-Helene Bouissac, the deputy head of the local government , confirmed a total of 39 people were injured, including two in critical condition. AP

CHINA

Artist gets 3 years in jail for satirical statues of Mao

CHINESE ARTIST Gao Zhen was sentenced to three years in prison on Tuesday for "infringing upon the reputation of heroes" over his satirical works of art, including statues of China's former leader Mao Zedong. US-based Gao, who was part of an artistic duo known internationally as the Gao Brothers, was arrested while visiting family in China in August 2024. AP

Beijing accelerates South China Sea build-up with new installations

Reuters
Hong Kong, August 25

NEW INSTALLATIONS have been sighted on an islet near Antelope Reef in Paracels archipelago of disputed South China Sea where analysts believe China is building its largest military base, according to satellite imagery reviewed by *Reuters*.

Security analysts say while it is too early to gauge definitively the likely function of the three-pronged construction on Yagong Island, it could be the start of an early warning radar facility to support eventual installations on Antelope Reef.

Vantor, a commercial provider of satellite images, said it took the latest image on August 17, noting in other images that construction started in March and April.

While the purpose of the buildings was not certain, "several structures on Yagong Reef resemble other military radar/early warning facilities seen elsewhere in South China Sea and are likely associated with the ultimate military functions of nearby Antelope Reef," a Vantor spokesperson said.

Reuters reported last week that China had completed the first phase of construction at Antelope Reef, highlighting the South China Sea as an increasingly militarised arena between China and the United States and its allies — and one that could prove critical in any future conflict over Taiwan.

The Antelope Reef images showed an artificial island nearly 6 km long, with a straight line of coast longer than 3 km that some analysts see as a potential runway. Yagong is far smaller, 14 km to the northeast of Antelope. Both lie within the Crescent Group in the western Paracels. The Chinese defence ministry did not respond to requests for comment.

China has not acknowledged the construction of a new military base, and state media have said Antelope will meet civilian needs such as weather forecasting, fisheries protection and scientific research.

China has occupied the Paracels since 1974 when it seized them from the navy of the former South Vietnam. Vietnam, which claims the entire grouping as its own, has moved in recent years to expand its own network of bases in the Spratlys.

A satellite view of Yagong Reef in the Crescent Group of the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea. REUTERS

• NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

PAKISTAN

5 labourers killed by militants in Balochistan

MILITANTS GUNNED down five labourers at a construction site in Balochistan, a provincial official said Tuesday. The labourers, all belonging to the Punjab province, were killed in Saranan town in Pishin district of Balochistan on Monday morning. The bodies of these laborers have been sent to their hometown. PTI

SRI LANKA

4 offshore blocks opened for oil & gas exploration

SRI LANKA Tuesday invited international companies to explore oil and gas in four blocks in the Mannar Basin in the island's northwest, according to an official statement. The move is part of Sri Lanka's effort to develop the island's offshore petroleum resources, specifically to address supply disruptions caused by Iran War. PTI

Putin for state control of critical infra as Ukraine ramps up drone strikes

Associated Press
Moscow, August 25

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin signed a decree allowing the government to temporarily take control of critical infrastructure if private owners fail to protect it from Ukrainian drone attacks or rebuild it after strikes, apparently the latest indication Moscow is feeling strain of war.

Russia is facing economic and political pressure due to months of escalating, deep and increasingly accurate Ukrainian strikes. Kyiv has used domestically developed long-range drones to target vital oil facilities, triggering fuel shortages that Putin publicly admitted, and major commercial hubs, embarrassing the Russian leadership.

The Kremlin's intentions with Putin's decree, announced Monday, are unclear. However, it applies to various sectors, including energy and fuel infrastructure, industrial, communications, transport and logistics.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday that "often business owners do not pay enough attention to taking measures to ensure safety, anti-drone safety. "Given the drone threat against vital economic infrastructure, we must take measures, we must ensure our own safety," Peskov said.

Reports: CIA chief flies to Moscow

Washington: CIA Director John Ratcliffe travelled to Moscow Tuesday for meetings with Russian officials, US media outlets reported, citing sources.

The visit would be the first known visit to the Russian capital by a US spy chief since Ratcliffe's predecessor, William Burns, held talks with Vladimir Putin in November 2021.

CBS News and *Axios* reported the visit by Ratcliffe but did not say who he was meeting or what talks are expected to cover. The CIA declined to comment. The Kremlin did not respond to a request for comment. **REUTERS**

Contempt plea resubmitted by Imran party after SC objections

Islamabad: Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party Tuesday resubmitted a contempt petition in Supreme Court over violation of its August 18 order to transfer him to a private hospital.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) resubmitted the contempt petition hours after the court returned it with objections.

The petition was filed by Uzma Khan, a sister of the 73-year-old politician, accusing the government of failing to shift the PTI founder to Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad for treatment.

The apex court had returned Uzma's petition on technical grounds, but the PTI lawyers immediately addressed the concerns and objections raised by the court and resubmitted it. **PTI**

Rohingya Exodus Anniversary

Rohingya refugees gather at a camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, to mark the ninth anniversary of their mass exodus from Myanmar following a military crackdown in Rakhine State, on Tuesday. REUTERS

Gaza parents urged to bar kids from flying kites after Israel's warning to Hamas

Reuters
Cairo, August 25

GAZA PARENTS have been warned to stop their children flying kites in the war-ravaged enclave, after Israel threatened a forceful response if the Hamas militant group revives a tactic of launching incendiary kites over the border.

The popular committees, comprising representatives of local non-government organizations and charities that run Gaza displacement camps and shelters, issued the warning in a statement late on Monday.

The announcement was coordinated with Hamas authorities, a source in the militant group said. "We are working tirelessly on the ground and doing everything possible to stop this practice, not to restrict the childhood of our children, who have already been deprived of the most basic rights to play and live in safety, but to protect their innocent lives."

In 2018, Gazans sent incendiary balloons and kites over the border, causing fires across hundreds of acres of open fields and farmlands, in what they said was in protest at Israeli blockade of Hamas-controlled enclave.

In the past month, several kites that were not reported to be carrying incendiary materials were spotted drifting from Gaza into Israel.

On Sunday, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu warned Hamas that unless that stopped immediately, "those responsible" for launching kites, balloons or drones toward Israel would be targets of assassination and that areas from which they are sent will be ordered to evacuate.

• THE QUALITY THAT GAVE HER ENDURING STAR POWER WAS HER ABILITY TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE; COMING FROM A SELF-DESCRIBED 'DIRT-POOR' FAMILY, PARTON STOOD IN AS A SYMBOL OF THE WORKING-CLASS AMERICAN

I Will Always Love You: Dolly Parton, queen of country music, actor, dies at 80

Reuters
August 25

DOLLY PARTON was around six when she wrote her first song: *Little Tiny Tasseltop*, an ode to her corncob doll with corn-silk hair. Her mother stored it preciously in a shoebox. "I loved that little doll," Parton wrote decades later. "I expressed myself and my feelings through writing - I'm sure what I was thinking was, 'Well, Tasseltop has to have a song about her.'"

Parton never stopped making music after that. The irrepressible country music singer, songwriter and actress whose charisma, heartfelt lyrics and business acumen captured the public's imagination for nearly six decades, died Tuesday aged 80, her family said in a statement. She won 11 Grammy awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award.

With classic songs including *Coat of Many Colors*, *Jolene* and *I Will Always Love You*, she became one of the best-selling female artists of all time, with over 100 million records sold.

Parton's wholesome personality, combined with her towering blond hairdos, flamboyant costumes and giddy delight at holding center stage, endeared her to Americans of all backgrounds and helped introduce country music to international audiences.

Over the years Parton hosted a TV variety show, starred in movies, and even created a theme park, Dollywood, a popular tourist spot in her home state of Tennessee - all in addition to her lauded work as a songwriter.

But the quality that gave her enduring star power was her ability to connect with people. Coming from a self-described "dirt-poor" family, Parton often stood in as a symbol of the working-class American and regularly threw her name and money behind causes she believed in.

In response to COVID-19 pandemic, Parton donated $1 million to vaccine research at Vanderbilt University in 2020, making her an early sponsor of the vaccine development.

She conducted a literacy program for preschool children across the United States, as well as in Canada, the UK, Australia and Ireland, and provided scholarships to high school students in the Tennessee county where she was born.

The county erected a life-size statue of her in front of the courthouse in thanks, though she declined another proposed statue of her in Nashville in 2021, saying, "Given all that's going on in the world, I don't think putting me on a pedestal is appropriate at this time." It was this ability to stay true to her roots, combined with her drive to work hard and her nonpartisanship, that fueled her appeal among conservatives and liberals in a politically polarized America.

Dolly Rebecca Parton was born on January 19, 1946, in Pittman Center, Tennessee, and grew up in a one-room cabin in nearby Locust Ridge. One of 12 children of tobacco farmer Robert Lee Parton, her difficult childhood gave credibility to her often personal songs trilled in a distinctive soprano.

Her mother, Avie Lee, would sing constantly - songs from England, Ireland and Wales that told a story. "Mama had this haunting voice, and Lord you would feel it," Parton wrote in her 2020 book *Dolly Parton, Songteller* co-authored with Robert K Oermann.

Parton got her first real guitar when she was eight. Her mother would say, whenever she had guests: "I want you to hear this song this little thing has made up. It's really good."

She was singing on a local radio station by age 11, and at age 13 was appearing on Grand Ole Opry, a weekly country music concert in Nashville, Tennessee.

After graduating from high school, she moved to Nashville to pursue a music career and began a famous partnership with country music singer Porter Wagoner, which would include a years-long stint on his TV show and 14 top-ten duets. She penned her hit song *I Will Always Love You* as a farewell to Wagoner when she decided to pursue a solo career.

On the first day Parton arrived in country music's capital, she met Carl Dean, an asphalt paver. They would marry two years later, in 1966.

Dolly Parton takes the stage to accept the Tex Ritter Award at the 51st Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada. FILE

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Happening today

● **MINISTER OF** State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita will embark on a three-nation tour starting with Vietnam to deepen engagement in East Asia and the Indo-Pacific region.

TRACK THESE AND MORE ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

After 3 days of protest, IIT-D says changing suicide inquiry panel members

Sophiya Mathew
New Delhi, August 25

IIT-DELHI on Tuesday evening agreed to change the composition of the committee that will inquire into the death by suicide of a Masters' student, bowing to the demand of students who have been protesting on campus since Sunday.

In a statement, IIT-D said Rishikesh Kumar, who was studying for an MSc in physics, was an "academically bright student" who had been treated for a mental health condition at a specialised hospital, and whose requests for withdrawal from both the January-May and July-November semesters had been approved by the institute.

The protests began after the 31-year-old student allegedly jumped to his death from the

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORTS, P 4

WILL BE VISITING INDIA AFTER 7 YEARS AMID EFFORTS TO RESTORE TIES

Xi likely to attend BRICS in Delhi next month with large delegation

Chinese advance team arrives to prepare the ground for visit

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, August 25

CHINESE PRESIDENT Xi Jinping is likely to attend the summit of BRICS leaders in New Delhi on September 12 and 13, *The Indian Express* has learnt. He last visited India in October 2019, months before PLA incursions along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh triggered a military standoff between the two countries.

It is learnt that the Chinese side has conveyed to New Delhi that Xi is likely to come for the leaders' summit. An advance team from China has arrived for the security and protocol arrangements to prepare for the President's possible visit.

It is expected that Xi will come with a large delegation of officials, businessmen and state-backed media representatives.

Xi's attendance at the BRICS

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NSA Ajit Doval with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing, Tuesday. PTI

In Beijing, Doval and Wang look to 'make progress on boundary delimitation'

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, August 25

NATIONAL SECURITY Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who are the special representatives of their countries on the boundary issue, held talks in Beijing Tuesday and the Indian embassy later said they discussed ways to "make progress on boundary delimitation" while "sustaining the ongoing work on transboundary cooperation".

Before his talks with Wang, Doval met Chinese Vice President Han Zheng and China said it urged India to view and handle their relationship from a "strategic and long-term

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS special

Khargone violence trials: Acquittals, dead ends and failing evidence

We are facing difficulty as names of accused generic without father's name or address: Inspector supervising riot cases

Anand Mohan J
Khargone, August 25

ON JULY 27, a Madhya Pradesh Sessions Court acquitted 11 men accused in the 2022 Khargone Ram Navami violence that left more than two dozen people, including Khargone Superintendent of Police Siddharth Choudhary, injured, and one dead.

In the wake of the clashes, the administration razed 16 houses in the affected localities, linking these to irregularities, and 65 cases were registered. Then Chief Minister Shivraj Chouhan vowed, "There is no place for rioters on the soil of Madhya Pradesh... They will not be released. Strictest action will be taken against them."

Four years later, the cases are collapsing one by one, or are stuck without headway, an investigation into court records by *The Indian Express* reveals.

The only three riot cases to complete trial have all ended in acquittal, including the one in which the order came on July 27. As per the Khargone police, four cases have been closed for want of evidence after police failed to trace the accused, while 38 FIRs remain under investigation, with police yet to find roughly 85 accused in them.

Twenty cases are at the stage of submission of evidence by the prosecution, with witnesses being examined.

In the cases leading to acquittal in Sessions Courts, three

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Two Indian ships among 45 blacklisted by Iran for Hormuz 'violations'

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, August 25

TWO SHIPS owned and operated by India-based entities feature on the list of 45 "non-compliant" vessels issued by Iran's Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) for allegedly violating terms set by Tehran for transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

The Indian Express analysed the ownership and management records of the blacklisted vessels named by the PGSA on Sunday. The two Indian vessels on the list are LNG (liquefied natural gas) tanker *Disha* and bulk carrier *Maha Roos*, as per the analysis. Apart from these two, some of the other ships have a history of transporting cargo, particularly energy, to India.

Many of the vessels are linked to UAE-based entities, particularly the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) group. Apart from India, vessels linked to entities based in countries like Saudi Arabia, Qatar,

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Business as Usual
By EP UNNY

INSIDE PAGE 12

SURRENDER IN TWO WEEKS: SC REJECTS TARUN TEJPAL'S EXEMPTION PLEA

Mumbai trans player gets Australia nod for women community cricket

Devendra Pandey
Mumbai, August 25

FORMER MUMBAI Under-19 cricketer Anaya Bangar, who underwent a gender-affirming surgery in March this year, has received clearance to play women's community cricket in Australia.

"It is a great day for me, especially after knowing the fact that I can play cricket. There was a stage when I thought I would never play cricket again,

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Anaya Bangar underwent gender-affirming surgery in March. ANAYABANGAR/ INSTAGRAM

THE BIG PICTURE

THE COURAGE RUN

Inside the Army's Paralympic Node

PAGE 18

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

Xi Jinping

summit, the most anticipated visit, will add to efforts by New Delhi and Beijing to restore ties that plummeted after the start of the border standoff in 2020.

He last visited India in October 2019 when he travelled to Mamallapuram near Chennai for the second informal bilateral summit of leaders.

In October 2024, Xi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi met on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in the Russian city of Kazan to start the process of restoration of ties. The disengagement of troops in eastern Ladakh was completed next month.

More than 50,000 troops are still deployed on either side of the LAC in the region and the process of de-escalation and de-induction of troops has not yet taken place.

But in the two years since, the two sides have made significant progress in stabilising relations with direct flights, resumption of visas, easing of curbs on Chinese firms and the revival of the pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar.

Sources said the September summit will mark two years of the rapprochement between the two sides, and India is keen to host all BRICS leaders. Barring any unforeseen development, participation at the highest level has been conveyed to New Delhi.

The venue has not yet been announced, but the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi is likely to be the preferred choice, sources said.

The Prime Minister's Office has conveyed to the participating countries of BRICS that there will be no bilateral visits along with the summit, but there will be bilateral meetings with the visiting leaders.

Xi comes at a time when some challenges have emerged on the bilateral front – on the issue of visas for Indian business persons travelling to China, and reports of tension along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh.

Last Saturday, speaking on the situation with China, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, "I think we went through a particularly bad patch between the summer of 2020 and the autumn of 2024, and that was primarily an outcome of the situation in the border areas... At the end of the day, peace and tranquility in the border areas is a prerequisite for good relations, and the state of the border, to a very large measure, naturally would determine the state of the relations."

"Having said that, I think naturally, if assuming things are stable and the needle is more co-operative, obviously, I mean we are both very big economies. In many ways, we are markets to each other. We are part of the supply chain. They industrialised much faster and much bigger and much earlier, largely because of many of the policies we advocate," he said.

E. EXPLAINED

The steps taken

Although troops are still massed along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, India and China have been taking a series of steps to restore ties that took a hit following Chinese incursions. These include direct flights, resumption of visas, easing of curbs on Chinese firms, revival of the pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar.

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

Ships

Greece, the Netherlands, South Korea, Singapore and Norway are also on the list. A Pakistan-flagged crude oil tanker is among those blacklisted.

Some of these vessels had also faced attacks around the Strait of Hormuz in the months since the West Asia war started.

"In light of violations by certain vessels of the Iranian arrangements for transiting the Strait of Hormuz, these vessels will face restrictions in their future transits through Strait of Hormuz, such as fines, seizure, or confiscation," the PGSA said on X late Sunday. To avoid potential issues, it is necessary for cargo owners — to the destination or from the origin — to review the list of the vessels on the PGSA's website, it said.

"Vessels that, from this date onward, engage in ship-to-ship transfers, transshipment, etc., with vessels on this list will themselves be added to this list. Additionally, vessels wishing to have their names removed from this list must submit their request along with the relevant explanation to info@pgsa.ir," the PGSA said.

The PGSA didn't elaborate on the alleged violations by the vessels, which include crude oil tankers, oil product tankers, LNG tankers, container ships and bulk carriers.

Disha is an LNG tanker chartered on a long-term basis by Petronet LNG, India's largest LNG importer, for bringing super-chilled natural gas. As per shipping databases, *Disha* is owned by the India LNG Transport Company No.1, which is a joint venture between state-owned Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) and a few foreign shipping companies. *Disha* sails under the flag of Malta, and the SCI serves as its commercial manager as well as its marine international safety manager.

At present, in view of the suspension in LNG supplies from Qatar due to the West Asia conflict, Petronet LNG has suspended operations of *Disha* and two other LNG tankers that are on long-term charters specifically for bringing Qatari LNG, the company management had told reporters earlier this month. The three tankers made regular runs between India and Qatar before the war. Earlier, *Disha* was stranded in the Persian Gulf for over three months as vessel movements through Hormuz came to a near halt amid the conflict. It was finally able to cross Hormuz on June 15. As per ship tracking data, Disha is stationed off the coast of Gujarat.

India-flagged *Maah Roos* is owned by Pune-based BG Shirke Construction Technology, while Mumbai-based Five Stars Shipping is listed as the bulk carrier's commercial and international safety manager. As of Tuesday afternoon, the ship was at anchor off the Brazilian coast in South America, as per vessel tracking data.

Requests for comments emailed to Petronet LNG, SCI, BG Shirke Construction Technology, and Five Stars Shipping didn't elicit any response.

In June, the newly constituted authority had said that all ships wanting to transit Hormuz must seek its approval, and that it intended to charge fees for services like maritime security, navigation assistance, environmental protection, and insurance in the future. Tehran has also been insisting that vessels should transit the strait using routings designated by it.

But the US and its regional allies have opposed Tehran's stance, encouraging vessels to use the strait's waters hugging Oman as an alternative to Iran-designated shipping lanes, and without seeking any permission from the PGSA. The PGSA released this list of "non-compliant" vessels just days after the US threatened Iran with the "toughest sanctions in history".

Washington is also running own blockade on Iran-linked shipping in Hormuz region.

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

Doval, Wang

perspective" and "properly manage differences".

India, on its part, said Doval and Han discussed ways to strengthen peace and tranquillity in the border areas and further improve bilateral ties.

A long part of Han's career was spent in Shanghai, under Xi Jinping, and he was CPC secretary of Shanghai during 2012-2017. He is considered a member of the powerful Shanghai Clique.

Doval's meeting with Han and Wang also set the stage for Xi's likely visit to India for the summit of the BRICS leaders on September 12-13.

After the Doval-Han meeting, China's Ambassador to India, Xu Feihong, said, "Han Zheng stated that over the past two years, President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi have met twice – in Kazan and Tianjin – and reached a series of important consensuses on the development of China-India relations, guiding the bilateral relationship back onto a track of recovery and improvement."

"As neighbouring major developing nations and key emerging economies, China and India should view and handle their relationship from a strategic and long-term perspective; jointly implement the important consensuses reached by their leaders; enhance strategic mutual trust; tap into cooperation potential; strengthen multilateral coordination; properly manage differences; and promote the sustained and stable development of China-India relations," he said.

The Indian embassy in Beijing said, "NSA and VP Han discussed ways to strengthen peace and tranquillity in the border areas and further improve bilateral relations across economic, political and multilateral fora, in accordance with the consensus reached between the leaders of the two countries".

Ahead of their talks, Doval told Wang: "I am happy that over the past year our relationship has been steadily returning to normalcy. The normalcy in our relationship has been a direct result of both sides maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas."

After the meeting, the Indian embassy said, "The two sides positively reviewed the ongoing momentum in bilateral relations which is in line with the directions and vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping. They discussed ways to further expand bilateral cooperation, maintain stability and ensure peace and tranquility in the border areas, and make progress on boundary delimitation, while sustaining the ongoing work on transboundary cooperation."

The Ministry of External Affairs, in a statement, said, "Under the strategic guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping, and in a constructive and forward-looking spirit, the two Special Representatives had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on the India-China boundary question, and agreed to continue their work in seeking a political settlement of the boundary question in the context of their overall and long-term interests."

It said the "Indian side highlighted the importance of maintaining peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas for the continued development and progress of the bilateral relationship". "The two sides noted the progress made in implementing the important consensus reached between their leaders in Kazan in October 2024 and Tianjin in August 2025. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the steady resumption of people-to-people and cross-border exchanges, including the ongoing Kailash Manasarovar Yatra and border trade through the three designated border trading passes," the MEA said, adding that the two sides also discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry, in a readout in Mandarin, said the two sides engaged in "in-depth discussions" on "advancing border demarcation negotiations, strengthening border control, improving mechanisms, and promoting cross-border cooperation".

"They reaffirmed their commitment to adhering to the political guiding principles reached in 2005, and to working in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding to leverage the Special Representatives' meeting mechanism to seek a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable comprehensive solution to the border issue. Both sides will continue to properly handle the border issue through dialogue and consultation, and jointly maintain peace and tranquillity along the border," it said.

It quoted Wang saying that China and India are important neighbours and representatives of major developing countries and emerging economies. "The healthy and stable development of China-India relations is in the fundamental interests of both peoples, meets the common aspirations of countries in the Global South, and aligns with the trend of the times. China-India relations have transcended the bilateral scope and possess global and strategic significance."

Cricket

but thanks to Cricket Australia, it has given me another chance," Anaya, now 25 years old, told *The Indian Express*. Anaya, whose father Sanjay Bangar is a former India all-rounder and was also the batting coach of the men's team, earlier played age-group cricket for Mumbai alongside Test-capped Sarfaraz Khan and his brother Musheer Khan.

Anaya said she wrote to the BCCI last year to check about eligibility criteria for trans athletes but has not received a reply yet. In June this year, she reached out to Cricket Australia. In its reply sent on July 20, Cricket Australia told Anaya that while she could start playing community cricket immediately, she would have to fulfil testosterone-related eligibility criteria to qualify for 'Elite Cricket' like Women's Big Bash League (WBBL).

Cricket Australia's 'Transgender and Gender Diverse Players in Elite Cricket Policy' requires a player's serum testosterone to be below 10 nmol/L (nanomoles per litre) for at least 12 months to be eligible to play.

In 2023, the ICC banned transgender players from the elite women's game if they have gone through male puberty.

A top BCCI official told *The Indian Express* that the board has no policy yet on trans women playing women's cricket. "When it comes to the ICC, they have said no to it. BCCI is yet to decide what can be done in such cases. As this is the first time such a case has come up, the board is yet to take a stand. Especially on allowing them in domestic cricket," the BCCI official said.

Responding to Anaya's letter, Cricket Australia's Head of Integrity, Jacqui Partridge, said: "Until March 2027, you remain eligible to participate in Premier Cricket competitions in any State or Territory of Australia. As Premier Cricket is classified as Community Cricket rather than Elite Cricket under the Policy, your participation in those competitions is not affected by this determination."

"Your eligibility for Elite Cricket from that date (March 2027) is conditional upon you providing a blood test upon your arrival in Australia confirming that your serum testosterone concentration remains below 10 nmol/L and that you continue to satisfy the Policy's eligibility requirements," Partridge said.

"I genuinely couldn't believe that I'll be able to play again. Because of Cricket Australia and its progressive and inclusive policies, which focus on fairness and inclusion in women's sport for trans women, this is a huge milestone, not just for me, but for other athletes like me who want to try but aren't doing so because they have to either choose the sport or choose transition," Anaya said. While she is still recovering from the gender affirming surgery, Anaya said she was in the process of finding a club in Australia to play for.

In a social media post in June last year, Anaya had called for a discussion with BCCI and ICC representatives to discuss a policy for trans athletes, based on data instead of "outdated perceptions".

"After I published my athlete testing report and everything else, BCCI stayed quiet about it. Whereas Cricket Australia actually read my report, went through all my medical history and had a proper team assessing my case. I approached Cricket Australia and they gave me clearance to play in terms of fairness and inclusivity. They (CA) asked for my blood test report and testosterone test report. They asked for the papers for the surgeries that I've done. They asked me for my Manchester University report which I had published over a year ago. If everything goes well and I perform, then I have a chance to play in the WBBL," Anaya said.

According to Anaya, after years of confusion about her identity, she began the process of transitioning from a man to a woman in 2022. She spoke to counselors who guided her, and then moved to the UK where she played club cricket and explored hormone replacement therapy.

"The journey since the beginning was very painful, not just physically, but emotionally. My whole life changed, family dynamics, friendships, career, social focus, everything changed. To be honest, I would do this again because transitioning has made me comfortable and happier in my own skin. I wouldn't trade back for anything else."

IIT-Delhi

sixth floor of a building on campus on Saturday.

On Tuesday, day 3 of the agitation, more than 500 students protested inside the Lecture Hall Complex at the institute, with another 2,000 gathered outside. The gates of the institute were secured, and no technical staff, visitors, or family members of students were allowed inside.

Through the previous night, students had held a candlelight vigil on campus. On Tuesday, before the administration conceded their demand on the inquiry committee, they had announced another night of protests and candlelight marches.

Students have stayed away from most classes since Monday. On Tuesday, the administration used megaphones to advise them that continued absence from classrooms could create difficulties in their course work.

The ongoing mobilisation is unusual at IIT-D, one of India's most celebrated educational institutions. Students are demanding accountability for what they say is the eighth suicide of a student on campus since 2023, and have refused to be pacified by the response from the institute.

Students have demanded the resignation of four IIT officials, an independent inquiry into Rishikesh's death, and compensation of at least Rs 1 crore for his family. In response, the administration announced an inquiry and financial assistance for the student's family, but did not agree to the demands for resignations and a specific compensation.

At a meeting convened at the Lecture Hall Complex at 11.30 pm Monday, the students rejected the administration's response as "inadequate and evasive", and announced that the protest would continue.

On Tuesday morning, IIT-D Director Rangan Banerjee said that the External Inquiry Committee would investigate the "circumstances leading to the tragedy" of Rishikesh's death.

"The committee will discuss with relevant students, faculty and the concerned administrative offices, review protocols and processes, and make recommendations. The committee will be requested to complete its report within two weeks," Banerjee said.

The five-member inquiry panel comprised Ashok Kumar, the vice chancellor of the Sports University of Haryana who is an IIT-D alumnus and a former police chief of Uttarakhand; Pratap Sharma, head of the Department of Psychiatry at AIIMS, New Delhi; two student representatives, and the IIT-D Registrar who would be the secretary and convener of the committee.

But the students objected to the presence of the former Uttarakhand DGP on the panel, saying he had earlier linked protests by students to "radicalisation" and "digital terrorism".

They demanded that the inquiry committee should be headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court. Following talks between the IIT-D administration and a six-member student delegation at the Director's office in the main building, the institute agreed to change the composition of the inquiry committee. The students will suggest alternative names to the administration by Friday.

On the protesters' demand for financial assistance, Director Banerjee said on Tuesday morning: "We will work towards providing financial support for Rishikesh's family by reimbursing medical expenses and providing funding from the benevolent fund. Additionally we will also create a separate fund with voluntary contributions from faculty, students and staff to help the family."

He said the institute planned to appoint an external Ombudsperson to address any grievances that were not addressed by IIT's internal systems. For students with mental health issues who need parental support, the institute would "create an additional support system of a faculty and student mentor".

Banerjee said Rishikesh had joined the MSc Physics programme in July 2025, and had been staying at Shivalik Hostel. He had a "very good academic performance" in his first semester, the Director said.

Khargone

different judges pointed to the prosecution's failure to prove who committed the crimes, questioned how the accused came to be implicated, and noted that the forensic evidence itself contradicted claims of the use of petrol bombs.

Asked whether the government will appeal against the acquittals or not, the prosecution department said they will first review the judgment.

Hostile witnesses, probe gaps

1. **JUNE 13, 2025**

The first case to see acquittals, on June 13, 2025, dealt with the burning down of an ancestral house belonging to Mahesh and Vijayalakshmi Mahajan in Khargone's Bhatwadi Mohalla. The prosecution's case was that Soaib, Wasim, Salim Khan (now deceased), and a juvenile had conspired and set alight the house using a petrol bomb, with the family putting its losses at Rs 90,000.

Fourteen witnesses were examined. None admitted to seeing the accused start the fire. Mahesh Mahajan described learning of the blaze second-hand; Vijayalakshmi said she had been at her parents' home in Manawar at the time; other witnesses said they had learned of the fire only after being told riots had broken out.

The court of Sixth Additional Sessions Judge Kailash Prasad Marekam noted that "none of these witnesses made any statement before the court that the accused had participated in the riots or committed the incident".

The judgment's sharpest findings concerned the investigation itself. The investigating officer, Sub-Inspector Shankutala Dudwe, told the court the accused had been arrested on the "basis of the available evidence". The judge asked what that evidence was, given that the FIR itself recorded the accused as unknown persons at the time it was lodged.

The judgment added that the investigating officer "has nowhere disclosed in her examination-in-chief how the number of accused increased from one unknown accused", and that "there is no evidence on record as to when, where, or how a criminal conspiracy was formed".

The electronic evidence fared no better. A pen drive said to contain footage of the arson was seized but never played before the court. The judge held that the prosecution could "derive no benefit from the pen drive", and added that even if it had been played, it would "not have advanced the prosecution's case", since Mahesh, who had produced the pen drive, made no statement about it in his testimony and – after being declared hostile – denied identifying any accused from the footage.

No certificate under Section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act, which deals with the admissibility of electronic records as evidence, was produced to authenticate the recording, and the prosecution offered no evidence that the pen drive had ever been played on a police computer or that anyone had identified the accused in it.

A set of photographs fared similarly. While a Section 65B certificate was submitted by a woman named Vaishnavi for the photographs, the prosecution didn't call her as a witness. The judge also noted that crucial details about the device used to take the photographs, such as a mobile phone number, were missing.

The forensic findings undercut the arson theory directly. Investigators sent three exhibits to the Sagar laboratory – a glass bottle, burnt wooden remnants from the house and a burnt iron gas stove. The FSL report, quoted in the judgment, found that "no residues of inflammable petroleum hydrocarbons (petrol/diesel/kerosene oil) were detected in any of the articles".

2. **OCTOBER 14, 2025**

The second acquittal came in the attack on the family of Mehroon B in Khargone's Anand Nagar locality. The prosecution's case was that at around 11 pm on April 10, 2022, Mehroon and her family were asleep when stones were thrown at their house. Mehroon said she saw 10-11 attackers. One of the intruders, identified during the investigation as Kapil alias Golu Verma, allegedly lunged at her with a sword, leaving her with cuts. Her daughter Zubaida was allegedly struck by a stone.

Police treated the case as an attempt to murder, recovered two stones and a sword measuring roughly 2 ft 10 inches, and charged three men – Kapil Verma, Sonu Verma and Sachin Verma. The Arms Act was added later due to the sword.

Ten prosecution witnesses were examined during the trial before Third Additional Sessions Judge Rajkumar Yadav. All of them, including Mehroon, said they could not identify the accused.

A panch witness, Mehraj, who had signed the seizure and damage memos, also turned hostile, telling the court he had no knowledge of the incident and did not know what he had signed.

Judge Yadav's order, on October 14, 2025, rested on settled principles of criminal evidence, particularly the "fundamental" one "that the prosecution must prove the offence against the accused beyond reasonable doubt", and that conviction "cannot be recorded on the basis of suspicious evidence or merely because of the gravity of the offence".

The Sessions Court invoked the gap between "may be true" and "must be true", and found that the prosecution had failed to prove the trespass, attempted murder, assault on Zubaida or the property damage.

3. **JULY 27, 2026**

This third case was the largest of the three, acquitting 11 men – Ibadat, Sadiq, Abdullah, Saheb alias Shahib, Sheryar, Faizal, Azam, Shabbir, Imran, Mustaq and Rajik – of rioting, arson, house trespass and Explosive Substances Act charges.

The prosecution's case was that between 6 pm and 9 pm on April 10, 2022, mobs armed with stones, swords and petrol bombs attacked houses in Bhatwadi, setting homes and motorcycles alight.

Eleven eyewitnesses were examined during the trial. Eight of them, including complainants and injured victims, did not support the prosecution's account. The judgment by Fourth Additional Sessions Judge Mukesh Nath, on July 27, 2026, recorded that "none of these eight witnesses identified any of the accused...; no substantive evidence emerged in their testimonies against any accused". After they were declared hostile, "the prosecution derived no benefit", the court said, concluding that "the involvement of the accused persons in the offence is neither disclosed nor proved in any manner".

Vaishnavi Jain was the only witness who claimed to identify all the 11 accused. But her testimony did not survive scrutiny as her own father, Dinesh Jain, and her brother, Akash Jain, told the court that the rioters had "their faces covered with cloth".

While Akash said he saw four-five people but could not identify them because of their faces being covered, Dinesh said he watched the mob from 500 to 600 metres away, had no prior acquaintance with them, and so could not be sure who the accused were.

The judge called it "not natural, satisfactory, or reliable" that a witness could identify individuals from behind at that distance, particularly once he had accepted the rioters' faces were covered.

There were also unexplained gaps in the investigation. Vaishnavi's name did not appear as an eyewitness in either the written complaint or the FIR, both of which were lodged two days after the riots – a delay the court said had "no explanation". Her statement was recorded 51 days after the incident. The FIR itself named only six of the 11 accused eventually put on trial; the other five were added later, with the judgment finding no explanation on record for how or why.

The Sagar laboratory's report did not help the police case either, after it found "no residues of inflammable petroleum hydrocarbons (petrol/diesel/kerosene)" in the seized bottle fragments and burnt material.

The prosecution's task

Inspector B L Mandloi of the Khargone Kotwali Police Station has been supervising the riot cases, with a team of 10 officers, taking over from an SIT that was disbanded after the initial investigation.

On why around 85 accused still remain "absconding", Mandloi says: "We are facing difficulty as the accused names are generic, without any father's name or address. Incidents happened at 13 spots and we can't blindly implicate people. We have to match faces with the CCTV footage and CDR (Call Detail Record) details."

On the slow pace of the trials, Mandloi says: "In at least 23 cases, reports are still awaited from the State Forensic Science Laboratory in Sagar. We are trying to expedite that."

Khargone Superintendent of Police Ravindra Verma says they are trying their best to speed up trials. "I am taking stock and trying to track down the accused in all the cases."

In the Khargone District Court, where the cases are being heard, two special public prosecutors have been handling the complaints.

One of the two, refusing to be named, says: "The witnesses turned hostile since they all live in the same locality and now want to move on with their lives." Even if they provide protection to some witnesses, it is impossible to do so for "hundreds of people", he says. An Assistant District Prosecution Officer (ADPO) associated with the riots cases says he and others are tracking cases in the CJM Court, where the charge-sheets are supposed to be filed. "In at least 15 cases I am tracking, the accused are yet to be caught, all the residents have fled. These cases are under threat of having closure reports filed."

Another ADPO attached with a Sessions Court says: "We don't even have proper chambers or offices where we can call a witness before the trial and explain their statements to them. They fail to properly depose and make material contradictions. In at least two-three cases that I am tracking, the accused failed to recollect their statements." The witnesses can hardly be faulted, the ADPO adds. "We can't expect them to have no contact with the case for four years and then recollect minute details of violence which took place one night."

•Four years later, not much headway

The violence took place on Ram Navami, April 10, 2022

1 person killed

24 injured, including the district SP

16 houses and 29 shops demolished by administration in the aftermath

175 people arrested in initial police action

Hasina Fakhroo's house built under PMAY (Urban) was demolished. ANAND MOHAN J

THE CASES		THE HOLD-UP
65 FIRs	4 closed for want of evidence	85 accused yet to be found
38 under investigation		
20 at stage of evidence being recorded	3 trials completed, all acquitted	23 cases awaiting forensic reports

Key IFFCO Chowk road caves in, taps run dry in Gurgaon

Abhimanyu Hazarika
Gurgaon, August 25

WATERLOGGING ON roads and water shortage at homes — this is the double whammy many residents in Gurgaon are facing.

Even as Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) resolved an initial disruption caused by a master pipeline leak near the key Basai water treatment plant last week, fresh damage caused by ongoing excavation work near Baani Square on Saturday compounded the city's water crisis over the weekend, according to officials. As a result, water supply across sectors 46, 48, 49, 50, 52, 56, 57, and 58 to 76 was affected over the weekend. Aggravating the issue, a section of a service road near IFFCO Chowk on the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway caved in on Tuesday, creating a gaping sinkhole and damaging a critical sewage pipeline.

This was a day after several parts in the Millenium City came to a halt as heavy rain led to waterlogging.

While further clarity was awaited from the GMDA, DLF's Facilities Management Team issued the following advisory to residents across Phases 1-4: "As per the latest information received from GMDA officials, the master water supply line at IFFCO Chowk has been damaged, due to which the water supply in DLF City may be affected. The GMDA team is working on the repair on priority to restore the supply at the earliest. We will share further updates. We request residents to use water judiciously during this period."

A service road near IFFCO Chowk caved in on Tuesday. EXPRESS

Authorities respond

Alerted to the cave-in at 3.15 pm on Tuesday, a team from the Gurgaon Traffic Police, led by Traffic Inspector Mahabir Singh, reached within minutes, cordoned off the affected stretch using reflective barricades and signage to divert commuter movement away from the sinkhole, an officer said.

Subsequently, the Traffic Police alerted the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA), and then technical teams rushed to the site to assess the subsidence, Singh told *The Indian Express*.

In a statement posted on X, the NHAI Delhi Regional Office noted: "Preliminary inspection indicates possible leakage from the GMDA sewer line beneath the location, resulting in soil erosion and road settlement."

The highway authority added that the matter had been taken up with the GMDA for immediate rectification. A joint engineering team from both agencies initiated inspection and immediate ground stabilization work, officials said.

The NHAI, later at night, added that the draining of the sinkhole is under progress with 4 tractor-mounted pumps, and that traffic has been diverted to another service road along the same section.

On Monday, the city received an average of 75 mm of rainfall, according to the district administration, leaving key intersections near Subhash Chowk, Rail Vihar, and the expressway inundated. The subsequent waterlogging trapped over a dozen school buses for hours, leaving school children stranded. The gridlock also forced the district administration to issue work-from-home advisories for private offices.

The Gurgaon district administration Tuesday invoked the Disaster Management Act to issue a comprehensive SOP regulating school transport during heavy rainfall.

'Millennium City not worth living in'

NEARLY A dozen school buses were stranded for hours in Gurgaon after torrential rain on Monday inundated key roads, including near Subhash Chowk and Rail Vihar. Siddharth Kasid (39), a resident of Uniworld Gardens and an employee at a multinational investment bank, waded through waist-deep water on the highway to reach the buses and bring his five-year-old daughter and other children back to safety. He recounts the ordeal to **Abhimanyu Hazarika**.

My daughter studies in UKG. She returns home between 2.15 pm and 2.45 pm. Yesterday, given the downpour, we were expecting an early dispersal. I was working from home.

The school (Heritage Xperential) sent an email around 12 pm (about an early dispersal). I kept tracking the school bus location on their app. When I went downstairs, the app showed the bus was 35 minutes away. I am a six-foot-tall and the water on the road reached my waist. Looking at the flooded stretch, I realised the bus was never going to make it here.

I kept thinking: How do I get there? We figured out that the bus was stuck in Rail Vihar. I coordinated with Meetu Gupta from our society whose daughter was also stuck. We called the bus driver and finally figured out its exact location. With one of my friends, I started walking on the highway. We were drenched. One of my phones malfunctioned, and my wallet went for a toss. When we reached the spot, what we saw was harrowing. At least 10 buses were stranded in a row, and inside were very young children.

Because of the ongoing Metro construction, they have broken everything. The walk through the waterlogged debris, spanning more than half a kilometre, felt more intense and gruelling than a trek to Vaishno Devi. We located the bus. Meetu and I took our daughters out and started walking towards our society. I got calls from other parents asking for help. I turned back to get more children.

I brought about six to seven kids back, making them walk in a single line towards the society. I could not have let my kid or anyone else walk unattended and risk drowning. I had to tread treacherously to avoid open potholes; the whole of Gurgaon was an absolute mess. Older students from Class 7 and 8 held onto my hands and my T-shirt; others held their bags, and I carried my daughter in my arms. I dropped my daughter home and went back out to help others.

My daughter was terrified and exhausted. Looking at the flooded streets, she asked me innocently, "Is it Holi? Why is there water everywhere?" A moment later, she said, "I'm shivering and hungry," and it broke me. I felt an overwhelming sense of anger and helplessness. That anger was towards the authorities.

We pay hefty taxes and exorbitant school fees, and this is how the city is maintained? I hate it now. They should have issued proper warnings and managed the roads. The worst part of the ordeal was the helplessness inside those buses. For security reasons, the bus staff said they couldn't let everyone off without parental consent. I was ready to take the children safely to our society. There was a young UKG kid looking right at me, hoping I would take him out of that bus, but I didn't know his father personally. That broke my heart. That poor child was able to reach home only by 5.45 pm.

The entire rescue took me nearly 1.5 hours. With roads choked and people stranded everywhere, I left home at 2:20 pm and finally returned only at 4:40 pm. My wife was so worried that she, too, had stepped out and started walking towards Subhash Chowk despite the water being above waist level. Both of us were in shock.

The administration and schools showed a complete lack of empathy. There was no real-time communication; no one called or emailed to update us.

Gurgaon is simply not worth living in anymore. My family goes through this hell every year despite the high taxes and the hefty rents. We are now seriously mulling moving out of Gurgaon.

Delhi plans to tackle 'legacy issues', focus on waterlogging

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 25

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta

A DAY after heavy rain led to massive waterlogging across Delhi, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Tuesday took stock of the situation and said that her government is taking steps to address the legacy problems of the Capital with the Centre's cooperation.

Gupta said the city's drainage network is over 50 years old. "..Over the past one-and-a-half years, the government has studied Delhi's long-standing problems and begun working on long-term solutions," she said.

Listing the steps taken so far, she mentioned the implementation of Rs 56,000-crore Drainage Master Plan. Longstanding issues related to water supply, sewerage, drainage and waterlogging — not only through temporary measures, but through modern infrastructure, technology, smart metering and real-time monitoring — are in focus, she said. The initiatives, Gupta said, would provide Delhi residents with better, more reliable and more accountable water and sewer services in the coming years.

Meanwhile, PWD minister Parvesh Sahib Singh said the waterlogging incidents and hotspots have been reduced in comparison to previous years.

He said that the traffic police identified 169 waterlogging spots in 2025. Of these, work is currently being carried out at 60 locations. Large drains are also being constructed under the Drainage Master Plan.

"At each spot, work is under progress. The situation is much better than previous years. Now, you do not see any vehicle submerged, despite the increasing population," Singh said, adding that long term plans are being planned for 21 locations. He also said that if the accumulated water is cleared in 30 minutes, it is not considered waterlogging. "Waterlogging is when water is accumulated for one to two hours," he said.

The drainage network is being revamped as per the Drainage Masterplan, he underlined, adding that waterlogging will not be witnessed at a huge scale after the changes.

CAMPS HAVE TO BE VACATED IN 6 WEEKS

HC paves way for eviction of 700-odd families from slum near PM residence, appoints committee

Sohini Ghosh
New Delhi, August 25

THE DELHI High Court on Tuesday granted the residents of the slum near the Prime Minister's Race Course Road residence six weeks' time to vacate their camps and move to Savda Ghevra where they are being rehabilitated.

The court's direction followed appeals by the slum dwellers. Spread across three camps, the slum is home to 700-odd families.

The division bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia, while issuing the direction Tuesday, also constituted a committee headed by former Delhi district judge Man Mohan Sharma to monitor the rehabilitation. The seven-member committee, comprising high-ranking officials from various government authorities, shall "consistently monitor and supervise rehabilitation of the dwellers" ensure that the amenities, as promised to the slum dwellers by the government, with the term of the monitoring committee fixed for a period of six months. Delhi HC has also empowered the Committee Monitoring to issue directions to all the agencies concerned, "which may be required and deemed fit for the purposes of rehabilitating the dwellers of Jhuggi Jhopri bastis in a meaningful manner..."

The court also directed the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board to "facilitate transportation of household articles/belongings" of the slum dwellers to Savda Ghevra.

Raising their voices against the rehabilitation in Savda Ghevra, which is around 45 kilometres away from the slum, residents had said that the same will deprive them of their livelihoods, with most of them currently engaged in blue-collar jobs in the vicinity of the camps near the PM's residence. The dwellers had also alleged a lack of basic amenities, including schools, in Savda Ghevra.

It was the government's case that the eviction is necessary as "the location of the present camps is adjoining military installations". The government also highlighted a need to strengthen the defence infrastructure. It had said, "In the current global security situation, which involves increased threats and the risk of conflict or war-like conditions, the presence of unauthorised structures in this sensitive area creates serious risks to national security, public safety, and the protection of vital installations." The government had initiated the process for their eviction in October last year.

The government, represented by ASG Chetan Sharma and the Centre's standing counsel Ashish Dixit has assured the slum's residents one free Metro card for a year, extendable up to three years, and free bus travel for one member per family for a year.

Govt plans water network upgrade with Rs 2.5k-cr loan

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 25

TO TACKLE water shortage and leakage, the Delhi government is planning major improvements in the Capital's water supply with the help of a Rs 2,500-crore loan extended by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), through the Union Finance Ministry, said Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Tuesday.

Under the initiative, the government is planning to set up 131 District Metered Areas (DMAs) — sections of water pipe network blocked off from other parts with closed valves — to track water entering the system, reaching consumers and being lost along the way.

"ADB will fund 70 per cent of the projects, while the remaining 30 per cent will be funded by the Delhi government. DJB has approved Package-1, worth Rs 805 crore, and Package-2, worth Rs 935 crore, to improve water supply in the command area of the Wazirabad Water Treatment Plant," Gupta said.

The CM said "around 43.96 sq km, nine underground reservoir command areas and eight Assembly constituencies would be brought under a modern water distribution system".

Around 836 km of water distribution network would be developed that would include nearly 570 km of new or replacement pipelines, Gupta said. She said the government aims at bringing non-revenue water down to 15 per cent through network rehabilitation, accurate metering, DMA-based monitoring and leakage reduction.

"Around 2.15 lakh household service connections would come under the project, with 100 per cent metering of consumer connections" she said.

Besides, she said the government is planning an investment of Rs 11,427 crore in two zones covering West and Southwest Delhi that will benefit around 36.4 lakh people by strengthening nearly 3,830 km of water network. Under the proposal, 25 per cent of funding would come from Centre, 25 per cent from Delhi government and the rest is proposed to be raised through loans, public-private partnership models.

One held for retired teacher's murder at Jangpura home

New Delhi: Four days after a 69-year-old woman was killed and her house ransacked in Jangpura's Pant Nagar, the police arrested a man from West Bengal's Cooch Behar on Tuesday. He is being brought to Delhi, an officer said.

The accused has been identified as Ashrif (24) who previously lived in Jangpura, the officer said. The accused had later shifted to Wazirabad.

An officer privy to investigation said that Ashrif was well versed with the topography of the area and was aware that the woman lived alone.

"His plan was to leave for Nepal ... He even met his mother who suspected that he had committed a crime. She had asked him to go to the police, but he fled," the officer added. Police said Ashrif had been involved in other cases in the past. He spent three years in jail for a burglary, they said. **ENS**

Ex-police chief posted as OSD in Directorate of Home Guards

New Delhi: Former Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golchha, who was removed from the post last month, has been transferred and posted as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Directorate of Home Guards until the superannuation of incumbent Director General (DG) Virender Singh on September 30, according to a government order issued on Tuesday.

Golchha will take charge as the DG, Home Guards, on October 1, the order read.

"Delhi Police shall take Satish Golchha on their strength for the purpose of drawing the salary against an available post till he takes over as DG, Home Guards," the order stated. Golchha was removed from the post of Police Commissioner on July 17 this year. **SAKSHI CHAND**

संजय गांधी स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, लखनऊ
Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences
Raebareli Road Lucknow-226014
EPBX NO.: 0522-2494000/24950000/2668700/2668800/2668900
FAX:- 0522-2668017/2668078

NOTICE

Candidates shortlisted for Document Verification under Advertisement No.I/08/2,3,4,5,6,9,10&12/Rectt/2025-26 dated 11.6.2025 are informed that the Document Verification shall be held on 08.09.2026 (Tuesday) at the E-Learning Centre, Ground Floor, Library Complex, SGPGIMS,Lucknow. All further details regarding the Document Verification are available on the Institute's official website: www.sgpgims.org.in

Advt No.:- I/42/Rectt/2026-27 Joint Director (Administration)

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मिजोरम
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MIZORAM
CHALTLANG, AIZAWL: MIZORAM - 796012

(Advt. No. NITMZ/R-2-17/TF/2026/1733 Dt. 25.08.2026

EMPLOYMENT NOTCE

Applications are invited by NIT Mizoram from eligible candidates of Indian Nationals for engagement of Temporary Faculty:

(i) Department of BS&HSS (English) - 1 no.
(ii) Department of Mechanical Engineering - 1 no.

Detailed Advertisement can be downloaded from the NIT Mizoram website: www.nitmz.ac.in

The duly filled in Application Form in prescribed format along with necessary documents shall be submitted through online to recruitmentfaculty@nuitmz.ac.in on or before 10.09.2026

Sd/- (Prof. H. LALHMINGSANGA)
Registrar In-Charge
National Institute of Technology Mizoram

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, पटना
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna
Phulwarisharif, Patna- 801507

No.: FTS-15070(XVI)/Deputation/2026 Dated: 20.08.2026

VACANCY NOTICE ON DEPUTATION

Applications are invited in prescribed pro-forma from eligible Officers of Central/State Government/ U.T. /Autonomous Bodies / Universities / Public Sector Undertaking /R&D Organization / Statutory / Local Self Government Bodies as applicable for filling up the following Group 'B' & 'C' Posts on Deputation Basis at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna. The essential qualification, experience etc. required for applying for these posts are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Pay Matrix & Level	No. of post(s)
01.	Librarian Grade-I (Documentalist)	Level-7 (₹ 44900- 142400)	1
02.	Manager /Supervisor/ Gas Officer	Level-7 (₹ 44900- 142400)	1
03.	Laundry Manager	Level-6 (₹35400- 112400)	1
04.	Manifold Technician (Gas Steward)	Level-5 (₹ 29200- 92300)	2
05.	Senior Plumber	Level-4 (₹ 25500-81100)	4

The number of posts is tentative and is liable to change based on the Institute's requirement. The period of deputation will be for a period of three (3) years and extendable for a maximum period of five years as per DoPT guidelines. Maximum age limit for applying for the aforesaid posts on deputation is 56 years as on last date of posting of application. The eligibility criteria will be regulated as per the relevant Recruitment Rules/DoPT instruction as applicable. The officers who fulfil the above qualifications/eligibility criteria may submit their application in the prescribed proforma at Annexure-I through proper channel to the Recruitment Cell, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Phulwarisharif, Patna-801507 through Speed Post/Registered post only. Application received through any other medium will not be accepted.

The last date for posting the completed application in the prescribed proforma along with required documents through proper channel is up to 30 days from the publication of the advertisement on the official website of AIIMS Patna i.e. www.aiimspatna.edu.in. The format of application and details regarding age, qualifications, experience and other information to the posts are available on the official website of AIIMS Patna i.e. www.aiimspatna.edu.in. All further addendum, corrigendum and notifications, if any, will be available on the Institute's website www.aiimspatna.edu.in.

Sd/-
Executive Director
AIIMS, Patna

RISHIKESH KUMAR OF BEGUSARAI IN BIHAR DIED BY SUICIDE AT IIT-DELHI ON SATURDAY

A poet who wrote of freedom: Friends, family struggle to cope with their loss

Sophiya Mathew, Pragynesh & Himanshu Harsh
New Delhi, Patna, August 25

AMONG THE most vivid memories of Rishikesh Kumar that his closest friends at IIT-Delhi carry is that of him reciting *shayari*. He would do this in small groups, as well as at large events on campus.

"*Hamne kaafi duniya dekhi hai*," he would sometimes tell his juniors in the smaller gatherings.

Rishikesh, who allegedly died by suicide on campus at IIT-Delhi on Saturday, was a compelling Hindi speaker, his friends said.

Even ordinary conversations with him could become so animated and absorbing that strangers would find themselves stopping to listen, they said.

In a statement, IIT-Delhi said Rishikesh had been struggling with his mental health for some time, and had received treatment in hospital. He had also withdrawn from two semesters.

Rishikesh wrote, signed and dated his poems in Hindi. At his last public poetry recital at Rachnashala Studio in Faridabad, the 31-year-old MSc physics student spoke of restrictions and freedoms, and how the message of freedom was inherent in the limits of restrictions.

"*Paabandiyan kehti hain ki azaad ho jao, agar tum pe paabandiyan laadi jaayein to... Tod daalo ye deewarein, ye pahre, ye hukoomat ki zanjeerein... Paabandiyon ka paigaam hai ki azaad ho jao*," he recited. ("Restrictions give the call for freedom; break down walls, the chains of authority.")

Rishikesh, whose family moved to Patna from Begusarai in Bihar, identified strongly with his cultural, social, and linguistic background. At IIT-D, a friend said, he often spoke about the discrimination, backwardness and other difficulties faced by students from the region. "*Kuchh na kuchh toh karna hai* (something has to be done)," he would often say. "*Uske jo vichaar the, woh hamesha samaj ke prati the*," a friend recalled.

Rishikesh followed an unconventional path to IIT. He enrolled for a BTech at NIT Rourkela, but dropped it in 2019 due to personal circumstances. He later completed a BSc from Patliputra University and secured an All India Rank of 40 in the IIT JAM examination.

He enrolled in the MSc Physics program at IIT-D in 2025. Alongside his studies, he spent years teaching science and mathematics, first as a freelance educator and later at a coaching institute in Patna, while also teaching online.

Five days before his death, he had received an offer for a permanent faculty position at Unacademy in Jodhpur, according to his brother Abhishek Kumar and mother Asha Poddar.

A dozen of Rishikesh's close batchmates met his mother on Sunday, the day after his death. They were silent at first, but then the tears came in a flood, they said.

How could someone who was always there for others have found himself in need of help, and received so little of it? This is a question his close friends continue to be haunted by. "*Bhai* was very talented. No one can believe he's gone. He was my pillar of support," Rishikesh's elder brother, Abhishek Kumar (34), said. "I used to always swell with pride saying '*Chhota bhai* is in IIT-D.' It was his dream. *Woh IIT ka hi deewana tha*," Abhishek said.

Following medical advice that Rishikesh remain under parental supervision, the brothers' mother, Asha Poddar, had been living with him in Katwaria Sarai in South Delhi for more than a month. On Friday night, Asha recalled, Rishikesh had held his head in both hands and cried. "*Maa, mere kaaran tumko torture jhelna pad raha hai. Mujhe aur nahi jeena hai*," he told her. ("You are having to suffer because of me. I do not want to live any longer.") She had consoled him and told him they would go to hospital and continue his treatment.

Protesters at IIT-Delhi on Tuesday; (above) Rishikesh with his family. EXPRESS

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Abetment of suicide: FIR filed

New Delhi: The Delhi Police have registered an FIR for abetment of suicide under Section 108 of BNS and launched a probe into the death by suicide of 31-year-old IIT student Rishikesh Kumar.

The FIR, which has been filed against "unknown," was registered on the evening of the incident, an officer said.

A police officer said that the college's chief security officer had reported the incident shortly after it had taken place on August 22.

The FIR was registered following directions from the Supreme Court–led National Task Force (NTF), constituted in March last year to address mental health concerns and prevent suicides in higher educational institutions.

"As per the NTF's recommendation, the Supreme Court directed higher educational institutions to immediately notify the local police about any unnatural death or suicide on campus. The local police must then investigate and submit a report to the court," the officer said. **ENS**

Double blow to Race Course Club in legal fight against eviction

Sohini Ghosh
New Delhi, August 25

IN A setback to the Delhi Race Club, which is fighting to maintain a hold over nearly 53 acres of land in the heart of the Capital, the Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed its appeal against a High Court order, which had vacated a stay on the eviction proceedings initiated by the Centre. In another blow, a district court on Tuesday also refused to grant any interim stay on the eviction proceedings.

The Estate Officer of the Land and Development Office (L&DO), which comes under the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, on August 11, issued an eviction order to the Club under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act. It directed the club to vacate the premises within 15 days, terming them to be "unauthorised occupant" of the land.

This order was challenged before the district court. The Club also sought an interim stay on the eviction proceedings.

On Monday, while keeping the application on interim stay pending, Principal District and Sessions Judge Pitamber Dutt of Patiala court sought a response from the Centre and the Estate Officer on the Club's appeal, keeping the matter for consideration on August 31.

On the other hand, the Club also had a plea pending before the SC, challenging the Delhi HC's decision to vacate the stay in April on eviction proceedings initiated by the government against the Club.

On Tuesday, the plea before the SC was heard by a bench of Justices Satish Chandra Sharma and NK Singh. The bench, noting that an appeal is already pending before the district court, refused to entertain the plea. It, however, allowed the Club to approach the district court, seeking that the hearing be scheduled earlier.

Following the SC order, the district court heard the Club's interim stay application on Tuesday and refused to grant any relief, reasoning that the Club had "failed to make out any prima facie case" in its favour.

Opposing the Club's request for relief, the Centre, through its standing counsel Ashish Dixit, also pointed out that the Club was continuing on the premises minus any valid lease deed.

The Club, in possession of the land since 1926, was issued a show cause notice by the government for re-entry in 1999. Following a legal challenge, the notice was set aside by Delhi HC in 2012.

Delhi plans to make treated water must for construction

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 25

THE DELHI government is planning to make use of treated water mandatory for construction and horticulture activities under the Reclaimed Water Policy, 2026, Water Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh said on Tuesday.

The Delhi Jal Board's (DJB) policy assumes significance, he added, because the Capital treats around 750 million gallons a day (MGD) of sewage daily. After accounting for environmental flow, even as around 483 MGD is available for reuse, only about 120 MGD is presently being reused.

"Around 350 MGD of treated waste water therefore remains available for beneficial reuse. Treated water will progressively replace potable water and groundwater for horticulture, construction, landscaping, washing, industrial cooling and other non-potable uses," said Singh. DJB is initiating detailed stakeholder discussions, said officials, adding that the policy will then be sent to the government for final approval, he added.

The policy was approved by the DJB at its recent board meeting. As per the Minister, with new treatment plants under construction, the Capital's sewage treatment capacity will rise to 1,015 MGD.

The DJB also plans to notify areas around compliant sewage treatment plants and sewer networks to facilitate reliable use of treated water, he said.

As audit flags safety lapses, Govt planning Signature Bridge repair

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 25

WITH A recent structural audit highlighting that the iconic cable-stayed Signature Bridge in the Capital needs immediate repair, the Delhi government has ordered a comprehensive rehabilitation and maintenance plan for the city's first asymmetrical bridge.

According to officials, a detailed inspection and condition assessment of the bridge was carried out in July. The audit highlights the need to restore the Bridge Health Monitoring System (BHMS), which has been found largely non-functional, with several sensors damaged, missing or operating in passive mode.

A BHMS is an automated network of sensors and software used to assess the safety, structural integrity, and real-time response of bridges. The audit also flagged erosion and deterioration of foundation protection, particularly around the riverside. "As the underwater and subsurface portions could not be fully inspected due to safety and water-flow conditions, a detailed investigation has been recommended. Repair measures including debris and silt removal, restoration of damaged protective concrete and additional scour protection wherever required will be done," said an official.

The skywalk ramp steelwork has also emerged as a priority area, with severe corrosion, rust scaling, coating failure and corrosion at joints, splices and fasteners highlighted. "Detailed assessment and rehabilitation of affected steelwork will be undertaken," the official added.

The audit also recommends for a proposed overhaul, including structural temperature, strain, wind, displacement, acceleration, inclination, corrosion, traffic and force sensors, along with a new data-acquisition system and control-room setup.

The signature bridge was inaugurated in 2018. The construction was executed by the Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation (DTTDC). Following the requests from the DTTDC, the bridge was handed over to PWD earlier this year.

PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh said, "Signature Bridge is one of Delhi's most important landmarks. It is important to recognise that the bridge was handed over to PWD only a few months ago, and our government is now addressing the maintenance requirements systematically.

Pointing that his government will not allow past gaps in maintenance to become future risks, Singh said, "A modern bridge cannot depend only on periodic visual inspections. We need technology to continuously tell us what is happening to the structure. Restoring the BHMS will give us real-time monitoring and allow engineers to identify potential issues much before they become serious."

Heaps of garbage cleared, body of teen found three days after he fell into drain

Mishal Mussaddique
New Delhi, August 25

HEAPS OF plastic bottles, construction debris, clothes, and tyres piled up over the years hid a drain underneath. On Tuesday afternoon, the body of 15-year-old Mithun Kumar was recovered after part of the garbage clogging the drain in south-east Delhi was cleared.

Mithun, who studies in Class 8, had fallen into an open drain in Jasola, 500 metres away from this spot on August 22. Currents had swept his body to this spot where his body was recovered four days later on Tuesday.

Seeing his body, his mother Anitha collapsed and was taken away to a nearby tent by relatives and neighbours while his father Awadhesh, a labourer, rushed to make arrangements for an ambulance.

The wide drain in South-East Delhi's Jasola runs along the family's home, close to Shaheen Bagh police station. Residents, office-goers, and children walk by it every day.

On Saturday morning, Mithun fell into the drain while on his way to school, said his aunt and neighbour, Kusum.

"My son and Mithun used to go to school together. Both his parents work, so they are not around most of the time. I just took my eyes off him for a second that morning. The next thing I heard was a child in the neighbourhood screaming 'Mithun has fallen'," Kusum said.

The search operations carried out by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Delhi Fire Services (DFS) and the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) entered the third day on Tuesday. Frustrated by the lack of breakthrough in the operation, Mithun's father Awadhesh had entered the drain himself on Sunday and began removing the garbage with his hands — the image was heartbreaking.

"If they would have cleared this garbage on the first day itself, wouldn't he have been found then? I feel that he could even have been found alive," said the distraught father.

"Look at his mother's condition. My mother doesn't know she lost her grandson. She's already ill. How will I break the news to her?" Awadhesh said.

A district administration official said that there were several obstructions which delayed the recovery of the body.

"The body was stuck in a swamp of clogged garbage and debris. Because of this, we had to make a path for the earthmover to clear the garbage and this took time," he said.

After the body was recovered around 1:15 pm on Tuesday, it was sent to AIIMS. The family hails from Uttar Pradesh's Budaun. Mithun's final rites will be conducted in Badaun, they said.

Meanwhile, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) officials said that the open drain that the teen fell into carried treated effluents from the nearby Okhla Sewage Treatment Plant.

They said it was previously handled by the Delhi Development Authority and was later handed over to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

On Monday, the MCD suspended a junior engineer over alleged "dereliction of duty". However, MCD officials, including the Deputy Commission of the South East Zone, did not respond to queries regarding the lapse they had identified.

Neighbours said that the large open drain flowing near their homes is a constant source of worry for them.

"Such drains have been clogged and haven't been cleared in ages. People walk by these daily without realising how dangerous they are," said Muhammed Amran (18), a neighbour.

"If the drain was clear and clean, this unfortunate incident wouldn't have happened. We ourselves would have rescued the boy," said Babar Khan, a resident of Shaheen Bagh.

On Sunday, while replying to a query sent by *The Indian Express*, the MCD had denied any involvement in the maintenance of the open drain and claimed that it was the Irrigation and Flood Control department's responsibility.

Mithun Kumar's mother Anitha on Tuesday; (left) the deadly drain in Jasola. MISHAL MUSSADDIQUE

Rejig panel probing police excesses during CJP's NEET stir: Plea in top court

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 25

PETITIONERS SEEKING a probe into the alleged police crackdown on students at Jantar Mantar during the July 20 Parliament march in connection with NEET-UG paper leaks have approached the Supreme Court (SC) seeking reconstitution of the High-Powered Enquiry Committee (HPEC) set up by it to probe the developments.

A three-judge bench presided over by CJI Surya Kant, however, said that the five-member HPEC headed by former Supreme Court judge R Subhash Reddy is working under the "direct supervision" of the SC. On August 18, the SC also appointed former Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Ravi Shankar Jha, former Delhi HC judge Justice Shalinder Kaur, former CBI Director Rishi Kumar Shukla and retired Director General of Police, Meghalaya, L R Bishnoi as members of HPEC.

Responding to submission made by the petitioners on Tuesday, the SC said, "Whosoever will work...they will work under the direct supervision of the SC. It's not that we have disposed of the matter. It's pending." Senior Advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, representing some petitioners, told the bench, also comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, "We have an application regarding the panel. Please list it...next week."

● FOR GOPALAKRISHNAN NAIR, ONE OF DELHI'S OLDEST ONAM SADHYA CATERERS, SERVING THOUSANDS IS A BLEND OF PRECISION, TRADITION AND MEMORY

The making of Onam Sadhya: Serving authentic Keralam flavours for 20 years

Anusree K C
New Delhi, August 25

IT'S THAT time of the year! Feasting on traditional multi-course meals laid out on fresh banana leaves defines the Onam celebration for revellers. Salt goes down first, followed by banana chips and sharkara-varatti, a sweet Keralam snack made from thick chunks of raw Nendran banana plantains, and pickles of raw mango or puli inji, a sweet-sour-spicy condiment made with tamarind and ginger paste, follows. Then comes the pachadis, a sweet-sour yogurt-based side dish with coconut paste as base; and kichadis, savory, tangy, curd-based side dish.

This is before the vegetable dishes gradually find their designated spot on the leaf — olan, a mild stew made out of ash gourd; erissery, a curry made out of yellow pumpkin; or koottukari, a thick curry made with vegetables, black chickpeas and roasted coconuts; avial, a mixed vegetable dish, and thoran, dry vegetable stir fry. Only then does rice arrive, first with lentil or parippu curry and ghee, eaten with crushed pappad, followed by sambar, then rasam. Finally, comes the dessert — payasam, sweet and thick against the tongue.

Tradition on a platter

One of Delhi's oldest Onam Sadhya caterers, Gopalakrishnan Nair, who is now 74, came to the city at the age of 19. His love for cooking and passion for serving Keralam's tradition on a platter gradually turned him into a foodpreneur. For more than 20 years now, he has been serving Sadhya meals for weddings, and during Onam celebrations. What started as a small business in 2005 has now been shaped into Taamra Weddings, which Gopalakrishnan runs with his son Sajeev, a hotel management graduate, serving thousands of customers across Delhi-NCR.

Every year, Gopalakrishnan serves Sadhya to thousands of people on Thiruvonam, the culmination of the 10-day Onam festival, at the Uttara Guruvayurappan Temple in East Delhi's Mayur Vihar Phase-1.

Sadhya for Onam demands its own rhythm, he says. "Onam is not just a festival... It's an emotion. Anywhere in the world, even if just three Malayali families come together, it is celebrated with huge vigour," says Gopalakrishnan. For him and his staff, the work to prepare the Sadhya meals for thousands begins on the eve of Thiruvonam. Around 4 pm, his team begins chopping vegetables and preparing the ingredients needed through the night.

The ingredients come from different parts of the country. "The banana leaves come all the way from Tamil Nadu... the banana chips and sharkara varatti from Keralam, from Thrissur and Palakkad. Vegetables like ash gourd are sourced in bulk either from Azadpur, Ghazipur or Kalkaji markets in Delhi," says Gopalakrishnan.

At a large feast, guests are seated in batches, or panthi, with around 125 to 150 people eating at a time. Once one batch finishes, the team has about 20 to 25 minutes to reset before the next group arrives. All this while, the team has to be wary of showers as Onam falls during monsoon.

Kitchen calling

Gopalakrishnan says he has mastered logistical precision over decades — his journey into catering began when he came to the Capital in 1970. A resident of Athani, a small town in Angamaly, Keralam, he was the eldest of 10 siblings. He left home in search of work, in order to look after his family. "One of my seniors from school and a dear friend was working in Delhi. So, I wrote to him to find me a job. I was young and eager to do anything. I packed my bags and boarded a train to Delhi. I didn't even know the local language back then," he recalls.

His friend, Parmeswaran Nair, helped him find a job as a cook at an eatery in Defence Colony. "Even though my father owned a small hotel back home, I did not know much about cooking. But I knew I had it in me to learn how to cook. In a span of a few days, I learnt how to cook Dosa, Vada and Sambar," he recalls, adding that he was gradually hailed as "Dosa Master", having perfected the recipe within a week. He adds, "There were no mixer grinder in those days. I had to grind the batter by hand on a stone. Before the shop opened at 7 am, everything had to be readied... sometimes my day would start at 4 am."

Eventually, Gopalakrishnan entered the corporate world. For many years, he worked as a salesman with a firm linked to a Japanese brand. But the kitchen kept calling him back. In 2005, he started his first business venture, Pooja Caterers, which then became Taamra Weddings. Initially, he managed his job with the business, before eventually choosing catering full-time.

The orders grew from weddings and receptions to institutional kitchens. In 2010, he opened Kairali Restaurant in Mayur Vihar Phase 1, which became known for its biryanis and home delivery. It was his son Sajeev who suggested that they close the restaurant and concentrate entirely on large-scale catering. At present, the father-son duo work on events that can involve thousands of people.

Gopalakrishnan Nair preparing payasam for Onam Sadhya. EXPRESS

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DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

Pune Push to Opp Unity

SHIV SENA (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut on Tuesday paid a courtesy visit to Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi at 10, Janpath in the Capital. The meeting comes three days after Gandhi's 'Chhatron ki Goonj' event on August 22 in Pune in Raut's home state of Maharashtra. It is learnt that Gandhi's event as well as youth issues were a point of keen discussion during the meeting between the two leaders from the INDIA bloc.

Gen Z Energy

NEWLY APPOINTED Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha chief Hemang Joshi has had a busy week settling in his new role, managing his parliamentary duties, guests and appointments. Two Gen Z members in his team have earned special praise from the youth leader for taking up the additional responsibilities while continuing to deliver on their core assignments. In successive Instagram and X posts, the Vadodara MP has commended Hetvi, who joined his office as a Mukherjee Fellow and has now taken up the responsibility of OSD, and Shruti, who started as an intern but is now his legislative assistant, for delivering in the face of "extraordinary pace". The BJYM chief sought to underline their journey as a reminder that "experience is valuable, but age alone can never be the measure of capability, potential or performance".

Rebel MPs served notices after TMC's petition: S-G to SC

New Delhi: Solicitor General Tushar Mehta on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has issued notice on petitions filed by the TMC seeking the disqualification of 20 rebel MPs.

"...I'm informing that notices are issued by the Speaker," Mehta told a three-judge bench presided over by CJI Surya Kant, which took up a plea by TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee, seeking directions to the Speaker to expedite the process. The rebel MPs had broken ranks with TMC after BJP came into power in West Bengal, and aligned with NCPL TMC contended this was in violation of the anti-defection law and sought their disqualification. **ENS**

Furnish detailed break-up of appeals before Bengal SIR tribunals: SC to EC

31 lakh of 38 lakh appeals against name inclusion in rolls: Lawyer for petitioners

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, August 25

THE SUPREME Court Tuesday asked the Election Commission of India to furnish a detailed break-up of appeals before the appellate tribunals constituted to adjudicate cases of those wrongfully excluded or included in the West Bengal voter list following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

It sought details of the total number of cases pending, cases decided, appeals for inclusion and appeals for exclusion.

Meanwhile, petitioners who have challenged the SIR process told a three-judge bench led by CJI Surya Kant that a reply under the RTI Act showed that of "about 83,000" appeals decided by the tribunals, 75,443 had been restored in the electoral rolls. The bench, which included Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana, sought to know what consequential steps were being taken for updating the electoral rolls pursuant to the orders allowing appeals.

Senior Advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for some of the petitioners, told the court that the RTI reply given to a Member of Parliament "makes absolutely appalling reading". "This is the appellate tribunal report as on August 7. The total number of appeals submitted is 38,10,000. So far, about 83,000 or so are decisions which are finally (made). This may be about 2% of the total, but see the consequence. Just see the decision taken. Included in e-roll: 75,443."

"We have to express our gratitude to the appellate tribunals Your Lordship set up because were it not for that setting up of tribunals, all these people would have been disenfranchised, lost their chance to vote in the legislative Assembly polls, would have remained excluded and other proceedings would have been initiated against them. 75,443 have come in. In Jalpaiguri, 665 have been included in e-roll as a consequence of the appeal, 0 excluded." Pointing out that a huge chunk of the appeals were challenging the inclusion of names in the voter list, Sankaranarayanan urged the bench to direct the tribunals to prioritise the cases of those excluded.

"Of the total appeals filed, 7 lakh have been filed by individuals who have been removed from the rolls. The remaining 31 lakh have been filed either by the EC or objectors to inclusions. This lion's share of people who want people to be disenfranchised can't burden this tribunal, definitely not in priority... you have polls coming up for the municipal corporation and panchayat, let the tribunals first prioritise those who have been excluded...," he said.

Justice Bagchi said, "So a large chunk of appeals are for removal from the rolls." Sankaranarayanan said, "Yes, 31 lakh are for removal from rolls. We didn't know this. It is so shocking that you would do this."

Justice Bagchi told Senior Advocate D S Naidu who appeared for the EC, "Get your data, the nature of the appeals filed, whether it is for inclusion or exclusion. And then we will take a call as to whether we prioritise the exclusion and then inclusion because an inclusion is not affecting an individual right, but an exclusion is denuding a voting right. It will require some prioritisation. Nonetheless, it will bring down the burden (on the tribunals) to some extent."

CJI Kant said, "Some of the appeals could be cross-appeals also. Then one order impacts both appeals."

Senior Advocate Kalyan Bandyopadhyay, appearing for a TMC member, said a plea had been filed, pointing out that in 31 seats, BJP's winning margin against TMC in the recent Assembly polls was less than the deleted votes. He said that in one constituency, the margin of loss was 401, and the deletions were 8,785. In another seat, the candidate lost by 15,000 votes and the deletion was 27,000. The CJI asked, "You may have filed an application, but can the court direct fresh elections like this?"

Justice Bagchi sought to know "how many of these deleted persons have filed appeal". The court, he said, is more concerned with the dealing of the deletion appeals by the tribunals.

Bandyopadhyay said the Commission is not putting out the information in public domain. "I am not getting any statistics from anywhere... The municipal poll is coming, they will not be able to cast votes. Then the panchayat poll is coming next year, so they won't be able to cast votes. Then Lok Sabha polls in 2029." The CJI then said, "We are with you on this. At least before Lok Sabha elections, everything must be decided."

Bandyopadhyay urged the court to seek a report from the ECI on appeals filed in the 31 constituencies. The CJI said, "We are concerned with all the pending appeals, not just in these 31... They need to be adjudicated in a time-bound manner. Last time also, we said, if need be, we will put in place more tribunals."

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

A reply under RTI Act shows that of 'about 83,000' appeals decided by tribunals, 75,443 restored in electoral rolls, petitioners told court
Real Creator IAS Edition https://t.me/+2RvD_RGf9mljMzg1
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Scrap caste census questionnaire, bring new one, Rahul and Kharge tell PM Modi

Asad Rehman
New Delhi, August 25

LEADERS OF Opposition in both Houses of Parliament Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over caste census, demanding that the government scrap the existing questionnaire and formulate a new one after consulting stakeholders, including political parties, experts, and the general public.

In their joint letter, Kharge and Gandhi said they do not accept the caste census being conducted in the current manner and urged the Centre to take cue from the caste surveys of Telangana and Bihar. They said social justice policies in India cannot be effectively implemented without accurate data and a precise assessment of the numerical strength and socio-economic status of various castes is possible only if the caste enumeration is conducted.

"Your government has opted for an open-ended question format to record caste details in the census, which is misleading. Under this method, whatever name an individual provides for their caste will be recorded as it is." In India, the same caste is known by different names, subcastes, and linguistic variations across regions, they added.

The Congress leaders said that if members of the same caste are recorded under different names during the Census, a single caste could end up being fragmented into thousands of distinct names. This would result in a list of hundreds of thousands of caste names, rendering the entire dataset obtained from the caste census useless. "If the actual population of a community is not accurately recorded, any assessment of its status will also be flawed. This will disadvantage backward, extremely backward, and other marginalised communities, and will impact decisions related to education, employment, welfare schemes, and social justice."

Most importantly, this approach will fail to reveal the size of the OBC population in India, as the term "backward class" is not even included in this census, the letter read. "An easy solution for this already exists: a drop-down list of castes should be created. This is the method adopted for the enumeration of SCs and STs. Such a list can be easily compiled based on existing government lists like those for socially and educationally backward classes and the list from the Anthropological Survey of India."

This same method was employed in the caste surveys conducted in Telangana and Bihar, they said. "We do not accept the caste census being conducted in the current manner. The government should scrap the existing questionnaire and formulate a new one after consulting political parties, experts, and the general public; this would ensure that the true numbers of every caste and community are revealed, making the caste census accurate, meaningful, and beneficial." Along with their letter, they enclosed copies of the caste list from the Telangana Caste Survey (2024) and of the caste list from the Bihar Caste Survey (2022).

1 bus, many factions: Rahul set for Punjab yatra amid Cong feud

Man Aman Singh Chhina
Chandigarh, August 25

FOR THE Congress, the road to next year's elections in Punjab has been a bumpy one for the past several weeks amid sustained infighting.

From AICC general secretary Bhupesh Baghel, in-charge of the state, being compared to a British colonial officer to former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi being called a "BJP-RSS agent", the fight has been an especially unpleasant one. Now, to finally set its house in order, the party high command has pinned its hopes on a statewide bus journey that Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to undertake next month.

However, some in the party remain sceptical. "We are like a family WhatsApp group where everyone has muted each other," said a senior Congress leader. "Now someone has floated the bright idea to bundle everyone together in a bus and travel across the state. I don't know how this addresses the core issue of removing Amrinder Singh Raja Warring as PCC chief."

On Monday, former Chhattisgarh CM Baghel, whose recent visits to Punjab have coincided with intensification in the factional feud between the Channi and Warring camps, briefed Rahul and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi in Delhi about the party's troubles in Punjab and the proposed bus drive.

Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi

"I met both Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi. The main topic was the bus journey planned for Punjab. I wanted to seek permission for the tour, specifically regarding the journey Rahul Gandhi is to undertake. They granted me time and asked me to submit a proposal outlining the schedule for the week, after which they will finalise the timing... it is going to be a major tour...," Baghel told reporters.

Sources said as per tentative plans, Rahul will first pay obeisance at the Golden Temple in Amritsar before boarding what party optimists have billed the "unity express". The itinerary will cover a 135-km stretch from Amritsar towards Hussainiwala in the first phase, it is learnt.

Congress leaders said the bus yatra, in which all senior state leaders, including state LoP Partap Singh Bajwa, Channi, and Warring, are set to participate, would be a carefully choreographed show designed to convince voters, and perhaps party workers and leaders, that the deeply divided state unit had put the differences behind it.

Poll setbacks to Amritpal: Why BJP, SAD open to tie-up

Liz Mathew & Raakhi Jagga
New Delhi, Ludhiana, Aug 25

A DAY after asserting that the BJP would contest all 117 seats in Punjab on its own in the Assembly elections slated for early 2027, BJP national general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh on Tuesday set out an action plan for the state party unit to strengthen the organisation at the booth level.

On Day 2 of his Punjab tour, Santhosh, while taking aim at the ruling AAP leadership, said, "The leaders who lost in Delhi are now running Punjab due to which the state development has come to a standstill. Punjab's industrial sector is witnessing large-scale migration. In contrast, development and progress are taking place in the BJP-ruled UP and Bihar."

Santhosh was addressing the state BJP's zonal meet in Ludhiana, which was attended by party leaders and workers from Ludhiana, Khanna, Jagraon, Moga, Ropar and Malerkotla districts. "Driving the AAP out of Punjab and saving the state is the BJP's resolve," he said. Despite Santhosh's pitch for BJP's solo run in the upcoming Punjab polls, the party's backroom discussions for an alliance with the Sukhbir Badal-led Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) are continuing, insiders in the central BJP said.

"The discussions between the two parties are taking place at various levels, but not between the top leaders yet. We can announce a formal electoral alliance after a final deal is clinched," a senior BJP leader said. "The mutual interests and compulsions could be a driving factor for both the sides to make efforts to stitch up an alliance which would be formidable."

Party insiders said that while Akali Dal, which has been grappling with challenges ranging from massive erosion in its support base to internal rebellion, are "desperate" to forge an alliance with the BJP, the latter is also conscious of the point that "it cannot win power in the border state without a formidable partner". With the SAD facing crises, Badals are said to be "keen" to join hands with BJP again. "Amid growing disquiet in his party, Sukhbir Badal really wants an alliance with BJP. Fighting alone in the 2027 polls would be a disaster for his party and its future," said a BJP leader.

The rise of Khadoor Sahib MP and Akali Dal (Waris Punjab De) chief Amritpal Singh, lodged in a jail in Assam's Dibrugarh, has also posed a challenge to Badals, with a chunk of panthic votes, which forms the core base of the SAD, likely to shift to the former, BJP sources said.

The buzz about a renewed alignment between BJP and the Akali Dal intensified earlier this month when Sukhbir met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi during the just concluded monsoon session of Parliament. BJP sources admitted there are differences in the party on the alliance question, with a section arguing this would not help BJP as "Akali votes are not likely to be transferred to the party".

On the BJP-SAD alignment, a state BJP leader said, "The alliance doors are always open, but as of now we are going solo. Look at the extensive programme being planned in every booth, mandal and district." The newly appointed BJP general secretary in-charge of Punjab, Satish Poonia, may visit Punjab next week.

BJP general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh and party's Punjab chief Kewal Singh Dhillon in Ludhiana, Tuesday. GURMEET SINGH

SC to set up special bench to hear Centre's plea on OBC creamy-layer criteria

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, August 25

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday agreed to consider setting up a special bench to hear Centre's plea seeking clarification on the applicability of its March 11 judgment on OBC creamy-layer criteria to candidates of the Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2025.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) seeks directions allowing the government to proceed with service allocation of the 958 candidates recommended by the UPSC for CSE-2025 on the basis of the OBC creamy-layer determination applied before the March 11 verdict.

At the outset of day's proceedings, a bench comprising CJI Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, that the DoPT has filed a miscellaneous application in a disposed of matter seeking some urgent directions and it has to be listed before a bench headed by Justice P S Narasimha.

Senior Advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing for a litigant, said that a bench comprising Justices Narasimha and R Mahadevan had passed the order on March 11 and the instant miscellaneous application has to be heard by the same bench as the judges sit in different combinations now. "We will have to set up a special bench," the CJI said, adding that he will speak with the judges and set up the bench.

The DoPT's plea arises from the SC's judgment in a case titled as Union of India vs Rohith Nathan, in which the court, on March 11 held, among other things, that the October 14, 2004, clarifying letter could not override the September 8, 1993, office memorandum governing identification of the OBC creamy layer.

The government, while stating that it is bound by the Supreme Court's ruling, has said that applying the judgment mechanically to CSE-2025 could result in unequal treatment of candidates who were similarly placed but acted differently based on the legal position prevailing when the examination was conducted.

● TVK GOVERNMENT SAYS FERTILE FIELDS & VITAL WATER SYSTEMS CAN'T BE SACRIFICED FOR A RUNWAY; DMK WARNS ABANDONING PROJECT COULD PUSH CHENNAI'S AIRPORT PLANS BACK BY YEARS

Parandur airport: How a policy debate in TN turned into a 'sons-in-law' fight

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, August 25

THE ARGUMENT was supposed to be about an airport — whether Tamil Nadu could afford to abandon a second airport planned at Parandur, whether its paddy fields and water bodies justified that decision, and where Chennai would find the land for another one.

Then R Nirmal Kumar, Tamil Nadu's Energy and Law Minister, introduced a son-in-law. "If you look at all those who are now so worried and crying out here, it is for only one thing — either for the G Square son-in-law, or for those who took black money there and invested it," he said. The reference was to V Sabareesan, son-in-law of former Chief Minister M K Stalin, whose name has repeatedly figured in political allegations surrounding G Square, a real-estate company.

Nirmal was suggesting that the anger over the TVK government's decision to scrap the Parandur airport was driven not by concern for Tamil Nadu's infrastructure but by financial interests around land. Across the aisle, Thangam Thennarasu, the former finance minister and veteran DMK leader who had been defending the project, rose.

E.

Nirmal was unimpressed. "What is wrong in saying 'G Square son-in-law'?" he asked. "The whole town called him 'G Square son-in-law'. What is wrong with that? This is not a PT period for everyone to keep getting up and sitting down for everything." By now, Tamil Nadu's new experiment in legislative transparency was producing something besides transparency. It was producing TV.

Since the TVK government began live-streaming Assembly proceedings, citizens have been watching politics in numbers previously unusual for a state legislature. The August 5 Budget session drew over a million views on prominent YouTube streams alone unlike less than 20,000 views it used to gain on Youtube channels of private TV news channels. "Vijay versus Udhayanidhi" clips migrate rapidly to Instagram, TV channels cut vertical videos from Assembly exchanges, mistakes become memes before legislators have left Fort St George.

The House has acquired an audience, and it appears increasingly conscious of it.

On Monday, Thennarasu, known for his soft tone and tenor, answered Nirmal in the language of the new medium. "If he wishes to take his reply and the debate to this level, I can also pay in the same currency," Thennarasu said. "If you are going to say 'G Square son-in-law', can I ask for which other 'lottery son-in-law' you are going to take the new airport?" That reference was to Public Works Minister Aadhav Arjuna, son-in-law of lottery businessman Santiago Martin.

An infrastructure debate had briefly become a son-in-law exchange. But underneath the theatre was a serious disagreement over one of the most consequential decisions of Vijay's young government. Nirmal challenged foundations of the previous government's case for Parandur. He said claims that environmental clearance had been obtained were wrong and that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) had not been completed.

"There are a large number of water bodies there," he said, arguing that agricultural land capable of three crop cycles was among the reasons the project had struggled to advance.

Thennarasu's reply moved the debate back from "sons-in-law" to runways. Parandur, he argued, was not chosen casually. Technical feasibility, high-tension power lines, industries requiring relocation, displacement and land cost were considered, Thennarasu said.

Parandur emerged from comparative studies and eventually received the Centre's nod. His larger argument was about time. "But after all these years of this project, after we have travelled this far, if you abandon it today, when is it ever going to come?" With compensation paid for much of the acquired *patta* land and acquisition substantially advanced, abandoning Parandur would work against the state's economic growth. Nor could Chennai's existing airport simply absorb expansion without enormous demographic and geographical complications around Meenambakkam, he said.

Industries Minister S Keerthana then offered the government's most substantive defence of Vijay's decision. The land acquired would not be abandoned. Alternative industrial projects would be developed there "in a manner that doesn't affect the people," generating jobs and economic activity. But her case against an airport rested principally on what the land does. Parandur, she said, supports 3-season rice cultivation — Samba, Thaladi and Sornavari — along with groundnut, sugarcane, pulses and millets.

Farmers there supply rice to the state Civil Supplies Corporation and the public distribution system. "If you ask what kind of land this is, it is a place with perennial water availability — agricultural land where cultivation can take place even when there is no rainfall," she said.

The Parandur debate is becoming very interesting. To one side, land appears on a planning map: acreage, connectivity, runway orientation, acquisition cost and future passenger capacity. To the other, the land appears as paddy, groundwater, canals, homes and memory. Both are descriptions of the same place. The government is in the uncomfortable business of deciding which reality acquires a runway.

But Monday's debate revealed another transformation inside Fort St George. Legislative speech once travelled outward slowly — through reporters' notebooks, evening bulletins and carefully selected political clips. Now, the citizen can watch the hesitation before an answer, the interruption, the laughter, the member jumping up and the minister telling him to sit down. That changes politicians too.

Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay with farmers protesting against Parandur airport project, at the Secretariat in Chennai on Tuesday. PTI

OPERATION SINDOOR REVELATIONS

Loitering munition might have landed on Pak's Kirana Hills, says ex-CDS

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 25

Former Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan (retd)

INDIA HAD sent in several loitering munitions at Pakistan's Sargodha and Kirana hills to look for radars, and one of them might have hit one of those hills, former Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan (retd) said Tuesday. He was speaking on Operation Sindoor and its aftermath at an event hosted by the Vivekananda International Foundation.

He said on occasions, it has been asked whether Kirana Hills were hit or not, which is where their (Pakistan's) nuclear facilities are based, adding that then DG Air (ops) Air Marshal A K Bharti had rightly clarified that India did not target them.

He explained that before those strikes, we had sent in a lot of loitering munitions at Sargodha, and Kirana Hills is about 10 km north of Sargodha. The loitering munitions were looking for radars which are in and around Sargodha. He said they have a lifetime, which means it will loiter for about two hours and once it does not find a target, it comes down and hits somewhere.

"It must have come and hit one of those hills. So that could be one of the reasons as to what people asked, because Pakistani media also showed some kind of images in which there was smoke coming out from Kirana Hills," he said.

On US President Donald Trump's claims that he mediated ceasefire between India and Pakistan, he said the ceasefire was decided between two DGMOs, and that's it.

"I don't see the role of anyone else. How did this information get leaked out to the Americans that they tweeted before we could announce this? Again, I'm really sure it did not leak out from us. Somehow it got leaked out from the other side, that's what I feel."

On China-Pakistan colluding during Operation Sindoor, he said 70% or 80% of the platforms were of Chinese origin.

"Whether it is land-based, air platforms, some naval platform, we also have an inventory of foreign platforms. And when we get those platforms, the maintenance and serviceability is the responsibility of the OEM (original equipment manufacturer). Their representatives are normally in the countries in which this equipment is deployed," he said.

"Chinese OEM people would have been there, and that's what the Chinese have admitted... Today in our country also there would have been Russian, French, Israeli OEMs... So, it is a contractual obligation..."

EXPRESS special

Maharashtra ACB seeks nod to prosecute judge in corruption case

Manish Kumar Pathak & Sadaf Modak
Mumbai, August 25

IN A first in nearly a decade, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has sought sanction to prosecute an additional sessions judge of the Mumbai City Civil and Sessions Court, who was named as an accused in a corruption case last year.

The ACB sent its request for sanction to the Law and Judiciary Department in July. The department has since forwarded it to the Bombay High Court for a decision by the competent authority. A chargesheet in the case will be filed only after the sanction is received, a senior ACB officer said.

The judge, who is currently under suspension, was named in an FIR registered in November 2025 after the ACB arrested a clerk-cum-typist for allegedly accepting Rs 15 lakh from a complainant in return for a favourable order in a civil dispute. The ACB has alleged that the clerk had demanded and accepted the bribe on behalf of the judge.

This is significant as there has been no instance in the last decade of the ACB seeking prosecution sanction in a case involving a sessions judge, according to officials familiar with such cases. The Bombay HC has, taken disciplinary action against judges named in corruption cases. Last year, it dismissed another additional sessions judge who had been named in a corruption case in Satara.

A senior ACB officer confirmed that sanction, mandatory under the Prevention of Corruption Act before a court can take cognisance of offences allegedly committed by a public servant, had been sought. "In this case, forensic analysis of the conversation between the arrested accused and the judge was necessary to establish his role, as he was not arrested red-handed accepting the bribe. After a report from the State Forensic Science Laboratory confirmed the conversation and matched the voice sample, we decided to seek prosecution sanction from the concerned department," the officer said.

"It is our procedure to collect concrete evidence before sending a request for prosecution sanction. As this case involved a member of the judiciary, we wanted to complete a thorough probe before seeking sanction," the officer added.

The judge was not arrested in the case. The clerk, Chandrakant Vasudev, was granted bail in December 2025. A departmental inquiry against the judge is yet to be initiated, an official said.

Under Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, prior sanction is required before a court can take cognisance of an offence allegedly committed by a public servant in the discharge of official duties.

The ACB's case dates back to September 2025, when the complainant, who was involved in a civil dispute over alleged forcible possession of land belonging to his company, sent an associate to the civil court in Mazgaon for a hearing.

According to the ACB, the clerk allegedly asked told him that if he "did something for sir", an order would be passed in his favour. The ACB's remand plea states on November 8, the clerk called the complainant's associate on WhatsApp and told him that an order would be passed against them if the bribe was not paid. The complainant then approached the ACB, following which a trap was laid.

On November 11, the clerk was allegedly caught accepting Rs 15 lakh.

The ACB had found several calls between the judge and the clerk after court hours, officials said. During interrogation, the clerk allegedly told the ACB that he had been posted as a clerk in the judge's court for about a year and that they shared a cordial relationship. He allegedly said the judge frequently helped him with personal and domestic matters, and sought to explain the calls between them on that basis.

During the investigation, the ACB obtained permission from the Bombay HC to search the judge's premises and conduct further investigation in accordance with law. The judge appeared before the ACB in December after being issued a notice. His voice sample was recorded for comparison with the purported Marathi conversation between him and the clerk, while his phone was also seized for further investigation.

Rajnath approves transfer of missile technology to domestic defence industry

Amrita Nayak Dutta
New Delhi, August 25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

IN A significant step towards building India's conventional missile force, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Tuesday approved the transfer of technology for all conventional missile systems developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to the Indian defence industry. The decision paves the way for domestic production of these missile systems by private players.

So far, the government had typically relied only on Defence PSU Bharat Dynamics Limited and certain in-house production capabilities of DRDO, while joint ventures like BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited with Russia manufactured the supersonic cruise missile BrahMos.

Officials familiar with the development told *The Indian Express* that the initiative could start with the DRDO-developed beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM) ASTRA, surface-to-air anti-radiation missiles RUDRAM, VSHORADS, anti-tank guided missile NAG as well as short-range missile systems like the Naval Anti-Ship Missile (NASM).

The broader goal, however, is to allow the Indian defence industry to produce all conventional missile systems, they said.

That said, Agni and the K-series missiles will not be included in the technology transfer as they are strategic missiles, the officials highlighted.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Defence noted this Transfer of Technology of conventional missile systems marks an important milestone in promoting greater participation of domestic industries in the defence ecosystem by enabling them to undertake indigenous production, as per applicable qualifications, certifications and regulatory requirements.

It added that the provision will enable successful transition of missile system development to industrial production, reflecting the continued efforts of DRDO to leverage the capabilities of the Indian industry, "The objective is to enhance domestic manufacturing capabilities, strengthen the defence industrial base and create opportunities for the participation of Indian MSMEs and other technology partners in the supply chain," it noted.

The Ministry stated the initiative aims to enhance operational capability, reduce import dependence and increase domestic value addition, while supporting growth of India's defence manufacturing sector.

"DRDO remains committed to working closely with Indian industry to facilitate the transfer and absorption of advanced defence technologies and to further strengthen the country's indigenous defence capabilities," it added.

The enhanced production of conventional missile systems by the private industry will further aid the creation of a conventional missile force. The US-Israel-Iran conflict had revealed the large-scale use of conventional missile systems by all sides to target each other.

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निविदा सूचना संख्या-17/2026-27

विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा **Rate Contract for Supply of Goods and Hiring of Services for University Examinations and related Works for the academic sessions 2026-27 & 2027-28"** हेतु अनुसची एवं प्रतिष्ठित निविदादाताओं से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में अनुमानित लागत रु. 04.50 करोड़ की ई-निविदा दिनांक 10/09/2026 को दोपहर 1.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं शर्तों आदि का विस्तृत विवरण http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in University Website www.uok.ac.in पर उपलब्ध है।

(मुख्यौधर प्रतिहार)
कुलसचिव

UBN:- UOK2627SLRC00018

Kerala is now officially Keralam

New Delhi: THE UNION Home Ministry has notified 'Keralam' as the new name for the State effective Tuesday. In a gazette notification issued on Tuesday, the home ministry said, "In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026, the Central government hereby appoints the 25th day of August, 2026, as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall come into force." Earlier this month, President Droupadi Murmu gave assent to the bill. ENS

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. CME/Works for Chief Workshop Manager, North Eastern Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur-for and on behalf of President of India invites tender through on line E-Open Tender for the following work:-

S.No.-1, E-Tender Notice No. & Name of the work: Tender No.: "22-GKP-MWS-2026-27","Stripping and fitment of equipments of Air Brake system of Three phase MEMU coaches (DMC & TC) along with transportation and other miscellaneous work of 3-phase MEMU coaches (DMC & TC) as per scope of work at Mechanical Workshop, Gorakpur.", Estimated Cost (in Rs.): ₹ 1,06,51,066.96, Earnest Money (in Rs.): ₹ 2,13,000/-, Cost of the Tender Forms: Zero, Last date of tender submission: Upto 11:00 hrs., Date 14-09-2026, Period of Contract: 24 Months.

• The Details of above tenders are also available on Indian Railway website *http://www.ireps.gov.in*

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TENDER NOTICE

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MADC Invite Request for proposals (RFP) from eligible Airline operators to provide Air connectivity services on Sindhudurg (Chipi)- Navi Mumbai route on basis of Regional Connectivity scheme (RCS) - (UDAN)

The detailed tender can be seen /downloaded from the website **www.mahatenders.gov.in** from **27/08/2026** from **15.00** Hrs

Sd/-
Vice Chairman & Managing Director, MADC

NORTHERN RAILWAY
PUBLIC NOTICE

Sh. Vinender Singh, S/o Sh. Jagjeet Singh. CS/HNZM, whose last known address is H. No. 181/B-3, Railway Colony, Basant lane, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi- 110055, has been unauthorized absent from duty w.e.f. 2021 till date. A Major Penalty Charge Sheet was issued to him and sent by Speed Post on 22.06.2023 and thereafter pasted on the Notice Board on 24.07.2023. As Sh. Vinender Singh, did not attend the D&AR Inquiry, the Inquiry Officer conducted the inquiry **ex-parte** on the basis of the evidence available on record. A copy of the Inquiry Report was sent to his above-mentioned address by Speed Post on 07.08.2026 for submission of his comments. However, the same was returned undelivered with the remark **"Address rese left."**

Therefore, through this Public Notice, Sh. Vinender Singh, is hereby informed that if he desires to submit anything in connection with the D&AR proceedings/inquiry against him, he may submit his representation/ comments **within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.** If he requires any documents for the purpose of submitting his representation, he may contact the **Chief Office Superintendent/ Commercial, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, New Delhi.** If no response is received from him within the stipulated period of 15 days, the **Disciplinary Authority shall proceed to take an ex-parte decision** on the basis of the evidence available on record, without any further notice.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2949/26

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GANGA JAL PROJECT UNIT, U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN)
PRATAP VIHAR, GHAZIABAD.
E-mail:- pmgangajalgzb@yahoo.com

Letter No. 1371/Nivida/66
Dated: 24.08.2026

E-Tender Notice

Online percentage rate e-tenders in Two bid system for following works under Deposite Programme are hereby invited on behalf of the Chairman, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) online e-tenders for execution of **"Construction of Boundary wall for 120 MLD WTP Campus & Staff Quarters at Siddharth Vihar, Ghaziabad under Combined 50 Cusec Gangajal Water Supply Scheme on EPC Mode."** Bids are invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible reputed and experienced bidders.

E-tender documents will be available for download from 02.09.2026 at 17:00 Hrs., Pre- Bid meeting will be held on dated 09.09.2026 at 13:30 hrs. in the office of under signed. E-bid can be submitted till 01.10.2026 up to 13:00 Hrs. and technical bid shall be opened on 01.10.2026 at 15:30 Hrs. in the office of The Executive Engineer, Gangajal Project Unit, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Ghaziabad in presence of contractor or their authorized representative. E-tender Cost is Rs. 5000.00+GST @18%. Details are available on U.P. Govt. e-procurement portal http://etender.up.nic.in& U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) website www.jn.upsdc.gov.in.

रजिस्टर्ड नं० एल०डी०-4
लाइसेन्स सं०-डब्ल्यू०पी०-41
(लाइसेन्स्ड टू पोस्ट विदाउट प्रीपेमेन्ट)

सरकारी गज़ट, उत्तर प्रदेश

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा प्रकाशित

प्रयागराज, शनिवार, 08 अगस्त, 2026 ई० (श्रावण 17, 1948 शक संवत्)

भाग 1-क

नियम, कार्य विधियां, आज्ञायें, विज्ञप्तियां इत्यादि, जिनको उत्तर प्रदेश के राज्यपाल महोदय, विभिन्न विभागों के अध्यक्ष तथा राजस्व परिषद् ने जारी किया।

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE BULANDSHAHR
Revenue Department
Form-18 (Sub-rule (2) of Rule 20)
Preliminary Notification by the Appropriate Government / Collector
(Under Sub-section (1) of Section 11 of the Act)
Notification
JUNE 16, 2026

No.:-152/VIII-S.L.A.O. (J.O.) Bulandshahr-1- Under sub-section (1) of Section 11 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, the Uttar Pradesh / Collector (for the purposes of the appropriate Government) is of the opinion that a total of 1.0764 hectares of land is required in village Nagla Sheikh, district and tehsil Bulandshahr to fill the gap of Alpika Shahnagar under Lakhavati branch proposed by Madhya Ganga Canal Construction Block-10, Bulandshahr.

2- There is no possibility of displacement of any family due to land acquisition.

3- The State Government/Collector hereby accords its consent to notify for general information the land mentioned in the following schedule for public purpose.

Schedule

S. No	District	Tehsil	Pargana	Village	Plot Number	Area to be Acquired (in Hectares)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Bulandshahr	Bulandshahr	Agota	Nagla Sheikh	234	0-1440
2	..	..	..	..	255	0-1280
3	..	..	..	..	256	0-0512
4	..	..	..	..	257	0-2320
5	..	..	..	..	260	0-1152
6	..	..	..	..	269	0-0400
7	..	..	..	..	271	0-0050
8	..	..	..	..	272	0-0025
9	..	..	..	..	265	0-0025
10	..	..	..	..	268	0-3560
					Total	1.0764

4- Directives are issued to authorize the State Government/Collector to undertake all necessary actions for the proper implementation of the Act and its associated functions.

5- Under Section 15 of the Act, any person having an interest in the land may submit a written objection to the Collector against the land acquisition within their area, within 60 days from the date of publication of the notification.

6- Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall from the date of publication of the notification until the completion of the land acquisition proceedings enter into any transaction regarding, or effect the sale/purchase of, the land specified in the preliminary notification, nor create any encumbrance upon such land, without the prior approval of the Collector.

Note: A site map of the aforesaid land may be inspected at the office of the Collector.

UPID-255048 Dt. 24/08/2026
www.upidadv.gov.in

(Sd.)
Illegible District Magistrate Bulandshahr

MOHANLAL SUKHADIA UNIVERSITY, UDAIPUR
www.mlsu.ac.in Email: compt@mlsu.ac.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E No. MLSU/E-TENDER/2026-27/36-38 Dated: 22-08-2026

E- Bids are invited on or before 18-09-2026 till 6:00 PM from reputed firms for Fabrication and Supply of (a) Printed Examination OMR coversheet Answer Books, Hollow Craft Sticker (b) Printed Answer Books for Internal Examination (c) Printed Examination Practical Answer Books (Estimated cost Rs. 2,42,00,000/- only). Other details can be downloaded from websites SPPP Rajasthan (https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in), e-procurement (https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) and University website (https://mlsu.ac.in)

NIB Code	UBN No.
SUU2627A0014	SUU2627GLOB00031
SUU2627A0016	SUU2627GLOB00033
SUU2627A0015	SUU2627GLOB00032

Comptroller

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Manoj Rai S/o Sh. Ram Lalit Rai R/o Khasra No.764, Gali No.4, Rajeev Nagar, Near Shiv Mandir, Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 47/2020 U/S 33/38 & 52.2 Delhi Excise Act, PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest their upon issued that the said accused **Manoj Rai** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Manoj Rai** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Manoj Rai** of **FIR No. 47/2020 U/S 33/38 & 52.2 Delhi Excise Act, PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **30.09.2026.**

By Order,
Sh. Vaibhav Garg
Judicial Magistrate First Class-11 (Central), Room No.138
DP/11434/N/2026(Court Matter) **Tis Hazari Court, Delhi**

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबंधक, यूनिट-36
कन्सट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
(उ0प्र0 सरकार का उपक्रम)
कार्यालय:- 1470/01, विवित लाईम्स,
डा0 राजेंद्र अस्पताल के पास, झाँसी-284001
Visit us at: www.cdsupjn.org
E-Mail Id:- pmunit36@gmail.com

पत्रांक: 1688/एम-10/395
दिनांक: 25.08.2026

ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय), की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा जनपद-झाँसी, में 33वीं वाहिनी पी.ए.सी. में पेयजल व्यवस्था हेतु पुरानी जर्जर पाईप लाईन का नवीनीकरण एवं आर.सी.सी. शिरोपरि जलाशय का निर्माण कार्य हेतु अनुमानित लागत ₹ 412.59 लाख (जी. एस.टी. रहित एवं लेबर सेस सहित) हेतु सी.एण्ड डी.एस. में वर्गीकृत श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से दिनांक 25.09.2026 के अपरान्ह 16:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 27.08.2026 से दिनांक 25.09.2026 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement वेबसाइट https://etender.up.nic.in से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 25.09.2026 को अपरान्ह 16:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो दिनांक 25.09.2026 को 17:00 बजे कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, सी.एण्ड डी.एस. यूनिट-36, उ.प्र. जल निगम (नगरीय), झाँसी में निविदा खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹10000.00+ GST (18%) अतिरिक्त देय होगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट **www.cdsupjn.org** एवं प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल **https://etender. up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) **https://etender. up.nic.in** पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 CrPC/84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Arjun S/o Dubri Paswan, R/o Village Gair Sirtiya, PS Kablati, Distt. Sarlaya, Bihar,** Perm. Add.: **L-196, Sec-5, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 492/20 U/S 33 Delhi Excise Act, PS Narela Industrial Area, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest their upon issued that the said accused **Arjun** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Arjun** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Arjun** of **FIR No. 492/20 U/S 33 Delhi Excise Act, PS Narela Industrial Area, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **12.10.2026.**

By Order,
Sh. Sahil Gupta
Judicial Magistrate First Class-07
North, Court No. 06, Ground Floor
DP/11775/ON/2026(Court Matter) **Rohini Courts, Delhi**

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि० विद्युत जानपद पारेषण मण्डल, आगरा, ई-निविदा सूचना, दिनांक 25.08.2026, अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु पृथक निविदा दो भागों (पार्ट-I टेक्निकल बिड एवं पार्ट-II फाइनेंशियल) में आमंत्रित की जाती है। **निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का संक्षिप्त विवरण:** 1. **ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 15/वि०जा०पा०मं० / आगरा /2026-27-** 132/33 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र UPEIDA (IMLC) नसीरपुर फिरोजाबाद पर सिक्योरिटी वॉल, सिक्योरिटी गेट, सिक्योरिटी हट, पिलर्स एवं आवासों के निर्माण सम्बन्धित जानपदीय कार्य। **कार्य की अनुमानित लागत:** रू0 147.45 लाख (जी०एस०टी० अतिरिक्त); **कार्य अवधि:-** 12 माह; उक्त निविदा की Technical Bid एवं अन्य शर्तें तथा मात्रा बीजक इत्यादि का विस्तृत विवरण **www.upptcl.org** पर देखा जा सकता है एवं **http://etender.up.nic.in** साइट पर देखा एवं प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। निविदा दिनांक 28.09.2026 को दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक साइट पर डाला/अपलोड किया जा सकता है तथा दिनांक 29.09.2026 को 12:00 बजे सार्वजनिक रूप से निविदायें खोली जायेगी। **"राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाए"** हस्ता./-**अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत जानपद पारेषण मण्डल, आगरा, पंत्रांक :-974/वि०जा०पा०मं०/ आ०/निविदा, दिनांक: 25/08/2026**

GOVT. OF BIHAR
BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD
I.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14.
Website : bceceboard.bihar.gov.in / Helpdesk : helpdesk.bceceboard@bihar.gov.in

UNDER GRADUATE MEDICAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING (UGMAC)-2026 for MBBS/ BDS/ B.V.Sc. & A.H./ B.F.Sc. in Govt. Medical / Dental / Veterinary Colleges / College of Fisheries and Private Medical / Dental Colleges of Bihar

Adv. No.- BCECEB(UGMAC)-2026/03 Dated 25.08.2026

Notice for Round-1 Online Counselling

In continuation to Adv. No. BCECEB(UGMAC)-2026/01 & 2026/02 dated 07.08.2026, it is informed to all eligible & interested NEET(UG)-2026 qualified candidates and all concerned that Provisional Seat Allotment Result of UGMAC-2026 Round-1 has been uploaded on Board's website: bceceboard.bihar.gov.in. In the light of extension of counselling schedule by MCC, UGMAC-2026 Round-1 Online Counselling Programme is hereby extended as below;

1. **Important Dates for UGMAC-2026 :**
   i. Round-1 Provisional Seat Allotment Result publication ..... : **25.08.2026**
   ii. Downloading of Allotment order (Round-1) ..... : **25.08.2026** to **31.08.2026**
   iii. Documents Verification and Admission (Round-1) ..... : **27.08.2026** to **31.08.2026**
2. Information regarding Round-2 Online Counselling Programme will be given in due time. The candidates are advised to remain in touch with Board's Website for updated informations.
3. Rest of the terms / conditions of the Advertisement No.- BCECEB(UGMAC)-2026/01 Dated 07.08.2026 will remain same.

Controller of Examination

NITI Aayog: Degrees like BA, B.Sc, B.Com have 'weak job linkages', need reforms

Over 90% of graduates employed in roles not aligned with their qualifications

Ravi Dutta Mishra
New Delhi, August 25

AMID A renewed push to tweak the skilling architecture in the country, NITI Aayog has flagged that unemployment among graduates remains much higher than the national average, and over-reliance on generic degrees such as BA, B.Sc, and B.Com, which seldom lead to direct jobs, is contributing to the problem.

Making the case for moving towards specialised, job-linked programmes in high-growth sectors such as green industries, electric vehicles, and greater focus on apprenticeships, the think tank said that over 90% of graduates in India are employed in roles not aligned with their qualifications.

"India's higher and technical education system faces a fundamental disconnect between what is taught and what the labour market demands. Curriculum in most institutions remains outdated and misaligned with evolving industry needs, resulting in degrees, diplomas and certificates that do not consistently translate into employability," the NITI Aayog said in a report titled 'Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat' released on Saturday. Citing data from the Economic Survey 2024-25, it said, "Only 8.25% of graduates are employed in roles aligned to their qualifications."

Educated unemployment in the country remains high, with 13% among all graduates and 20.4% of graduate women unemployed, far above the national unemployment rate of 3.2%, it said. Compounding this is the overwhelming inclination toward generic degree programmes with weak job linkages, NITI Aayog said. "Of the 3.4 crore students enrolled in undergraduate programmes, 1.13 crore are in B.A. alone, and combined enrolment in B.A., B.Sc., and B.Com exceeds 2 crore," the report said.

It also said that 8.7 crore individuals (11% of the population outside the labour force) aged between 15 and 29 fall under the NEET category (Not in Education, Employment or Training). Subsequently, in a clarification issued Tuesday, the Aayog said "the category of NEET in the report refers to those not seeking employment...therefore, it cannot be read as a measure of joblessness or as an addition to the unemployment rate. The unemployed represent an entirely separate category, drawn from a different population base..."

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in an interview with *The Indian Express* on August 17, had said that the Indian education system produced certified graduates, but they were not ready yet to handle themselves, either as an employee or to start off something. "That's the fix we need," she had said.

The NITI Aayog said vocational skilling and alternative educational pathways in India suffer from a deep-seated social stigma that actively discourages youth from pursuing technical training, ITIs and diploma programmes, or degree-holding youngsters, but they were not ready yet to handle themselves, either as an employee or to start off something. "That's the fix we need," she had said.

The NITI Aayog said vocational skilling and alternative educational pathways in India suffer from a deep-seated social stigma that actively discourages youth from pursuing technical training, ITIs and diploma programmes, which are widely perceived by parents, peers, and students as low-trust or "second-tier" pathways.

Pointing out how information gap about the right courses and training programmes plays a major role in aggravating these challenges for youth, the think tank said that about 47% of women, 43% of the youth are NEETs and 36% of higher-education students, 52% of formal workers and 55% of informal workers do not pursue skilling, citing lack of awareness of the right programmes as one of the top three reasons for it.

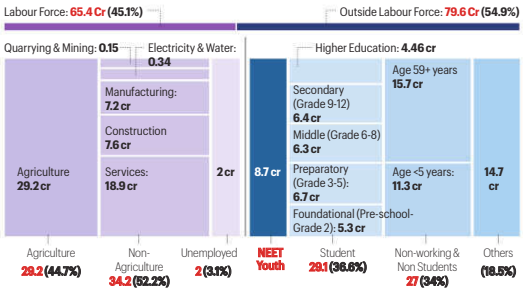
Salary data from Boston Consulting Group's Higher Education Survey, cited in the NITI report, shows that individuals pursuing a generic undergraduate degree without skilling earn an average starting salary of Rs 22,000 per month, with annual growth of 3.2%, compared to Rs 29,000 per month at the same growth rate for a generic undergraduate with skilling.

"Over time, this difference compounds. This Rs 7,000 per month difference in the starting salary between those who pursued skilling and those who didn't for generic degree undergraduates can compound to a total income difference of Rs 9.7 lakh over a period of 10 years. Yet information on these returns rarely reaches learners when choices are being made," the report said.

NITI Aayog said that going forward, standalone skilling programmes need to shift decisively from top-down, supply-driven offerings to demand-driven, outcome-linked and industry-backed models.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

• SEGMENTED VIEW OF INDIA'S POPULATION



NOTE: ESTIMATES MAY VARY OWING TO DIFFERENT DATA SOURCES (PLFS, UDISE, AISHE, NSS ETC.) AND REPORTED YEARS (2021-24)

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

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

• BRIEFLY

Debris at the site where the under-construction bridge pier collapsed in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday. PTI

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Labourer crushed to death after bridge pier collapses in Samba

A labourer was crushed to death after a concrete bridge pier collapsed in Samba district in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said. A pier of a bridge under construction collapsed at Jakh Morh around 10 am when workers were engaged in laying the structure, crushing 25-year-old labourer from Bihar, Gotam Sahu, to death, they said. Another labourer sustained head injuries and was sent to a hospital, the officials said. PTI

School student dies after fever, 30 hospitalised

A SEVEN-year-old student of a residential school in Maharashtra's Palghar district has died following high fever and breathing difficulties, while 30 others have been hospitalised with cold, cough and fever symptoms. An SIT has been set up to conduct a probe. Following the death of the student, the superintendent of the school was suspended for "gross negligence" in the discharge of duties, officials said, adding that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspected the school's kitchen and collected grocery items for laboratory analysis. PTI

KPSC chairman suspended over graft charges

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Tuesday suspended Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) Chairman Shivashankarappa S Sahukar over corruption allegations. The move comes after the state cabinet recommended action against Gehlot. Shivashankarappa S Sahukar is facing allegations that he facilitated the unlawful selection of his two daughters for government posts. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) also raided his residence recently and further investigations are underway. ENS

House panel meet sees tense moments as BJP, Cong MPs spar over cop 'excesses' and 1984 riots

Asad Rehman & Jatin Anand
New Delhi, August 25

A HEATED exchange occurred between BJP and Congress MPs during a meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs, with the Opposition members insisting on a discussion on the police action against protesting students in Delhi on July 20, it is learnt.

A BJP member interjected, saying if the Congress members are not sticking to the agenda of the meeting, he too wants a discussion on the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. This triggered a war of words between the two sides, especially BJP MP Tarun Chugh and Congress MP Jai Prakash, prompting the committee chairman, Radha Mohan Das Agrawal, to exclude the exchange from the record of the proceedings, it is learnt.

The agenda for the meeting of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs was to hear the views of several ministries on the subject "crime against children". The Congress members on the panel are learnt to have argued during the meeting that what happened in the Capital on July 20 was a "crime against children" and should be discussed by the panel.

A BJP member is learnt to have said that the Congress was allegedly glorifying its former leader Sajjan Kumar, convicted for his role in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, who died last week. The BJP member, it is learnt, said a Congress MP had made some remarks praising Kumar. A Congress member retaliated, targeting the BJP on alleged fake encounters in Haryana, resulting in a verbal altercation between the two sides, it is learnt.

A Congress MP had on August 5 submitted a letter to the committee chairman, Agrawal, seeking a discussion on the police action against students at Jantar Mantar on July 20 during the protest over NEET paper leak row.

When the letter could not be taken up on August 5, the Congress members insisted that the discussion be taken up during Tuesday's meeting.

Agrawal is learnt to have told the panel that since the matter of police action was pending before the Supreme Court, it could not be discussed during the meeting of the parliamentary committee, as per rules and procedure of Parliament.

Two Congress MPs had an exchange with Agrawal on the importance of discussing the issue of police action against students and argued that it fell in the purview of "crime against children", which was the agenda for Tuesday's meeting, it is learnt.

Agrawal is learnt to have passed a ruling that the issue raised by the Congress members could not be taken up during the committee meeting, but added that a discussion on standard operating procedures (SOP) on use of force during protests can be discussed in the future.

He is learnt to have said that officials from the departments concerned can be called for a meeting in the future and the SOP can be discussed with them.

The committee is learnt to have excluded both the Congress MP's letter as well as the heated exchanges between the committee members from the record of the proceedings.

Jobseekers clash with police during march to CM's residence in Patna

Teaching aspirants hold stir against prelims for BPSC TRE-4, call for one-exam pattern

Santosh Singh
Patna, August 25

Police use water cannons to disperse protesters demanding a rollback of a proposed two-tier format for BPSC teachers' recruitment exam, in Patna, Tuesday. ANI

TENSION ESCALATED in Bihar capital on Tuesday as hundreds of job aspirants protested near Gandhi Maidan, demanding the rollback of a proposed two-tier format for the BPSC Teachers Recruitment Examination (TRE-4), during a march to CM's residence.

Authorities deployed water cannons and ordered a mild lathi-charge to disperse the crowd. Two personnel were injured in a clash between the protesters and the police.

Police detained around 25 students, though all were released later without formal charges or arrests.

Meanwhile, LJP (RV) chief and Union minister Chirag Paswan met protesting students on Tuesday and expressed solidarity with them. He later also met CM Samrat Choudhary with students' demands.

The latest demonstration follows three weeks of intense agitation by teaching aspirants across Bihar against the introduction of a preliminary test for TRE-4, scheduled for December 2026 or January 2027, by the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC).

Previous iterations —TRE-1, 2 and 3 — were conducted as single-tier competitive exams. Candidates argue that since they have already cleared the Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) or State Teacher Eligibility Test (STET), adding a prelims stage imposes an unfair burden and delays recruitment.

During the march, violence broke out when someone in the crowd threw a wooden stick, injuring Patna Town Deputy Superintendent of Police (II) Kamakhya Narayan Singh and a woman constable.

The protest comes on the heels of mounting political friction over the issue. On Monday evening, the state government suspended BPSC Examination Controller Rajesh Singh after his public remark in which he used the proverb "*Hathi chale bazaar, kutta bhaunke hazaar* (an elephant walks while a thousand dogs bark)", while responding to questions about the protests.

Singh later said the proverb, generally used to exhort one to stay focused on their goals while ignoring the noise, was quoted out of context.

Earlier on Tuesday, over 1,500 students, supported by 17 student organisations, marched from the JP Roundabout near Gandhi Maidan under a "CM House Gherao" call. To prevent a security breach, similar to the recent high-profile rally led by Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, police erected heavy barricades at the Dak Bungalow crossing to block their route.

A delegation of student representatives was subsequently escorted to meet Bihar Chief Secretary Pratyaya Amrit. "Our meeting with Chief Secretary Pratyaya Amrit was positive, and we were assured of a favourable response within a couple of days," said student leader Aman Kumar. "We reasoned that because candidates are already CTET or STET qualified, introducing a prelims stage for TRE-4 is redundant. Since the previous three recruitment drives followed a single-exam pattern, fair play dictates that TRE-4 should maintain the same format. We also requested the removal of negative marking," he added.

Aspirants have been staging a continuous dharna for the past 20 days at Gardanibagh, the city's designated protest site. Their 15-point charter of demands includes scrapping negative marking, reinstating the single-exam format, and filling long-pending vacancies for music teachers and librarians.

Donations must go to deity first, SC tells Banke Bihari temple

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 25

WITH A high-powered committee appointed by it expressing doubts over the handling of donations at the Banke Bihari Temple in Vrindavan, the Supreme Court on Tuesday said the contributions of the devotees must go into the shrine's donation boxes or online treasury.

"Let there be no doubts, and we accordingly direct that every penny of donation must come to the donation boxes or online temple treasury, and any impediment created by sewayats or anyone else shall be viewed very seriously," a three-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said. It also directed the temple's managing committee "to introduce any transparent mechanism for the temple treasury".

The bench, also comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, said this after perusing a status report furnished by the Committee, which was formed upon its direction to look after temple management in August last year.

The report referred to instances of devotees allegedly being prevented from accessing the donation boxes due to physical obstructions and the boxes being covered by flowers, plates and other materials, leading to money being given to the *bhandaris* or *sewayats*.

It also pointed out that sometimes, QR codes for online donation are damaged.

To submissions that the money collected by *bhandaris* is towards 'bhog' and the customary practice is protected by a civil court decree, Justice Bagchi said, "First, the donation must be in dedication to the deity, and from that, you will get your share as a part of the *bhandari* duties. You cannot appropriate it before the person goes to the temple. A *bhandari* or a priest cannot have a garnishing right on the devotees' donation," the judge said.

Meanwhile, the committee informed the court that a comprehensive plan had been prepared for the development of the infrastructure around the temple, considering the demographic and footfall projections for the future.

• CONTENT CREATOR FROM GWALIOR UPLOADED VIDEO OF THE CAR ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO GAIN FOLLOWERS ON INSTAGRAM; GETS CHALLAN OF RS. 5,500

Car covered with lipstick kisses lands man in police net

Anand Mohan J
Bhopal, August 25

HE WANTED his car to go viral. It did but, in the process, he found an audience he did not set out looking: The police.

A Gwalior man's white Swift, covered bumper-to-bumper with around 3,400 lipstick kiss marks, clocked lakhs of views on Instagram before the viral stunt landed its owner at a traffic police station with a Rs 5,500 challan and a rather less glamorous job: Wiping every kiss off the car.

According to police, a video showing the Swift almost entirely covered in lipstick marks had surfaced on social media and showed the vehicle allegedly being driven at speed on a city road. The unusual sight prompted traffic police to trace the car and its owner.

Traffic Police Station in-charge Abhishek Raghuvanshi said the video had surfaced around two days before the police action. "A video went viral on social media showing a car covered with lipstick marks moving in the City Centre area," he said. Police examined details from the video and eventually traced the vehicle to the Thatipur area.

The car was subsequently brought to the traffic police station and its owner, Aditya Sikarwar, was called for questioning. Police imposed a fine of around Rs 5,500 under provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Car owner Aditya Sikarwar wipes off lipstick marks two days after a video on the car moving around in Gwalior went viral online. PTI

It is not clear as yet under what offence he had been fined.

Sikarwar said the unusual decoration was part of an attempt to create a viral social media video. He said a female friend had come up with the idea after seeing a similar trend online and covered the car with around 3,400 lipstick marks.

"A female friend of mine made it. I had parked the car and stepped away, and she created the marks. I had posted the video on Instagram," Sikarwar said.

He said the exercise took around three-and-a-half hours and cost approximately Rs 800-900 in terms of the cost of lipstick. "There was a trend like this going around, so she made the video to make it go viral," he said. Police said Sikarwar is an Instagram content creator and that the stunt appeared to have been aimed at increasing the reach of his social media content and gaining followers. His account has since been deactivated.

After the police action, Sikarwar paid the Rs 5,500 challan and cleaned the lipstick marks from the vehicle at the traffic police station. He also assured officials that he would follow traffic rules and would not repeat the stunt.

"My car was checked by the police following which they issued the challan. I had to then wash my car. It was my mistake and from here on, I will follow traffic rules. I will not make such a mistake again," he said.

Top court relief for content creator in 'road rage' case

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 25

THE SUPREME Court Tuesday granted protection from arrest to an online content creator, who claimed that he was being falsely framed in a road rage case following his video reports on embezzlement of donations from the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

A three-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant directed that no coercive action be taken against petitioner Abhishek Upadhyay based on the FIRs registered or likely to be registered against him. Senior Advocate Pradeep Rai, who appeared for Upadhyay, told the bench also comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana that the police were yet to supply him with the complete FIR.

The bench directed that the FIR copy be supplied to him, after which, the bench added, he can move the appropriate jurisdictional court for relief. Rai added Upadhyay had done other investigative reports and urged the court to transfer case to Delhi police or CBI for a fair probe. "...If you can make out a case for quashing, very well. The allegation is that you got down from your vehicle and hit the scooterist," said the CJI.

"Nothing of that sort happened, which is why we are asking for a CBI probe," Rai said.

ADVERTORIAL

RAIN, MISTY HILLS, AND CULTURAL THRILLS: DISCOVER GUJARAT'S MONSOON TOURISM

Beyond deserts and coasts, Gujarat comes alive during the rains with stunning green getaways.

For many travellers, Gujarat is synonymous with lions, heritage cities, the white desert and a vibrant coastline. Yet, with the arrival of the monsoon, the state reveals a completely different side. Hills disappear beneath drifting clouds, waterfalls spring to life, forests glow in countless shades of green, and ancient pilgrimage trails become some of the most scenic journeys in India.

From mist-covered hill stations and tranquil village retreats to sacred mountains and iconic landmarks, Gujarat's monsoon season offers a diverse range of scenic, cultural and spiritual experiences, attracting visitors to destinations across the state.

SAPUTARA MONSOON FESTIVAL

If there is one destination that truly captures the essence of the monsoon in Gujarat, it is Saputara. Nestled in the Sahyadri ranges of Gujarat's Dang district, the state's only hill station transforms into a picturesque retreat during the rainy season. In FY 2025-26, it welcomed nearly 11.90 lakh visitors. Enveloped in mist and surrounded by dense forests, Saputara offers the perfect balance of adventure and tranquillity. Visitors can enjoy activities such as paragliding, ziplining and trekking, or simply take in panoramic views of cloud-covered valleys, rain-fed streams and lush green landscapes. Every bend in the road reveals another postcard-worthy vista. A short drive from Saputara, the Gira and Giramal Waterfalls are amongst some of Gujarat's most spectacular monsoon attractions. Together, they welcomed nearly 3 lakh visitors last year. As cascading waters plunge down rocky cliffs amid vibrant greenery, the waterfalls offer a captivating setting for photographers, nature lovers and families.

Those wishing to explore beyond the popular circuit can visit Don, Gujarat's highest village, which attracted over 1.80 lakh visitors last year. Surrounded by verdant hills, Don offers sweeping valley views, cool weather and an authentic countryside experience that provides a refreshing escape from city life.

Monsoon, Culture and the Soul of the DANGS

Monsoon in South Gujarat is beyond lush landscapes. Rather, it's a celebration of the region's rich culture, traditions and community life. During the season, Saputara's popular Monsoon Festival brings the region alive with vibrant tribal performances, local handicrafts, traditional music and authentic regional cuisine. The festival offers visitors a unique opportunity to experience the customs, artistry and cultural heritage of Gujarat's indigenous communities.

The journey becomes even more rewarding with several attractions nearby. The beautifully maintained Waghai Botanical Garden, the spiritually significant Shabari Dham and Pampa Sarovar, together welcomed over 6.45 lakh visitors last year, offer a serene blend of mythology, devotion and natural beauty.

Beyond the Beaten Path: Gujarat's Hidden Green Escapes

Away from the well-known tourist circuits, Gujarat is home to a collection of lesser-explored destinations that come alive during monsoon.

Hafeshwar is one such gem, recognised by the Ministry of Tourism as one of India's Best Tourism Villages. Surrounded by tranquil waters, rolling hills and dense forests, Hafeshwar offers an authentic glimpse of rural Gujarat. Nearby Turkheda Hills provide spectacular viewpoints, made even more captivating as low-hanging clouds blanket the landscape. Further south, Wilson Hills offers one of Gujarat's most scenic monsoon drives. Welcoming nearly

3.80 lakh visitors last year, the hill station is known for its winding roads, breathtaking viewpoints and endless stretches of greenery. The journey itself becomes part of the experience, with mist-covered forests and sweeping vistas unfolding at every turn.

STATUE of UNITY

A Monument Surrounded by Nature's Splendour

Standing tall amidst the verdant Narmada Valley, the Statue of Unity continues to be one of India's most visited attractions, welcoming over 6.785 lakh visitors during FY 2025-26. While the world's tallest statue remains the centrepiece, the destination has evolved into a complete family holiday experience. Visitors can stroll through the vibrant Valley of Flowers, discover rare species at the Cactus Garden, explore the Butterfly Garden, enjoy close encounters at the Jungle Safari and Animal Park, or experience the thrill of river rafting on the Narmada. During the monsoon, the entire region is transformed into a lush green landscape, with replenished water bodies creating a serene yet spectacular charm to the destination.

OSAM HILLS

Where the Monsoon Meets Mythology

In the heart of Saurashtra, Osam Hills stands is one of Gujarat's most picturesque monsoon destinations. Steeped in Mahabharat mythology, the hills are believed to be where the five Pandavas stayed during their exile. Legends also speak of Bhim meeting Hidimbi (also known as Hidimbā) here, adding to the significance of this landscape. Surrounded by rolling grasslands, seasonal streams and mist-laden slopes, Osam Hills offers a refreshing retreat for nature lovers and trekkers alike. During the monsoon, the landscape transforms into a lush green expanse, with cascading waterfalls and sweeping viewpoints, making Osam an ideal destination for those seeking an offbeat escape away from the crowds.

Nature enthusiasts can also explore Polo Forest, which welcomed over 1.15 lakh visitors last year. Home to ancient temple ruins nestled amidst dense woodland, flowing streams and rich biodiversity, Polo Forest offers a captivating blend of history and nature, making it one of Gujarat's most enchanting monsoon destinations.

PAVAGADH

Spirituality Blends with Scenic Beauty

Few destinations capture the beauty of Gujarat during the monsoon quite like Pavagadh. Located within the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park, the revered Mahakali Temple welcomed over 1 crore visitors last year, making it one of Gujarat's most visited pilgrimage destinations.

As monsoon clouds envelop the historic hill, the landscape is transformed by cascading waterfalls, lush greenery and centuries-old fortifications. Whether ascending by ropeway or along the traditional pathways, visitors get stunning views of rain-soaked valleys and historic monuments that dot the hillside.

What sets Pavagadh apart is its seamless blend of spirituality, history and natural beauty. During the monsoon, every step unfolds as a journey through centuries of heritage, deep-rooted faith and some of Gujarat's most captivating landscapes.

UPARKOT FORT

Centuries of History, Cloaked in Monsoon Beauty

Just a short distance from Girnar stands the historic Uparkot Fort, one of Gujarat's oldest surviving fort complexes. The site witnessed a significant rise in tourism, welcoming over 5.15 lakh visitors during 2025-26, 5-fold more than the 1 lakh visitors in 2024-25. Dating back more than two millennia, Uparkot Fort is home to remarkable architectural landmarks, including Adi Kadi Vav, Navghan Kuvo, ancient Buddhist caves and imposing fort walls that narrate the story of a rich and enduring past.

The monsoon lends the fort a distinct charm. Moss-covered stone walls, rain-fed water structures and lush greenery create a captivating setting for exploration. From its elevated vantage points, visitors can take in sweeping views of Junagadh city and the mist-covered Girnar Hills beyond, making Uparkot one of Gujarat's most rewarding heritage destinations during the monsoon.

GUJARAT

A Monsoon Like No Other

While travellers often look to the Himalayas or the Western Ghats for their monsoon holidays, Gujarat offers an equally captivating alternative. Here, cloud-kissed hill stations, sacred mountains, heritage forts and world-famous landmarks come together to reveal a different side of the state during the rains.

It is a season when waterfalls cascade down verdant hills, forests come alive, pilgrimage routes become scenic journeys and every destination is transformed by the beauty of the monsoon. Whether seeking nature, culture, spirituality or adventure, visitors will find that Gujarat's monsoon destinations offer some of India's most memorable rainy-season experiences

Traveler's Checklist: Monsoon Must-dos

- Experience tribal music, dance, and craft at the Saputara Monsoon Festival.
- Take a scenic drive to Gira and Giramal Waterfalls.
- Ride the ropeway up Pavagadh amidst drifting monsoon clouds.
- Try white-water river rafting on the Narmada River near the Statue of Unity.
- Trek the mythological, lush green trails of Osam Hills.

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In Pune, a stage and a space, new and old

SPEAKING TO an audience of young women from a Pune stage, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi said women should not be defined by their relationships with men because they belong to themselves. He spoke of routinised violence, including the "violence of denied opportunities", and the "various forms of control" women are subjected to daily. The formulations were not new — what was new and found resonance in the auditorium was that they were being articulated from a mainstream political stage, and Gandhi made room, on that stage, for women to tell their own stories. Of course, the Congress leader was not just tweaking the woman-unfriendly script in a male-dominated politics. He also used the post-Jantar Mantar occasion to make a jab at a political opponent pushed on the defensive. His mention of the Manusmriti, and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's almost immediate counter-strike, showed that the mark had not been missed. But overall, the Pune performance opened up a space that, ironically, had once been made visible by Narendra Modi. In his very first I-day address as Prime Minister in 2014, he asked why parents who impose restrictions on their daughters use a different yardstick for their sons: Have they ever asked their sons what they are doing, where they are going?

But if Rahul Gandhi struck a different note in Pune, his party, in its CWC resolution, harked back to an older format of politics. The party will not sing all six stanzas of 'Vande Mataram', the resolution said, only two verses, as it had decided to do in 1937. The old-ness of Congress's new position comes not just from its attempt to turn back the clock. It comes, also, from the fact that it follows a stale Congress pattern — of scoring a secular point without really working for it. After all, what stopped the party from opposing the amendment that gives 'Vande Mataram' the same statutory protections as the national anthem, in Parliament? In the Lok Sabha, the law was cleared by voice vote in only about 15 minutes, after only two members spoke on it, and DMK was the only party that registered its criticism. Now, why does Congress not challenge the law in court, instead of sullenly refusing to sing? And what's the playbook for its three CMs for official functions?

Congress's new and old politics comes at a time when the success of the students' agitation is still rippling across parties. The crowds at Jantar Mantar have left behind a sense of new possibilities — and a dare for mainstream parties. The young have asserted their presence, they want to be heard, all parties must find new ways of seeing, new ways of listening, new ways of speaking.

Warmer oceans are sounding a warning

THE WORLD'S oceans are usually at their warmest in March and April. In March 2024, global sea-surface temperature simmered to a record 21.09 degrees Celsius. That high was surpassed last week. On August 22, a rapidly intensifying El Niño and global warming combined to spike marine temperature to 21.1 degrees Celsius. The new record, along with the upending of the ocean calendar, is a warning: Global heating is moving climate into unfamiliar territory. The last two months' data indicates that what happened on August 22 was not an anomaly. June's average sea surface temperature across the extra-polar oceans was the highest ever recorded for that month. The July record was also surpassed. By July 31, the oceans had heated to 0.04 degrees below the previous all-time high.

The oceans are among the greatest buffers against climate change. According to the IPCC and NASA, oceans absorbed more than 90 per cent of the excess heat generated by global warming and helped to delay its most catastrophic consequences. But this sequestering influence has come at a cost. Warming places stress on marine ecosystems, disrupts food webs. It also affects the oceans' capacity to regulate weather. A heatwave has overwhelmed Europe this summer, several parts of India experienced floods even though the monsoon was erratic, and unseasonal snowfall disrupted life in South America. Ocean warming also contributes to sea-level rise. By the end of 2025, global average sea level was about 11 centimetres higher than in January 1993.

Every climate record strengthens the case for mitigation — cutting fossil-fuel consumption, accelerating the transition to clean energy and reducing greenhouse-gas emissions. That imperative remains important. However, even as emission reduction plans become more ambitious, adaptation to weather vagaries — which has historically played second fiddle to mitigation in climate policy — needs to be on a stronger footing. Even if emissions were brought down sharply, the consequences of past warming will take years to disappear. India, with a coastline of more than 10,000 km, needs to invest in protecting people who live along the shores, restoring natural barriers against raging waters, improving drainage in urban centres and developing climate-informed agriculture and water management systems. The message from the warming oceans is clear: Improving climate resilience cannot be postponed.

The ginger CFO of Gundavali Metro station

THE MOST recent entrant to the global ranks of cats with jobs is a ginger tabby usually found lounging at Mumbai's Gundavali Metro station. After a commuter posted its photo on social media, tagging the Maha Mumbai Metro Operation Corporation, the organisation confirmed its appointment as Chief Feline Officer (CFO), responsible for "station inspections, commuter observation and sitting exactly where everyone can admire them". Going by the surge in the CFO's photographs online, on that last count at least, it's a job well done.

The unnamed ginger of Gundavali will not be the only cat to take its KRAs seriously. There's Larry, the Chief Mouser of Number 10 Downing Street who, having suffered a prolonged whisper campaign about his laziness, set the record straight by killing and eating a mouse right in front of the reporters stationed outside his office for former PM Keir Starmer's press conference. Palmerston, the late "diplocat" stationed in the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, developed a fearsome reputation as an efficient mouse catcher.

Mumbai Metro's CFO can draw inspiration more directly from the assiduousness of another station cat, a calico stray who took up residence at a Japanese railway station in 2007 and stayed until the end of her ninth life in 2015. Tama, who was given the position of "honorary permanent station master", attracted so many visitors that she was credited with boosting the revenues of the railway company — which had been in the red until then — by 10 per cent and putting it back on track. For the ginger cat of Gundavali, those are some big paw prints to fill.

Before rebuilding Delhi, a warning from Gurugram

SHAILAJA CHANDRA

THE MASTER Plan for Delhi 2047 (MPD-2047) sets out a new approach to how the city should grow over the next two decades. It seeks to accommodate 3.2 crore people and provide 40 lakh additional homes, much of this through redevelopment of existing areas and higher-density construction around public transport. Notably, it reduces the minimum area needed to redevelop housing complexes from 40,000 sq m to 3,000 sq m. This reduces the redevelopment threshold from about 10 acres to less than one acre, enabling regeneration at a much smaller and more manageable scale — from the size of a large housing colony to that of a small apartment complex. I support it.

Regeneration schemes in unauthorised colonies may receive a floor area ratio (FAR) of 350, while the High-Density Corridor along Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II) allows a FAR of 400. Both changes are necessary because Delhi has limited land and a growing population. Redevelopment cannot be based indefinitely on outward expansion. The proposals for affordable and rental housing, a Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority, unified parking management, and designated areas for 24-hour activity are also forward-looking.

Compact and mixed-use development along UER-II — a 75-km western arc from Alipur on National Highway 44 (NH-44) to Mahipalpur on National Highway 48 (NH-48), passing through Bawana, Rohini, Mundka, Bakkarwala (near Nangloi), Najafgarh and Dwarka — could expand housing and bring people closer to employment. But more floor space means more residents, vehicles, sewage, waste, and greater demand for water and electricity. Unless this is accounted for, new people will move to the already congested parts of Delhi in search of jobs, worsening the congestion. Planning must consider not just plot capacity but also the hinterland's ability to support more livelihoods and visitors.

Years in administration taught me that constructing buildings is the easier part, particularly when private developers are involved. The harder task is expanding trunk water mains, arterial sewers, pumping stations, stormwater drains, substations, cables and public roads outside the colony gates. Gurugram provides an apt warning. Golf Course Road, lined by some of India's most expensive gated communities, has repeatedly suffered waterlogging, showing that excellent private construction cannot compensate for inadequate public infrastructure.

MPD-2047 describes its approach as "infrastructure-led", but its own water projections reveal considerable uncertainty. It estimates potable-water demand of 1,600 million gallons a day (MGD) by 2047, against the present availability of about 1,000 MGD. The proposed augmentation of 401 MGD would still leave a gap of about 199 MGD. More importantly, 275 MGD is expected from the Renukaji, Lakhwar and Kishau projects, which the Plan itself calls "highly tentative" and dependent on interstate cooperation.

On drainage, too, the Plan isn't clear. At one place, it says the Delhi Drainage Master Plan is under preparation; elsewhere, it calls for implementation of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department's Drainage Master Plan. Before large-scale densification begins, Delhi needs to know which plan applies and whether it reflects the new density projections.

> Constructing buildings is the easier part. The harder task is expanding trunk water mains, arterial sewers, pumping stations, stormwater drains, substations, cables and public roads outside the colony gates

While the new Master Plan refers to upgrading physical and social infrastructure, it does not specify that essential infrastructure must precede development. Accepted planning practice requires the opposite: Before additional FAR is sanctioned, the capacity and land requirements for water, sewerage, drainage, power, roads, transport and public facilities should be assessed for the entire area under development. MPD-2047 should have made higher density conditional on these requirements being secured in advance.

More than 20 years ago, as Delhi's chief secretary, I attended Raj Niwas meetings where DDA officers discussed issues related to the previous Master Plan. The departments handling water, sewerage, drainage and roads ran in their own worlds, oblivious to the DDA's Master Plan. MPD-2047 has involved wider consultation, including with the principal implementing agencies. But consultation is not coordination. These bodies must agree on capacity additions, budgets, sequencing and timelines with one authority answerable for ensuring that the works are completed before high-density development begins.

The plan prioritises the regeneration of unauthorised colonies. That is a necessary, and humane, approach: Residents cannot indefinitely be denied safe buildings, sewers, drains and public facilities. But many existing structures predate effective structural, fire and seismic safeguards. Higher FAR must, therefore, be accompanied by credible safety audits, emergency access, open spaces and upgraded networks.

Preventing new unauthorised colonies is another urgent need. The plan proposes GIS mapping, remote sensing and drone surveys to detect illegal development, and suggests disincentives against it. But detection is not enforcement. The Plan does not clearly identify which authority must act on the first alert, within what period, or what consequences follow when an illegal subdivision grows because of collusion or negligence. Unauthorised colonisation has proliferated over the last 60 years. Without a clear chain of responsibility, prevention in name could again lead to recurring amnesty when pressures mount.

MPD-2047 recognises the unequal distribution of Delhi's green spaces and refers to green-blue infrastructure, parks, walking and cycling. Yet, as density rises, it sets no clear standard for access to usable neighbourhood green space. Parking reforms will achieve little if road parking remains free and pavements remain clogged. The Plan specifies how much more can be built, but is less precise about the public infrastructure and spaces that must accompany that growth.

How, then, should MPD-2047 be rated? It is strong in recognising Delhi's need for redevelopment, additional housing, public-transport-led growth and new economic activity. It is promising on rental housing, integrated mobility and regeneration. It is aspirational on parks, walking, cycling and public spaces, tentative on water and drainage, and incomplete on sequencing, enforcement and direct accountability.

This is not an argument against builders, migrants, high-rise housing or the improvement of unauthorised colonies. It is an argument for implementing the Plan in the right order. Before building higher, Delhi must first strengthen the city beneath its buildings.

The writer is former chief secretary, Delhi and former secretary, Ministry of Health

Simpler mining tax model can mean more revenue for states

S MAHENDRA DEV

IN SEPTEMBER 1974, at the Two Continents restaurant in Washington, economist Arthur Laffer drew a hump-shaped graph on a napkin to argue that tax rates and government revenue have an inverted-U relationship. His argument was simple: When governments cut high tax rates they have the potential to increase total revenue, while an increase of tax rates beyond a particular level would inversely reduce collections. Since then, the world has seen the Laffer Curve play out on multiple occasions.

In India, the most recent example of this was in the case of GST 2.0 where the rationalisation in tax rates further boosted demand, thereby increasing revenue collections. The recent passage of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2026, in Parliament is another attempt at focusing on maximising revenue to states rather than increasing taxes, and adds to the mining reform journey that began 12 years ago.

India had the talent, enterprise and mineral wealth to grow. A missing element was a system that could unlock value. Before 2014, mineral blocks were allotted at discretion, approvals took years, and investors stayed away. India's mining sector was a closed system, marked by opacity, inefficiency and corruption, with the burden ultimately falling on state finances. Today, every block is allocated through transparent, competitive e-auctions. Once allocated, progress is monitored end-to-end. There is a plan for the welfare of mining communities, for scientific closure of mines and a vision for sustainability. This shift from discretion to certainty is the same principle this Act now extends to taxation.

At the heart of this amendment is an effort for the establishment of a simple uniform and predictable tax system so that misaligned fiscal choices do not fracture the national market for minerals. Mining is a long-term, capital-intensive, and labour-intensive activity. For such an industry, certainty in the fiscal environment is a vital prerequisite.

Minerals are the building blocks of the wider economy. Critical minerals will increasingly determine our technological, energy and strategic capabilities. The Act enables the creation of an integrated national market for minerals. A strong cooperative federalism framework enables states to grow stronger as part of one national economy. A predictable fiscal framework will allow mineral-producing states to attract investment, expand production, and develop downstream industries, while giving businesses across the country greater certainty and competitiveness. Greater investment means more exploration, increased production, and expanded downstream industrial capacity.

Today, however, mineral producers face a complex fiscal landscape, with up to 14 types of taxes, charges, fees, and levies across different states. The recent legislation addresses this fragmentation. It will keep India's mineral market integrated, protect essential sectors from uncompetitive taxation, and help mineral-rich states realise the full value of their resources. All this is being done by retaining the state's own revenue pool from mineral production.

Mining reforms over the past 12 years have boosted the state's mineral revenues. Since the auction regime began in 2015, states have received more than Rs 7 lakh crore, which is almost 90 per cent of total revenue, from both coal and non-coal sector, through royalty, auction premium, DMF and GST. The recent amendments retain this revenue-sharing formula with 90 paise of every rupee earned from mineral production continuing to be retained by states.

Even with rich domestic resources, an uncompetitive mineral market can make India import-dependent. Therefore, rational taxation is vital for conserving foreign exchange, strengthening our supply chains, and reducing dependence on imports, important in a world of geopolitical uncertainties.

India's mining sector has moved decisively from a system of untapped potential to one of transparency, competition, investment, and national purpose. The task ahead is to build higher, to explore, produce, process more and add greater value within India.

> Mining is a long-term, capital-intensive, and labour-intensive activity. For such an industry, certainty in the fiscal environment is a vital prerequisite

The writer is chairperson, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

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Fair pricing could help sustain UPI network

ABHINAV MOTHERAM

UPI'S SCALE has made the question of who pays for it more important. Its success rests on a simple bargain: Consumers pay at no visible cost, merchants accept payments without card machines or a merchant discount rate (MDR), and banks and payment companies absorb much of the expense, offset only partly by public subsidy. That arrangement is being reconsidered. A report tabled this month by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance cited an industry estimate of about Rs 20,700 crore in annual operating costs, against a Rs 2,000 crore allocation under the zero-MDR regime. The Department of Financial Services said it was examining two options: Restoring MDR for certain high-threshold transactions or merchants, and phasing out government support through a tiered incentive structure.

India must decide how to share the network's costs according to capacity to pay. It must also decide how aggregated, privacy-safe payment signals can be put to public use under clear standards. Start with what drove adoption. My research with Sharon Buteau finds that more formalised merchant ecosystems are associated with higher UPI use. Once basic connectivity is in place, business ecosystem development matters more. That should guide how any MDR is designed. A fraction of a percentage point may be manageable for a supermarket chain, but consequential for a street vendor. It may barely register in districts where UPI acceptance is entrenched, but could slow merchant onboarding where the network is still forming. A uniform rate would misread both merchant and geographic asymmetries.

A workable principle follows: Keep UPI free for consumers and small merchants, while allowing a capped MDR for larger commercial users and higher-value transactions. Incentives should remain available where acceptance networks are still developing. The thresholds should be based on merchant margins, administrative feasibility and likely effects on local adoption. MDR need not be the only source of revenue. Firms can build commercial services around UPI while the underlying payment remains free. Payment data also has public value. At UPI's scale, anonymised and aggregated transaction signals can indicate where spending is growing, adoption remains thin and formalisation may be taking root. PhonePe's PulsePro is an example of how commercial payment intelligence can support public planning. A recent MoU with MeitY will integrate its metrics into PM GatiShakti for infrastructure planning, economic analysis and urban and rural development. Payment intelligence can identify where connectivity has outpaced merchant development, digital commerce has outpaced formalisation and infrastructure has not translated into women's digital participation.

This is a start, but policymakers need an ecosystem-wide view. UPI data and official statistics can provide a clearer view of local commerce, including informal activity. India built UPI by combining public infrastructure with private innovation. The same principle should guide its data: Private firms can develop services, while public institutions set standards for privacy, access and public use. Fair pricing can help sustain the network; responsible data use can improve how India understands its local economies.

> A workable principle: Keep UPI free for consumers and small merchants, while allowing a capped MDR for larger commercial users and higher-value transactions

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Motheram is consultant, NITI Aayog. Views are personal

40 YEARS AGO

August 26, 1986

INDIAN EXPRESS
Volcanic gas kills 2,000
Exodus from north-west Cameroon
Curfew in Giddarbaha
Suspected killers of
Indirani-led Congress
Pak parties call for

Volcanic gas kills 2,000

GAS SPEWING from a volcanic lake in north-western Cameroon killed at least 2,000 people and sent thousands of others fleeing for their lives, officials said. Soldiers in masks established the preliminary death toll as they made their way into the stricken region, the information minister, Georges Ngango, said.

Curfew in Giddarbaha

TERRORISTS SHOT dead one person, while indefinite curfew was clamped in Giddarbaha town of Faridkot district and the police arrested two suspected terrorists in Amritsar. Curfew was clamped in Giddarbaha town as mobs turned violent after the cremation of two of the three victims of another terrorist shoot-out near Mosa.

Civil disobedience in Pakistan

OPPOSITION PARTIES said they would launch a nationwide civil disobedience campaign to oust President Zia-ul-Haq as the police continued to hunt and arrest opposition leaders. The Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) said in a statement that it would start a civil disobedience campaign in September to remove Gen Zia from power and force elections. Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo ruled out early elections before the scheduled 1990 polls and said the government would not deal with the Opposition.

Vaidya case suspects arrested

TWO YOUTHS, suspected of involvement in the Vaidya assassination, were arrested by the Goa and Maharashtra police respectively. A 27-year-old whose description, as per the police, closely matches Sukhi, a member of the notorious Jinda gang, is in the custody of the Margao police awaiting identification.

● WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

In the face of Washington's tariff stick, Canada has launched a 'Chinese-styled counterattack'.

— Global Times, China

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Our Central Asia strategy needs less romance, more realism

RAJA MANDALA

BY C RAJA MOHAN

ILLUSTRATION: C R SASIKUMAR

WHEN THE Soviet Union dissolved in 1991 and five new republics emerged in Central Asia, there was extraordinary enthusiasm in Delhi about reconnecting with a region that had deep historical ties with India. But India's lack of direct access, limited national capabilities, and persistent geopolitical headwinds have complicated that engagement.

India was not alone in imagining a grand reconnection between Central and South Asia. After the 9/11 attacks, the Bush administration bet that Afghanistan's long-term stability could be secured by reconnecting the two regions. In 2006, Washington reorganised the State Department to bring the Central Asian states together with Afghanistan and the Subcontinent in a new South and Central Asian bureau. The hope was that Afghanistan could become a natural bridge between the two regions. That vision proved difficult to realise amid Afghanistan's internal and external conflicts and the enduring tensions between India and Pakistan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who travels to Central Asia this week for a bilateral visit to Uzbekistan and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Kyrgyzstan, will find a region very different from the one he toured in 2015. Four broad trends stand out.

The first is the growing geopolitical agency of Central Asia. Long viewed as five vulnerable landlocked states — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan — on the periphery of Russia and China, they are acquiring greater internal coherence. Since 2018, the five have met regularly at the summit level in the consultative meetings of the heads of state of Central Asia. They have now signed a friendship treaty among themselves and plan to give it some organisational substance and turn the region into a genuine Central Asian community. The Central Asian Five invited Azerbaijan to form the C-6 that links Central Asia more closely to the Caucasus and Türkiye.

Equally important has been the settlement of the long-running border disputes in the Fergana Valley among Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Growing intra-regional trade has reinforced the new political cooperation. Central Asia is becoming more of a region in its own right rather than merely the sum of five post-Soviet republics.

Second is the diversification of great-power relations. The traditional "Great Game" framework — external powers competing for control over a passive Central Asia — is utterly inadequate. In 2025, Central Asian leaders held summits with the EU, China, Russia, the United States and Japan. Central Asia has never been more courted — and perhaps never less amenable to exclusive relationships.

Russia remains an important partner in security, but the Ukraine war and China's rising economic influence have weakened Moscow's former dominance. Washington has returned with a new emphasis on commerce, critical minerals and energy corridors. Europe, Japan and others are also expanding their engagement. Central Asia's answer is the familiar "multi-vector" strategy — not unlike India's own multi-alignment. It engages all and commits exclusively to none.

> India cannot match China's infrastructure spending, Russia's geographic advantages or Türkiye's direct access across the Caspian. Nor does it need to. Sustained political attention should be matched by a practical economic agenda

The third trend is Central Asia's growing entanglement with the Greater Middle East. Although predominantly Muslim, the region's political and cultural orientation was long shaped by its Russian and Soviet past. That balance is changing. At the Central Asian summit with the US in Washington last November, Kazakhstan announced its accession to the Abraham Accords. Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan signed the charter of Trump's Board of Peace at Davos in January. Gulf capital has become increasingly important across Central Asia. Türkiye has transformed the Organisation of Turkic States from a largely cultural forum into an instrument for wider political, economic and defence cooperation.

The Iran war has complicated Central Asia's traditional southern access to the open seas and increased the importance of alternative routes westward across the Caspian towards Azerbaijan, Türkiye and the Mediterranean. The region's geopolitical horizons are widening well beyond the old Russian-Chinese framework.

Fourth is the diminution of the Afghan question. The much-feared export of revolution after the Taliban's return to power five years ago has not materialised. Central Asian states including Tajikistan, which was most fearful of the Taliban, have moved towards pragmatic engagement with Kabul. Meanwhile, they have cracked down hard on the radical forces at home. But new problems are arising, for example on the management of the shared waters of Amu Darya.

Where does all this leave India?

Delhi enjoys considerable goodwill in Central Asia, but geography continues to constrain its ambitions. India has no direct land access. Pakistan blocks the obvious overland route, while Afghanistan remains unstable. Chabahar and the International North-South Transport Corridor offered an alternative, but the growing conflict between Iran and the US has complicated their prospects. India's one hard-built connectivity node in the region now sits idle.

The changing regional dynamic therefore calls for a less romantic and more modest Indian approach.

India cannot match China's infrastructure spending, Russia's geographic advantages, Europe's financial resources or Türkiye's direct access across the Caspian. Nor does it need to. Sustained political attention should be matched by a practical economic agenda focused on areas where India can contribute. Delhi must also consider whether greater diplomatic flexibility towards Pakistan, Türkiye and Azerbaijan can improve its room for manoeuvre in the region.

Above all, India must recognise the political character of the new Central Asia. Its states do not want another patron; they want multiple partnerships that expand their room for manoeuvre. Modi's visit should be less about grand schemes and more about ensuring a modest, sustained and steadily expanding Indian presence in a Central Asia that is increasingly confident of playing its own game.

The writer is contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express. *He is a distinguished professor at the Motwani Jadeja Institute of American Studies, Jindal Global University, and holds the Korea Foundation Chair on Asian Geopolitics at the Council for Strategic and Defence Research, Delhi*

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Repairing ties with Nepal: A strategy of two hands, 10 fingers

SAFI AHSAN RIZVI

NEPAL IS scheduled to lose its Least Developed Country (LDC) status on November 24, but has sought a three-year deferral from the UN, citing delays in transition. While it is likely to receive the deferral, given Nepal's high credibility in the comity of nations, the deadline will come again. In 2024, it adopted the Smooth Transition Strategy (STS) to ensure sustainable graduation from LDC status by 2030, while recognising that remittances currently support consumption, reserves and imports, but have not yet engendered domestic investment or a surge in exports.

The appropriate move to further the STS could be a Nepal-India two-hand strategy: Economics and technology. Recent bilateral engagements appear to have eased aberrations in relations. Now is the most opportune time to jointly strive to move Nepal out of its low-investment, remittance-led growth, onto a higher, sustainable economic paradigm.

LDC status brought preferential tariffs, market access and concessional financing. Withdrawal would affect labour-intensive, high-growth export sectors such as garments, synthetic textiles and carpets. The WTO expects a ~9 per cent increase in tariffs, while the UN's International Trade Centre estimates a loss of ~4 per cent in exports. Nepal possesses two key safety valves to mitigate the impact. One, macroeconomic buffers stronger than many comparable economies, and two, bilateral tariff agreements with India, including the foundational agreement on a fixed NPR-INR rate of 1.6 since the 1990s. These factors have contributed to Nepal's monetary stability, especially during the Global Financial Crisis (2008), Taper Tantrum (2013), and the Covid pandemic (2020-21). Nepal has grown at about 4 per cent annually for three decades, supported by low debt, 18 months' worth of FX reserves and $15bn in annual remittances. However, the most prominent risk to a promising economy remains its low-investment trap.

To diversify, Nepal opened up to the BRI in 2017, perhaps worried about over-dependence on its southern partner. It now conducts one-sixth of its trade, mostly imports, with and through China. However, Himalayan heights make northern connectivity expensive and prone to weather-related disruptions. Many Chinese-backed projects are delayed, in contestation over the grants-versus-debt question.

India and Nepal have one of South Asia's most unusual relationships: Exceptionally intimate in geography and society, with an open border. The challenge is to embed arrangements that expand Nepal's choices while assuring India that intense economic and technology integration will not create new security vulnerabilities. The relationship should be seen through shared river basins, power grids and data flows. Indian policymakers must address Nepal's concern of economic dependence on a "Big Brother" with care, humility and large-heartedness. The scars of the last decade have receded, given the political change in Nepal and multiple exchanges since May. The older ambition of progressing from free trade towards a customs union and eventually a common market is an unfinished strategic idea and must be the guiding ambition. India must be Nepal's most reliable partner, replacing perceptions of unfair dominance with the joint two-hand, 10-finger strategy. The economic hand: Stable rules for commerce; secure and smooth supply chains; single windows for PE/VC funds; public and private JVs with balanced equity share; and a deeper Nepalese capital market. The technology hand: Optical fibre connectivity; interoperable digital public infrastructure; power transmission; space-tech; joint disaster risk reduction.

Three risks must be resolved simultaneously. First, over-securitising the border causes unnecessary impediments to legitimate access and trade and creates a rentier class and illegal trade. An open border need not be an insecure one: Technology and intelligence-led enforcement are the way. Second, reverse adverse perceptions that India turns economic dependence into a vulnerability through freer travel, tourism, television, movies and music. Finally, "death by process" should be put to death: A problem that is as old as the relationship itself.

Many fingers of the above formulation are already in effect. While high-level exchanges are limited, several important technical meetings on river waters, railway connectivity, customs, energy, borders, UPI-NPI payment mechanisms and technologies have been held. Momentum has been built and trust re-established. Speed is of the essence, with stability and continuity. India and Nepal will remain where they are, whether every argument is forgotten or amplified. What gets built in the meantime is the only variable. So let's put the two hands and 10 fingers to work.

The writer is a former IPS officer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Petty politics

DENYING CLEARANCE to Revanth Reddy after London and forcing him to skip Boston may be within MEA's remit, but weaponising small print looks petty ('It is wrong to cancel Telangana CM's US visit', *IE*, August 25). His itinerary, which included meetings with New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani and US Vice President J D Vance, was flagged as going beyond investment and education outreach. Yet a state that is attempting to build Hyderabad as a global hub needs wider doors. Curtailing an opposition chief minister makes the Centre look heavy-handed and sends a dispiriting signal at home and abroad.

— K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Carney vs Trump

THE CONCLUDING part of the editorial — "a middle power is saying no to a superpower a rare phenomenon in the Trump era" — says it all without mincing words ('In saying no to Trump, Carney does right thing', *IE*, August 25). Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has daringly called US President Donald Trump's bluff (read: Weaponisation of tariffs) by asking his negotiators to walk away from the ongoing trade talks. But the fact also remains that it may not turn out to be a cakewalk for Carney either. But then, for him, salvaging Canadian prestige and honour seems to outweigh even the impending costs of confrontation with Trump, the most unpredictable head of state the world over.

— Kumar Gupt, via email

CANADIAN PM Mark Carney said his country could not accept US terms for a trade deal, and would slap retaliatory tariffs on steel and dairy products in response to heavy duties imposed by Washington ('In saying no to Trump, Carney is doing the right thing', *IE*, August 25). Canada's response shows how countries navigate a world in which long-standing alliances offer less protection and economic ties themselves become sources of leverage.

— S S Paul, Nadia

A place for Onam at Delhi table and in its heart

SADAF HUSSAIN

IN 2014, I happened to be in Kerala for work during Onam. I did not know much about the festival then, and certainly did not know what awaited me when friends took me to a home in the neighbourhood for lunch. A banana leaf was laid before me, glossy green and still wet from a rinse. Then came the food, ladled and spooned onto the leaf: Avial, olan, thoran, pachadi, pickles and curries sat next to warm rice. My friends guided me through what remains one of my most memorable meals.

And now, come Onam, the banana leaf becomes a familiar sight across Delhi. Restaurants prepare for packed sittings, home chefs open their kitchens, and WhatsApp groups begin exchanging recommendations on where to find the best sadhya. Malayalis celebrating the festival are naturally at the heart of it, but around the tables are also north Indian families, young diners who discovered the feast on Instagram, and food enthusiasts who have learnt to book well in advance. And then there is the trusted route into any regional cuisine, those incredible friends who know exactly where to eat a good sadhya.

The scale is no longer anecdotal. In 2025, Kerala House in New Delhi planned to serve sadhya to approximately 3,000 people over three days, or 800 to 900 people a day. Across Delhi-NCR in 2026, food guides listed at least 20 restaurants offering special Onam sadhyas, with spreads running to 20 or 30 preparations. A few years ago, Thomas Fenn, the co-founder of Mahabelly in Saket, told *The Indian Express* ('Onam approaching, Delhi's restaurants and home chefs prepare to roll out sadhya spread', August 29, 2022) that it was serving 350 to 400 festive meals a day.

> Delhi already understands this way of entering another community's celebration. Durga Puja draws people who plan their pandal visits around Bengali food. Ramzan evenings send diners towards the old city

Sadhya's popularity also tells a longer story about Delhi's relationship with food from southern India. That relationship did not begin with the current crop of restaurants. Andhra Bhavan's canteen has been serving diners since 1991. The snaking lines outside it have been a familiar Delhi sight for years. Karnataka Food Centre in RK Puram has long had its weekend queues, while Kerala House's Samridhi canteen, operating since 2013, was serving 200 to 250 lunches on an ordinary day by 2019.

The change is also visible in how Delhi talks about food from the south. For years, idli, dosa, vada and sambar dominated the menu and the popular imagination. Now the city's appetite has widened. Appam, puttu, kothu parotta, gongura, pesarattu, bisi bele bath or Mangalorean ghee roast are increasingly familiar. Even idli and dosa are no longer seen as one standard dish, with diners recognising different styles and regional variations.

Sadhya is particularly good at opening that door because it refuses easy abbreviation. A single banana leaf can hold 20 to 30 preparations, bringing together different vegetables, grains, curries and payasams.

Sadhya also brings people closer to the festival. Chef Marina Balakrishnan has described it as being "beyond food", referring to the families and communities that come together around the meal. In Delhi, this extends beyond the Malayali community. For many diners, sadhya becomes their introduction to Onam, the story of Mahabali, the pookkalam, the banana leaf and the tradition of eating together.

Delhi already understands this way of entering another community's celebration. Durga Puja draws people who plan their pandal visits around Bengali food. Ramzan evenings send diners towards the old city's kebabs, breads and sweets. Onam is finding its own place in this shared festive calendar.

Food historian K T Achaya traced how what Indians eat carries histories of travel, trade and cultural exchange. Anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss saw food as a language through which societies express themselves. As a city discovers new food, it also begins to understand where it comes from, the traditions around it and the people who have carried it with them. I arrived at my first sadhya in Kerala without knowing what would land on the banana leaf. Today, thousands in Delhi seek out that leaf every Onam. In learning another region's food, a city also learns about the people who call it home.

Hussain is a chef and author

How to make a solar-heavy grid stable & affordable

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

JAIDEEP SARASWAT AND VRINDA GUPTA

INDIA HAS become the world's third-largest installer of renewable energy, hitting its 50 per cent non-fossil capacity target five years early and setting a fresh goal of 60 per cent by 2035. The 500 GW target for 2030 looks achievable. India has solved the easier problem: Building renewables at scale. The harder one is integration, keeping an increasingly solar- and wind-heavy grid stable and affordable.

Solar output peaks around midday, often when electricity consumption is low. This mismatch is driving renewable energy curtailment — the forced reduction of clean power generation because the grid cannot absorb it. India reportedly curtailed over 8,000 million units of solar generation in the first half of 2026. Transmission bottlenecks contribute, but part of the problem is simpler: There is not enough demand when solar generation is at its highest. And unlike traditional thermal generators, solar and wind plants are inverter-based. As their share rises, grid operators must manage weaker grid conditions, reduced system inertia, and a need for flexible resources that can rapidly respond to changes in renewable generation.

The instinctive response is more battery storage, but the economics are still challenging. A recent Uttar Pradesh tender for four-hour battery storage came in at Rs 6.45 per unit, even with subsidy support. That compares with about Rs 4.67/kWh for coal power and Rs 3.65/kWh for solar alone. India needs to broaden the conversation. The most effective battery may not always be a battery, but flexible demand and smarter electricity markets. The priority should be increasing electricity consumption when renewable generation is abundant. If surplus solar cannot be stored economically, it should be used productively. Industrial electrification offers an opportunity by creating large, predictable, daytime demand. Many industries want to procure renewable power but face a fragmented landscape of technology providers, financiers, and regulators. Specialised energy transition service providers can act as single-window facilitators, helping industries electrify processes, improve efficiency, and procure renewable energy at scale. Most vehicles remain parked during daytime. Time-of-use tariffs can encourage charging when renewable power is plentiful, while workplace charging can turn office campuses into flexible demand centres.

> Solar output peaks around midday, often when electricity consumption is low. This mismatch is driving renewable energy curtailment

India's rooftop solar programme has reached millions of households. The next phase should pair rooftop systems with small-scale storage and smart controls, enabling households to consume more of their solar generation and respond to grid conditions. Distributed flexibility can deliver system benefits at a lower cost than concentrating storage in a few utility-scale projects.

Rather than treating curtailment as a policy failure, India should develop market mechanisms that fairly compensate generators when they are required to reduce output to maintain system stability. Congestion management and balancing markets can improve predictability, reduce disputes, and offer flexibility. Success will depend on creating demand that follows renewable generation, mobilising distributed flexibility, and building markets that reward balancing. Getting it right would let India's renewable achievement double as a template for grid integration elsewhere, while embedding electrification as the default choice across industry, transport, and homes.

Saraswat is associate director, Clean Power, Electric Mobility and Emerging Technologies, and Gupta is associate director, Energy Transition at Vasudha Foundation

PM reviews cyber fraud cases, calls for building awareness

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 25

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday reviewed cyber fraud cases, including incidents of digital arrest, and said that prevention must be strengthened through a sustained focus on training, awareness and education.

The review was done during the 53rd meeting of PRAGATI, the ICT-enabled, multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.

Chairing the PRAGATI meeting at Seva Teerth, Modi called for regular capacity-building of personnel involved so that emerging modes of cyber fraud are identified and acted upon swiftly.

"During the review of cyber fraud cases, Prime Minister stressed the need for continuous and targeted public-awareness campaigns, particularly for senior citizens, youth and other vulnerable sections, to familiarise them with common fraud techniques, warning signs and safe digital practices. He also called for regular capacity-building of personnel involved so that emerging modes of cyber fraud are identified and acted upon swiftly," the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

The Prime Minister also reviewed six key infrastructure projects across the Railway, Road and Power sectors, which are spread across several States and have a cumulative investment of more than Rs 30,000 crore, the PMO said.

"The projects, significant for strengthening connectivity, supporting industrial and economic activity and improving public services, were reviewed with particular emphasis on adherence to timelines, inter-agency coordination, resolution of pending issues and expeditious completion," the statement read.

HANDED 10 YEARS IN JAIL FOR RAPE

Surrender in two weeks: SC rejects Tejpal's exemption plea

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, August 25

Tehelka's former editor-in-chief Tarun Tejpal. ANI FILE

REJECTING A request by Tehelka magazine's former editor-in-chief Tarun Tejpal who had sought exemption from surrender after being sentenced to 10 years in jail in a 2013 rape case, the Supreme Court Tuesday directed him to turn himself in within two weeks.

"The appellant shall surrender within two weeks and shall furnish the surrender certificate," the single-judge bench of Justice Alok Aradhe said.

The bench said if the surrender certificate is submitted on or before September 22, Tejpal's main appeal challenging the August 6 ruling of the Bombay High Court in Goa, which convicted and sentenced him for the rape of a woman journalist, will be listed for hearing on September 22.

While overturning Tejpal's acquittal by a trial court and sentencing him, the High Court had given him four weeks to surrender.

Appearing for Tejpal, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal referred to the High Court verdict and said, "The incident took place 13 years ago. The respondent is a senior citizen with a family, a wife and two daughters. There is no report of any misconduct by the respondent or an allegation of having committed any offence post the acquittal order. Both parties must have by now moved on with their lives."

He said Tejpal was on bail for 13 years, except for the six months after the case was filed. He cited provisions of the Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Act, 1970, which gives a convict the right to challenge a verdict that reverses an earlier acquittal and hands down a heavy sentence.

Sibal pointed out that a trial court had earlier acquitted Tejpal and this ruling was overturned in the High Court. "Therefore, there's no impediment here. Under the (1970) Act, I don't have to seek exemption. My appeal can be heard straightaway. Therefore, Your Lordships can hear the appeal straightaway... and grant me the exemption," he said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Goa government, challenged Sibal's reliance on the 1970 Act, saying it does not have anything to do with whether exemption from surrender can be granted. He also touched upon the merits of the case, saying Tejpal "was in more than one capacity in this offence".

When Sibal objected to going into the merits of the case, Mehta said, "According to me, one of the considerations for grant or exemption would be the merits of the case."

Justice Aradhe said, "I have gone through the judgment... Broadly, we look into the nature of the offence and the period of sentence."

He went on to reject the exemption application and asked Tejpal to surrender.

EXPRESS special

School in village near Jaipur which rebuffed CJP is now in a single room, waiting for funds

Parul Kulshrestha
Rampura-Kanwarpura (Jaipur), August 25

The Government Primary School at Rampura-Kanwarpura near Jaipur which was closed for safety reasons. PARUL KULSHRESTHA

AN "UNSAFE" school building, a shared space with cattle, a single-room structure, and now the promise of a Rs 18 lakh upgrade.

Government Primary School, Rampura-Kanwarpura, has learnt a valuable lesson in maths the past few days: all it takes to multiply things is a few crosses.

Within days of a Cockroach Janta Party protest putting the spotlight on this school that abuts the state capital Jaipur, 18 students and their parents are hoping their wait for a building since an older one was declared unsafe a year ago may finally end.

After cameras caught students attending classes with four cattle tied nearby, they were moved the next day into a room loaned by a fellow villager.

Following a government directive restricting outsider entry into government schools, the two teachers on duty refuse access inside the room, or to talk to the media, on Tuesday.

This morning, Dhori Bairwa sent her two sons only at 9.30 am to the school, though classes begin at 8. It was raining and the floor on which the students sit can get muddy. While Bairwa's husband works as a helper at a store, she works as a daily wager.

Thankful for the attention that could change the fate of the primary school, and of her children, Dhori says: "We are sending our children here because we have no other option. Private schools charge at least Rs 1,000 per month."

Another parent, Vijay Singh, who has a daughter in Class 5, is hopeful that given the spotlight, more changes in infrastructure will follow.

Chota Devi owns the room into which the school has moved now. Her three children, who are all adults now, studied at the same school. While two of them are married, a daughter is preparing for government recruitment exams.

Chota says the condition of the Government Primary School was well-known to all. "Even the original school building was about 30 years old, and it was villagers who had donated the land for it so as to have a school nearby. In all these years, its condition had been deteriorating. Around four years back, a portion of the roof started leaking. Then, after the July 2025 incident in Jhalawar, when a school building collapsed killing seven children, the authorities locked the building and shifted the students."

This was the structure which the students were using when the CJP visited on August 21, leading to a scuffle allegedly with some BJP workers.

Leela Kumari, both of whose daughters studied at the school, says when the original building came up, they were very happy. "We got together to construct it as our children didn't have anywhere else to go. We thought it would be upgraded over the years, to at least Class 8. But nothing happened. In fact, the school kept getting worse. Students left, many choosing private schools."

Since Rampura-Kanwarpura is located on the outskirts of Jaipur, there are multiple private schools within a 5-km radius, many of them with transport facilities.

The closest government school, which is up to Class 10, is 4 km away, past an under-construction road and a bridge.

The old school building is now abandoned, with paint peeling, the colourful lettering and murals fading, a scaffolding put up to prevent the roof from collapsing, and construction material dumped next to walls which talk of Swachh Bharat. If there was any furniture, there are no signs of it.

Authorities admit it is essentially the mid-day meal that still attracts students to government schools. The teachers at the Government Primary School, one of whom has been at the school for 10 years, says they provide Akshay Patra meals.

District Education Officer Giriraj Pareek says it is wrong to say that Government Primary School students had been moved into a cowshed, as reported by the CJP and others. "It is a home, where a space has been kept aside for cattle, like at any normal house in a village. We thought of it as an immediate solution to shift students as the original building was not safe."

The new building, Pareek says, will come up soon. "We have sanctioned Rs 12 lakh."

Another Rs 6 lakh has been given from MLALADS by the local BJP MLA, Kailash Verma.

Following the Rampura-Kanwarpura row, the Bhajan Lal Sharma-led BJP government also announced a three-year, Rs 12,500-crore roadmap for government school buildings across the state – including Rs 2,487 crore for new buildings, Rs 8,378 crore for new classrooms, Rs 1,129 crore for repairs, and Rs 340 crore for new toilet complexes.

CJP leader Ashutosh Ranka, who led the team that visited the Rampura-Kanwarpura school, called the announcement a "major victory" for their outfit, but said "questions remain". "The government had presented a similar plan in its March 2026 High Court affidavit, though with a five-year timeline instead of three years now."

A resident of the village, Prahlad Sharma, 60, whose three grandchildren study in a private school, says: "Teachers of the school wrote so many times to the higher authorities, but nobody listened. I hope now things will change."

One-third of India in severe rain deficit as monsoon enters last leg

Anjali Marar
Bengaluru, August 25

NEARLY 35 per cent of the country's geographical area remains in a significant rain deficit even as the southwest monsoon approaches its final leg.

The rainfall data maintained by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) stated that the country-wide rainfall for the season (since June 1) was 554.2mm — 13 per cent short of expected levels for this time of the year.

Notably, the cumulative rainfall departure from normal has consistently remained negative throughout this season.

That said, rainfall activity over the central region, between Odisha and Gujarat, has remained prominent during the July-August period, in part due to the recurrent development of low pressure systems in the Bay of Bengal and their subsequent landward movement.

"The spatial distribution of rainfall has been largely skewed, especially at district levels," said O P Sreejith, senior meteorologist at IMD.

About 412 districts across 14 states and Union territories in the south peninsula, northeast, and some parts of eastern and northwest India have recorded a deficit in rain — amounting to the aforementioned 35 per cent.

What is worrying is that even states that receive either extremely high or extremely low rainfall are experiencing below-average season rainfall this year.

• Rainfall across India during June 1 - Aug 24

State / UT	rainfall*
Meghalaya	-58%
Bihar and Manipur	-42%
Arunachal Pradesh	-40%
Andhra Pradesh	-39%
Goa and Punjab	-33%
Puducherry	-32%
Lakshadweep	-27%
Assam	-24%
Kerala	-23%
Rajasthan & Karnataka	-22%
Mizoram	-21%

*Seasonal rainfall departure; **Source:** IMD

For instance, Goa's normal rainfall till the third week of August is 2,562mm. However, this season (till August 24), it has recorded only 1,713.2mm — a deficit of 33 per cent.

Similarly, in Kerala, where normal rainfall for the same period is 1,671.4mm, only 1,283.3mm of rainfall has been recorded this season — a 23 per cent deficit; and in Punjab (normal rainfall is 338.2mm), 226.9mm — a 33 per cent deficit in the season so far.

Rajasthan's normal rainfall (till August 24) is 345mm. The desert state, where the monsoon arrives last and exits first, has received 268.3mm — a 22 per cent deficit.

Recently, Assam faced one of its worst floods, and yet, 19 of the state's 35 districts report a rain deficit.

In Meghalaya (-58 per cent below normal), the southwest Khasi Hills district has recorded excess rainfall, while all the other 10 districts are either in rainfall deficit or 'large' deficit category (rainfall -60 to -99 per cent below normal).

Elsewhere, in Bihar, just three — Khagaria, Lakhisarai and Siwan — of the 35 districts have received normal rainfall. The others are experiencing a rain deficit this season.

Meanwhile, in Andhra, all the districts, including regions of Yanam and Rayalaseema, remain in a rain deficit. A contrasting picture prevails in the neighbouring Odisha, where all 30 districts have received normal or above rainfall this season.

The prevailing low pressure system over Jharkhand will keep the monsoon active over west Uttar Pradesh, west Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh till August 29, as the IMD has forecast the system to move further north-west in the coming days. Konkan, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada in Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, coastal Andhra Pradesh and the Gujarat region will experience widespread heavy spells till the end of this month, the IMD has forecast.

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Since Saturday night, the Indian Coast Guard has been conducting an intensive search for the 22 of 24 missing crew members of the Panama-flagged cargo ship

Emergency beacon of sunken ship, life boat recovered, but no clue of 22 sailors

Sujit Bisoyi
Bhubaneswar, August 25

THREE DAYS after a cargo ship sank off Odisha coast, an emergency beacon of the vessel and a lifeboat were recovered from the Bay of Bengal Tuesday. However there is no trace of the *MV Ocean Winner* crew.

Since Saturday night, the Indian Coast Guard has been conducting a search for the 22 of 24 missing crew members of the Panama-flagged cargo ship.

ICGS Varad patrol vessel of the Indian Coast Guard recovered an emergency beacon from the search area. On verification, it was confirmed to have been associated with *MV Ocean Winner*, said officials.

"During an aerial search, a naval aircraft detected a distress transmission and guided *ICGS Varad* towards the reported location. The ICGS Varad recovered the emergency beacon," said Coast Guard spokesperson Commandant Amit Uniyal.

The rescue team located the lifeboat at 7 am on Tuesday. A boarding team inspected the lifeboat; however, no survivors were found. Coast Guard sources also confirmed that the MRCC Beijing, the Maritime Search and Rescue Centre of China, has also been coordinating with the Indian Coast Guard in the search and rescue operation. It has deployed two of its merchant vessels to help intensify the operation.

According to officials, 20 of the 24 crew members of the ship, including the two survivors, are Chinese nationals. While three are from Myanmar, one is from Bangladesh.

"The search for the remaining missing crew members is continuing with sustained efforts, with Coast Guard assets, aircraft and merchant vessels maintaining an extensive search of the area," said Uniyal.

Additional Coast Guard assets and merchant vessels in the area are being deployed and coordinated to intensify the search operation. *MV Ocean Winner* sank around 230 nautical miles (425 km) from the Paradip coast of Odisha late on Sunday night. Officials said the vessel tilted and sank within eight minutes.

On the condition of the two rescued seafarers, an official source said they are on the Coast Guard ship and being brought back to the mainland. Officials said they are likely to be brought to Paradip from where they will be repatriated to China in coordination with the Chinese embassy. The directorate of maritime administration, India's apex maritime regulatory body, may also record statements of the two rescued crew members.

ARAVALLI DEFINITION REVIEW

Leaders, ecologists urge SC-appointed panel to seek more time, record mining impact

Nikhil Ghanekar
New Delhi, August 25

OPPOSITION MPs and MLAs from Rajasthan and independent experts such as ecologist Pradip Krishen have written to the Supreme Court-constituted high-powered committee (HPC) reviewing the Aravalli definition, urging the panel to seek more time from the apex court to evaluate the matter. They have flagged inadequate engagement with mining-impacted communities. The HPC's deadline to submit its report ends on August 31.

In his letter dated August 25, Rajasthan's Leader of Opposition and Congress MLA Tika Ram Jully pointed out gaps in the stakeholder engagement across the state and stressed that the panel covered very few districts. Rajkumar Roat, Bharat Adivasi Party MP from Banswara, and Amra Ram, CPI(M) MP from Sikar, are among the parliamentarians who submitted their views to the HPC, highlighting the health and environmental issues faced by communities due to mining in the Aravallis.

The HPC had sought comments from stakeholders during a 21-day period, which ended on August 11. Civil society groups, environmental activists and mining-impacted communities have been demanding that the HPC seek more time to submit its report as the panel has visited only limited urban areas in the Aravallis. Roat, who belongs to the Bhil community, said tribal people have lived in the Aravalli hills and forests since time immemorial, and mining leases have caused significant damage in the region. The committee should consult health experts, cancel leases of mining companies that violated regulations and determine responsibility for damage," he said in his letter dated August 14.

Amra Ram made more specific demands, including seeking protection for the Girjan river and forests and 'oran' or sacred groves along the river stretch. "The Girjan river ecosystem, which includes 40 villages, hamlets and the Buchara Dam, be declared a mining and stone crushing zone," the CPI(M) MP said.

Ecologist Pradip Krishen wrote in his email to the HPC that the panel had a historic opportunity to save the natural barrier against desertification, and the aquifers it is home to. Krishen said a cumulative and independent environmental and social impact study, spanning all 63 Aravalli districts as mentioned in the Forest Survey of India's 2025 report, is needed.

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In Surat, a fish market names itself after Modi, triggers a row

Kamal Saiyed
Surat, August 25

A PROPOSAL to name a wholesale fish market in Surat after Prime Minister Narendra Modi has run into trouble after some fish traders opposed the plan.

The Surat Fish Merchant Association inaugurated the market on Monday, naming it 'Shree Narendra Modi Wholesale Fish Market' with a picture of the Prime Minister on the banner.

Following opposition from a section of association members, the banner was covered with a white sheet on Tuesday.

Built with assistance from the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, this is Surat's first municipal corporation-run wholesale fish market and can accommodate 80 outlets.

The inauguration, however, saw a verbal duel between some members and Surendra Lashkari, a member and a fish trader who has a plot in the market.

"This damages the image and identity of the Prime Minister, who is a vegetarian, so I requested the association president to remove his name," Lashkari told *The Indian Express*.

Kalpesh Navsariwala, the president of the Fish Merchant Association, said, "This market was built with funds from Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, and the PM promotes fisheries under the Blue Revolution. It only gives us pride to name the market after him."

The Surat fish market board after inauguration on Monday. It was later covered. EXPRESS

He added that he took the members into confidence before proposing the name.

The matsya yojana is a scheme to bring about a 'Blue Revolution' through the sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector in India.

Among the mandates of the scheme is a provision for developing "modern wholesale fish markets including supermarkets, retail fish markets and outlets, mobile fish and live fish markets so as to ensure quality and hygienic fish to the consumers".

With an estimated investment of Rs 20,050 crore over a five-year period from 2020-21, the scheme is implemented by the Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

The Centre and the Gujarat government have each contributed Rs 3 crore to this, and the municipal corporation has contributed Rs 1.5 crore.

Surat Municipal Corporation's executive engineer Rajesh Ganjawala said the association sent a proposal to the civic body a couple of days before the inauguration, suggesting it be named after PM Modi.

UN panel flags 'human rights violations' in India, urges Delhi to suspend, review NRC

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 25

A UNITED Nations (UN) human rights panel has raised concerns about violations against marginalised communities in India, and urged New Delhi to protect them from alleged abuse, torture, extrajudicial killings, and stripping of citizenship.

In its report released Tuesday in Geneva, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) criticised the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, and raised concerns about the subjecting of Bengali-speaking Muslims to "systematic and structural racial discrimination".

It called for the suspension of the NRC and urged New Delhi to review its legislative framework, and "urgently address discrimination, hate speech, and hate crimes against Rohingya, Bengali-speaking Muslims, migrants, and asylum-seekers".

The Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process was also called out in the observations, with the committee raising concern that Bengali-speaking Muslim voters were reportedly disproportionately impacted in West Bengal and Assam.

RBI BULLETIN'S MONTHLY STATE OF THE ECONOMY ARTICLE

Indian economy resilient amid global uncertainties: RBI paper

George Mathew
Mumbai, August 25

THE INDIAN economy is showing resilience amid a fragile global environment marked by geopolitical tensions, renewed US tariffs and persistent trade uncertainties, according to the Reserve Bank of India's 'State of the Economy' article.

While these external headwinds continue to pose risks to global trade and the growth-inflation outlook, buoyant domestic demand, a recovery in manufacturing and services activity, improving monsoon conditions and a rebound in capital inflows are providing support to India's growth momentum, the RBI article said.

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee kept the key Repo rate unchanged at 5.25% in its meeting on August 5. The panel marginally raised its growth forecast for FY27 to 6.7% from 6.6% and lowered its inflation projection to 5% from 5.1%.

However, members of the MPC indicated that as headline inflation is projected to peak to a level as high as 5.9% in Q3 2026-27, a "case for a hike may emerge" during the course of the year, according to the minutes of the MPC meeting released last week.

"The global economy is confronting a fragile geopolitical environment and continuing trade-related uncertainties. Nevertheless, the domestic economy has demonstrated notable resilience to the ongoing global headwinds, characterised by buoyant domestic demand, and rising manufacturing and services activity," the article authored by RBI researchers and economists said.

"The south-west monsoon picked up in July after recording a deficit in June. While headline CPI inflation rose fractionally, reflecting food inflation; core inflation remained stable. Liquidity conditions eased, supporting credit growth and ongoing investment activity. Foreign capital inflows rebounded, reinforcing the external sector," the article published in the RBI monthly bulletin said.

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India's robust macroeconomic fundamentals continue to provide cushion to the domestic economy, the RBI said. REUTERS

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It said the global economic outlook continues to be shaped by geopolitical frictions in West Asia and fresh tariffs by the US. Despite these risks to global trade and the growth-inflation matrix, India's robust macroeconomic fundamentals continue to provide cushion to the domestic economy, it said.

"The momentum of Q1:2026-27 continued in July with most of the high-frequency indicators reflecting sustained manufacturing and services activity, and double-digit expansion in merchandise exports and imports," the RBI article said. The recovery in southwest monsoon in July helped in kharif sowing reaching closer to normal acreage, partly mitigating some of the risks to the agriculture sector, it said.

While headline CPI inflation edged up above the target, it was primarily on account of supply side pressures. "Stable core inflation reaffirmed the lower pass-through of cost pressures. Financial conditions are characterised by high credit growth, comfortable liquidity, and softening G-sec yields supported by rebound in capital inflows," it said.

"The economy continued to display strength notwithstanding these headwinds. Domestic demand remained buoyant, as reflected by several indicators, including vehicle and tractor sales," the RBI report said. Petroleum product consumption growth returned to positive territory, after three straight months of contraction. Industrial production strengthened sharply in June, recording its strongest growth in nearly two years, supported by a broad-based acceleration in manufacturing.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

DGCA considers annual drug testing of all pilots after Air India incident

ENS Economic Bureau
New Delhi, August 25

AMID DGCA-LED stakeholder consultations over strengthening drug testing of pilots, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has suggested that all pilots should undergo a dope test once a year, against the current regulation that requires 10% of the pilots to undergo random testing annually, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said Tuesday.

Naidu's comments follow the positive drug test result of the captain of an Air India Phuket-Delhi flight involved in a sudden altitude-drop incident on August 4. The pilot tested positive for marijuana, it is learnt. Following the pilot's positive dope test, the Air India group has initiated a mandatory one-time testing of all of its 5,000-odd pilots.

According to sources, while the DGCA was already in the process of revising the regulations pertaining to testing of aviation personnel for psychoactive substances, the incident has led to calls for more stringent drug testing protocol and stricter disciplinary action in proven instances of drug abuse. Earlier this month, pilot grouping Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) urged the DGCA to expand the annual mandatory testing to 25% of the pilots from the current 10%.

"So right now, the rule says 10% (of pilots are to be tested) across the overall pilot network but just like I said, DGCA is engaging (with stakeholders) and one of the opinions from our side is that everyone has to go through it in the year at a random time," Naidu told reporters on the sidelines of an industry event.

"We have to see how all the stakeholders are going to respond to this because one is the safety aspect of it...and the second thing is the operational impact. That also has to be taken into consideration. So we are going to balance both," the minister added.

As per the DGCA Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) on testing for psychoactive substances, random dope tests on 10% of the flight crew, other pilots, and air traffic controllers are mandatory each year. Apart from the routine random testing, these tests are also usually done after a safety-related incident, as is the case with the recent one involving an Air India plane.

The Air India Airbus A320 aircraft — VT-EXO — operating a flight from Phuket to Delhi on August 4 encountered a sudden altitude drop of about 300 feet and caused injuries to 20 passengers and four cabin crew members, and 17 of the 24 had to be hospitalised. The aircraft had 137 passengers, six cabin crew members, and two pilots on board. The incident was classified as a serious incident and is under investigation by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB). The preliminary investigation report is expected soon, according to Naidu.

The government and the airline had initially attributed the incident to severe turbulence. Conduct of the pilots is also under scanner, particularly in view of the pilot-in-command testing for marijuana, as per sources. Moreover, the Airbus A320 jet is also learnt to have faced multiple snags with the aircraft's hydraulic and control systems in quick succession at the time of the incident, which is being investigated by the AAIB as a possible cause.

In the current DGCA CAR on testing for psychoactive substances, pilots and air traffic controllers are seen as the primary focus segments. But the rules also extend to the broader range of aviation personnel engaged in safety-sensitive functions, like aircraft maintenance engineers and certifying staff, trainee pilots, and instructors and examiners.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

• FLIGHT SAFETY

THE DGCA was already in the process of revising the regulations pertaining to testing of aviation personnel for psychoactive substances

THE AIR India incident has led to calls for more stringent drug testing protocol and stricter disciplinary action in proven instances of drug abuse

EARLIER THIS month, pilot grouping Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) urged the DGCA to expand the annual mandatory testing to 25% of the pilots from the current 10%

'India, Japan eye joint investments in Africa for critical minerals'

Sandeep Singh
Tokyo, August 25

AS INDIA and Japan recognise the world's growing dependency on China for critical minerals, business leaders across the two countries are deliberating on the possibility of investing jointly in Africa to secure their supply and expand mining capabilities, said Anant Goenka, FICCI President and Vice Chairman of RPG Group.

"I think we can work jointly, whether it is negotiating together, sharing an opportunity with each other of whatever supplies that each have. Critical minerals are going to be short, and it is a challenge in the world and has been very critical. My experience is that either they are physically located in a few countries, or they have been blocked by a few countries. So, it's going to be an important area that we have to focus on, whether it is mining capabilities or securing them for supplies," said Goenka.

Over 200 business leaders from India are currently travelling to Japan along with the Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, to explore avenues for investment and partnership.

Speaking to the media, Goenka said that the business-to-business meetings in Tokyo have been looking to explore joint venture partnerships and investment opportunities in India. He said there is both opportunity and excitement, and while investments in the recent past have come within the targeted time, they are now looking at the next phase of investment.

"Few sectors that we are focusing on are AI, data centres, shipbuilding, critical minerals, steel, and semiconductors," he said, adding that the other area they have discussed is how to evolve and focus on MSMEs, and how Indian MSMEs can learn from Japan's high-quality MSME industry and build capacity. Goenka expressed concern while speaking on the issue of the widening trade deficit with Japan since the signing of the economic partnership agreement in 2011.

The correspondent is in Tokyo at the invitation of FICCI.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

BIS CERTIFICATION RELIEF FOR HIGH-TECH IMPORTS ASSURED

Goyal woos Japanese firms for India's semiconductor push

Sandeep Singh
Tokyo, August 25

SEEKING TO deepen Japan's role in India's semiconductor and electronics manufacturing ambitions, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal assured Japanese companies of easing regulatory hurdles, certification requirements and building a Japan-friendly social infrastructure at key hubs including Dholera.

Speaking at the roundtable of semiconductor and AI where representatives of around 25 leading Japanese companies were present, Goyal said that the concerns raised around BIS certification has already been taken up by him.

"We have already instructed BIS and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to work on a framework to support high-tech industries coming in to promote the Make in India program. Create a framework of exemption from BIS certification required for all the equipment and components that they need to bring to India," he said.

While such a framework would provide a company level or industry level exemption, Goyal added that the government will also find a solution for bulk exemption, or product or project-based exemption.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal with his Japanese counterpart Akazawa Ryosei, in Tokyo, Japan. X/PIYUSHGOYAL

Addressing the concerns around regulatory complexity raised by some companies, Goyal said that while the support will be there at central level, he said that even at the state or local level, "we will stand very willing to support you fully."

On the issue of SEZ notifications, Goyal said that the government will take timely action so that the companies can take the benefits of the incentives offered through the SEZ framework, or EOU framework (Export oriented units) or the MOOWR (Manufacture and Other Operations in Warehouse) framework.

On the metter of social infrastructure for Japanese expats and their families, Goyal said that the government is working to create the same around Dholera.

The correspondent is in Tokyo at the invitation of FICCI.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Bombay HC bench releases Volkswagen tax case

Omkar Gokhale
Mumbai, August 25

THE BOMBAY High Court bench led by Justice Burgess P Colabawalla on Tuesday released itself from the plea by Skoda Auto Volkswagen India challenging a $1.4 billion tax demand, after noting that it could not adhere to the Supreme Court-prescribed timeline for pronouncing its judgment reserved in April 2025.

The bench also directed that status quo be maintained for four weeks to facilitate the petitioner in moving the matter before the regular bench.

This comes months after the Supreme Court in May this year directed High Courts to pronounce verdicts within three months of closing the hearing, with an additional extension in certain circumstances.

The dispute pertained to the show cause notice issued by the Indian customs authorities to Skoda Auto Volkswagen India citing nearly 33,000 transactions, alleging that it deliberately misclassified its imports for Skoda, Volkswagen and Audi vehicles as individual units instead of "Completely Knocked Down (CKD) units", which attract higher customs duties.

FULL REPORT ON
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Air India seeks $1.5 bn from owners Tata, Singapore Air

New Delhi: Air India is seeking about $1.5 billion in fresh equity from its owners Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, months after the second-largest Indian airline posted a record annual loss, two people familiar with the matter told *Reuters*.

It would be one of Air India's largest publicly reported requests for shareholder funding since Tata took control of the former state-owned carrier in 2022. It highlights the challenges facing the airline as it undergoes a multi-billion-dollar revamp, including the refurbishment of its existing fleet.

The carrier and its budget unit Air India Express posted combined losses of $2.33 billion in the fiscal year ended March, more than double the prior year's losses. The losses have also weighed on Singapore Airlines' profits. REUTERS

LRS remittances rise 6.5% in June on travel, investments

George Mathew
Mumbai, August 25

OUTWARD REMITTANCES by resident Indians under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) rose in June 2026, with total transfers increasing 6.46% month-on-month to $2.55 billion, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Resident individuals remitted $2,551.34 million in June, up from $2,396.42 million in May as overseas investments in equity and debt and travel outflows rose during the month. The May figure was at $2,127.39 million, indicating a steady acceleration in outward remittances during the first quarter of 2026-27. The LRS allows resident individuals to remit up to $250,000 in a financial year for permitted current or capital account transactions.

Travel remained by far the largest component of LRS outflows. Remittances for travel rose 6.6% to $1,366.81 million in June from $1,282.63 million in May. Travel-related transfers accounted for more than half of total LRS remittances during the month, according to RBI data.

Education travel up, business travel down

Within travel, education-related travel saw the strongest increase, rising to $488.32 million in June from $422.97 million in May, an increase of 15.4%. Other travel, which includes holiday trips and payments towards settling international credit card transactions, increased 2.6% to $853.11 million, data shows.

Business travel, however, declined marginally to $13.68 million from $13.95 million. Remittances for pilgrimage fell 35.1% to $6.58 million, while transfers for medical treatment involving travel abroad increased 24% to $5.12 million.

RBI said the second-biggest increase came from investments in equity and debt. Outward remittances for this purpose jumped 25.6% month-on-month to $456.69 million in June, from $363.64 million in May. The rise suggests a stronger flow of resident funds into overseas financial assets.

Outward remittances rise for property, gifts

Remittances for purchasing immovable property abroad also increased substantially, rising 38.9% to $49.65 million from $35.76 million.

Though relatively small in absolute terms, the category recorded one of the sharpest month-on-month increases among the major uses of LRS.

Gifts, another significant component of outward remittances, rose 5% to $211.49 million in June from $201.50 million in May.

Donations remained broadly stable, edging up to $0.75 million from $0.69 million.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

• BRIEFLY

SEBI drops case against Max Fin, Axis entities

New Delhi: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has disposed of proceedings against Max Financial Services, Max Life, and Axis Group entities over an alleged Rs 3,911 crore shareholder loss, finding that disclosure lapses and a fraudulent scheme were not established. Max Life Insurance Company is now known as Axis Max Life Insurance. The SEBI, in a final order on Monday, dropped proceedings against seven individuals, including Max Group founder and Chairman Analjit Singh. PTI

India to stop grid-control imports by 2030

New Delhi: India plans to stop importing a key technology used to monitor and control the country's electricity grid after 2030, as the government looks to reduce its dependence on foreign suppliers for critical power infrastructure. The technology, called Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition, allows operators to monitor power plants and substations from control centres and remotely operate equipment such as circuit breakers and transformers. The CEA calls it the "central nervous system of the National Power Grid" because it helps manage electricity flows in real time. FE

Federal-Jana SFB merger buzz intensifies

Mumbai: Speculation over a merger between Federal Bank and Jana Small Finance Bank (Jana SFB) intensified on Tuesday after a television channel reported that the Kerala-based lender was in advanced talks to acquire a controlling stake in the small finance bank. CNBC-TV18, citing sources, reported that Jana SFB's promoter, Jana Holdings, is likely to sell its entire 16.9% stake to Federal Bank, a transaction that would trigger an open offer. Shares of Federal Bank fell 3% on the BSE on Tuesday, while Jana SFB slipped 2%. FE

• A STELLAR SEVEN-MEMBER JURY LED BY KUMAR MANGALAM BIRLA MEETS TODAY TO CHOOSE THE INAUGURAL FE LEADERSHIP AWARDS WINNERS

FE Leadership Awards 2026: Jury to pick India Inc's best

FINANCIAL EXPRESS Leadership AWARDS
JURY MEETING

ENS Economic Bureau
New Delhi, August 25

THE SEARCH for the best of India Inc begins in Mumbai on Wednesday, when a high-powered jury led by Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla sits down to pick the winners of the inaugural FE Leadership Awards 2026.

Joining Birla at the jury table is a formidable line-up drawn from banking, law, private equity and professional services: Arundhati Bhattacharya, former chairman of State Bank of India and now President & CEO, Salesforce, South Asia; Cyril Shroff, managing partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas; Sanjay Nayar, former CEO of Citigroup India and South Asia and former CEO of KKR India; Amit Chandra, chairman, Bain Capital; Rajiv Memani, chairman & CEO, EY India; and Manish Kejriwal, founder and managing partner, Kedaara Capital.

Their task: to identify the leaders, companies and ideas that stood out in a year when disruption was relentless, markets were being reshaped and the demands on corporate leadership became tougher.

Left to Right: Kumar Mangalam Birla, Rajiv Memani, Amit Chandra

The FE Leadership Awards will celebrate business leaders who are helping drive India's growth story, companies that have successfully reinvented themselves, ideas that have disrupted established markets and innovations that could change the way business is done. They will also recognise the financial stewards who have protected corporate balance sheets in a challenging environment and smaller enterprises that have punched well above their weight.

There is room, too, for the new generation of business builders. The awards will recognise young founders whose platforms have challenged legacy models, entrepreneurs who have created new markets and businesses, and companies and leaders making sustainability central to the way they operate.

In its inaugural edition, the FE Leadership Awards will also single out a CEO whose performance in 2025-26 put him or her ahead of the pack. At the other end of the leadership journey, the Lifetime Achievement award will salute a business leader who has built an enduring institution — brick by brick, over decades.

The jury's deliberations will be backed by data collated by EY from company annual reports and authoritative sources including the Registrar of Companies and ratings agencies. But numbers will only take the process so far. The jury will bring its collective experience to bear in assessing performance, leadership, innovation and impact before arriving at the winners.

The awards span 11 categories: CEO of the Year, Company of the Year, Start-up of the Year, Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year, Young Turks, CFO of the Year, MNC of the Year, Innovation of the Year, Sustainability Leader/Company, Lifetime Achievement and MSME of the Year. FE

• MARKETS

Sensex	NIFTY	Gold ▼	US Dollar ▼
77,656.09	24,334.55	₹1,62,041	₹95.41
286.98	115.50	Silver ▼	Oil ▲
0.37%	0.48%	₹2,41,848	$93.93

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER INDIA BULLION AND JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION DATA GOLD PER 10G, SILVER PER 1 KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF AUGUST 24, 2026

Tender Notice No. 19 of 2026-27

Tender is invited by Executive Engineer, National highway Division, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, Kashivishwanath Plot, Rajkot, Ph.No.0281 2446605 as under. Tender Documents are available on web site **rnb.nprocure.com** and tender can be filled online only.

Sr. No.	Name of work	(1) Estd.Cost. (2) EMD (3) Tender Fee
1.	Collection of Toll From Toll Plaza Near Bamanbore Junction (By using Computrized Toll Collection System (ETC/ Manual System) and near Bagodara on Ahmedabad-Kandla Road NH - 47(old NH – 8A)	(1) 29,54,82,500/- (2) 1,47,74,125/- (3) 18000/-

Tender Documents & time table of E-Tendering will be available on above web site after 27/08/2026 **and last date of submission bid online up to 28/09/2026** Any modification/correction will be displayed on website only. **INF-RAJ-744-26-27**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Raul Shaikh S/o Mr. Tarul Shaikh R/o Jhuggi No.42, JJ Colony, Bawana, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 528/2022 U/S 356/379/34 IPC, PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest their upon issued that the said accused **Raul Shaikh** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Raul Shaikh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Raul Shaikh** of **FIR No. 528/2022 U/S 356/379/34 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 **05.10.2026.**

By Order,
Sh. Vaibhav Garg
Judicial Magistrate First Class-11
(Central), Room No.138
DP/11430/N/2026(Court Matter) Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DPHQ UDHAMPUR

No: CB/Look Out Notice/2026/57077-86 Dated: 24.08.2026

LOOK OUT NOTICE

As requested by Dy.SP Hqrs. Udhampur that on 21.08.2026, applicant namely Sukh Dai W/O Naresh Kumar R/O Sarsoo P/O Dhandal, Tehsil Ramnagar District Udhampur lodged a missing report at P/S Udhampur to the effect that her son namely Gurdeep Singh, age 33 years is missing since 10/12 days. The applicant has conducted his search, but he has not been traced out. Accordingly, a missing report has been entered by P/S Udhampur vide DDR No. 23 dated 21.08.2026 and search started. The Photograph with descriptive roll of missing person is as under

Photo	Description :-
	Name:- Gurdeep Singh
	Age:- 33 yrs.
	Complexion:- Wheatish
	Height: 5 feet & 7 inches
	Body built: Healthy

It is therefore requested that a sharp lookout may please be maintained and if traced out or any clue leading to the whereabouts of said missing person is received an information may kindly be shared on the below mentioned Telephone Nos./Fax/e-mail address for further course of action.

Email: sspudh@jkpolice.gov.in
Fax: 01992-270027
Phone: 01992-2270210
PCR Udhampur: 01992-276915
P/S Udhampur: 01992-270725

Sd/-

RO NO. DIP/J-8800/26, DATED 25.08.2026. **SSP Udhampur**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Wasim S/o Shabbir R/o Alvi Nagar, Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 41/2018 U/S 397/392/411/34 IPC & 27/54/59 Arms Act, PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest their upon issued that the said accused **Wasim S/o Shabbir** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Wasim S/o Shabbir** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Wasim S/o Shabbir** of **FIR No. 41/2018 U/S 397/392/411/34 IPC & 27/54/59 Arms Act, PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **29.10.2026 at 10:00 am.**

By Order
Sh. Joginder Prakash Nahar
Additional Sessions Judge(FTC)-01
Central, Room No.230
DP/11631/N/2026(Court Matter) Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

SEE SECTION 84 BHARTIYA NAGARIK SURKSHA SANHITA

Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Chandan Kapoor S/o** Sh. Shyama @ Kamal Kapoor Raghuveer **R/o** H.No. B-59, Vijay Vihar, Ph-II, Rohini, B.D. Public School ke Samne Wali Gali, Delhi, have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR No. 753/2016 Dt. 24.12.2016 U/s 498A/406 IPC**., has been registered at **PS: Sultanpuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, **Chandan Kapoor** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Chandan Kapoor** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Said, **Chandan Kapoor** of **FIR No. 753/2016 Dt. 24.12.2016 U/s 498A/406 IPC**., has been.registered at **PS: Sultanpuri, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **05.10.2026**.

By Order
Ms. Neha Goel
DP/11612/OD/2026 MM, (Mahila Court No. 2) , (North-West)
(Court Notice) G.F., Room No. 18, Rohini Court Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED	NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF GLUCOMETER, GLUCOSTRIPS AND AUTO DISABLE LANCETS ON 2 YEARS RATE CONTRACT AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT.	25.08.2026 07.09.2026	1,79,42,272/-	www.hmscl.org.in	8929296925 equipmentbpc2020@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in **No. 48596/HR**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
P.H. CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR.
13001/1648/2627 **Mobile No: # -9437704019/7008499980**
E-mail: sephbbsr@gmail.com
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NO.ACCCPHBBSR-02/2026-27 Dt.20.08.2026

01	No of the work	: 01 No (One no work) Establishment Water Testing Labs at various WTPs and in the ULBs having no WTP to ensure good quality drinking water under State Plan SUJALA
02	Estimate cost	: Rs.624.76 Lakhs
03	Period of completion	: 06 (Six) Months
04	O & M Period	: 01 (One) Year
05	Class of contractor	: Agencies/Firms having experience and expertise in Establishment of Water Testing Laboratories acceptable as per the NABL guideline
06	Date & Time of availability of bid document In the portal	: From 11.00 AM of Dt.29.08.2026 to 5.00 PM of 17.09.2026
07	Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 5.00 PM of17.09.2026
08	Last date & time of seeking clarification	: 5.00 PM of 05.09.2026
09	Date & Time of opening of bids	: At 12.30 PM of 18.09.2026
10	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Additional Chief Engineer, P.H. Circle, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal **"https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in"**

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer
OIPR-13001/13039/1/26-27/0002 P.H. Circle, Bhubaneswar

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

Description	N.I.T.	29, 30, 31, 32, 42, 43, 44, 45 & 48-2026-27-WV
Name of work with its location	29	Annual Zone work for repair and maintenance of staff quarters and service buildings in GGN-RE section (excl. RE) and Rewari Loco Heritage shed in the section of SSE/W/GGN under ADEN/DEE. **Similar nature of work:- Any Civil work other than track work.**
	30	Annual zone work repair and maintenance of staff quarters and service buildings in the section of SSE/W/DEE under ADEN/DEE. **Similar nature of work:- Any Civil work other than track work.**
	31	Annual zone work for repair & maintenance of staff Quarters & supply of building material for day to day maintenance in the section of SSE/W/FDB under ADEN/TKD. **Similar nature of work:- Any Civil work other than track work.**
	32	Annual zone work for repair and maintenance of the station building and service building at HNZM & DSJ station in the section of SSE/W/HNZM under ADEN/HNZM. **Similar nature of work:- Any Civil work other than track work.**
	42	Annual Zone works for repair and maintenance of the staff quarters and service building in the section of SSE/W/Line/HNZM under ADEN/HNZM. **Similar nature of work:- Any Civil work other than track work.**
	43	Annual Zone work for repair and maintenance of Staff Quarters & Supply of Building materials for day to day maintenance in the section of SSE/W/E/TKD under ADEN/TKD. **Similar nature of work:- Any Civil work other than track work.**
	44	Annual zone work repair and maintenance of station building and service building at DEE & DEC station in the section of SSE/W/DEE under ADEN/DEE. **Similar nature of work:- Any Civil work other than track work.**
	45	Annual Zone works for repair and maintenance of the staff quarters and service building in the section of SSE/W/M/TKD under ADEN/HNZM. **Similar nature of work:- Any Civil work other than track work.**
	48	New Delhi - Palwal-TRR(P) 19 KM of IV Line in section of Section of ADEN/TKD under Sr.DEN-V. **Similar nature of work:-** CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of track, screening, de-stressing of track, pro & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machines/ ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28.

Approx. Cost of work								
29	30	31	32	42	43	44	45	48
₹ 6999990.55	₹ 5999998.35	₹ 8499996.72	₹ 8999991.05	₹ 6999980.78	₹ 10999989.82	₹ 5999970.07	₹ 6999995.70	₹ 34867462.02

Earnest Money Deposit	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2010251/CE-1/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)								
	29	30	31	32	42	43	44	45	48
	₹ 140000.00	₹ 120000.00	₹ 170000.00	₹ 180000.00	₹ 140000.00	₹ 220000.00	₹ 120000.00	₹ 140000.00	₹ 697400.00

Period of Work									
29	30	31	32	42	43	44	45	48
12 Months	12 Months	12 Months	12 Months	12 Months	12 Months	12 Months	12 Months	09 Months

Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 17.09.2026 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. on 17.09.2026
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e.**www.ireps.gov.in**.

No. 128-W/280/OET/2026-27/W-V/NIT-29, 30, 31, 32, 42, 43, 44, 45 & 48-2026-27 **Date: 25.08.2026**

SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE 2953/2026

BIHAR STATE POWER TRANSMISSION CO. LTD., PATNA
(A subsidiary company of Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd., Patna)
Govt. of Bihar
CIN- U74110BR2012SGC018889
Head Office, Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna- 800021
Email address- operation.maint@bsptcl.bihar.gov.in
Mob. No. 7763817721 Website- www.bsptcl.in

Tender Notice (NIT) No.- 36/PR/BSPTCL/2026
(Through e-procurement mode only –www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
Online-Tenders are invited by Chief Engineer (O&M) for the following: -

Description of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	E.M.D. (Rs.)	Cost of B.O.Q. (Non-Refundable) (Rs.)	Bid Processing Fee(Rs.)	Completion period
Services of Drone for inspection and thorough patrolling of important Transmission lines in BSPTCL.	6.85 Cr	13,71,000	11,800	11,800	12 (Twelve) Months from NOA.

Start date of Online Sale of Bid Documents/ request of Bid/ Bid Documents	From 11:00 Hrs. of 01.09.2026
Date of Pre-bid meeting	On 11:00 Hrs. of 08.09.2026
Last date of Online Submission of bid along with Tender Cost & processing fee	Up to 17:00 Hrs. of 22.09.2026
Last date of submission of EMD and hard copy of receipt of BSEDCL processing fee & tender cost	Up to 18:00 Hrs. of 22.09.2026
Date of opening of Techno-Commercial Bid (Part-I)	After 16:00 Hrs. of 23.09.2026
Date of opening of price part	**To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)**

1. The Cost of EMD may be paid through either Online or Offline mode. In case, Cost of EMD is opted to be paid through Offline mode, Bank Guarantee/Demand Draft for EMD in favor of "Accounts Officer, BSPTCL, Patna" must be submitted to Chief Engineer (O&M), BSPTCL, Vidyut Bhawan, Patna positively **up to 18:00 Hrs. of 22.09.2026** failing which the tender shall be summarily rejected. In online submissions of Cost of EMD, bidder must submit details of intimation to this Office **by 18:00 Hrs. of 22.09.2026.**

E-tendering introduced in BSPTCL for tenders above Rs. 25 lacs. For registration log in to www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in **and e-Procurement Help Desk Toll free No: 1800 572 6571 , Email Id:** eproc2support@bihar.gov.in

Working Hours: 8AM to 7PM (All days in week except few selected state holidays).

While participating in e-tendering process, the contractor shall have to get them registered to get user ID, Passwords and digital signature. This will enable them to access the Website: www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in **only.**

For further details please visit website **state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

PR- 010369 (B & C) 2026-27
नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार। **Chief Engineer (O&M)**

दिल्ली भवन एवं अन्य सन्निर्माण श्रमिक कल्याण बोर्ड
Delhi Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board
'ए' विंग, 7 वीं मंजिल, विकास भवन-II, सिविल लाइंस, दिल्ली-110054
'A' Wing, 7th Floor, Vikas Bhawan-II, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054
Telephones-23813773, 23613045, E-mail:- bocwhq.del@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online bids are invited from eligible Central/State Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) for selection as Project Implementing Agency for implementation of the Delhi Building Workers Health Scheme for registered beneficiaries of DBOCWW Board.

Interested PSUs may download the tender document, eligibility criteria, and terms & conditions from the GeM portal: www.gem.gov.in vide bid no. GEM/2026/B/7936479 DATED 20.08.2026.

Last date of submission: 31.08.2026

Sd/-
Secretary,
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0195/26-27 DBOCWW Board

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-AUCTION NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/G, Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites e-Auction through IREPS (**https://ireps.gov.in/**) for allotment of contracts of General Minor Units (GMUs) and Special Minor Units (SMUs) for Catering Units at following railway stations/locations:

S.N.	Auction Catalogue No.	Date & Time for e-Auction	Railway Station	Lot No.	Type of Unit
1	CTG-AUG-02-26	09.09.2026 at 11:00 Hrs	Samalkha	Catg-DLI-SMK-GMU-87-25-1	General Minor Unit (GMU)
2			Okhla	Catg-DLI-OKA-GMU-170-25-1	
3			Tugalakabad	Catg-DLI-TKD-GMU-169-25-1	
4			Sampla	Catg-DLI-SPZ-GMU-150-25-1	
5				Catg-DLI-SPZ-GMU-149-25-1	
6			Mohiuddinpur	Catg-DLI-MUZ-GMU-154-25-1	
7			Mandawali Chander Vihar Halt	Catg-DLI-MWC-GMU-113-25-1	
8			Sujra Halt	Catg-DLI-SUJR-GMU-112-25-1	
9			Tilak Bridge	Catg-DLI-TKJ-GMU-111-25-1	
10			Taj Nagar	Catg-DLI-TNJR-GMU-176-25-1	
11			Patel Nagar	Catg-DLI-PTNR-GMU-142-25-1	
12			Sunehra	Catg-DLI-SFA-GMU-107-25-1	
13			Vivek Vihar	Catg-DLI-VVB-GMU-109-25-1	
14			Shahabad Markanda	Catg-DLI-SHDM-GMU-131-25-1	
15			Rathdhana	Catg-DLI-RDDE-GMU-155-25-1	
16			Muradnagar	Catg-DLI-MUD-GMU-91-25-1	
17				Catg-DLI-MUD-GMU-128-25-1	
18			Uchana	Catg-DLI-UCA-GMU-110-25-1	
19			Partapur	Catg-DLI-PRTP-GMU-156-25-1	
20			Daya Basti	Catg-DLI-DBSI-SMU-116-25-1	Special Minor Unit (SMU)
21			Delhi Azadpur	Catg-DLI-DAZ-SMU-122-25-1	
22			Palwal	Catg-DLI-PWL-SMU-166-25-1	
23			Tuglakabad	Catg-DLI-TKD-SMU-117-25-1	

Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen	**https://ireps.gov.in/ (E-Auction-Leasing)**

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:

- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module – Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module.
- Payment of One Time Registration Fee; Current Account in State Bank of India; Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account; Lien Marking of Funds; Updation of Turnover Details.
- A new mechanism namely **Virtual Account Number (VAN)** has been introduced now for E-Auction Leasing module, which can be used by the bidders as an alternative to Lien Marking Mechanism.
- The bidders are free to switch between Lien Marking Mechanism (if activated) and VAN mechanism at any point of time, before entering the bidding room. VAN mechanism does not require the bidder to have a current account in State Bank of India. The users are free to transfer money from any of their existing bank accounts in any bank to their VAN account, which enables them to participate in IREPS E-Auctions.
- Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender / E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

Railway Authority to Contact, in case of any query	Divisional Railway Manager's Office Commercial Branch, State Entry Road,New Delhi – 110055, **Email:** catering.delhidivision@gmail.com, **Tel:** 011-23743084

No. 23 AC/Ctg./e-Auction/GMU & SMU/2026 Date: 24.08.2026 2945/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BMSICL Bihar Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Limited,
3rd floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Adjacent to State Health Society, Patna 800014,
Phone/Fax: +91612 2283287,+ 91612 2283288, Mo. No- 8544402312, 9971559020 Govt. of Bihar
(Notice Inviting E-Bids)
Tender for the Procurement, Rate Contract and Supply of Medical Equipment for different Govt. Health Institutions of Bihar.
Notice Inviting Tender No.-BMSICL/2026-27/ME-514

(Only through E- Tender on website:-https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

The Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited, Patna invites e-bids from interested parties for Procurement, Rate Contract and supply of Medical Equipment for different Government Health Institutions of Bihar as listed below:-

Sl. No.	Equipment Name
1	Fluoride Ion Meter

Tender Schedule

Re-Tender Reference No.	BMSICL/2026-27/ME-514
Date of Pre- Bid Meeting	01st September 2026 at 15:00 Hrs in Conference hall of BMSICL, 3rd Floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Adjacent to State Health Society, Patna (Bihar) **All Pre-bid queries to be submitted through e-mail on** bmsicltenderequipment@gmail.com **Upto 03rd September 2026 till 17:00 Hrs. (Note:- No Pre-bid queries would be entertained after the above mentioned dead line)**
Last date and time of submission of online bids	24th September 2026 upto 17:00 Hrs.
Last date and time for submission of original documents of EMD.	25th September 2026 upto 14:00 Hrs.
Date, Time and Place of opening of Technical Bid	25th September 2026 (at 15:00 Hrs.) on the website of **https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in** the office of BMSICL
Date and time of opening of financial Bids	To be announced later on **https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in**
Validity of Tender	180 Days
Cost of the tender document	Rs.11,800/- (Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Rupees only) Non-refundable.
Tender Processing Fee	Rs 590/- (on the website of **https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in**)

1. To participate in E-Tendering the tenderer will have to be registered with E-Tendering service provider. For this help desk – mjunction services limited RJ complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank, Campus, khajpura, Ashiana road, P.S –Shastri Nagar, Patna-800014, Toll Free No.-18005726571, Email-ID: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in can be approached.
2. Any queries and questions regarding the tender should be addressed to MD BMSICL (either through letter or through e-mail:- md-bmsicl-bih@nic.in and/or bmsicl.equipment@gmail.com or contact no. 0612-2219634/35) up to 7 days before of closing of online bid registration.
3. All communication, addendum/corrigendum related to this tender will be issued on the website of http://.eproc2.bihar.gov.in
4. Managing Director, BMSICL reserves the right to reject any or all the applications without

GM (Procurement)
PR. No. 010563 (B&C) 2026-27 BMSICL, Patna

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

अगर मन में हो एच.आई.वी. अथवा यौन जनित रोग से जुड़े सवाल तो तुरन्त 1097 पर करें कॉल।

Govt. of Bihar

Bihar State Text Book Publishing Corporation Ltd.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Short E-Procurement Notice

Bihar State Text Book Publishing Corporation Ltd. invites e-tenders under the Two-Bid System on the Government of Bihar e-procurement platform from all eligible Offset Printers having infrastructure within the State of Bihar, as stipulated in the eligibility criteria of the tender document, **for the printing and supply of Work Booksand Unit Test Note Books, with delivery to all 38 District Headquarters of Bihar**. Bidders are advised to refer to the bid document for details regarding the scope of work, estimated cost, applicable statutory charges, and the nature of printing services required.

The bidding process shall be conducted in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this Bid Document. The provisions of the Bihar Financial Rules, 1950, as amended from time to time, and the Bihar Purchase Preference Policy, 2024, as amended from time to time, shall be applicable.

Date Sheet and other details are given below:

1	Name of the work	Printing and Supply of Work Books and Unit Test Note Books, with delivery to all 38 District Headquarters of Bihar.
2	Tender Notice No	BSTBPC / E-Tender / Work Books and Unit Test Note Books/779 dt. 24/08/2026
3	Tender Fee/EMD	1) Tender Processing Fee (Non-Refundable) Rs. 1,180/- (Rupees One Thousand One Hundred EightyOnly) to be paid online. 2) EMD (Refundable): Rs. 3,00,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Only) to be paid in the form of Demand Draft/ Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by a Scheduled/Nationalized Bank in favour of Bihar State Text Book Publishing Corporation Ltd., Payable at Patna.
4	Online publication of bid document	**24.08.2026, 18:00 Hrs**
5	Date & Time for Pre bid Meeting.	**01.09.2026, 15:00 Hrs**
6	Tentative pre bid clarification Upload	**02.09.2026**
7	Last Date and time for Submission of bid.	**07.09.2026, 13:00 Hrs in online mode.**
8	Last Date and time for submitting hard copy of Power of Attorney and EMD (if in the form of BG)	**07/09/2026, 13:30 Hrs** **Note:** Only DD/Bank Guarantee, Power of Attorney or any other paper specifically mentioned in the RFP should be submitted in hard copy. No other documents will be accepted in hard copy under any circumstances.
9	Opening of Technical Bids	**07.09.2026, 14:00** Hrs. If the due date happens to be a holiday, the bids will be opened on the next working day.
10	Opening of Financial Bids	**To be notified later.**
11	Address for Communication	The Managing Director, Bihar State Text Book Publishing Corporation Ltd, Pathya Pustak Bhawan, Buddh Marg, Patna-800001.

For further details please visit website **state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

PR- 010571 (B & C) 2026-27 **Managing Director**
नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार। **Bihar State Text Book Publishing Corporation Ltd.**

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 **Mohd. Jahir @ Jamil @ Sajid @ Gabbar S/o Salim R/o H. No. 762, Gali No. 14, Nehru Vihar, Delhi 110094** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 496/2018 U/s 25 Arms Act, P.S. Gokalpuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Mohd. Jahir @ Jamil @ Sajid @ Gabbar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Mohd. Jahir @ Jamil @ Sajid @ Gabbar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Mohd. Jahir @ Jamil @ Sajid @ Gabbar** of case **FIR No. 496/2018 U/s 25 Arms Act, P.S. Gokalpuri, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **28.09.2026.**

By Order
Ms. Isra Zaidi
Judicial Magistrate First Class-04
Room No. 64, 4th Floor, North East District
Karkardooma Courts, New Delhi

DP/9661/NE/2026 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 CrPC/84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Mukesh Kumar @ Sachin @ Golu S/o Raj Kumar R/o H.No. 280, Gali No.7, Mandoli Chungi, Harsh Vihar, Delhi & Yogesh Sharma @ Yogi S/o Sh. Satya Prakash R/o H. No.4/2839, Gali No.1, Bihari Colony, Shahdara, Delhi**, also at **H.No.D-35, Arya Nagar, IP Extn., Patparganj, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 251/2025 U/S 109(1)/3(5)/61(2)/111/238(b) BNS & 25/27 Arms Act, PS GTB Enclave, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest their upon issued that the said **above all accused** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **above all accused** has absconded (or is concealing themself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Mukesh Kumar @ Sachin @ Golu & Yogesh Sharma @ Yogi of U/S 109(1)/3(5)/ 61(2)/111/238(b) BNS & 25/27 Arms Act, PS GTB Enclave, Delhi Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **30.09.2026.**

By Order,
Ms. Sukriti Jha
Judicial Magistrate First Class-01
Room No.54, 2nd Floor, Shahdara District
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/11871/SHD/2026(Court Matter)

UJVN LIMITED

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvnl.com

Letter No: 738 **Tender Notice** Date: 25/08/2026

Office of the Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Vyasi Project, Hathiyari, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

NIT No. 16- 17 & 18/EE(M)/VP/2026-27

Name of work.: 1- Repair and maintenance contract of Cooling Water System of Vyasi HEP at Hathiyari, Dehradun.
2- Repair and maintenance of 225/35T and 100T EOT cranes at Vyasi HEP Hathiyari, Dehradun
3-Repair and fabrication of monorail chain hoist and roof shed above MIV & GOV OPU system at Vyasi HEP Hathiyari, Dehradun

Estimated cost: Rs. 16,17,105/- (Excluding GST), Rs. 14,75,460/- (Excluding GST) & Rs. 23,67,957.00 (Excluding GST)

Date of availability of bid document on website: 26-08-2026 From 16:00

Last date for submission of tender: 16-09-2026 Up-to 13:30 PM

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website **www.ujvnl.com**

Executive Engineer (Maintenance)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Tender Notice No: 15/2026-27/SE(BML)/EE-I/DB, Dt: 24-08-2026

Number of works : 7 Works, Value of work : Rs.4,49,86,892/-

Tender Downloading Date:26-08-2026, Closing Date:03-09-2026.

Note: Further details at http://www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in

O/o. the EE-I Cell No.7995333308 Sd/- Commissioner, GVMC

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 **Suresh Kumar S/o Hari Shankar R/o H. No. A-295, Gali No. 06, Near 1st Pusta, Sonia Vihar, Delhi** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 786/2016 U/s 33 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Suresh Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Suresh Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Suresh Kumar** of case **FIR No. 786/2016 U/s 33 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.09.2026.**

By Order
Ms. Shruti Saraswat
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03
Room No. 22, 1st Floor, North East District
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/11969/NE/2026 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82(2)(ii) Cr.P.C./94 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Person namely **Dinesh S/o Sh. Banshi Lal,** R/o: Village Oripurwa, Chafariya, P.S. Sujoli, District Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, also at C/o Pradeep (Brother), Near Rana Public School, Mundka, Delhi (or is suspected to has committed) the offence in **FIR No. 604/2025, U/s 137(2)/64BNS & 6 POCSO Act,** registered at P.S.: Mundka, Delhi and the warrant has been returned writing upon that the said accused **Dinesh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Dinesh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Dinesh** accused **FIR No. 604/2025, U/s 137(2)/64BNS & 6 POCSO Act,** registered at P.S.: Mundka, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **16.10.2026.**

By Order
Shivaji Anand
Addl. Sessions Judge-06 (West)
Room No. 22, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/11875/OD/2026 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(SEE SECTION 82(2) (ii) Cr.P.C./84 BNSS)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Vipin S/o Shiv Dass R/o H. No. 151, Gali No. 17, Khazuri Khass, Delhi Also At Village Panchwara, PS Waras Aligunj, Tehsil Daulatpur, District Gaya, Bihar** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 58/2013, U/s 33 (1) A Delhi Excise Act, PS Alipur, Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Vipin** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Vipin** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Vipin** of case **FIR No. 58/2013, U/s 33 (1) A Delhi Excise Act, PS Alipur, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **29.09.2026.**

By Order
Ms. Priyanka Rajpoot
Ld CJM North, Court No. 115
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/11015/ON/2026 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82Cr.P.C./84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person, namely, **Jugal Kumar Singh @ Amitesh Kumar**, **R/o:** H.No. 661, Gali No. 3 Swaroop Nagar, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No.: 110/2013, U/s: 392/34 IPC,** registered at **P.S.: Alipur, Outer North District, Delhi,** and the warrant has been returned writing upon that the said accused person, **Jugal Kumar Singh @ Amitesh Kumar,** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person, **Jugal Kumar Singh @ Amitesh Kumar,** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said, accused person, **Jugal Kumar Singh @ Amitesh Kumar, FIR No.:110/2013, U/s: 392/34 IPC,** registered at **P.S.: Alipur, Outer North District, Delhi,** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **28.09.2026.**

By Order
Ms. Priyanka Rajpoot,
Chief Judicial Magistrate
North, Court No. 115,
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/11897/ON/2026 (Court Matter)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

File No.: C/Jhansi/341/STBA/PA-1/2026 Date: 24.08.2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF STATION TICKET BOOKING AGENTS

Advertisement No.: 10/2026/STBA/Part-2/NSG-6

Applications are invited from eligible candidates by the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Jhansi acting on behalf of the President of India for the appointment of one 'Station Ticket Booking Agent' (STBA) at each of the following 17 stations falling under the "NSG-6" categories within the Jhansi Division, for the purpose of selling unreserved rail tickets through the Computerized Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) on a commission basis:

SN	Station Name	Code	Cate.	Vacancy	SN	Station Name	Code	Cate.	Vacancy
1	Agasod	AGD	NSG-6	1	10	Khajraha	KHJ	NSG-6	1
2	Anant Paith	AEH	NSG-6	1	11	Kotra	KTRA	NSG-6	1
3	Antri	ARI	NSG-6	1	12	Mohasa	MXS	NSG-6	1
4	Bijrotha	BJA	NSG-6	1	13	Rayaru	RRU	NSG-6	1
5	Birari	BRRI	NSG-6	1	14	Rasulpur Gogumau	RPGU	NSG-6	1
6	Chirula	CIRL	NSG-6	1	15	Sabalgarh	SBL	NSG-6	1
7	Dingwahi	DWI	NSG-6	1	16	Sank	SANK	NSG-6	1
8	Hetampur	HET	NSG-6	1	17	Sithouli	STLI	NSG-6	1
9	Karonda	KOA	NSG-6	1					

A standard application proforma has been prescribed. Candidates can obtain the "application form along with all terms and conditions" from the office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Jhansi, on any working day between **10:00** AM and **5:00** PM starting **From 25.08.2026 to 22.09.2026** or download it from the North Central Railway website **"www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in".** For downloaded forms, candidates must attach a Money Receipt (MR) issued by any railway booking office and payable to the Senior Divisional Finance Manager, North Central Railway, Jhansi, jhansi covering the **Non- refundable Application form Fees (Tender Fees) of Rs. 1,180/- (Rupees One Thousand one hundred eighty only)** and the **refundable Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs. 2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand only) for the NSG-6 category.** Applications submitted using downloaded forms without the prescribed fee will be rejected. Applications must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with "Application for Station Ticket Booking Agent" along with the applicant's name, address, and the station name by dropping them into the sealed box at the office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Jhansi, **no later than 15:00 hours on 23.09.2026; the box will be opened on the same day, 23.09.2026 at 15:30 hours.** Applications received after the prescribed date and time will not be considered. Applicants may remain present during the opening of the sealed box if they wish.

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial)
North Central Railway, Jhansi

1968/26 (PH)

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

कार्यालय मेलाधिकारी,

कुम्भ मेला–2027, हरिद्वार।

फोन नं0 01334–224457 Email: procure.kumbhmela2027@gmail.com

पत्रांक:– 1158 दिनांक 25/08/2026

मेलाधिकारी, कुम्भ मेला 2027, हरिद्वार द्वारा दिनांक 07.07.2026 को ई–निविदा आमंत्रित की गई थी। उक्त निविदा को निरस्त करते हुए, पुनः ई–टेण्डरिंग (टू–बिड सिस्टम) के अन्तर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित सभी सूचना **https://uktenders.gov.in** पर दिनांक 25.08.2026 से उपलब्ध होंगी। कार्य का विवरण निम्नानुसार है:–

RFP for selection of Implementing Agency for Centralised and Standalone Public Address System on rental basis for the Kumbh 2027 Haridwar.

उपरोक्त कार्य की समय सारिणी निम्नवत है:–

निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	दिनांक 25.08.2026 को अपरान्ह 06:00 बजे
निविदा सम्बन्धी प्रश्नों को प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम तिथि	दिनांक 25.08.2026 को अपरान्ह 06:00 बजे तक
प्री–बिड बैठक	दिनांक 27.08.2026 को अपरान्ह 03:00 बजे
निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक 09.09.2026 को अपरान्ह 03:00 बजे तक
तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तिथि	दिनांक 09.09.2026 को अपरान्ह 03:30 बजे

अपर मेलाधिकारी,
कुम्भ मेला–2027, हरिद्वार

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Echezona Obinna**, S/o Shri Nwajiaku R/o RCZ-446, Mahavir Enclave-1, Near Dashrathpuri Metro Station, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence **FIR No. 148/18 u/s419/420/120B/34 IPC & 66C/66D IT Act at P.S. IFSO/Special Cell, Sector-16C, Dwarka, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Echezona Obinna** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Echezona Obinna** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding **u/s 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita** has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Echezona Obinna** accused of **FIR No. 148/18 u/s419/420/120B/34 IPC & 66C/66D IT Act at P.S. IFSO/Special Cell, Sector-16C, Dwarka, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.10.2026.**

By Order: Shri Mridul Gupta,
Chief Judicial Magistrate First Class,
Room No.-26, Ground Floor, Annexe Building,
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi.

DP/11963/IFSO/2026

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC/84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Md. Mehfooz, S/o Md. Yusuf R/o H-545, JJ Colony, Shakurpur, Delhi-110034** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No.312/2019 u/s 25/54/59 Arms Act, P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Md. Mehfooz** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Md. Mehfooz** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Md. Mehfooz** of **FIR No.312/2019 u/s 25/54/59 Arms Act, P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **14.10.2026.**

By Order,
Ms. Upasana Satija
Chief Judicial Magistrate, North - West District
Room No.108, 1st Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/11907/NW/2026

ओड़िशा विद्युत् शक्ति संचारण निगम लिमिटेड

(ओड़िशा सरकारका एक उपक्रम)

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)

Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.-CPC-65/2026-27

Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL), Bhubaneswar, invites bids under single stage two part system from any bidder for 400kV Quad Moose Double Circuit (DC) Transmission line on Double Circuit & Multi-Circuit towers from the existing 400/220kV Pandiabil (PGCIL) Grid Substation to proposed 400/220/33kV Grid Substation at TSSEZ, Gopalpur (Approx- 157.363 km) in e-tendering mode only on EPC Contract Basis. The estimated cost of the tender is **Rs. 745.49 Crore**. The last date & time of Submission of Bid Dt. 28.09.2026 up to 12:45 P.M.

The interested bidders may visit OPTCL's official website **http://www.optcl.co.in and www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** for detail specification.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (CPC)

HIPR-52/2026-27

@/optcl.odisha @/optcl_odisha

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited

(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN - UO4010KA2002SGC030438)

Brief Tender Notification

(Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tenders vide Enquiry / Indent No. BESCOM/ 2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT1175 for "Repairs /Rectification of faults in the HT/LT Under Ground Cable in BRAZ area of BESCOM for a period One Year on Total Turnkey on Percentage Quoting basis." Bid Documents available from: 28.08.2026. Last date for Bid Submission: 28.09.2026, 17:00 Hrs. Opening of Bid Document: 29.09.2026, 17:15 Hrs. The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal web-site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Ele.,), Procurement,
Corporate office, BESCOM, 2nd Floor,
K R Circle, Bengaluru-560001.

For electricity related complaints call 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra MOBILE APP

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY

Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

E - TENDER NOTICE No: RWF/S/13/2026-27 Dated 24/08/2026

On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager invites E-Tenders from OEM/authorized dealers for supply of following items on Indian Railways e-portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

1) Tender No. P2265729 **Brief Item Description** : Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Walking Beam Type Tempering Furnace with polymer quench and cooling system as per RWF Specification. **Quantity :** 1 No.
Tender Closing Date and Time : 25/09/2026 14.00 hrs. **Pre-Bid Meeting Date :** 10/09/2026

2) Tender No. P2265770A **Brief Item Description** : Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 05 Nos. of Liquid Oxygen Storage tank of 50KL capacity each, 05 Nos. of 3000 Nm3/Hour atmospheric Evaporator with accessories & 01 no of triple stream Pressure Reducing Station as per Specification. **Quantity :** 1 Set
Tender Closing Date and Time : 21/09/2026 14.00 hrs **Pre-Bid Meeting Date :** 31/08/2026

Principal Chief Materials Manager

E - TENDER NOTICE No: RWFPCEESTTD2026-2701 dated: 20/08/2026

On behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, invites E-Tenders for the following work on Indian Railways E – Portal **http://www.ireps.gov.in (Works).**

Tender No. RWFPCEESTTD2026-2701, Dtd: 20/08/2026 **Name of the work :** Up-gradation of Audio Conference system in GM's Meeting room & Conference hall in RWF Admin building and Conference Hall in TTC/RWF. **Estimated Cost :** ₹64,64,676.81 **EMD :** ₹1,29,300/-
Date & Time of Closing of Tender : 11/09/2026 at 11.00 hours.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer

Tender document, specification, corrigendum/extension (if any) will be available on the E- Portal.

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग–प्रथम उदयपुर

कमांक–ACE/NIT/2026-27/D-396 दिनांक : 19/8/2026

निविदा संशोधन सूचना – 1

(निविदा सूचना संख्या–08/2026–27)

इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या–08/2026–27 दिनांक 13.08.2026 में क्रम सं 1 पर वर्णित कार्य **"Construction of road from Dabok NH-48 to Tank (9 kms.) Udaipur"** में निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है:–

क्रम सं	विवरण	पूर्व प्रकाशित अनुमानित राशि	संशोधित अनुमानित राशि
1	अनुमानित राशि जी.एस.टी सहित	रु.683.00 लाख	रु.673.00 लाख

निविदा में वर्णित अन्य सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

NIB Code:- PWD2627A2298, UBN: PWD2627WLOB10192

अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग–प्रथम उदयपुर

DIPR/C/15401/2026

निविदा सूचना

केन्द्रीय विद्यालय पुष्प विहार, साकेत नई दिल्ली में रख रखाव, बिल्डिंग मरम्मत और अन्य कार्य हेतु प्रतिष्ठित / पंजीकृत फर्मो के मुहरबंद प्रतिस्पर्धी निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा फार्म विद्यालय के कार्यालय से सभी कार्य दिवसों में प्रातः 11:00 से दोपहर 2:00 बजे तक केंद्रीय विद्यालय पुष्प विहार (प्रथम पाली) रु० 1000/– भुगतान देकर प्राप्त कर सकते है। मुहरबंद निविदा इस सूचना के समाचार पत्र के प्रकाशन के 21 दिन के अंदर इस कार्यालय में पहुंच जानी चाहिए।

प्राचार्य

e-Procurement Cell

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
SPECIAL WORKS DIVISION, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT Ranchi

e-Procurement Notice (Short Notice)
Tender Reference No:- BCD/EE, Special Works Div, BCD, Ranchi-28/2026-27
Date:-24.08.2026

क्र0 सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioni ng of 2x250kva D.G. Set, CPCB IV+ at Jharkhand Bhawan, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.	Rs. 77,85,500.00	03 (Three) Months
i	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	31.08.2026	
ii	बिड प्राप्ति के लिए अन्तिम तिथि / समय	15.09.2026 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे	
iii	निविदा खोलने की तिथि / समय	16.09.2026 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे	
iv	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	e- Procurement Cell, Office of the Executive Engineer Special Works Division Building Construction Department Ranchi	
v	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या	8092415503	
vi	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन संख्या	8092415503	

Note:- Cost of bidding document (Non Refundable) & Bid Security Shall be payable on online through http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
Any Change can be on Website http://jharkhandtenders. gov. in
Any Other information can be on Website http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Nodal Officer,e-Procurement Cell,
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Special Works Division Building Construction Department,,Ranchi .

PR 388371 (Building)26-27*D

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED	NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF OPERATIVE HYSTEROSCOPE ON 2 YEARS RATE CONTRACT AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT	24.08.2026 07.09.2026	73,20,000/-	www.hmscl.org.in	8929299829 equipmentdgm2020@gmail.com
2	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED	NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF ELECTRICAL AUTOPSY SAW STAND WITH ACCESSORIES ON 2 YEARS RATE CONTRACT AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT	25.08.2026 07.09.2026	22,00,000/-	www.hmscl.org.in	8929299829 equipmentdgm2020@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No. 48579/HRY

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR NO	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, HISAR	4 LANNING OF ROAD FROM HISAR MAIN BUS STAND TO SOUTHERN BEYPASS FROM RD 0.00 TO 0.600 (ROAD ID 10273) HISAR DISTRICT (PDG. STREET LIGHTS ONLY) + 1 WORKS	21.08.2026 27.08.2026	85.39 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662225651 pwd-eeed-hissar@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R, KAITHAL	IMPOF 6 NOS ROAD (1) WDG AND STG OF SULTANIAN APP. ROAD TO SULTANIAN PLOT (ID 6978) (2) BHUNA KHARKARA TO DERA BAZIGRAN (ID 7018) (3) S/R OF SULTANIAN KARTARPUR TO BHUNA (ID 10896)(4) PEEDAL TO PUNJAB BORDER VIA PEEDAL KHAROOL DUSERPUR, CHANCHAK AND KHERI DABAN AT RD 0 TO 350. (ROAD ID-12051) (5) RELAYING OF EXISTING IPB ON THEH BUTANA TO HANSU MAJRA AT RD 4.40 TO 4.90 (ID 6962) (6) KAITHAL GUHLA TO KHARKARA ROAD AT RD 6.75 TO 7.25 (ID 6975) (ODR) (GUHLA CONSTITUENCY) (W.P 2026-27)	CLOSING DATE 01.09.2026	415.98 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466390260 vasrunkansal26@gmail.com
3	PWD B&R, PALWAL	SPECIAL REPAIR BY PROVIDING STRENGTHENING ON HODAL ROAD TO ANDHOP/ALI BRAHMAN ROAD IN VILLAGE DADKA (ANDHOP TO DADKA) (ID 11142) RD 0.00 TO 4.60 KM IN HODAL CONSTITUENCY IN PROVINCIAL DIVISION, PWD BANDR BR., PALWAL UNDER WORK PROGRAMME 2026-27 IN PALWAL DISTT. (UNDER HEAD-5054-GROUP-5) (WITHOUT GST) + 4 WORKS	22.08.2026 31.08.2026	1751.73 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466219169 pwd-eepd-palwal@hry.nic.in
4	PANCHAYATI RAJ,CHARKHI DADRI	CONSTRUCTION OF SUB HEALTH CENTRE AT VILLAGE PALRI + 1 WORKS	17.08.2026 27.08.2026	97.02 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9582622008 xenprcharkhidadri@gmail.com
5	PANCHAYATI RAJ,PANIPAT	BEAUTIFICATION OF POND NO 174 VILLAGE ASSAN KALAN BLOCK PANIPAT + 23 WORKS	24.08.2026 31.08.2026	932.79 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9068676922 prexeeng.pnp@gmail.com
6	PANCHAYATI RAJ,PANIPAT	SUPPLY OF 90WATT LED STREET LIGHTS IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF THE DISTT. PANIPAT UNDER 2ND PHASE.	22.08.2026 29.08.2026	38.36 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9068676922 prexeeng.pnp@gmail.com
7	MOTILAL NEHRU SCHOOL OF SPORTS, RAI, SONEPAT	INTERNET SERVICES	25.08.2026 01.09.2026	1 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8708859410 mnssrai@rediffmail.com
8	MOTILAL NEHRU SCHOOL OF SPORTS, RAI, SONEPAT	INTERCOM SERVICES	25.08.2026 16.09.2026	6 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8708859410 mnssrai@rediffmail.com
9	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING,HISAR	HIRING OF TRACTOR FOR RUNNING SUCTION TANKER CAPACITY 6000 LTR. WITH DRIVER-CUM-OPERATOR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SUB DIVISION NO. 2, HISAR + 1 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 31.08.2026	12.07 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662-247033 eephisar@gmail.com
10	CIVIL HOSPITAL, PANCHKULA	SUPPLY OF LIQUID MEDICAL OXYGEN	26.08.2026 14.09.2026	EMD 50,000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2562199 gh6pkl@gmail.com
11	CIVIL HOSPITAL, PANCHKULA	PURCHASE OF MEDICAL GASES (NITROUS OXIDE, CARBON DIOXIDE & MEDICAL OXYGEN GAS	26.08.2026 14.09.2026	EMD 50,000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2562199 gh6pkl@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT www.etenders.hry.nic.in No. 48599/HRY

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
WEIGHTS & MEASURES DEPARTMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL METROLOGY)

PLOT NO-17, INSTITUTIONAL AREA, VISHWAS NAGAR, DELHI-110032

INVITING OBJECTIONS/SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PERSONS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED THEREBY

F.No.12(3)/W&M/Enforcement/2026/853: The draft of Delhi Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2026, which the Lieutenant Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) read with clause (e) of sub-section (2) of section 53 and sub-section (3) of section 24 read with sub-clause (q) of section 2 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 (1 of 2010), is published for the information of the persons likely to be affected thereby.

Notice is hereby given that the draft of the Delhi Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2026, will be taken into consideration by the Lieutenant Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi on or after the expiry of a period of ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette of Delhi as well as in 02 Hindi & 02 English All India Daily Newspapers.

The draft Notification of the Delhi Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules 2026 is available on **https://weightnmeasures.delhi.gov.in/** for inviting objections/suggestions of persons likely to be affected thereby in the stipulated period.

The objections or suggestions in this behalf shall be received by the Controller, Legal Metrology Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, in his office at Weights & Measures Department (Department Of Legal Metrology), Plot No-17, Institutional Area, Vishwas Nagar, New Delhi-110032 or on email IDs: **controllerwmd@gmail.com or acwmhq@gmail.com**.

By Order and in the name of the Lieutenant Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi
Sd/-
(PANKAJ KUMAR), IAS
CONTROLLER (LEGAL METROLOGY), GNCTD

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0193/26-27

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

No: AGC/TRD/T/2026/27 E-TENDERING NOTICE Date: 21.08.2026

Sr. DEE/TRD/Agra for & on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on-line only (e-Tendering) for the following work:

Tender No.	Approximate Cost	Earnest Money	Period of completion
AGCTRDT202627	Rs. 1,19,05,995.80/-	Rs. 2,38,100/-	Twelve months

Name of Work: Modification in OHE due to Various Engineering Works at RDE & RNKA Stations of Agra Division.

1. For full details & submission of the bid please see the Indian Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in**, **2.** Tender can only be submitted through web portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"** up to **15:30 Hrs** on date **14.09.2026** **1943/26 (D)**

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

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, रुहेलखण्ड वृत्त, उत्तर प्रदेश आवास एवं विकास परिषद, मुरादाबाद

ई-निविदा/ई-कोटेशन आमन्त्रण सूचना विज्ञप्ति

उ0प्र0 आवास एवं विकास परिषद की ओर से इस कार्यालय के ई-निविदा/ई-कोटेशन आमंत्रण सूचना सं0-1604/एम-15ए/131, दिनांक 25.08.2026 द्वारा परिषद में पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी ठेकेदारों/फर्मो से **अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण0, रुहेलखण्ड-02, मुरादाबाद के अधीन परिषद/अवस्थापना कार्य के अन्तर्गत 02 नग कार्यो** हेतु ई-निविदा एवं **अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण0, रुहेलखण्ड-04, बरेली के अधीन परिषद/अवस्थापना कार्य के अन्तर्गत 03 नग कार्यो** हेतु ई-निविदा एवं **03 नग कार्यो** हेतु ई-कोटेशन **दिनांक 18.09.2026 अपरान्ह 05:00 बजे तक** वेबसाइट https://etender.up.nic.in के माध्यम से कार्यालय **अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण खण्ड, रुहेलखण्ड-02 एवं 04, उ0प्र0 आवास एवं विकास परिषद, मुरादाबाद/बरेली** में आमंत्रित की जाती है।

अन्य नियम व शर्ते किसी भी कार्यदिवस में अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण खण्ड, रुहेलखण्ड-02, 04, मुरादाबाद/बरेली एवं अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, रुहेलखण्ड वृत्त, मुरादाबाद कार्यालय अथवा परिषद की वेबसाइट **www.upavp.in** से देखी जा सकती है।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN

Paras Tower, 2nd Floor, Majra Niranjanpur, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun

NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION UNDER RULE 53 OF THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAN ACT 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993.

RC/491/2019 **Date: 17.08.2026**

BANK OF BARODA
Versus
MOHD. UMAR AND ANR

To,

CD No. 1. Mohd. Umar S/o Sh. Mohd. Hussain, R/o House No. 26 G, Village Alinagar, Shumali, District Rampur, Uttar Pradesh.

CD No. 2. Muzbur Rehman Khan S/o Sh. Shammur Rehman Khan, R/o Unchi Chopal, Islam Nagar, Near Post Office Rampur, Uttar Pradesh.

Certificate Debtors

Whereas you the was ordered by the Presiding Officer of DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DEHRADUN who had issued the Recovery Certificate dated **16.11.2019** in **OA/220/2019** to pay the Applicant bank(s)/Financial Institutions(s) Bank of Baroda, the sum of **Rs. 33,86,301.66 (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Eighty Six Thousands Three Hundred One and Paise Sixty Six Only)** along with pendente-lite and future interest @ 11.15% per annum simple rate on reducing balance from the date of filing of the O.A being 06.05.2019 till realization and costs of Rs. 36,000 and whereas the said has not been paid, the undersigned has ordered the sale of under mentioned Immoveable property.

2. You are hereby informed that the **23.11.2026** at 10.30 A.M. has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. You are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attached to the said properties or any portion thereof.

Specification of Immovable Property

(i) All that 3/4 th share in land bearing Khasra Plot No. 26 Min. measuring 1.4700 Hectares situated at Village Alinagar Shumali, Pargana and Tehsil Sadar, District Rampur.

(ii) All that one half share in land bearing Khasra Plot no. 26 Min. Measuring 0.3040 Hectares and Khasra plot no. 26 Min measuring 2.9860 Hectares situated at Village Alinagar Shumali, Pargana and Tehsil Sadar, District Rampur.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 17.08.2026.

Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Dehradun

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

Specialised ARM II Branch : Second Floor, Spencer Towers, M G Road Bengaluru 560001
Mail Id: cb6298@canarabank.com | Contact number: 948354411/9464534482

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

REF: ARM II/PN/KIRAN/741/2026-2027

Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 18.06.2026, calling upon the borrower

1. Mr.Kiran Bhairannavar S/o Ashok, No.19/2, Cavalry Lines, Delhi University North Delhi – 110007

1A. Mr.Kiran Bhairannavar S/o Ashok, G V Design No.19th A Main Road Marenahalli 2nd Phase J P Nagar Bangalore Karnataka – 560078

2. Mr.Dilip Kumar (Guarantor) S/o Rajendran, No.11, Ramakrishna Building Borewell Road, HAL Post, Annasandrapalya, Bengaluru – 560117

3. M/s Associate Dwellings (P) Ltd (Builder) Represented by its Managing Director Mr.P.K.Rajesh, Having Its registered office at No.302,3rd Floor, Devatha Plaza, Residency Road, Bangalore - 560025

to repay the amount mentioned in the notice of Rs. 51,57,340.12/- (Rupees Fifty-One Lakhs Fifty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Forty and Twelve Paisa Only) and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules 2002 on this 24th day of August 2026.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank ARM -II Branch for an amount of Rs. 52,77,777.12/- (Rupees Fifty-Two Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-Seven and Twelve Paisa Only) as on 23.08.2026 plus interest and other charges thereon

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of Secured Assets

SL	Immovable	Name of the title holder
1	**Schedule 'A' Property : ITEM NO.1:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable Residential converted property bearing Sy.No.69,measuring 02 Acres 02 Guntas,vide conversion order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/61/2014-15 dated 16.01.2014, situated at Hennagara Amanikere village,Jigani hobli,Bengaluru Urban District and **bounded on the: East by:** Property belonging to Sri.Ramaswamy Reddy **West by:** Property belonging to Sri.Hosahalli Gullaih **North by:** Property belonging to Sri.Shambaiah **South by:** Property belonging to Sri.H M Krishnappa **ITEM NO.2:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential converted property bearing Sy.No.73,measuring 01 Acres 03 Guntas,vide conversion order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/99/2014-15 dated 16.03.2015, situated at Hennagara Amanikere village,Jigani hobli,Bengaluru Urban District and **bounded on the: East by:** Land bearing Sy.No.76 **West by:** Land bearing Sy.No.69 **North by:** Road **South by:** Land bearing Sy.No.72 **ITEM NO.3:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential converted property bearing Sy.No.74,measuring 13 Guntas,vide conversion order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/99/2014-15 dated 16.03.2015, situated at Hennagara Amanikere village,Jigani hobli,Bengaluru Urban District **bounded on the: East by:** Property belonging to Sri.Muthappa **West by:** Property belonging to Sri.Ramaswamy Reddy **North by:** Raja Kaluva **South by:** Remaining property belonging to Sri.Ramesh Reddy **ITEM NO.4:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential converted property bearing Sy.No.74,measuring 13 Guntas,vide conversion order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/99/2014-15 dated 16.03.2015, situated at Hennagara Amanikere village,Jigani hobli,Bengaluru Urban District and **bounded on the: East by:** Property belonging to Sri.Gullappa **West by:** Property belonging to Sri.Sambhaiah **North by:** Kaluva **South by:** Remaining property belonging to M/s.Associate Dwellings(P)Ltd **ITEM NO.5:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential converted property bearing Sy.No.74,measuring 14 Guntas,vide conversion order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/99/2014-15 dated 16.03.2015, situated at Hennagara Amanikere village,Jigani hobli,Bengaluru Urban District and **bounded on the: East by:** Remaining Property in Same Sy.No.74 **West by:** Remaining Property in Same Sy.No.74 **North by:** Kaluva **South by:** Land bearing Sy.No.73 & 69 **ITEM NO.6:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable residentially converted property bearing Sy.No.74,measuring 12 Guntas,vide conversion order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/99/2014-15 dated 16.03.2015, situated at Hennagara Amanikere village,Jigani hobli,Bengaluru Urban District and **bounded on the: East by:** Remaining Property in Same Sy.No.74 **West by:** Land bearing Sy.No.74 and Kaluva **North by:** Kaluva **South by:** Land bearing Sy.No.69 **ITEM NO.7:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential converted property bearing Sy.No.74,measuring 12 Guntas,vide conversion order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/99/2014-15 dated 16.03.2015, situated at Hennagara Amanikere village,Jigani hobli,Bengaluru Urban District and **bounded on the: East by:** Earlier Land belonging to Muniswamappa presently Muthappa land **West by:** Land belonging to Late Sri.Shambaiah **North by:** Raja Kaluva **South by:** Earlier belonging to Bhaskar Reddy,Presently Ramesh Reddy's Land **ITEM NO.8:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential converted property bearing Sy.No.76,measuring 1 Acre 24 Guntas,vide conversion order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/02/2014-15 dated 05.09.2014, situated at Hennagara Amanikere village,Jigani hobli,Bengaluru Urban District and **bounded on the: East by:** Sy.No.75 and 77 **West by:** Sy.No.73,72 and 71 **North by:** Sy.No.75 **South by:** Road **SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY :** An undivided share of land measuring 1200 Square feet right, title and interest in the Schedule'A' property at "Castleton Greens" in composite Schedule Property and **bounded on the: East by:** Villa No.59 **West by:** Road **North by:** Villa No.64 **West by:** Villa No.62 **SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY :** A 3 bedroom Residential unit bearing No-63 on the Ground and First Floor of the building known as " Castleton Greens" constructed in the Schedule 'A' property,having a Super built-up area of 2047 Square Feet (which is inclusive of the floors,ceiling and walls between the building)	TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT

NOTE: It is hereby informed that our earlier Possession Notice dated 19.08.2025 is withdrawn.

Date : 24.08.2026 | Place : Bengaluru **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank**

IN THE COURT OF THE XXXI ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH 14)
O.S. NO. 1592/2026

BETWEEN: 1. Sri Praveen N Rajgangadakar, S/o S.J. Nagaraj, aged about 43 years, R/at No.58, 1st floor, 3rd cross, Chowdaiah Block, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru 560032. & another ...Plaintiffs
AND: 1. Government of India Represented by its secretary and others ...Defendants

NOTICE/SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT No 2 & 7

2. The Council for the Indian school certificate Examinations, P35-38, Saket Road, Sector 6, Pushpa Vihar, New Delhi-110017.

7. Indian Institute of Finance, #.45A, Knowledge Park-III, Greater Noida, DELHI NCR-201310.

WHEREAS, The plaintiffs have filed the above suit for the relief of declaration of name change of plaintiffs against the defendants. You are hereby Summoned to appear in the court either personally or through your advocate duly instructed or through someone authorized by law to act for you in the above case on 24.09.2026 at 11 AM, in order to answer all material questions, if failing which the matter will be heard & decided in your absence. Given under the order of the Court, this the day of August, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT Senior Sheristendar City Civil Court Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff K.Nanda Kumar, No 3, 3rd fir, 4th main, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-09.

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-18 कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज, उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
मकान सं0 7वी/108, बौद्ध विहार मझोला योजना सं0-4, भाग-2 (निकट संविधान साहित्य वाटिका, चन्द्रशेखर आजाद पार्क के सामने) दिल्ली रोड, मुरादाबाद-244103
E-mail: pm18mbd@gmail.com

पत्रांक : 2256/एम-18/630
दिनांक : 24.08.2026

अल्प कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय) की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा **Construction of Boundry Wall, Entry Gate and Guard Room at I.T.I. Bijnor(U.P)** अनुमानित लागत रू0 **137.75** लाख, हेतु **दिनांक 09.09.2026** की अपरान्ह **16:30 बजे** तक ई-निविदाएं आमन्त्रित की जाती है। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र **दिनांक 25.08.2026** से **दिनांक 09.09.2026** के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement की वेबसाइट **https://etender.up.nic.in** से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते है तथा ई-निविदा **दिनांक 10.09.2026** को **अपरान्ह 13:30 बजे** कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-18, सी0 एण्ड डी0एस0, उ0प्र0 जल निगम (नगरीय), मुरादाबाद में खोली जायेंगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य **रू0 10,000.00+GST(18%) अतिरिक्त** देय होगा। निविदा की किसी भी शर्तो को परिवर्तित करने तथा निविदा को बिना कोई कारण बताये अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट **www.cdsupjn.org** एवं प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल **https:// etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) **https:// etender.up.nic.in** पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, **इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा।** निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाईट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-18 कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज, उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
मकान सं0 7वी/108, बौद्ध विहार मझोला योजना सं0-4, भाग-2 (निकट संविधान साहित्य वाटिका, चन्द्रशेखर आजाद पार्क के सामने) दिल्ली रोड, मुरादाबाद-244103
E-mail: pm18mbd@gmail.com

पत्रांक : 2256/एम-18/630
दिनांक : 24.08.2026

अल्प कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय) की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा **Construction of Boundry Wall, Entry Gate and Bijnor Room at I.T.I. Bijnor(U.P)** अनुमानित लागत रू0 **137.75** लाख, हेतु **दिनांक 09.09.2026** की अपरान्ह **16:30 बजे** तक ई-निविदाएं आमन्त्रित की जाती है। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र **दिनांक 25.08.2026** से **दिनांक 09.09.2026** के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement की वेबसाइट **https://etender.up.nic.in** से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते है तथा ई-निविदा **दिनांक 10.09.2026** को **अपरान्ह 13:30 बजे** कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-18, सी0 एण्ड डी0एस0, उ0प्र0 जल निगम (नगरीय), मुरादाबाद में खोली जायेंगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य **रू0 10,000.00+GST(18%) अतिरिक्त** देय होगा। निविदा की किसी भी शर्तो को परिवर्तित करने तथा निविदा को बिना कोई कारण बताये अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट **www.cdsupjn.org** एवं प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल **https:// etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) **https:// etender.up.nic.in** पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, **इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा।** निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाईट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-18 कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज, उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
मकान सं0 7वी/108, बौद्ध विहार मझोला योजना सं0-4, भाग-2 (निकट संविधान साहित्य वाटिका, चन्द्रशेखर आजाद पार्क के सामने) दिल्ली रोड, मुरादाबाद-244103
E-mail: pm18mbd@gmail.com

पत्रांक : 2257/एम-18/631
दिनांक : 24.08.2026

अल्प कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय) की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा **Construction of Govt. Khurshid Girls Inter College, Rampur (Physics, Chemistry and Biology Laboratory)** अनुमानित लागत रू0 **26.30** लाख, हेतु **दिनांक 09.09.2026** की अपरान्ह **16:30 बजे** तक ई-निविदाएं आमन्त्रित की जाती है। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र **दिनांक 25.08.2026** से **दिनांक 09.09.2026** के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement की वेबसाइट **https://etender.up.nic.in** से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते है तथा ई-निविदा **दिनांक 10.09.2026** को **अपरान्ह 13:30 बजे** कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-18, सी0 एण्ड डी0एस0, उ0प्र0 जल निगम (नगरीय), मुरादाबाद में खोली जायेंगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य **रू0 3,000.00+GST(18%) अतिरिक्त** देय होगा। निविदा की किसी भी शर्तो को परिवर्तित करने तथा निविदा को बिना कोई कारण बताये अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट **www.cdsupjn.org** एवं प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल **https:// etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) **https:// etender.up.nic.in** पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, **इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा।** निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाईट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. - DRM-C-AGC-CATG-9-GMU-26-1 **Date : 21.08.2026**

E-Tender Notice

Sr. DCM, North Central Railway, Agra Division, On behalf of the President of India, invited e-tenders from Professional/reputed Caterers/individuals for operation of Platform 09 Catering Stalls at A-1, A,B & C Category Stations over Agra Division for a period of Five years:

(ANNEXURE-Z)

TENDER/ STALL BID NO. :	NAME OF STATION & CATEGORY	Minimum Annual license Fees fix for 1st year per stall	Sub Category	Location of proposed stall	Cost of total value for five year period L/ Fee (in Rs.)	Earnest Money 2% of total value in Rs.	Cost of Tender Form +18% GST in Rs.
CATG-2026-GMU-AGC-2	AGC (A-1)	2136860	GMU-Women	PF-1/6-Near RO Plant	11111672	205600	5000+900 =5900
CATG-2026-GMU-AGC-4	AGC (A-1)	2890690	GMU-Women	PF-2-3, In Front of NDLS side of FOB Ramp	15031588	225200	5000+900 =5900
CATG-2026-GMU-AGC-4A	AGC (A-1)	1302453	GMU-Women	PF-4/5, Inbetween COP Column 40 & water booth no-13	6772756	135500	5000+900 =5900
CATG-2026-GMU-MTJ-C1	MTJ (A-1)	927465	GMU-Women	PF-1/1A, Beside shed col. No.- 03	4822818	96500	3000+540 =3540
CATG-2026-GMU-MTJ-C2	MTJ (A-1)	927465	GMU	PF-1/1A, Beside shed col. No.- 06	4822818	96500	3000+540 =3540
CATG-2026-GMU-MTJ-C3	MTJ (A-1)	927465	GMU	PF-1/1A, Beside shed col. No.- 10	4822818	96500	3000+540 =3540
CATG-2026-GMU-MTJ-C4	MTJ (A-1)	927465	GMU	PF-1/1A, Between shed col. 28 & 29	4822818	96500	3000+540 =3540
CATG-2026-GMU-MTJ-C3A	MTJ (A-1)	2283278	GMU	PF-2/3, Between shed col. 17 & 18	11873046	209400	5000+900 =5900
CATG-2026-GMU-MTJ-C1A	MTJ (A-1)	1592102	GMU	PF-4/5, Towards agc from ohe pole 1379/ 3130 at DLI end	8278930	165600	5000+900 =5900

TYPE OF LICENCE : Catg. **Category :** GMU

Note :- 1. E-tender forms shall be available on **www.ireps.gov.in upto 12:00 hrs on 28.09.2026** from the date of publishing of the e-tender. **2.** Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above e-tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with **IREPS** website along with Digital Signature Certificate 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 from/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. **4.** Document being attached should be signed by the e-tenderer or its body. **5.** Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and e-tender Document Cost (TDC) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. **6.** In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of **IREPS** may be approached. **7.** e-tender online can be submitted **up to 12:00 hrs.** on **28.09.2026 8.** Railway Administration reserves the right to postpone/modify or to cancel any one or all the e-tenders without assigning any reasons. **9.** The offer shall remain valid for a period of **180 days** from the date opening of the e-tender. **10.** The cost of e-tender form is not refundable e-tender forms are not transferable. **11.** The required documents in case not found to be valid after verifications of the same from concerned departments, the offer quoted to the e-tender will not be accepted and earnest money deposited by the e-tenderer will be forfeited. Further action will be taken according rule and regulation of tender **12.** e-tenderers are advised to check any correction or any modification published subsequently on **IREPS** website and the same shall be taken into account while submitting the tender. Tenderer shall download corrigendum (if any). **13.** Railway administration will not be responsible for any delay/difficulties/inaccessibility of the down loading facility from Internet for any reason whatsoever In case of any discrepancy between the e-tender documents downloaded from Internet and the approved master copy available in the office, the latter shall prevail and will be binding on the e-tenderers. No claim on this account will be entertained. **14.** e-tender shall be submitted in "Two Packet tendering system" **15.** Separate tender for each unit should be uploaded by the tenderer. Combined offer will not be accepted. **16.** The ceiling limits will be applicable as per catering policy-2017. **1950/26 (C)**

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONC

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE ROHTAK CO-OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD. ROHTAK	2026_HBC_536642_1	DATE EXTENDED UPTO 01.09.2026 AT 16:00 PM OPENING ON 02.09.2026 AT 11:30 AM	vitaindia@gmail.com	9896401185 vitaindhaki@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in **No. 48575/HRY**

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE ROHTAK CO-OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD. ROHTAK	2026_HBC_536642_1	DATE EXTENDED UPTO 01.09.2026 AT 16:00 PM OPENING ON 02.09.2026 AT 11:30 AM	vitaindia@gmail.com	9896401185 vitaindhaki@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in **No. 48582/HRY**

Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre

(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India)
Amravati Road, Wadi, Nagpur - 440 023.
www.jnarddc.gov.in (07104-220701) e-mail: purchasejnarddcnagpur@gmail.com

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना/NOTICE INVITING TENDER - August 2026

Director, JNARDDC, Nagpur, invites online bids from reputed firms for the following services/items.
निदेशक, निम्नलिखित निविदा की आपूर्ति के लिए प्रतिष्ठित कंपनियों से ऑनलाइन प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किया है।

Tender/ GeM Bid No.	Description of Equipments/ Work	Refundable EMD (₹)	Last Date of Tender Submission	Date of Tender Opening
GEM/2026/B/ 7937788	LPG Gas Cylinder Manifold System	87,000/-	10.09.2026 (18:00 Hrs.)	10.09.2026 (18:30 Hrs.)
GEM/2026/B/ 7935357	Sonicator for Molten Aluminium	1,20,000/-	09.09.2026 (18:00 Hrs.)	09.09.2026 (18:30 Hrs.)
29/JNARDDC/ S&P/2026-27/ E-25(I)	Empanelment of Gas agency for supplying L.P.G. Gas Commercial Cylinders 19KG to 47.5KG	Nil	05.09.2026 (18:00 Hrs.)	07.09.2026 (12:00 Hrs.)

The details are available in the tender document which will be available for download from our office website https://www.jnarddc.gov.in or https://gem.gov.in/

वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी

ज्ञापांक:—07/पी०पी०ओ०/2026/84

पुलिस वायरलेस मुख्यालय झारखण्ड, राँची।

दिनांक 24/08/2026

अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण संख्या— 07/2026—27/पी०पी०ओ०

पुलिस वायरलेस मुख्यालय, राँची, झारखण्ड में वायरलेस कार्य के लिए SFR Digital Repeater with accessories- 02 अदद के क्रय एवं आपूर्ति हेतु निविदादाताओं से मुहरबंद निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

वैसे उत्पादनकर्त्ता/विक्रेता/अधिकृत एजेंट निविदा दस्तावेज प्राप्त कर सकते है, जिनका GST रजिस्ट्रेशन निविदा आमंत्रण के तिथि के पूर्व प्राप्त हो। निविदा दस्तावेज एवं SFR Digital Repeater का Technical Specification रू० 500/— (पाँच सौ रूपये) मात्र अप्रतिदेय (Non Refundable) का बैंक ड्राफ्ट भुगतान कर झारखण्ड पुलिस वायरलेस मुख्यालय,लाईन टैंक रोड, राँची 834001 के पी०पी०ओ०शाखा से प्राप्त कर सकते है।

बैंक ड्राफ्ट **पुलिस अधीक्षक (तकनीकी सेवाएँ एवं संचार) S.P.(Technical services and communication)** के नाम होना चाहिए।

निविदा प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम तिथि दि० 11.09.2026 समय 1100 बजे।
निविदा समर्पित करने की अन्तिम तिथि दि० 15.09.2026 समय 1700 बजे।
निविदा खोलने की तिथि दि० 16.09.2026 समय 1100 बजे।

पुलिस महानिदेशक (संचार एवं तक०० सेवाएँ), झारखण्ड, राँची को यह अधिकार सुरक्षित है, कि बिना कारण बताये निविदा को अस्वीकृत कर दें या निर्धारित मद में आवश्यकतानुसार संख्या को घटा या बढ़ा दें।

ह० प्रशांत आनन्द
पुलिस अधीक्षक (संचार एवं तकनीकी सेवाएँ), झारखण्ड, राँची।

PR 388336 (Police Wireless Headquarter) 26-27 (D)

OFFICE OF THE RANCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, RANCHI

{SANITATION SECTION}
KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI, PIN – 834001
e-mail: - support@ranchimunicipal.com

Letter No. 987/Sanitation **Date. 24/08/2026**

NOTICE FOR CANCELLATION

Tender Ref. No.: 855/Sanitation, Dated: 10.07.2026
Request for Proposal for Selection of Agency for Mechanized Sweeping of Selected Roads in Municipal Area of Ranchi Municipal Corporation including Supply of Manpower, Consumables, and Operation & Maintenance of Sweeping Machines Provided by Ranchi Municipal Corporation, as per MSW Rules, 2016

It is hereby informed to all concerned bidders and prospective bidders that the above-mentioned tender was invited by Ranchi Municipal Corporation vide **Tender Ref. No. 855/Sanitation, Dated 10.07.2026.**

A **Pre-Bid Meeting was conducted on 17.08.2026**, wherein various queries, suggestions and requests for clarification were submitted by the participating/prospective bidders regarding different provisions and conditions of the RFP.

After due consideration of the queries and suggestions received during the Pre-Bid Meeting, it has been decided that certain provisions/conditions of the RFP require **substantial modification/amendment** for making the tender document more clear, practical and competitive.

Accordingly, the aforesaid tender bearing **Tender Ref. No. 855/Sanitation, dated 10.07.2026 is hereby cancelled.**

A **revised RFP incorporating the necessary amendments/modifications** shall be issued and the tender shall be invited afresh through the Jharkhand e-Procurement Portal.

All prospective bidders are advised to take note of the above and participate in the **fresh/re-tender process** as per the revised RFP and schedule to be published separately.

The bidders shall have no claim whatsoever against Ranchi Municipal Corporation on account of cancellation of the aforesaid tender.

Sd/-
Add. Municipal Commissioner, Ranchi Municipal Corporation

PR No- 384986

PR 388431 Ranchi Municipal Corporation (26-27)_D

RAJASTHAN URJA VIKAS AND IT SERVICES LIMITED

(Formerly Known as Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd.) (A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - U40104RJ2015GCO48738
Regd. Office : Vidyut Bhawan, Janpath, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005
Work Office at: 1st Floor, HUDCO Building, Jyoti nagar, Jaipur- 302005
E-mail:ce.RUVNL@rajasthan.gov.in; Website: www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/RUVNL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online bids are invited to procure upto 1000 MW power from 05th September 2026 to 28th February 2027 on short term basis from various Generators/ State Utilities/ CPPs/ Distribution Licensees/ SEBs/ Trading Licensees as per specification under TN-33/RUVITL/FY 2026-27. May visit website **www.mstcecommerce.com/ www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/ruvks/#/home/dptHome** for further details.

Raj.Samwad/C/26/10449 **RUVITL-PR-128 (2026)** **Superintending Engineer (PP)**

For Electricity Complaints Tol Free No. 1800 180 6807

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tendering Notice

Sr. DEE/TRD/Agra for & on behalf of President of India invites **"Open Tender"** through on-line only **(e-Tendering)** for the following work.

Tender No.: AGCTRDT202625 **Approximate Cost:** Rs. 47,73,216.83/-
Name of work: Provision, Implementation, Testing and commissioning of AI-Enabled Drone Based Condition Monitoring System in Agra division
Earnest Money: Rs. 95,500/- **Period of completion:** Six months

1. For full details & submission of the bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in**, **2.** Tender can only be submitted through web portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"** up to **15.00 Hrs.** on date **14.09.2026**. **1945/26(K)**

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

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM SMART CITY CORPORATION LIMITED (GVSCCL)

Ref. No: GVSCCL/Project/448(UCF-Bulk & Semi Bulk)/2026-27; Dt: 25/08/2026

TENDER NOTICE

GVSCCL desires to invite the tender for **"Rehabilitation & Modernization of Bulk and Semi-Bulk Water Supply System in Visakhapatnam under UCF scheme"** with an **ECV of Rs.81.21 Cr.** The detailed tender documents can be downloaded from website of https://apeprocurement.gov.in/ from 27/08/2026 onwards.
The Last date for online submission of bids is 16/09/2026 upto 05:00 PM.
For more details contact : E-mail : **visakhapatnamsmartcity@gvsccl.in**
Mobile No: 9848308824 **Sd/- MD & CEO, GVSCCL**

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: ELG-13-A08-2026-27 Date: 21.08.2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N.C. Railway, Agra on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only (E-Tendering) for the following works.

Tender No.: ELG-13-A08-2026-27

Name of work with its location & Completion Period: Electrical work in connection with Creation of Divisional Stores Depot at Agra Division.
Completion period 08 months

Approx. Cost of the work: Rs. 2550918.69

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in**. Tenders can only be submitted through web portal **www.ireps.gov.in** up to **15:00** hrs. on **18.09.2026.** **1952

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• CORPORATE

What the $1.5-bn TCS-Porsche deal says about Indian IT sector's health

George Mathew
Mumbai, August 25

AS THE Artificial Intelligence (AI) boom sends tech stock valuations soaring, most leading brokerages have taken a contrary view of India's IT sector and its readiness to tap into the AI opportunity window. Over the past months though, IT companies based in India, home to the world's largest pool of software engineers, have mounted a small fightback, largely through the inorganic acquisition or foreign partnership route. Does it mean Indian IT companies have suddenly returned to a boom cycle?

What is the latest such deal?

A move by India's largest IT company, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), to strike a strategic partnership with German sports car maker Porsche AG to offer AI services across its mobility value chain is the latest such deal. TCS will establish a dedicated AI Mobility Centre of Excellence for Porsche to drive innovation across manufacturing, engineering, operations and customer experience. The idea that TCS will "industrialise AI at scale" for Porsche is a reputational boost for the software maker.

Over the last 24 months, other major Indian IT firms, including Wipro, HCL Tech and Infosys, have also signed high-profile deals in the West.

THE DEALS

- Over the past 24 months, major Indian IT companies have signed high-profile deals in the West.
- While TCS's deal with Porsche AG is worth €1.25 billion (around $1.5 bn); Infosys has a £1.2-bn (around $1.1 bn) deal with NHS Business Services.
- Wipro has a deal with the Olam Group worth around $1 bn, while HCL Tech has signed a $1.14-bn contract with an unnamed European company.

What do these deals indicate?

The deals by the four leading tech companies are important, but the headline numbers need to be read carefully. They do not mean Indian IT companies have suddenly returned to a boom cycle. They indicate that even while discretionary technology spending is weak and AI is disrupting traditional outsourcing, large global companies are still willing to make big, long-duration bets on Indian IT providers.

Indian IT companies have been dealing with cautious client spending, delayed discretionary projects, high interest rates and, increasingly, uncertainty over what generative AI means for traditional application-development and outsourcing work, according to analysts.

The bottom line is that clients are cutting or scrutinising ordinary IT spending, but they are still funding large projects that promise cost reduction, automation, AI adoption and business transformation.

Will this boost revenue, profits?

The enormous contract values can be misleading. A $1.2 billion contract doesn't mean the IT company gets $1 billion of revenue immediately. For example, Infosys's £1.2-billion NHS contract is spread over 15 years. That's roughly £80 million a year on a simple average basis, before considering the actual revenue-recognition structure.

"Indian IT companies can win spectacular contracts and still report mediocre growth for several quarters. This is because after contract signing, transition, implementation, revenue recognition and margin contribution take time. And large deals often involve substantial upfront investment in hiring, training, transition, platforms and acquisitions," said an analyst.

The real question for investors is not whether Indian IT companies are winning billion-dollar contracts, but whether those wins are translating into a genuine and sustained recovery.

"For a genuine IT-sector recovery, I would want to see three things: deal wins translating into sustained revenue growth, margins improving despite AI-related pricing pressure and clients increasing discretionary technology spending rather than merely spending on cost-cutting or mandatory transformation," an analyst said.

Until those trends become visible, these billion-dollar contracts are best viewed as green shoots rather than proof that the Indian IT boom has returned.

• GOVERNANCE

Why govt jobs are few: The narrow selection pipeline

Every year, crores of people hope to get that coveted 'sarkari naukri'. There are many exams, at central and state levels, but chances of getting in are minuscule

SHYAMLAL YADAV

THE DREAM of a *sarkari naukri* (government job) holds a powerful draw in India. Every year, crores of people apply for a far fewer number of job vacancies in the central and state governments.

Behind this appeal — among youth, technocrats, and even those in professions such as medical and engineering — are economic realities such as the lack of private jobs, social psychology and career benefits that private-sector employment can rarely match. The lack of systemic support for entrepreneurship also makes government jobs a secure haven. The recent protests over paper leaks and government exams, especially in Jharkhand, are a reflection of this appeal.

Size of government workforce

Besides technocrats and government staff such as doctors, the government workforce is primarily divided into three groups (Group A, B and C). There was earlier a Group D category (peons) as well, but it has been merged with Group C.

According to data from the Department of Expenditure's website, the total number of employees in the Union government — including Union Territories and missions abroad — as on March 1, 2023 was 30.62 lakh, against a sanctioned strength of more than 40 lakh. This is just the number of permanent employees, not including contractual employees and consultants.

The Union government spent Rs 2.95 lakh crore on the salary of these employees in 2023-24. More than 80% of this figure went towards defence, railways, postal services and home affairs.

While there is no accurate figure of all government employees of the Centre and states, it is estimated that this number is more than 1.5 crore — including the civil administration, armed forces, police, healthcare workers, teachers and others.

Central recruitment

Central government recruitments are carried out by agencies such as the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), the Ministry of Defence (including the Army, Navy and Air Force), the Ministry of Railways, public sector undertakings and universities, among others. Every year, several crore people attempt to enter the central government service through one of these routes. Only around 1.20 lakh make it each year.

• CENTRAL GOVT RECRUITMENT: LIMITED JOBS, MANY ASPIRANTS

1.5 crore
The estimated number of all central and state government jobs. These include the civil administration, armed forces, police, healthcare workers, teachers and others. Both the Centre and states have many recruitment paths.

Union Public Service Commission
The prime recruitment body (for Group A and Group B posts) conducted 22 examinations in 2022-23.

25.70 lakh: Candidates who appeared for these examinations

7,999: Candidates whose appointment was recommended

6,074 of the candidates were for the various civil services. The remaining **1,925** were picked for defence services.

Railways jobs
Railways is the largest central govt employer. In 2024, it issued 10 recruitment notices.

92,116
The number of vacancies for which it issued the 10 notifications

3.58 cr
The number of candidates who appeared in exams for these posts

12 lakh
The total size of Railways workforce

40 lakh
The sanctioned strength of employees in the Union government (including Union Territories and missions abroad);
30.62 LAKH of these posts were filled as on March 1, 2023.
This is just the number of permanent employees — contractual employees and consultants are not included in this figure.

Staff Selection Commission
The SSC (which recruits for non-gazetted Group B posts and non-technical Group C positions) conducted 20 examinations in 2024-25.
2.05 crore: Total number of candidates for all these exams
55.99 lakh: The number of candidates in SSC's largest examination — the Multi-Tasking Staff (Non-Technical) and Havaldar Examination.
83,857: The number of people recruited from the 56 lakh candidates

SOURCES: DOPT REPORTS, PARLIAMENT QUESTIONS, SSC AND UPSC ANNUAL REPORTS, RAILWAYS ANNUAL REPORT

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

The UPSC, the prime recruitment body, primarily selects Group A and Group B civil servants — high- and mid-level officers. Its most prominent exam is the Civil Services Exam, which is aimed at recruiting officials for 19 civil services including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS).

In 2022-23, 25.70 lakh candidates appeared for the 22 examinations conducted by the UPSC. The body recommended the appointment of only 7,999 candidates — 6,074 candidates for civil services and 1,925 candidates for defence services. Most UPSC examinations have three tiers — prelims, mains and personality tests.

STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION

The SSC carries out recruitments for most non-gazetted Group B jobs (mid-level supervisory and administrative posts) and non-technical Group-C positions (clerical, technical and support posts) in various ministries and departments of the central government, as well as their attached and subordinate offices. The SSC also recruits assistants and lower divisional clerks for various ministries and attached offices based on their requirement.

Group C jobs make up the bulk of central as well as state government jobs.

In 2024-25, the SSC conducted 20 examinations in which a total of 2.05 crore candidates appeared. Its largest examination was the Multi-Tasking Staff (Non-Technical) and Havaldar Examination which saw 55.99 lakh candidates appearing at 279 venues in 130 cities. Of that 56 lakh, only 83,857 people were recruited.

RAILWAYS: LARGEST EMPLOYER

The Railways is the largest central government employer, with a workforce of more than 12 lakh. It maintains an annual recruitment calendar and conducts all-India examinations (since it's a central entity).

According to a July 22 Lok Sabha answer, 5.56 lakh people were recruited through these exams between 2014-15 to 2026-27 (up to June 30, 2026).

During 2024, the Railways issued 10 recruitment notices for 92,116 vacancies. The number of candidates appearing in tests to fill these? 3.58 crore.

State govt jobs

States have their own recruitment system. State Public Service Commissions select Group A and Group B officials (high and mid level officials).

•

States' Staff Selection and Subordinate Selection Commissions select Group C staffers (clerical and support posts).

State recruitment

While recruitments for Union Territories are made by central government agencies itself, the recruitment for three all-India services (IAS, IPS, Indian Forest Service or IFoS) have a centre-state nature — the UPSC allots recruits state cadres and they work under state governments. A limited percentage of officers are always on central deputation to serve under the Union government.

State governments also have their own recruitment system — the State Public Service Commissions to select Group A and Group B officials for services such as the Provincial Civil Service (PCS), Provincial Police (PPS), and State Forest Service, among others. The nature of the all-India services is such that officials from state services, after a particular year in service, are elevated to positions in IAS, IPS or IFoS. A mix of IAS, IPS and PCS and PPS of respective states run the government administration on the ground.

Like the UPSC, these state commissions have similar three-tier systems of recruitment. In several states, however, recruitment controversies have erupted from time to time — Jharkhand is just the latest case. According to a rough estimate, all state public service commissions recommend nearly 25,000 to 30,000 candidates every year based on vacancies.

There is no compiled data available for the total number of state employees. In Uttar Pradesh, for instance, there are nearly 16.35 lakh government employees, including nearly the police force of around 4 lakh.

Tamil Nadu has an estimated 12 lakh state government employees. The figure is nearly 5.50 lakh in Kerala, around 4 lakh in Odisha, and nearly 4.5 lakh in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The West Bengal government recently promised to recruit 1 lakh employees to fill its vacancies.

SUBORDINATE SELECTION COMMISSIONS

As most government employees are in Group C, many such posts — including police constables and sub-inspectors — are filled through separate recruitment bodies such as state Staff Selection Commissions, Subordinate Selection Commissions and Police Recruitment Boards.

Holding these exams is a challenge as paper leaks have become a phenomenon. But for several youth, faced with a lack of private sector jobs, it is also the only option. A few years ago, over 48 lakh candidates applied for 60,244 police constable positions in Uttar Pradesh — which means 80 candidates for each post.

• HISTORY

The century-long evolution of the demand for a Gorkha state

Sweety Kumari
Kolkata, August 25

THE UNION Ministry of Home Affairs on Saturday constituted a high-level committee to prepare a framework for a "permanent political solution" to the Gorkha issue. This came after a meeting of Gorkha leaders, Home Minister Amit Shah and West Bengal government representatives in Siliguri.

Roots in differential treatment

The Gorkhas' movement for a separate administrative identity is among the oldest of its kind in India, going back over 100 years.

Darjeeling and its adjacent areas — including Kalimpong, Kurseong, the Terai, and the Dooars — are culturally, ethnically, and linguistically distinct from the rest of West Bengal. Its residents speak Nepali and have faced racial profiling. This persistent alienation has fueled a deep-seated identity crisis, driving the demand for a separate state to affirm their identity as Indian citizens.

But its origins go further back. The movement began in 1907, when the Darjeeling Hillmen's Association, led by Sonam Wangel Laden La, submitted a petition to the Minto-Morley Reforms Committee seeking to separate Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri from Bengal.

It highlighted the differences between the populations of Darjeeling and the plains, and argued that a legislative body composed mostly of representatives from the plains could not be expected to understand or appreciate the needs and aspirations of the hill people.

Joined by other groups, members of the movement later presented a case to the Simon Commission (1929) and British officials Sir Samuel Hoare and Lord Pethick-Lawrence for an alternative governance system, like a Chief Commissioner's Province, for direct rule. By 1947, the undivided Communist Party of India (CPI) formally submitted a memorandum for "Gorkhasthan" to interim leaders Jawaharlal Nehru and Liaquat Ali Khan.

The Gorkhaland movement

In the 1980s, the demand for a separate state took on a violent, high-profile dimension under Subhas Ghising, founder of the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF), who coined the term "Gorkhaland". The resulting unrest led to the creation of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) in 1988, a semi-autonomous body that governed the hills for 23 years.

In 2007, politician Bimal Gurung formed the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM), reigniting the statehood demand and leading to the establishment of the Gorkha Territorial Administration (GTA) in 2011 to replace the DGHC.

The hills experienced their longest and most intense period of unrest in 2017, after the West Bengal government announced Bengali as a mandatory language in state-run schools across the region. As the state cabinet held a historic meeting in Darjeeling, GJM supporters clashed with security forces, burning outposts and prompting military intervention. The violent agitation lasted 104 days, resulting in 11 protestor deaths, bomb blasts that claimed the life of a civic volunteer, and a complete shutdown of the region's tourist economy.

New panel's mandate

- The new committee is tasked with examining all dimensions of the Gorkha issue within the framework of the Constitution.
- Alongside evaluating structural governance, the panel will examine financial assistance for the region and review a roadmap to grant ST status to 11 key Gorkha communities.

Changed political landscape

The fallout from the 2017 protests permanently altered hill politics.

State action forced Bimal Gurung underground, creating a rift that led party leaders Anit Thapa and Binay Tamang to form a breakaway faction aligned with the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC).

This development permanently split the Gorkha votes between TMC-backed local administration and BJP-aligned national candidates. In the June 2022 GTA elections, held after 10 years, Thapa's newly formed Bharatiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha (BGPM) won 27 of 45 seats to take control of local governance, while the BJP and Gurung's GJM boycotted the process.

However, the BJP has maintained a strong grip on parliamentary and state contests, winning the Darjeeling Lok Sabha seat in 2019 and 2024, as well as securing victory across all three assembly seats (Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and Kurseong) in the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections.

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• LEGAL

'Essential practice' test: Why Allahabad HC rejected schoolgirl's hijab plea

Amaal Sheikh
New Delhi, August 25

THE ALLAHABAD High Court last week rejected a Muslim student's challenge to a school dress code, holding that years of attending class in a headscarf did not entitle her to continue doing so and that her claim of religious necessity rested on a "bare assertion" unsupported by evidence.

The order is the latest in a line of judgments that have turned on the "essential religious practice" test under Article 25 of the Constitution. The question of whether wearing a headscarf is religiously obligatory has travelled through multiple HCs and remains pending before a larger bench of the Supreme Court.

Background of the case

The petitioner, a minor student at a school in Prayagraj, had studied there from Class VI to Class X wearing a headscarf, with photographs and ID cards on record showing her in uniform, scarf included, through those years. She argued that she had worn a headscarf throughout her years at the school without objection and sought permission to continue doing so.

The school said that the scarf violated the dress code and that other students from her own religious community followed the code without it. Admitting her with the scarf would affect "the administration of the School".

The Assistant District Inspector of Schools, in a report to the District Magistrate, noted that the school is self-financed and has autonomy over its internal discipline and dress code.

The student, who belongs to the Muslim Shia community, told the court the scarf is part of her faith. She pointed out that the school allows students to wear "formal and decent" attire and argued that singling out the scarf effectively treated it as improper. She said that such refusal violates her right to free expression under Article 19(1)(a) and argued that being denied the scarf affected her dignity and bodily integrity.

What the court held

The court rejected each of those arguments. On the years she wore the headscarf without objection, the bench held that this created no enforceable right going forward. The school's silence back then, it said, could just as easily be attributed to "lethargy, inaction, lack of will, non-enforcement of the uniform policy, even courtesy or hesitation", none of which prevented it from enforcing the dress code later.

The court also said that this was not a case where the school had changed its uniform policy, it said, but rather a case where the school was insisting that the student give up an addition she had made to the prescribed uniform while studying in the lower classes.

The bench held that as long as a dress code is "uniform, bona fide, non-discriminatory and intended to maintain discipline and institutional identity", the choice of uniform lies primarily with the school.

On the religious claim, the court described the petitioner's case as a "bare assertion". It noted that no authoritative religious text, expert material or other evidence had been placed on record to establish that wearing a headscarf inside the classroom was obligatory upon her or that not doing so would alter the fundamental character of her faith.

The petition, the court observed, relied largely on the fact that she had worn the headscarf since childhood and throughout her years at the school.

The court also noted that in the photographs placed on record, no other girl student was wearing a headscarf, including students whom the school said belonged to the same religious community as the petitioner.

It held that permitting students to depart from a prescribed uniform, "even a little bit...would militate against the idea of a uniform. It would transfer the authority to determine School discipline from the institution to individual students."

Why the ruling is familiar

The Allahabad HC located its decision within a line of judgments that have generally treated school uniforms as matters for educational institutions and required students claiming religious protection to demonstrate that the practice in question is obligatory to their faith.

Among them, it most heavily relied on the Karnataka High Court's 2022 Full Bench judgment in the hijab case, which held that "wearing of hijab by Muslim women does not form a part of essential religious practice in Islamic faith".

The court in that case also held that a uniform requirement did not violate students' rights under Articles 14 (right to equality before law), 15 (prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth), 19 (protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech, expression, profession, etc.), or 21 (protection of life and personal liberty).

After the case reached the SC, a two-judge bench in October 2022 delivered a split verdict. Justice Hemant Gupta held that "a student... cannot claim the right to wear a headscarf to a secular school as a matter of right", saying that students are required to follow a prescribed uniform in state-run educational institutions.

Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia dissented, saying that "a girl child has the right to wear hijab in her house or outside her house, and that right does not stop at her school gate... To say that these rights become derivative rights inside a classroom, is wholly incorrect."

The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India to constitute a larger bench. Since there is still no authoritative SC ruling on the issue, the Allahabad HC treated the Karnataka judgment, along with similar HC decisions, as "persuasive authority of great value".

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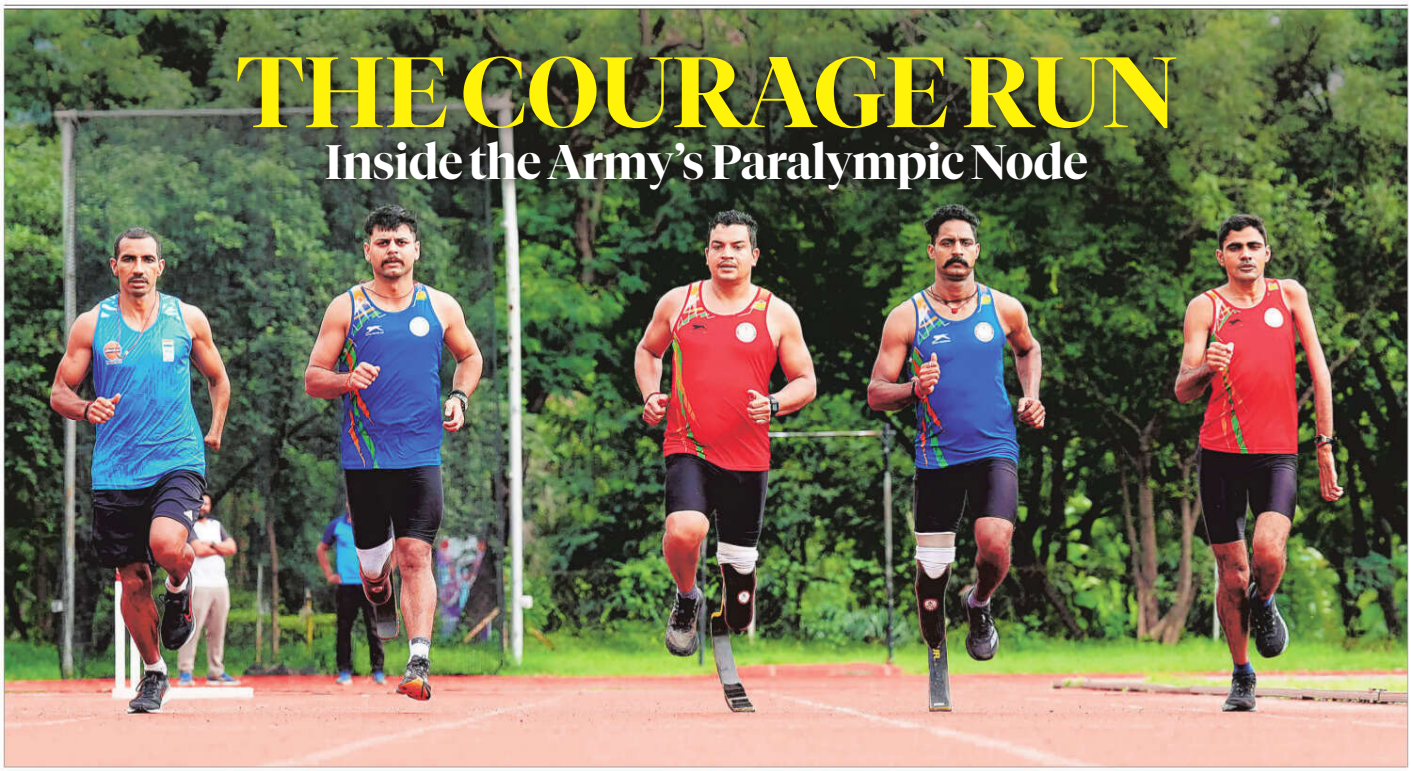
THE COURAGE RUN

Inside the Army's Paralympic Node



For nearly a decade, an Army centre has been handpicking soldiers with life-altering injuries and training them in competitive sport. AMIT KAMATH travels to Pune's Paralympic Node, now the recipient of a national award, where soldiers do what they do best — put up a fight. It helps that some of them end up on a podium.

PHOTOGRAPHS: ARUL HORIZON

AT 19, Hokato Sema had to learn to walk again. Three days before he was to join his dream assignment, the Para (Special Forces), the elite special operations unit of the Indian Army, Sema was injured in a land mine blast in Jammu and Kashmir while on a patrol with his original unit, 9 Assam Rifles. He spent the immediate months after the incident lying down on a hospital bed, his left leg amputated below the knee.

"All that I had imagined as my future had changed overnight. Ambition *khatam*. *Chalega kaise? Kya* future (Forget ambition, you think about how you'll walk, what the future holds)?" he says. "I was young and heartbroken. I kept thinking, would I ever walk again?"

These days, the 42-year-old Sema, who has a prosthetic limb, is doing a lot more than walking. His career has taken flight: at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, Sema returned with a bronze medal in the men's F57 shot put event. With a long list of medals to his name, Sema is one of the star athletes of the Army Paralympic Node (APN), a centre of excellence that handpicks Armymen with permanent, life-altering injuries and provides them with specialised training in sport.

Sema's colleagues at the Node are equally distinguished: at last month's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Soman Rana won gold while Shubham Juyal claimed silver in men's F57 shot put — the same category that Sema competes in.

Set up in 2017, the Node's role and contribution in helping soldiers do what they are instinctively built for — putting up a fight when life throws them at the deep end — was recognised when it was named for the 2025 Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar, which will be handed over by President Droupadi Murmu on August 29, 2026. Since the award was instituted by the Government of India in 2009, several major corporations, sports boards, and NGOs have received the honour.

"The goal of the Army Paralympic Node is to give people with amputations or severe injuries a ray of hope. We help them accept whatever has happened and then give them a direction for the rest of their life," says Lieutenant Colonel Daljit Singh, who is the Officer in Charge of the centre.

Life at the Node

If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes an entire ecosystem to build a high-performance athlete.

Since the Node can only select athletes from a small pool of Army personnel who have suffered body-altering injuries, much of the talent scouting happens at two institutions in Pune — the Army's Artificial Limb Centre (ALC) and the Spinal Cord Injury Centre (SCIC) that's based in Military Hospital Kirkee.

The Node was the brainchild of Colonel (Retd) Gaurav Dutta, whose left leg had to be amputated after he stepped on a mine in 2001. As he started competing in triathlons with an artificial limb, Dutta realised the potential of sport in shaping the lives of Armymen who suffered from life-changing injuries. Dutta became the Node's first Officer in Charge when it came up in 2017.

• The Node's star athletes

GLASGOW COMMONWEALTH GAMES, 2026

- Gold by Soman Rana in shot put F57
- Silver by Shubham Juyal in shot put F57

PARIS PARALYMPICS, 2024

- Bronze by Hokato Sema in shot put F57*

PARA ASIAN GAMES, 2023

- Gold by Dharmaraj Solairaj in men's long jump T64*
- Silver by Soman Rana in shot put F57
- Silver by Ajay Kumar in 400m T64
- Silver by Suraj Singh in men's doubles compound archery
- Silver by K Narayana in rowing
- Bronze by Unni Renu in men's high jump T64
- Bronze by Hokato Sema in shot put F57

*F stands for Field, T stands for Track. The numbers denote the classification and level of impairment

While the Node is headquartered in Pune, the 53 Paralympic athletes it trains are currently spread across four cities: track-and-field athletes, archers, swimmers, triathletes, rowers and sports climbers train in various facilities in Pune, shooters at the Army Marksmanship Unit in Mhow, taekwondo athletes are based in Bengaluru and the canoeists and kayakers train in Bhopal. The funding, training and technical aspects of athletes are looked after by the Mission Olympic Wing of the Army, and the administrative aspects are taken care of by the Bombay Engineers Group and Centre Kirkee.

Every week, coaches from the Node and Officer In Charge Daljit Singh visit the two centres, the Artificial Limb Centre and the Spinal Cord Injury Centre, with an eye out for athletes they can potentially recruit. But much before they can train the soldiers into world beaters, or even decide who to pick as they scout for talent, the team has to listen to young men grappling with the physical and mental trauma of losing a limb.

"*Hum sapne dikhate hain* (We show them dreams)," says Subedar Harendra Yadav, who works as a swimming and triathlon coach at the Node. What he means is that he and the others teach young men, many of them teetering on the edge after a devastating blow, to dream on.

"People who have congenital issues from birth are already used to it by the time they are adults. But for these athletes, it's a shock. Life changes in the blink of an eye," says Subedar Anuj Kumar, who is an archery coach at the centre.

Training athletes once they get here is the easiest part of their job, says Subedar S K Mortaja, who is a sprints coach. "The biggest fight is convincing injured soldiers to come to the Node for the first time. Motivating someone whose life has just changed overnight is the challenging part," he says.

It helps, though, that they are dealing with soldiers. "*Fauji aadmi* mentally strong *hote hain* (Soldiers are mentally strong). Once they are at the Node, they can do anything they set out to do."

Node coaches usually pick potential athletes and sportspersons based on their body structure — those with a more muscular build are, for instance, chosen for sprint events. Those handpicked to compete are also given peer-to-peer counselling, where someone already training at the Node speaks to a soldier who has just had an amputation.

There have been times when the coaches have had to spend several months talking to a potential candidate before he can join the Node. They even reach out to families and commanding officers of the injured Armyman to build their case.

Ajay Kumar, a blade runner who competes in the 400m T64 running event, needed a lot of cajoling to join the Node. Part of the Ghatak Platoon in the 12 Dogra, Ajay lost a limb in a mine blast in Uri in 2017.

His initial days of walking with a prosthetic limb were so painful that "everything from my leg to my brain would hurt". Running was the last thing on his mind, and he rebuffed attempts by the Node coaches to enrol him. Eventually, he gave in. Today, he's a silver medallist at the Para Asian Games in 2023.

Days at the Node are geared towards one singular purpose: win medals for the country. Athletes train twice a day and have regular gym sessions.

"We do training in the morning from 7 to 9.30 am, then again in the evening from 4 to 7 pm," says Sub Major Rakesh Rawat of the 15 Jat Regiment, a sitting throws coach at the Node.

Rawat explains the impact these hard yards in training can have.

"Shubham Juyal joined us at the Node three years ago. He had never lifted weights. No weight training ever. We taught him the technique behind holding the weightlifting bar. Last month, he won a Commonwealth Games silver medal at Glasgow in shot put," says Rawat.

Long jumper Solairaj Dharmaraj won gold at the Para Asian Games in 2023

Athletes of the Army Paralympic Node training at the Army Sports Institute in Pune; swimmer Kapil Kumar, who competes in the 100m, 200m and 400m freestyle events; at the Artificial Limb Centre, Pune, injured soldiers relearn the mechanics of everyday life

'Dream of flying'

On a wall-mounted board inside the Army's Artificial Limb Centre in Pune hang a curious mix of implements. On one side of the wall are an axe and a steel sickle, its teeth glistening in the light. Next to them are everyday items, a few forks and spoons. Completing the set of about 50 items hanging from the wall are Captain Hook-style metallic hooks. These are various activity-specific attachments that the centre has for people who have lost a hand.

A few metres away from this wall of assorted metal instruments is a gas stove, a mixer-grinder and a refrigerator. In an adjoining room is another wooden board hanging from the wall — called the Daily Living Training Board — with various door fittings, latches and electric switches next to faucets. A dressing table with a mirror, with combs on the dresser, too, finds a place in this room.

It's a space where Armymen injured in combat are taught to start from the beginning, relearning the mechanics of everyday life — turning a doorknob, opening a refrigerator and picking up a bottle of water.

Outside these rooms is a bigger gym-like space for athletes with prosthetic lower limbs, with walkways with bars on either side to hold on to, a machine that calculates the force each foot exerts on the ground while walking, another with steps on one side and a slope on the other for athletes to learn how to climb stairs and walk down slopes.

> ***Training athletes is the easiest part of their job, says Subedar S K Mortaja, who is a sprints coach. "Motivating someone whose life has just changed overnight is the challenging part," he says***

With a 500-strong team that includes psychologists, family counsellors, physiotherapists, limb makers and surgeons, the scope of the Artificial Limb Centre is much wider than its name suggests. The centre also refits those who walk in through its doors with, as the shotput athlete Sema put it, "*hausla aur himmat* (morale and courage)".

Helping an injured soldier get into a prosthesis and then helping them walk, and even compete, is one of the ways of ensuring that dark thoughts do not take hold.

"We give people who come here a way to a productive and functional life. In some cases, we get them into either recreational or competitive sports. At the Artificial Limb Centre, we have our in-house operation theatre, where we do amputations, and also help with early mobilisation. Usually, people wait for six months but we are able to get patients back on their feet within a week of the amputation," says Brigadier CN Satish, Commandant at the Centre.

The centre has also pioneered prostheses such as the Phoenix Foot (a prosthetic that provides natural ankle movements with shock-absorption capability) and the Rowing Foot (a foot that offers rowers a range of movement). The Rowing Foot was developed specifically for rowers such as K Narayana, who competed at the Paris Paralympics in 2024 and won a silver medal at the Asian Para Games in 2023.

"About 80 per cent of our work here is with regular amputees, who don't compete in elite sport. We first make them pain-free, then make a leg or an arm for them, make them walk, then do advanced activities. We try to push them into some trials here and whoever is a potential candidate for para sport, we send them to the Paralympic Node," says Colonel GP Reddy, a surgeon at the Artificial Limb Centre. "The athletes we send to the Node are our pride. It's the institute's pride that we are able to put them on an international platform and help them win the country medals."

The unofficial motto for anyone coming there, as Reddy puts it, is, "*Chalna nahi hai, daudna hai. Aur udne ka* target *rakho* (The aim is not just to walk, but to run. And dream of flying)."

'It's all written in your stars'

On a Thursday morning at the Army Sports Institute in Pune, athletes of the Node are training hard, chasing that ambition — to fly. Fittingly, their two training sessions a day are punctuated by the sound of airplanes taking off from an airstrip nearby.

Some of the athletes are on the running track, their blades making rhythmic clicks on the track as they chase a time on the clock. Others are in an adjoining gym, chasing personal bests with heavy weights.

With the Paris Paralympics and the Commonwealth Games behind them, they have a new target in sight: the Para Asian Games in September, where at least 10 athletes from the Node will compete for medals.

Close to the ASI campus, at Training Battalion 2 of the Bombay Sappers, throwers Sema and Rana are sweating away.

Sema was a 'Sipahi' when the blast happened. Today, he's a Subedar in the Army, with an Arjuna Award and an Ati Vishisht Seva Medal to his name.

"*Likhke rakha hota hai kundali* (It's all written in your stars). If the blast had not happened, I would not have competed in elite sport, all these accolades would not have come to me and I would not have made India proud in so many competitions. *Life main sab kuch mila hai* (I have got everything in life)," he smiles.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,Jiya D/o Kuldeep Sharma,R/o-Vill- Machhgar Faridabad HR-121004,have changed my name to Jiya Sharma. 0040874430-1

I,Ram Sajile, S/o Ramanand R/o 613,3rd Floor, Prem Gali, Kotla Mubarak Pur, New Delhi-110003 have changed my name from Ram Sajile to Ram Sajila for all future purposes. 0071056630-1

I,Shahid Ahmed Khan,S/o Late Fazal Ahmad Khan R/o H.no-5,Masjid compound,Main Vasant Kunj Road,Mahipalpur,South West Delhi,Delhi-110037 inform that in my passport my name is mentioned as Ahmed Shahid Khan instead of Shahid Ahmed Khan.My correct Date of Birth is 01/01/1964.That both the names Shahid Ahmed Khan and Ahmed Shahid Khan pertain to one and the same person. 0040874447-1

I,Pradeep Kumar Jena S/o-Dushasan Jena,R/o-HP-128, Third Floor,Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed the name of my minor son from Abheek Kumar to Abheek Kumar Jena for all purposes. 0040874329-1

I,SHIKHAR SINGH,S/O Shri. Virendra Pal Singh,R/o-212,Tower-L,DLF Ultima, Sector-81,Gurugram, Haryana-122004,inform that my minor son's correct name is RYAN SINGH,for all future poses 0040874433-6

I,PURNIMA,W/O M.Rajeshwar, R/o-No.2,4th Floor,SB Appartment,Plot 371, Chattarpur,Opposite Tivoli Garden, South Delhi-110074 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO S. Purnima 0040874431-6

I, Rohtas Singh Saini S/O Tara Chand Saini R/O House No.395, Pana Tihaai, Mangol Pur Kalan, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Rohtash Saini for all purposes. 0040874432-1

I, Manoj Joshi S/o Kaustuwa Nand Joshi R/o 698, Sector 3, R K Puram, PO-R.K.Puram Sect-5, Delhi - 110022, have changed my minor daughter's name from Swadha Joshi aged 06 years to Kalyani Joshi forever 0071056691-1

I,Mohammad Ashaaf Baqari,S/O Furqan Haider R/O,1-97,third floor back side muradi road,Batla house,jamia Nagar,South Delhi 110025,have changed my name to Imam Haider Baquri for all purposes. 0040874430-3

I,Mehar Shahid Khan W/o Shahid Ahmed Khan R/o H.no-5, Masjid compound, Main Vasant Kunj Road,Mahipalpur,South West Delhi, Delhi-110037 have changed my name from Mehar Khan to Mehar Shahid Khan for all purposes. That both the names Mehar Shahid Khan and Mehar Khan pertain to one and the same person. 0040874447-3

I, Vijayeta W/o Sh Pawan Kumar R/o. E-126, Sector -9, New Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, Vijai Nagar, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201009, I hereby solemnly declare and affirm that Vijayeta and Vijayeta Chaudhary are the names of one and the exact same person, which is myself. 0071056669-1

I, Vipin Kumar, S/o Uday Narayan Singh R/o B 92 Panchsheel Vihar, Malviya Nagar New Delhi 110017 have changed my minor son's name from Anany Singh (DOB 29/4/2011) to Yeshaan Varadhan Rai. 0040874393-1

I,Smt. Bir Mati,W/o-Late Shri-Phool Singh,resident of Zhimron Wali Gali,Tikri Khurd, Delhi-110040,hereby declare that my name is Bir mati. However my name has been recorded as Beero Devi in my HAP GAS copy. Beero Devi and Bir Mati refer to one and the same person. Henceforth, I,shall be known as Bir Mati,for all purposes. 0040874436-1

I,hereby know as Nidhi Sharma alias Nidhi Kaushik,W/o-Dinesh Kaushik residing at House No.85,Block Pocket H-3,Sector-18,Rohini, Delhi,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Nidhi Kaushik. It is certified that,I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection 0040874433-10

I,Smt. Bir Mati,W/o-Late Shri-Phool Singh,resident of Zhimron Wali Gali,Tikri Khurd, Delhi-110040,hereby declare that my name is Bir mati. However my name has been recorded as Beero Devi in my HAP GAS copy. Beero Devi and Bir Mati refer to one and the same person. Henceforth, I,shall be known as Bir Mati,for all purposes. 0040874436-1

I Rajiv Kumar S/O Subhash chander wadhwa R/O A-1/147, 3rd Floor, Inderpuri, Central Delhi-110012 Have changed my name to Rajiv Wadhwa 0040874431-8

I Saumay S/o Ravinder Kumar R/o 1/4, Sarai Pipal Thala Extension, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033, have changed my name to Saumya Jhanjhariya 0071056697-1

I,Pooja, W/o-Pawan Kumar Bansal,R/o-E-902, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi-34,have changed my name to Pooja Bansal, for all purposes. 0040874436-4

I Preet W/o Sumit Bhardwaj R/o AG-1/8C Vikaspuri, New Delhi-18 have changed my name as Preeti Bhardwaj. 0130068446-1

I,Rajni Verma,W/o.Gulshan Verma,R/o.E-103,Street No.-5,Ashok Nagar Shahdara Delhi-110093 have changed my name to Rajni Kant Lahiri for all purposes. 0040874433-1

I,SUSHIL SHARMA,S/O-SHRI GRINDAR PAL SHARMA,R/O, FLAT NO-904,TOWER NO-24,PARAS TIERIEA,SECTOR 137,NOIDA-G B NAGAR U.P-201301,HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO SUSHIL KUMAR SHARMA,FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE 0040874430-5

I, Divleen Kaur Puri W/o Vikas Puri R/o D-87, Sun City, Sector-54, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Divleen Puri in my minor son's named Ranveer Puri, school records instead correct name Divleen Kaur Puri, amend accordingly. 0071056659-1

I, Sanjay Kumar,s/o Chander prakash r/o G-21/357-358, sector -7 Rohini Delhi-110085, have changed my name to SANJAY SHARMA for all purposes. 0040874453-1

I, Parmila W/o Rai Singh R/o 175, Naharpur Village, Sector-7, Rohini, Avantika, North West Delhi -110085, have changed my name to Parmila Devi permanently. 0040874362-1

I,Tushar Garg,S/o Vimal Garg,R/o-8/416,Gali No.-5,Modal Town,Bahadurgarh Distt Jhajjar (Haryana)-124507,have changed my name to Tushar Chaudhary,S/o Vimal Chaudhary. 0040874431-1

I,PRACHI AGNIHOTRI,daughter of RAHUL PRAKASH AGNIHOTRI,Residing At,B-1/711,BLOCK-1,KAILASH-DHAM,S.A.S. LTD,PLOT NO.E-1,SECTOR-50,NOIDA - 201301(U.P.),do hereby notify that I have changed my name from PRACHI RAHUL AGNIHOTRI To PRACHI AGNIHOTRI 0040874431-10

I,VIRENDER SINGH CHOUDHARY, S/O FATEH SINGH CHOUDHARY, R/O-10-A, ASHOKA APARTMENTS,7 RAJPUR ROAD,CIVIL LINES,DELHI-110054,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIRENDER CHOUDHARY. 0040874453-3

I, DEEPIKA, daughter of Hari Chand Arora resident of 1015 , urban estate, sector 7 , Gurgaon haryana , have changed my name from DEEPIKA to BHAWNA NANDA. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified as BHAWNA NANDA for all purposes. 0071056625-1

I,Deepak Arora,S/o-Satya Prakash Verma,R/o-Apex Drio,O-2303,Ahinsa Khand-2,Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014,Uttar Pradesh,have changed the name of my minor son Kinshuk Verma aged-17,Years and he shall hereafter be known as Kinshuk Arora. 0040874436-3

I DIPESH S/O RAJ SINGH RESIDENT 104,MAIN MARKET,SECTOR-5,GURGAON-122001, HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DIPESH KATARIA. 0040874433-3

It is for general information that I, SAYEED AKHTAR S/O MD SHABBIR R/O F-BLOCK MASJID, MANGOL PURI, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI -110083 declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as MOHD SAYEED AKHTAR and BUSHARA NOOR in my minor son MOHD ASAD aged 17 years in his 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of mine and my wife are SAYEED AKHTAR and BUSHRA NOOR, which may be amended accordingly 0040874287-2

I,AJAY KUMAR DHINGRA,S/o Subhash Chand Dhingra,R/o D-1/18,3rd floor,Model Town-II,Delhi-110009,have changed my name to AJAY DHINGRA for all future purposes. 0040874430-7

I, Prithviraj Gautam S/o Jhamman Lal R/o-F1, Plot-57, Sec-3A, Vaishali, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Prithvi Raj. 0071056683-1

I,Pramod Aggarwal S/o R.C. Aggarwal R/o H.No.1696, Arun Vihar, Ward-18, Sector-37, Noida(U.P) have changed my name from Pramod Aggarwal to Pramod Kumar Aggarwal for all future purposes. 0040874321-1

I, Jitender Singh S/o Hajari Lal R/o Bherangi(29-N), Rewari (Haryana)-123303, have change my name to Jitender. 0040874431-3

I PRASANTA FADIKAR R/O TALBAGICHA KHARAGPUR PASCHIM MEDINIPUR WEST BENGAL -721306 HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR SON'S NAME FROM RISHAAN FADIKAR TO RISHAAN CHAKRABORTY FADIKAR VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 21 AUG 26 AT KHARAGPUR 0040874429-2

I, CHETNA SONY S/o ARUN R/o A-1/29, HARI ENCLAVE PART-2, KIRARI SULEMAN NAGAR, PO: SULTANPURI C BLOCK, DELHI - 110086 have changed my name to CHETAN SONI for all purposes. 0071056629-1

I,ANKIT S/O HARISH CHAND GAUR R/O-90, 1st FLOOR,POCKET-9, SECTOR-25,ROHINI, DELHI-110085,have changed my name to ANKIT GAUR. 0040874436-5

I Ashok Kumar Son of Late Satish Kumar residing at E-1889, Jahangirpuri, Jahangir Puri E Block, PO: N.S. Mandi, DIST: North West Delhi, Delhi-110033 have change the name of my minor daughter LAVANEYA aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as LAVANAYA. 0040874287-3

I, Shiv Prakash S/o Ram Kishan R/o T.C-35, Pandav Nagar Delhi-110008,have changed my name to Shiv Parkash for all purposes. 0040874433-5

I, Diksha D/o Yogender Pandey, R/o H.No.1714, New Housing Board Colony, Panipat (Haryana)-132103, have changed my name to Diksha Pandey. 0040874431-5

I hitherto known as SUNITA W/O SH. SANJAY BANSAL, R/O B-319, B BLOCK, MAJLIS PARK, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110033 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUNITA BANSAL 0040874287-4

I,Rajesh Yadav,S/O Sh Madan Lal Yadav,R/O,H-NO B-48,Street NO-2,Chandu-Nagar,Karawal-Nagar Road,dayalpur,North-East,Delhi 110095,have changed my name from Rajesh Yadav to Palesh Yadav,for all purpose. 0040874430-10

I Anchal, D/o Lalit Kumar, R/o 5/166, 1st Floor, Subhash Nagar, Delhi, changed my name as Anchal Arora. 0130068447-1

I, Rakesh Kumar S/o Surender Kumar R/o A-68, 3rd Floor, Gali No-14, Sangay Nagar, Mahendra Park, N. S Mandi, North West Delhi-110033, have changed my minor daughter's name from Sanvi aged 14 years to Sanvi Panchal forever 0071056686-1

I Pawan Kumar Popli, S/o-Ram Prakash Popli,R/o-167, Indira Vihar,Mukerjee Nagar, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Pawan Popli for all purposes. 0040874341-1

I,HADIYA QURESHI,W/O MOHD SHAHAN ISMAIL 7962 MOHALLA SHEKHAN BARA HINDU RAO DELHI 110006,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HADIYA FOR ALL PURPOSES 0040874430-2

I,Shahid Ahmed Khan S/o Late Fazal Ahmad Khan R/o H.no-5, Masjid compound,Main Vasant Kunj Road,Mahipalpur,South West Delhi,Delhi-110037 inform that in my passport my father name is mentioned as Ahmed Fazal Khan instead of Fazal Ahmad Khan.That both the names of my father Fazal Ahmad Khan and Ahmed Fazal Khan pertain to one and the same person. 0040874447-2

I, Vipin S/o Bhajan Lal, holder of Indian Passport No. R0427424, R/o Vill Modia Khera, Po Gudia Khera, Sirsa, Pin: 125055, Haryana, India have changed my name Vipin and surname Vipin. All concerned please note. 0040874390-1

I,PREETI RANI,D/O-SUBHASH CHAND,R/O.34,2ND-FLOOR ASHOKA ENCLAVE MAIN FARIDABAD HARYANA 121003 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME PREETI AGARWAL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPUSE 0040874433-7

I,RAJESHWAR,S/O MAYA KRISHNAN R/O A-55 DDA Flat, D-Block, Vasant Vihar-1, South West Delhi-110057 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO M. Rajeshwar 0040874431-7

I, SONA DEVI W/o Rajesh Muhiya R/o C-53, Shashi Garden, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110091, inform that my name has been wrongly written as SONI DEVI, in my minor son RUPESH KUMAR, aged 14 years, in his school records. The actual name of mine is SONA DEVI. 0040874432-2

I, Gourav Kochar S/o Parasmal Kochar residing at Ward No-20, Near Gujri Chauk, Balaghat, PO- Balaghat, DIST- Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh -481001 have changed the name of my minor Daughter Kshma Kochar Aged 11 Years and she shall hereafter be known as Chhama Kochar. 0071056694-1

I, Rahid Rafiq, S/O-Mohammad Rafiq Khan, R/O-Balhma Naribal, Tehsil- Rohama Rafiabad, District- Baramulla ,In my brother's service records No-12965006P,NK Sadam Hussain Khan,161 TA JAKLI Gantamulla, my name and D o B has been wrongly mentioned as Rahid Ahmad Khan, D o B-2004 instead of Rahid Rafiq ,15-1-2006 as mentioned in Aadhaar Card. It needs correction. Objections be filed to concerned authorities within seven days. 0020518865-1

I,CHANDER SHEKHAR,S/O LATE SHRI RADHEY SHYAM MISHRA,R/O,C-24/A, KALKAJI,NEW DELHI-I-110019,have changed my name for all future purposes to CHANDER SHEKHAR MISHRA. 0040874430-4

I, AZMIROON D/o MOHD GYAS R/O HOUSE NO-E-140, DDA COLONY, KHYALA, TILAK NAGAR, PO: TILAK NAGAR, DIST: WEST DELHI, DELHI - 110018 have changed my name to AJMERUN for all purposes. 0071056642-1

I,RAMRUP SINGH,S/O-LATE BACHAN SINGH,R/O B-21/8, SUBHASH MOHALLA, B-BLOCK, NORTH GHONDA, DELHI-110053 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAMRUP SINGH YADAV. 0040874433-2

I, JIVISHA daughter of PANKAJ GUPTA resident of S-1, Plot number 47, Sector-6 Vaishali, Ghaziabad 201010, have changed my name from JIVISHA to JIVISHA GUPTA. Henceforth it would be known by the name of JIVISHA GUPTA for all future purposes. 0040874447-4

I, Kuber Okhada S/o Jaidu Okhada R/o WZ-467 Madipur Village, West-Delhi, Delhi-110063, have changed my minor daughter's name Khushi Okheda to Sangeeta. 0040874433-4

I Gaurav, Gaurav Kumar S/O, Satish Kumar R/o K 53 B Second Floor Kalkaji New Delhi-110019 have changed my name to Gaurav Mutreja. 0040874398-1

I,Yogesh,S/O Raj Kumar,R/o House-No.C-206,Jhilmil-Colony Delhi-11095, declare that my given name is Yogesh and Surname is Kumar for all purpose. 0040874431-9

I,Deepak Arora,S/o-Satya Prakash Verma,R/o-Apex Drio,O-2303,Ahinsa Khand-2,Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014,Uttar Pradesh,have changed the name of my minor son Jayaditya Verma aged-12,Years and he shall hereafter be known as Jayaditya Arora. 0040874436-2

It is for general information that I, AMIT DOGRA S/O DEEP KUMAR DOGRA R/O FLAT NO.C-4, PLOT NO.E-42, THIRD FLOOR, BLOCK-E, KHANPUR EXTENTION, KHANPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110062 declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as TANISHK DOGRA aged 13 years in his school records. The actual name of my minor son is TANISHQ DOGRA, which may be amended accordingly 0040874287-1

I,SHILPA SHARMA & SHILPA,W/O-SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHARMA,R/O,FLAT NO-904,TOWER NO-24,PARAS TIERIEA,SECTOR-137,NOIDA G B NAGAR,U.P-201301,HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO SHILPA JAISWAL,FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE 0040874430-6

I, Vipen Sood S/o Kashmiri Lal Sood R/o H. No. 120, Chander Nagar, Near Mota Singh School Senior Janakpuri New Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Vipen Kumar Sood for all future purposes 0071056679-1

I,hitherto known,as AKUL P,S/O-PRAKASH PILLAI,R/O-20-H Pocket,B-5 Mayur Vihar,Phase-3,Mayur-Vihar,PO:Vashundhra Enclave,Dist:East,Delhi-110096 ,have changed my name,and shall hereafter be known as AKUL PILLAI 0040874453-2

I,Tushar Garg,S/o Vimal Garg,R/o-8/416,Gali No.-5,Modal Town,Bahadurgarh Distt Jhajjar (Haryana)-124507,have changed my name to Tushar Chaudhary,S/o Vimal Chaudhary. 0040874431-2

I PUSPA FADIKAR MOTHER OF PRASANTA FADIKAR R/O TALBAGICHA KHARAGPUR PASCHIM MEDINIPUR WEST BENGAL -721306 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM PUSPA FADIKAR TO PUSHPA FADIKAR VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 21 AUG 26 AT KHARAGPUR. 0040874429-1

I, Rajendri Devi W/o No. 3156414 Rank Ex SEP (Late) Puran Singh R/o House No-465, Bazar Panna Village Karala, Delhi - 110081 have changed my name to Rajindari Devi vide affidavit date 22-8-26 before Delhi. 0071056628-1

I, FATIMA ALAM KHAN, D/o-Anwar Alam Khan, R/o- 802, Tower-S, Amrapali Silicon City, Sector-76, Noida, PO Maharishi Nagar, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201304, have changed my name to Fatima Alam. 0040874430-8

It is for general information that I, Sanjay Kumar S/o Hansraj Prasad R/o Six Unit, Bokaro Thermal, Govindpur F, Govindpur, Bokaro Thermal, Bokaro, Jharkhand-829107, declare that name of my son has been wrongly written as Tanishq Kumar in my Service Record of Northern Coal Limited. The actual name of my son is Aarav Kumar, which may be amended accordingly. 0071056684-1

I,Zorawar Kalra S/o Jaspal Inder Singh Kalra, R/o A-52/4, DLF Phase-1,Gurugram,(Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Zorawar Inder Singh Kalra. 0040874431-4

LOST & FOUND

I, Vipin Saini, R/o P2-26, SRS Pearl Floor, Faridabad, Haryana, hereby inform that I have lost/misplaced the original Builder-Buyer Agreement/property document of my property. Anyone finding the same is requested to contact the undersigned. 0040874297-1

ORIGINAL SHARE CERTIFICATES IN THE NAME OF SUBHASH CHAND S/O LATE SONKI RAM R/O FLAT NO. 41, VIKAS SHEEL SOCIETY,SECTOR-13, ROHINI, DELHI-110085 HAVING DISTINCTIVE NO.14047999600 TO 14048000015 (416 SHARES) AND 14048000016 TO 14048000359(344 SHARES)TOTAL NO. OF SHARES 760 OF RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LTD, HAS BEEN LOST. FINDER CONTACT SUBHASH CHAND AT 9350261979. 0040874433-11

I, Mangate S/o Bhagwana R/o 86, Roja Yakoobpur, Ghaziabad U.P have lost my Plot No.577, Area 120 sq.meters, Allotment No.-Roj01297, located in Sector Roja Yakoobpur, Greater Noida, G.B.Nagar, Any use of it will be considered illegal. 0071056709-1

Lost my original Sale Deed of House No.5604,First Floor,Gali No.1, New Chandrawal,Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007. Finder may Contact- Om Prakash Taneja at above-noted address 0040874324-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

To whomsoever it may concern that My Client **Sh. Vikal Kumar Sharma** S/o Late Sh. A N Sharma and **Smt. Urmil Sharma** W/o Sh. Vikal Kumar Sharma both R/o Flat No. 508, Cedar Estate Society, Sector-54, Gurugram, Haryana-122011 have severed their relationship with their son and daughter-in-law, namely **Sh. Akhil Sharma** S/o Sh. Vikal Kumar Sharma and **Smt. Mahima Sharma** W/o Sh. Akhil Sharma, due to their behavior towards my clients. My clients will have no relation with their son and daughter-in-law. My clients have disowned/ disentitled their son and daughter in-law from all their movable and immovable properties; my clients will not be responsible for any acts deed and things done by their son and daughter in-law in future. Anybody dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her own risk and costs.

Sd/-
RAHUL CHOUDHARY (Advocate)
Ch. No. 253-254,
Lawyers Chamber Complex,
Patiala House Courts, Delhi-110001

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to General public that my client (1) **Jujhar Singh** Son of Sh. Singh And (2) **Gurinder Kaur** W/o Jujhar Singh Both R/o Qtr No.42 Reading Lane Talkatora Stadium New Delhi-110001 has disowned and debarred their **son Dharmjot Singh** and their **Daughter-in-Law Anjali Chandra** W/o Dharmjot Singh and their **Grand-son Aarayjot Singh** S/o Dharmjot Singh from severed their all relations and their all movable, immovable properties and also severed all their relations with them due being them disobedient and disloyal towards my client. My client shall not be responsible for any their acts deeds done by them anyone dealing with them shall be on their risk and consequences.

Firoz Ahmed (Advocate)
Chamber No 619, Patiala House Court, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large and all concerned persons that my client Mrs. Eco Any Agencies (India) Pvt. Ltd., having its registered office at T-2336, Fair Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 is planning to purchase undivided, indivisible and un-partitioned 1/5th share of (1) Smt. Shobha Khanna, W/o Late Sh. Kumud Kishen Khanna, (2) Sh. Neeraj S/o Late Sh. Kumud Kishen Khanna, (3) Ms. Nidhi Rampal D/o Late Sh.Kumud Kishen Khanna, All R/o House No.307, Sector-14, Gurugram-122001, Haryana in the immovable property measuring 533 sq.yds. bearing Block-K Naiwala, Khasra No.613, 614 and 1415/613 situated at Arya Samaj Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi (bearing municipal no.2289, Arya Samaj Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005). The proposed vendors have represented that they are the lawful and absolute owners of 1/5th share in the said property and have also represented that their undivided and un-partitioned 1/5th share in the property is free from all encumbrances, claims, charges, liens, mortgages, leases, licenses, attachments, acquisitions, litigation and third party rights. Accordingly any person, company, firm, financial institution, bank or any other legal entity having any claim, right, title, interest, share, ownership, possession, lien, mortgage, charge, lease, tenancy, license, easement, attachment, inheritance claim, trust, court order, encumbrances whatsoever in respect of undivided and un-partitioned 1/5th share of the proposed vendors is hereby called upon to notify in writing, together with supporting documentary evidence, to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Any such claim/objection must clearly disclose the nature and the basis of the claim and be accompanied by documentary proof.
In the event, if no claim or objection is received within 15 days of publication of this notice, my client shall proceed with the proposed transaction on the basis that no person/legal entity has any subsisting right, title, interest, claim or encumbrances on the 1/5th share of the proposed vendors and any such claim subsequently raised shall be liable to be disregarded, subject to applicable law.
This notice is issued without prejudice to the rights and remedies of my client under law and shall not constitute an admission of any claim or right of any third party.

Sd/-
Rohit Jain
Advocate
Ch. No. 196-197, Western Wing,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clientess **Ved Wati W/o Late Sushil** R/o H.No. A-1, A-Block, Street No-2, East Natthu Colony, Shahdara, North East Delhi-110093 have severed relations and debarred their Son **Shivam Kashyap** and his wife **Chanchal Sharma** from their all movable- immovable properties due to their misconduct, my clientess shall not be responsible for their act(s) in the future.

MOHIT BHARDWAJ (Advocate)
Ch.No.G-513, Karkardooma Courts
Shahdara Delhi-110032

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is information that my client Ms. Kanni w/o Sh. Raj Pal is the owner of Flat No. F. 1 on First Floor MIG Back Side without roof rights admeasuring 69.67 sq. mtr.. Plot No. 2284. Block-2, Rajender Nagar, Sector-2, Ghaziabad U.P. & he has lost the Original Regd. Declaration Deed dated 05.07.2023, as Doc. No. 455 From Ms. Charvi Jain, has also lodged a FIR dated 19.08.2026 for the same. Any person dealing with the said document may do so at his/her own risk and manner whatsoever any claim on the basis of the title document will be entertained within 15 days of publication, failing which any such right, title interest, or claim if any, will be deemed to have been waived and not binding on our client.

Sd/-
Yogesh Kumar
Advocate
Office No. 2 First Floor,
Kalyan Kunj Chaudhary Farm,
Near Pillar No. 37 Sector-49,
Noida, G. B. Nagar-201301

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for information of General Public that my client Sh. Ashok Kumar s/o Sh. Ganga Ram R/o RZ-57, Kh No.-432, Block-F, Panchsheel Colony, Mahavir Enclave Part-3, VTC: Mohan Garden, Dwarka, Delhi-110059, has disowned/ debarred his son Mr. Aakash from all his movable/immovable properties/ assets and severed all his social, family and financial relations with his son Mr. Aakash and his wife Mrs. Sabrin. Anyone dealing with them will be at their own risk and my client will not be responsible for the same in any manner.

Ajeet Singh (Advocate)
Ch. No: 887, Saket Court, New Delhi-17

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Veena Batra, resident of Rohini Sector-3, Delhi, hereby inform the general public that the original property documents relating to Block E, Pocket-20 Plot No. 79, Rohini, Delhi have been lost/misplaced. The lost documents include 3 sale/ownership deed claims (original property documents). A Lost Report bearing LR No. 560962/2026 has been registered in this regard. If any person finds the above-mentioned documents or has any claim/objection in respect of the said property documents, they may contact the undersigned at 8588688185 Veena Batra Rohini Sector-3, Delhi Mob.: 8588688185

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that our client Smt. Rajbala W/o Lt. Sh. Ved Pal Singh R/o C-1394, Gali No.9, Jain Nagar, Karala, Delhi-81, has disowned & debarred her son namely Anuj, alongwith his wife Reena, from all her moveable and immoveable properties and has severed all her relations in future due to their irresponsible deeds, misconduct & misbehavior towards our client and if any one deal with them, he/she shall be doing at his own cost & risks. **Deepak Rana (Advocate)**
495, Lawyers Ch., Delhi High Court

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that our clients, (1) **Shri Baldev Raj** S/O Shri Diwan Chand and (2) **Smt. Krishna Rani** W/o Shri Baldev Raj Both R/o House No.1159, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi, do hereby disown and debar their Sons (1) **VIPIN** and his family members **Seema** (wife), **Pratham** (son) & **Chetanya** (Son) all R/o House No.1159, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi & (2) **Sandeep Kumar** and his family members **Rama Rani** (wife), **Garvit** (son) & **Chetna** (Daughter) all R/o House No.1159, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi, from all their movable & immovable properties and severed all relations because they are out of control of our clients. We have no concerned of any kind with them. Anybody dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her/their own risk, cost & responsibility. Our client will not be held responsible for any act, deed & things done by them. **Bhupinder Kumar Arya** (Advocate) UG-26A, Suneja T.I.D.C., Janakpuri, Delhi-58.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Ram Chander, son of late Data Ram, resident of House No. K-574, Jahangirpuri, Delhi-110033, has disowned his wife Reena Devi and son/daughter "Aarti, Yeshu and Vineet" from all his movable and immovable property and severed all relations with them, on account of their not fulfilling family responsibilities and misbehaviour. My client shall not be responsible in future for any of their immoral acts, dealings/transactions, civil or criminal cases, etc.

Sd/-
BIMAL KUMAR MISHRA
(ADVOCATES)
En. No. D/225-A/07

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large upon instruction from Mr. Ajay Jain who intends to mortgage Property No. 21, area measuring 46 sq.yds, situated in village Ajra, Tehsil Loni, Gaur (Old Arya Nagar) Khasra no 114474,Pargana Loni, Tehsil and District Ghaziabad, U.P owned by him by virtue of Gift Deed dated 27.04.2026 executed by Mr. Vijay Kumar Jain and Mrs. Meena Jain vide Doc no 5331, Book no. 1, Vol no 23633 Pages 53-68 dated 27.04.2026, SR 6219 0, That original prior chain documents i.e. Sale Deed dated 02.05.1991 executed by Mr. Satyapal Prabhakar in favour of Mr. Lal Krishna Dev, No. 777, and Sale Deed dated 15.07.1985 executed by Mr. Lal Krishna through Mr. Krishna Lal Chhabra in favour of Mr. Rajendra Prasad Jain, An F.I.R. has been lodged with P.S. Tandaheel Central, Havagna on 14.08.2026 vide L.A.R. No. 20260000837560, Police Unit, Police Computer Centre, Tech. Services HQ, Lucknow. Anyone who find the same is requested to send to the above mentioned address.
Any person(s), institution(s) having any claim and/or objection in respect of the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at our address within 10 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, if such person(s)/institution(s) shall not be binding upon the said property or Ketak Mahindra Bank Ltd.

Mohd K. Hussain Alwaqatai
D-21, Basement, Block-D, Jangpura Extn.
New Delhi-110014, 8810391872

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the public at large that my client **Sh. Yogendra Kumar** S/o Late Sh. Kadam Singh, his wife and other family members, R/o F-2, Pratap Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi 110059 have severed their all kinds of relations with his son namely **Mr. Kartik,** since he do not have any respect for my client and his family and harassing them by doing unsocial activities. My client and his family have debarred him from his all kinds of movable and immovable properties. If any person's deals with him, shall be doing so at his/her/their own risk, costs and consequences and my client shall not be responsible for the same.

Sd/-
Satish Kumar Tomar
Advocate
Ch. No.: 511, Western Wing,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

COURT NOTICE

COURT NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF DR. PANKAJ SHARMA, DJ-02, NEW DELHI DISTRICT, PATIALA HOUSE COURT, NEW DELHI
CASE NO. PC/21/2026
NDOH-15.12.2026
Aditya C Pandey
Vs
STATE and ANR
Whereas a petition under section 276 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 for the grant of Probate/Letters of Administration to the petitioner in respect of the movable and Immovable property of the estate of Late Sh. Viren Pande.
Notice is hereby given to the **general public** that any person having objection to the Grant of Letter of Administration/ Probate in his favour in respect of the estate of the deceased particularly. "(a) One plot of land bearing address 13, Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057. (b) SBI Account No. 1073225332, Branch Basant Lok, New Delhi (c) SBI Account No. 10923737893, Branch, Doranda, Ranchi, Jharkhand," may file the same in the court personally or through counsel on or before the next date of hearing **15.12.2026.**
Given under my hand the seal of the court on the 14th day of August 2026.

District Judge-02 & Wakf Tribunal (NDD)
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

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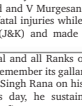
SALUTE THE SOLDIER

BORDER SECURITY FORCE

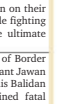
CONSTABLE MAHENDER PRASAD 27 BN BSF 01.01.1960 – 26.08.1993

CONSTABLE V MURGESAN 27 BN BSF 20.06.1970 26.08.1993

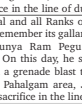
Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawans Constables Mahender Prasad and V Murgesan on their Balidan Diwas. On this day, they sustained fatal injuries while fighting with militants in area of Kuzur, Badgam (J&K) and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.


CONSTABLE RAVI SINGH RANA 60 BN BSF 15.12.1965 – 26.08.1993

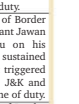
Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Ravi Singh Rana on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal injuries in a fierce encounter with militants in Srinagar area, J&K and made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.


LANCE NAIK PUNYA RAM PEGU 74 BN BSF 01.03.1965 – 26.08.1993

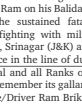
Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Lance Naik Punya Ram Pegu on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal injuries in a grenade blast triggered by militants in Pahalgam area, J&K and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.


CONSTABLE HARE RAM 76 BN BSF 01.05.1982 – 26.08.2003

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Hare Ram on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal bullet injuries while fighting with militants in Lal Chowk area, Srinagar (J&K) and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.


HC/DVR RAM BRIKSH SINGH YADAV SHQ BSF TURA 14.08.1960 – 26.08.2003

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Head Constable/Driver Ram Briksh Singh Yadav on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal injuries in an IED blast triggered by militants in Satipara area, Assam and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.


HEAD CONSTABLE JAMANLAL 137

'The verdict on whether India has game in AI will come only 10 years from now'

SANKHADEEP BANERJEE

(From right) Rajan Anandan, Managing Director, PeakXV Partners; Pratyush Kumar, co-founder, Sarvam AI; Soumyarendra Barik, Special Correspondent, *The Indian Express*, and Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group

AI experts Pratyush Kumar and Rajan Anandan on India's race to build AI, the case for smaller, cheaper home-grown models and the looming challenge of jobs and reskilling in an AI-led economy. They were in conversation with Anant Goenka and Soumyarendra Barik

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Anant Goenka: Do you agree that India is sitting out the AI game? What do you have to say to people who say that?

RAJAN ANANDAN: The reality is that global capital is leaving the Indian equity markets because we don't have pure-play AI companies and that is true. However, when you look at what is happening in the innovation ecosystem in the private markets, especially at early stages, it couldn't be further from the truth.

India is early in the AI game. 2026 is the year that India entered the AI race. First, computing was a big constraint. But starting at the AI summit in February in Delhi, we've had over $400 billion of AI capex announced by Reliance, Adani and Tata, the hyperscalers Google and Amazon, AWS specifically, as well as a whole bunch of Indian companies. Compute this year will start getting unlocked.

Second, this is the first year where several Indian ground-up models have been launched. Sarvam has launched models trained ground up in India. You have BharatGen from IIT Bombay.

Third, we're beginning to see the first big category of enterprise AI inflect. Voice AI will be the first billion-dollar revenue category for Indian enterprise.

Fourth, we're seeing an explosion of application-level innovation, both for consumer AI in entertainment, travel, healthcare and education as well as at the enterprise level.

So essentially, if you look at it across the stack, this year we've really started seeing movement from models launching to big capex investments. But when you think about whether India will win or not, we should think back to the other big technology waves we've seen. In 2016, India wasn't in the top 100 countries when it came to digital payments. Today, 55 to 60 per cent of real-time payments are in India. It takes a decade. In AI, it could happen sooner. The verdict on whether India has a game in AI or not will come eight to 10 years from now.

Anant Goenka: What do you think gives India the right to win on any of these layers of the stack (energy, chips, infrastructure, models, and applications)? Because of the amount of capital, expertise and skills, China and America seem to dominate and in the chipset, it's Korea and Taiwan.

PRATYUSH KUMAR: AI is one of those technologies where, if you plot it on two axes — how much economic value there is from the technology and how much of a frontier tech it is — on both, AI is off the chart. We are in a post-AI world. We are never going back to not using LLMs. There's no way India will not win in AI.

AI is a horizontal technology. So India will win. The question is when and how, because it is frontier tech. Each of those layers of the cake requires cranking up on innovation. You can't just suddenly get up and say, 'Let me train a model.' It takes expertise, engineering, compute and capital. These are all gating conditions.

Anant Goenka: Demand is not the problem, it's the business model that seems to be struggling from a global perspective. When you focus only on India, how will you do it at a lower cost than them?

PRATYUSH KUMAR: Take voice AI. A company wants to reach out to its customers and answer questions they have, maybe offer them products. This needs to be low latency. It has to be superb in terms of expressiveness. You feel like you're talking to a human.

Right now, Sarvam models are five times cheaper than GPT mini and nine times cheaper than a Gemini Flash. Those are the alternatives you would use from frontier labs.

So the argument that you are making that there are global companies thinking for the whole world and they will build one-size-fits-all AI for the whole world is actually an argument against optimising things, for use cases for languages and for context and reducing the cost. We are already there and you just saw that on the the coding side of things.

The Chinese models are now significantly cheaper than what is available from the frontier labs, having spent and I think China is a great model. We should celebrate it more, having had much fewer GPUs than the US. It's significantly more than India currently, but actually went and built a competitive model.

So, as I said, there's a critical mass to the innovation to the infrastructure and capital once you cross that it's a level playing field for taking problems and optimising for them which we're already starting to do in the market.

Soumyarendra Barik: If Google, OpenAI or Anthropic are looking at global deployment, how prudent is it to focus on India? Is there a limit to that strategy?

PRATYUSH KUMAR: Absolutely not. There is context of India, but the techniques, algorithms, infrastructure and talent are not specifically focusing on only Indian problems. What matters are the areas we will focus on and hyper-optimise for.

There is this whole thing about frontier AI: Let's get the world's tasks in one place, build massive models and spend lots of money. We're going to try a different approach: Get the tech ready, get the talent ready, focus on verticals and solve for them, even company-wise and use-case-wise.

RAJAN ANANDAN: India is taking a different approach to the frontier labs and the hyperscalers like Google. They're saying, 'Let's go build bigger models.' With a 10-trillion model, a single training run costs you billions of dollars. But you don't need a model bigger than 100 billion parameters for 90-95 per cent of what you need to do with AI in your company. Those smaller models don't need a lot of money to train. You can build almost all of what India needs with smaller, affordable models.

Anant Goenka: Tell us why you think India can win in each of the five layers of the stack.

RAJAN ANANDAN: Power is really important. It's compute intensive. What do data centres need? Power. If you're in a nation with expensive power, you're not going to have AI. India, because of renewables, has an advantage. In the next five years, long-term storage gets solved. Nuclear will happen; just a matter of time.

Chips, we're very early. India's focus initially was to try to get a few fabs going. That is happening, but these are all 28-nanometre fabs, so they're not for advanced AI chips. We are off the list.

About data centres, I think there's a shot that 10 years from now, the leading Indian hyperscalers will actually be Indian companies. It'll be the Reliances, the Adanis, the Tatas.

In infra, we have a real shot. It's just a matter of time where we get there.

For models, we need 10 companies like Sarvam. Today, we have a handful. Sarvam is obviously the leading company.

On applications, ChatGPT, Gemini, maybe a few other leading AI apps will actually be Indian innovators.

Soumyarendra Barik: We have increasingly been hearing the phrase sovereign AI. What exactly does that mean and why is it important to define the work we're doing within that context of sovereignty?

PRATYUSH KUMAR: On the models piece, the number one priority should be to ensure that we solve today's problems with whatever is available. But the second point is that we need to intensify our R&D commitment. Building models is about having the accumulated judgment and talent to build models and play in the game in the next decade. This is a very long game. Unless we recognise that we need the core innovation layer at the centre of it, the gap will widen. We should move super fast deploying whatever is best out there on price and accuracy trade-offs. But we need to have our own story which we rely on and continue to compound. Sovereign seems to be about nationalism. The problem with AI is that not only are you importing it, not only are you not enabling internal innovation, you're actually leaking data.

Anant Goenka: Are you getting support from the government?

PRATYUSH KUMAR: The government has been thinking right about a bunch of things. They've been progressive about what we should do in AI. The Rs 10,000-crore fund that the India AI Mission put together was a step in the right direction. But there's more to be done.

Anant Goenka: Let's get to jobs. Indian middle class 1.0 was created by the public sector; 2.0 after the private sector reform. Railways, defence and the five big IT companies account for millions of jobs. What happens to them with AI?

PRATYUSH KUMAR: There will be a period like we are facing now when there is a lack of clarity on matching business outcomes to people and skills.

The world is in a flux. Technology is moving so fast that people have not reacted to it fast enough. Therefore, there is a concern whether it's going to be a jobless growth. My feeling is that there will be a whole lot more to do.

RAJAN ANANDAN: If you take a 30-40-year view, we are going to go through the same transition. We are going from an agricultural to an industrial society, and we're going to go to an AI-based economy.

The largest companies have never been the source of employment growth. IT services will not hire lots of people because they will leverage AI. But I am pretty bullish about the IT services industry because most enterprises need lots of help to AI-transform themselves.

There will be significant dislocation. Take Voice AI: call centres, simple calls, outbound calls, a lot of that gets automated. Those employees have to get reskilled and upskilled. I do think upskilling is going to be the single biggest thing.

We have the world's largest youth population. Twelve million Indians enter the workforce every year. We have to create 100 million jobs in the next eight years.

Anant Goenka: Do you feel it was the anxiety around AI that was showing in Jantar Mantar, during those protests?

RAJAN ANANDAN: I don't know exactly what was going on, but we have a million Indians who turn 18 every month. We have to solve that. If we don't create opportunities for 100 million Indians over the next decade, you're possibly going to see things like this happen.

PRATYUSH KUMAR: I think this technology is moving too fast for the rate constant of institutions to change. That's a structural problem — educational institutions, work institutions, government policy, legal.

Anant Goenka: Bill Gates told us that the idea of a job is from an era of scarcity which we will no longer be in. Is the idea of a job archaic to you?

RAJAN ANANDAN: Bill Gates doesn't live in India. We went to the wrong quorum. Honestly, I don't know. Bill is probably absolutely right that our current definition of what a job is is going to change. There are going to be different kinds of roles. I hope that we have UBI (universal basic income) someday, but I think we're far from that.

Anant Goenka: Are we at a fork where most of the internet will be for machines by machines and a smaller part for humans?

PRATYUSH KUMAR: It's very hard to talk about numbers. I have switched off from any of these predictions because there's enough to do already. But everything that we do in the world will get intermediated by intelligence. We sort of go up the level of abstraction. Now, the level of abstraction is going to be intelligence everywhere. I don't imagine myself doing a deal with banks anymore. It will be my agent doing a deal with the bank's agent.

Soumyarendra Barik: Before ChatGPT or Claude, there was a unique way that you would message and I would message. Today, people sound the same. Is there something human about us that we're leaving behind?

PRATYUSH KUMAR: In terms of modalities — audio, image, text — and in terms of access, the floor at which humans touch technology has changed. Technology has come down to how we work, which is natural language and day-to-day access.

Imagine somebody trying to manage their finances who would otherwise have to learn Excel. You can just say, 'I have to save this much money till Diwali. I earn so much. I need so much. How much should I keep saving?' It will give you an answer.

So I think LLMs are enormously humanising. The challenge is that we're on the mechanistic side of that development. One of India's biggest contributions could be to humanise this even further — to understand what really drives human emotions, what drives sustainable pleasure. We're on a very, very powerful technology where every human, no matter their background, can come and actually use technology with much lower barriers.

WE HAVE TO CREATE 100 MILLION JOBS IN THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS

• • •

YOU CAN BUILD ALMOST ALL OF WHAT INDIA NEEDS WITH SMALLER, AFFORDABLE MODELS

INDIA'S BIGGEST CONTRIBUTION COULD BE TO HUMANISE AI EVEN FURTHER

• • •

EVERYTHING WE DO IN THE WORLD WILL GET INTERMEDIATED BY INTELLIGENCE

Rajan Anandan and Anant Goenka (centre) in conversation with guests at Adda in Mumbai

Akil Hirani, Managing Partner, Majmudar & Partners

Arun Nanda, Managing Trustee, Adhata Trust; Founder & Former Chairman, Mahindra Holidays & Resorts Ltd

Rajeev Gupta, Director, Arpwood Capital Ltd (Left); Jollydeep Kaur, Head of Marketing, Nxtgen Cloud Technologies; Shyyam R Singhania, Founder & Chairman, Enarr Group

Saurabh Dhoot, Founder, Nucleus Energy Group

Abhijit Mishra, Managing Partner, Nurture Resources LLP

(L to R) Somnath Mukherjee, Chief Investment Officer, ASK Wealth Advisors; Aditya Mishra, COO & Head, Wealth Management at ASK Private Wealth; Suketu Shah, Chairman, Vagabond Holdings

ADITYA MISHRA
COO & HEAD, WEALTH MANAGEMENT, ASK PRIVATE WEALTH

What is the threat posed by AI in terms of cyber security and how real and near is it, especially when it comes to public infrastructure or banking infrastructure?

PRATYUSH KUMAR: If I were to have a riskometre, I would say dwell on 10. What is the problem? It is that the models are now significantly more capable and they can run for long durations of time. So they can chain together vulnerabilities that themselves would be innocuous but find specific things that otherwise human hackers would not. At Sarvam, we have been both playing attack and defence because we are being attacked, given that we have interesting things with us and we are also building these systems. Cyber security, like coding, was a critical use case. We will have to spend a lot more ensuring every line of code, whether written by humans or AI, leads to reliable and safe systems.

SOMNATH MUKHERJEE
CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER, ASK WEALTH ADVISORS

If engineering marvels like nuclear submarines took India decades to build, can technological sovereignty realistically be achieved for just ten billion dollars?

PRATYUSH KUMAR: Physical systems like submarines rely on highly specific, complex supply chains. In contrast, digital technology moves incredibly fast. For example, OpenAI launched in 2015 and released ChatGPT just a few years later. Furthermore, China has proven that massive computing power isn't a strict barrier. Despite having far less compute than the US, they successfully built advanced AI models. Building AI no longer requires a "magic source" exclusive to a few companies. The gap is closing rapidly as open-source models match proprietary options. Ultimately, any country can build these systems if they back them with sufficient capital.

DHANANJAI BAGRODIA
INVESTMENT MANAGER, ALCHEMY CAPITAL

What do you actually use AI in your daily life for?

RAJAN ANANDAN: There's an app, that you perhaps don't know of, called Equal AI. It's not one of our companies. It answers your phone. You know how you get so many calls. If the app doesn't recognise who is calling, it answers the phone for you, says it is the agent and takes notes. If it is urgent, it tells you that it is critical. Few weeks from now they are going to launch a bunch of other features where it will actually do things for you. For instance, every time you have e-commerce orders, you get an SMS and the delivery person keeps calling you, hassling you. The app agent will take the call for you and take care of the delivery.

SUKETU SHAH
CHAIRMAN, VAGABOND HOLDINGS

In every field, AI is going to come in. What are the risks of AI?

RAJAN ANANDAN: In the 1800s, India was 25 per cent of global GDP. By 1947, we were 2-3 per cent. Lots of things happened in between, but we basically missed the industrial revolution. That's what happened to India. The way I think about this is that we have to be in the winner's circle. There are few countries in the world that can credibly say they could, because they don't have the talent, scale or economy that can even afford to spend what we are putting into RDI for deep tech. The risk really is that we don't move fast enough as a nation... that we don't aim to be in the winner's circle. This is the industrial revolution, repeat. It'll happen faster, be more consequential and there will be winners and losers in the global race of AI.

GV Giri, President & Head of Research, IIFL Capital Services

Jeetu Panjabi, CEO, EM Investco Capital Advisors

Vanessa Pukal, Consulate General of Canada, Mumbai

Vibha Kagzi, Founder & CEO, ReachIvy

(Right) Nisarg Gagrani, Founder, Lakshya Capital with Aniket Dey

Sunil Kumar Alagh, Managing Director-SKA ADVISORS PVT

Sunil Mishra, MD & CEO, Growth Businesses, ANAROCK

Manish Jain, Co-founder, MProfit

Nandan Mehta, TCS, Corporate Affairs

RAPID FIRE WITH ANANT GOENKA

RAJAN ANANDAN

●The one AI startup no one has heard of today, but you believe everybody will soon know of?
Supernova.

●BharatMatrimony, Byju's... one lesson from each of the above investments.
Corporate governance is critical. The startup ecosystem grew very fast — in 2019, we had fewer than 10 or 12 unicorns, and went to about 100 in three years. In that period, a couple of companies didn't have the rigour but that has now settled.

●Exits from Peak XV or Peak XV's exits — which do you spend more time thinking about?
The IPO market in India is extraordinary. Until 2019-20, we had no IPOs. This year, India has had over 100 IPOs, despite the war and the pressure on capital markets — both SME and mainboard. It's interesting, especially for venture capitalists, because we invest in companies and then, 10 or 15 years later, we exit them.

●Do you believe the future of exits is going to be IPOs?
IPOs will accelerate, but we'll also see strategic mergers & acquisitions.

●Retail investors are saying they will wait for the post-IPO because a lot of the growth has been eaten up by everybody before the company comes to IPO. Companies are seeing a fall after listing and then an entry. Is that going to be a trend?
I don't think it'll slow down. What you will see is valuations getting adjusted. The reality is: You are in Bombay, there are four or five large asset-management firms that basically have to decide whether you can have a successful IPO or not, and they set a price. They're looking for good businesses at good prices.

●The one biggest risk in investing in any AI company. Tough to justify valuations, shrinking product life cycles, big tech doing it cheaper or faster, a volatile regulatory environment, or something else?
If you're an application-layer company, the big question is: What are the model companies doing? You have to have enough of an edge and just keep going faster. If you're a model company, you're competing with the best in the world. The premium on scale, execution and innovation is 10 times more today. The bar has gone up dramatically. That's what it is. We don't worry about other things. The price is what it is. Either you're in the company or you're not. I don't worry as much about regulation.

●The most compelling argument is that AI valuations are not a bubble.
Valuation is a concern. We are certainly not in a cheap AI market.

●Your advice to Indian capital that wants to invest in the AI wave?
Try to get into Sarvam. Look for interesting companies at the application or model layer. There aren't as many companies in the tooling layer but there are a lot in the infrastructure layer.

●The one company you most regret not investing in?
Anthropic

RAJAN ANANDAN & PRATYUSH KUMAR

The one foreign AI company you keep pointing towards internally.
PRATYUSH KUMAR: The bet Anthropic made on focusing on coding was amazing.
RAJAN ANANDAN: Yes, coding.

One-line advice to an aspiring AI founder in India today.
PRATYUSH KUMAR: Buckle up.
RAJAN ANANDAN: Get going.

What would you tell a researcher who has to choose between working at Sarvam in India or Anthropic in the Valley?
PRATYUSH KUMAR: There is a certain speed that you get with size. And Sarvam is just taking off. There's so much more to do here. Exciting stuff to be done. It's just the agency to do stuff. Because there's speed, you get to do a lot more.
RAJAN ANANDAN: See, $1.5 billion to $100 billion... $1.5 billion was the last round. That's about 60x. Anthropic would have to be a $60 trillion company. Which of those scenarios would you bet on?

The one policy framework that aligns Indian AI companies like Sarvam with global AI companies like Google and OpenAI?
PRATYUSH KUMAR: We should all aim towards a world of abundance and positive outcomes. I think this concerns everybody.
RAJAN ANANDAN: India is a wide-open playing field. That's why it's an exciting market, because we believe that if you win in India, you win.

Is there one policy fault line that disconnects Indian AI companies from foreign AI companies?
RAJAN ANANDAN: Currently, I can't think of any.
PRATYUSH KUMAR: Not really.

Rajan Anandan

Pratyush Kumar

PRATYUSH KUMAR

●What do you think will be the AI application that will change the following sectors?

Personalised-to-one interaction.

Best AI solutions provider globally.

We need to make it something that people want to go back to.

We need to solve epidemics at scale but personalised to each person.

Robotics. I think that's coming.

One, we need to be globally competitive on the supply chains. And secondly, massively adopt technology.

Great systems company.

Biomodal. He tends to both surprise on the positive and the negative equally.

Smart company.

Don't know enough.

Definitely don't know at all. But when I go to the Bay Area, it's, I think, just a little bit getting into something touchy.

●Sam and Elon have agreed on something after a long time, which is that they're living in the singularity. Are they right?
This is completely bogus. Somebody should have asked if I looked at the definition of AGI and dissected it. We don't have one.

●The one foreign AI company you would invest patient capital in.
I like Google, given how much they're doing. They're really full-stack, and they have various components lined up.

●One country aside from the US and China that has the potential to emerge as a leader in AI?
India, of course.

●Is there any other country we should keep on our radar that that has got potential?
Europe is an option There are sovereign AI companies there.

●The one task you would trust the following models most with.

It does some funny videos. That's what I have heard.

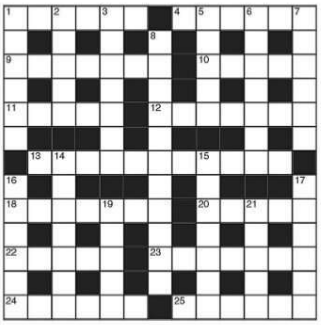
It's really good for world knowledge, especially grounding on the web.

It's a systems company. I don't think the style of the model is particularly frontier on any particular thing, but really good, efficient models.

The best code.

It is the application. The older models are great, great coding systems.

• CROSSWORD 6077



ACROSS
1 Goal protest (6)
4 Discovers there's not much left (6)
9 Odd name for the chap in charge (7)
10 Sort of nut that is loose (5)
11 She tends to rush over certain points (5)
12 It clears one's view — to humbug? (7)
13 Told off for having cadged a lift to work? (5,2,4)
18 Rushing madly from Tangier (7)
20 Freely traverse the mountains (5)
22 They help to get a side into shape (5)
23 Tool he'd made of use to climbers (7)
24 Meal inside the German hotel (6)
25 He can't succeed by himself (2-4)

DOWN
1 Do wrong by not working to a finish (6)
2 He swears he's one of twelve (5)
3 She tells you whose turn is next (7)
5 The way to get out and about outside (5)
6 To snub a girl may be wounding (7)
7 Observe the cook in hot water? (6)
8 Give a test in a new form of study (11)
14 Forsake careless freedom (7)
15 Trooped out to see a naval weapon (7)
16 Maroon thread (6)
17 One inclined perhaps to be compassionate? (6)
19 Children's edition (5)
21 Ring in the nose for a rope (5)

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 6076 **ACROSS:** 1 Sidecar, 5 Aspic, 8 After a fashion, 9 Early, 10 Rampage, 11 Whinny, 12 Spread, 15 Dragnet, 17 Roost, 19 Whipping posts, 20 Renal, 21 Satisfy **DOWN:** 1 Skate, 2 Determination, 3 Carry on, 4 Reform, 5 Assam, 6 Private houses, 7 Contend, 11 Widower, 13 Parapet, 14 Stints, 16 Nepal, 18 Testy

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective circles below. Select the letters in the shaded circles and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

____ is the only refuge of the shallow - Oscar Wilde (11)

ERNES

GMUINS

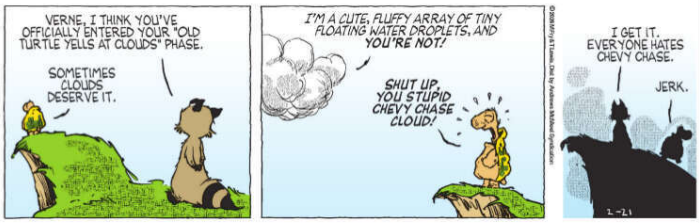
OSSIA

CAUSER

SOLUTIONS: Sneer, Oasis, Musing, Saucer
ANSWER: Seriousness is the only refuge of the shallow - Oscar Wilde

• OVER THE HEDGE

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS

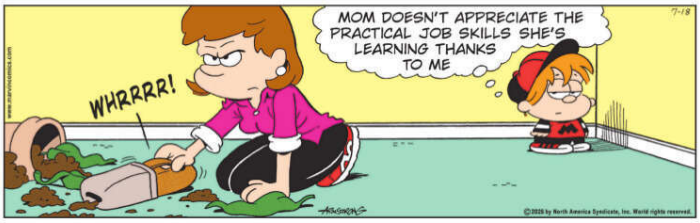


• CALVIN & HOBBES

BY BILL WATTERSON

• MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



SUDOKU 6422

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 2s
INSTRUCTIONS
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;
5s = Very Hard;
6s = Genius

			7		2			
3	8					7	4	
1		7	3		4	5		8
6				2				5
	9						8	
5				6				9
8		5	4		6	7		1
9	1						4	6
			9		8			

SOLUTION SUDOKU 6421

9	5	8	7	1	6	4	3	2
4	6	7	2	3	9	1	8	5
3	2	1	8	5	4	9	7	6
1	8	3	4	6	7	5	2	9
2	4	6	3	9	5	8	1	7
7	9	5	1	8	2	3	6	4
8	7	4	5	2	3	6	9	1
5	1	9	6	7	8	2	4	3
6	3	2	9	4	1	7	5	8

• ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20): This is an excellent day for a practical discussion with someone older or more experienced. This might happen by talking to a partner, close friend or a member of the general public. Check the Moon alert if spending money. Tonight: Friendships.

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21): People will notice you more than usual. Relations with co-workers are mutually supportive today. You also might benefit from behind-the-scenes research. Tonight: Be modest.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21): This is the perfect day to explore avenues in media, medicine and the law, but do so before the Moon alert. Romance with someone different might begin. You also might welcome the advice of someone who is older or more experienced. Tonight: Explore.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23): It's fortunate that you have some strong energy now with fiery Mars in your sign. It will stay there for another month. Discussions about shared property and banking could benefit home and family for you today. Tonight: Check your finances.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23): This is a great day to chat with others! It's curious, because even though you will be charming and diplomatic with everyone, it's in your best interests. Be cooperative. Tonight: Listen.

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23): You might be interested in buying beautiful things. If so, be aware of the limitations of the Moon alert today. Meanwhile, financial discussions will likely benefit you. Keep your pockets open. Tonight: Work.

LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23): You'll enjoy socialising with others today. Romantic connections will be particularly appealing. If shopping for wardrobe goodies, do be aware of the limitations of today's Moon alert. You have a soft spot in your heart for someone today. Tonight: Be playful.

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23): A practical discussion with someone older, perhaps a family member, might introduce improvements at home or within the family. You also might be prepared to confide in someone about a secret flirtation or love affair. Continue to enjoy the company of others, especially younger people. Tonight: Cocoon.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22): Conversations with neighbours and relatives will please you today. Someone older might have advice for you. Be reasonable if you face a dispute with someone about shared expenses. A casual friendship might turn flirtatious. Tonight: Discussions.

CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20): Financial discussions will go well today if you keep an eye on the restrictions of the Moon alert. Bosses and authority figures will favour you. You might be able to benefit home and family in a practical way. Tonight: Check your belongings.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19): It's a great day to make travel plans. An attraction to someone "different" might occur. Meanwhile, everyday discussions will be down to earth and practical. Tonight: You're strong.

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20): Work going on behind the scenes will benefit you today. It could trigger money coming your way. If spending today, be careful and frugal. Keep an eye on the Moon alert and its financial restrictions. Tonight: Enjoy solitude and pleasant surroundings.

CORPORATE BRIEFS

IREDA CMD Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanty received the CSR Lifetime Achievement Award at BridgeBharat 2026 in Bhubaneswar. Organised by the Odisha Corporate Foundation in collaboration with the Public Enterprise Department, Government of Odisha, the award recognises more than 27 years of contribution to CSR and inclusive development. His work has included implementing DDUGJY and SAUBHAGYA schemes to extend essential services to underserved regions, alongside other initiatives in education, skill development, healthcare, rehabilitation, drinking water and accessibility. The recognition highlights the link between clean energy, inclusive development and long-term community impact.

GAIL MC²+ Ignite, a sector-specific accelerator programme for deep-tech startups, was launched at IIT Madras on 19 August 2026 in the presence of Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, MoPNG along with Rajeev Kumar Singhal, Director (Business Development), GAIL.

BHARAT will host the 5th Coast Guard Global Summit in New Delhi in February 2027, coinciding with the Swarnim Jayanti of the Indian Coast Guard. As part of preparations, the Indian Coast Guard conducted a Working Level Meeting in hybrid mode with representatives from Coast Guards, maritime agencies and international and regional organisations. Discussions covered institutional arrangements, meeting guidelines, information-sharing mechanisms, the summit website and future collaborative activities. The summit is expected to strengthen professional exchanges, operational cooperation and collective maritime capabilities. The initiative also aligns with India's MAHASAGAR vision and its stated commitment to safer, cleaner and more secure seas.

HURL was conferred the CSR Lifetime Achievement Award at BridgeBharat 2026, a National Seminar on Corporate Social Responsibility held in Bhubaneswar. The event was organised by the Department of Public Enterprises, Government of Odisha, in collaboration with the Odisha Corporate Foundation and Bridge Bharat Foundation. The award recognises HURL's sustained efforts in social development, empowerment of underprivileged and marginalised communities and the creation of a more inclusive and sustainable society. The recognition reinforces HURL's stated approach of treating CSR as a long-term commitment to empowerment, community development and meaningful social impact.

DFCCIL has commenced its Joint Parcel Product-Rapid Cargo Service (JPP-RCS) on the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, strengthening rail-based parcel logistics. The scheduled service connects New Dadri in the Delhi-NCR region with New Motidau in Mehsana and New Ancheli in Navsari, Gujarat. The service is designed for e-commerce, FMCG, retail cargo, courier companies, logistics aggregators and bulk parcel customers. Covering approximately 1,200 km one way, the service will operate daily with a scheduled transit time of around 23 hours. New Motidau will function as an intermediate loading and unloading point.

NHDC brings authentic handloom products direct to customers in Delhi NCR via a specially curated van and brand Tantrika. The handloom products are sourced from weavers all across India and sold at Housing Societies and Office in Delhi NCR. This ensures unique and quality products being offered at very competitive prices while enhancing their market access and visibility. Besides, PSUs and RWAs are free to connect with NHDC and seek the presence of mobile vans in their area for sales. Through Tantrika, NHDC aims to support weavers and popularise India's traditional handloom heritage.

NCC launched its All India Girls High Altitude Long Trek 'Aparajita - Parang La 2026' from New Delhi on August 18. The expedition includes 28 girl cadets, led by women officers from the three Services, and will cover approximately 250 km over 30 days. The route crosses the 5,578-metre Parang La Pass between Himachal Pradesh's Spiti Valley and Ladakh's Changthang region. The expedition is designed to develop leadership, resilience, discipline and self-confidence among young cadets. Participants will traverse high-altitude deserts, glaciers, snowfields and river valleys, while being instructed to prioritise safety, environmental protection and respectful engagement with local communities.

SCOPE CBC's third DAKSH leadership programme for senior public-sector leaders commenced with a six-day educational immersion at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad. The programme brings together 72 senior executives from 21 public sector enterprises. Designed as a 12-month leadership journey, DAKSH combines academic learning with global, industry and practical leadership experiences. Its curriculum focuses on Purpose-Driven Leadership, Digital and AI-Enabled Transformation and Strategic Renewal. The programme aims to develop strategic, behavioural and transformational capabilities among public-sector leaders. Building on the first two cohorts, the initiative seeks to prepare executives to navigate an increasingly complex and rapidly changing public-sector environment.

POWERGRID celebrated India's 80th Independence Day at more than 200 establishments and offices across the country. At its Corporate Centre in Gurugram, the National Flag was hoisted in the presence of senior leadership, employees and their families, followed by the National Anthem and Vande Mataram. Cultural programmes were also organised across various locations, highlighting India's heritage and unity in diversity. The celebrations reflected POWERGRID's broader commitment to nation-building and its contribution to the country's infrastructure, development and progress.

HURL celebrated India's 80th Independence Day at its Head Office and units in Barauni, Gorakhpur and Sindri. Beyond the traditional flag-hoisting ceremony, the celebrations featured a series of infrastructure and employee-welfare initiatives. At Barauni, the organisation conducted the Bhoomi Pujan of a Chat Ghat Pond and 48 residential quarters, while also inaugurating a Township CCTV Server, Basketball Ground, Children's Park and Recreation Centre. The management also inspected locations for 43 proposed residential quarters. The initiatives reflect HURL's focus on improving infrastructure, safety, recreation and quality of life for employees, their families and the wider community.

RAILTEL held its 26th Annual General Meeting on August 20, 2026, through video conferencing. The company's Annual Report for FY2025-26 was presented at the meeting, which was addressed by Chairman and Managing Director Sanjai Kumar. Shareholders adopted the audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2026. The meeting also saw the declaration of a final dividend of ?1.25 per share, equivalent to 12.5% of the paid-up equity share capital. Members of RailTel's Board, including functional and government-nominated directors, participated in the AGM.

INDIAN OIL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE celebrated India's 80th Independence Day with a programme centred on national pride and the organisation's contribution to innovation. The event began with flag hoisting by Dr. Umish Srivastava, Executive Director In-Charge (R&D), followed by the National Song and National Anthem. Addressing employees, Srivastava highlighted the contribution of Indian Oil's R&D activities, particularly innovative products developed for use by the Defence and Armed Forces. A 30-metre National Flag was also dedicated as a tribute to the nation and freedom fighters, linking the organisation's technological capabilities with its broader contribution to national development.

POWERGRID: Amol Taori has assumed charge as Director (Finance) of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. with effect from August 18, 2026. A Chartered Accountant with nearly three decades of experience, Taori brings expertise spanning finance, treasury, international trade, marketing and compensation management. Before joining POWERGRID, he served as Executive Director (In-charge), International Trade at Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., where he managed crude procurement of approximately 700 kbd, international trade and oil price risk management. His career also includes managing a major corporate treasury, leading HPCL's maiden USD bond issue and developing innovative financing and treasury solutions.

GNN has increased the salaries of approximately 1,800 outsourced sanitation workers across the city's 100 wards. Monthly salaries have been raised from around Rs 11,700 to Rs 14,600, an increase of approximately Rs 2,900. The Corporation said the revised pay reflects the workers' rightful remuneration and announced that employees demonstrating exceptional performance and diligence would also be rewarded separately. Male and female Safai Mitras work across main roads and inner lanes, contributing to the city's cleanliness. Corporation officials also acknowledged the workers' contribution and encouraged continued public cooperation in maintaining cleanliness across Ghaziabad.

GDA organised a tree plantation programme under its 'One Tree for the Country' campaign on Independence Day, developing the 'Vande Mataram Garden' at the Madhuban-Bapudham project. Authority officials and schoolchildren participated in the initiative, planting Harishankari, Amla, fruit-bearing and shade-giving trees. The programme aimed to connect the national celebration with environmental protection, public participation and greater green cover. Children were encouraged to take responsibility for plant care and environmental conservation. The initiative forms part of efforts to make Madhuban-Bapudham greener and more environmentally friendly while promoting environmental awareness among younger citizens.

PNB has entered into an exclusive MoU with the Indian Army to offer PNB LUXURA and PNB Parakram Credit Cards to serving Army personnel, JCOs and other ranks. The partnership provides financial and lifestyle benefits tailored to the Army community. PNB LUXURA Metal is designed for Army officers, while PNB Parakram is intended for JCOs and other ranks. Benefits include 3% cashback on CSD purchases, domestic and international lounge access, zero forex mark-up, movie tickets and golf lessons. PNB Parakram also features a biodegradable card design. The partnership strengthens PNB's longstanding relationship with the Armed Forces.

SASTRA Deemed University, Thanjavur, launched six academic initiatives during its Ruby and Silver Jubilee valedictory celebrations on August 17. The initiatives include the TATA Communications Centre for Resilient and Unified Secure Technologies, SASTRA's Integrated AI Framework, SASTRA-MAITRI, SASTRA-STRIDE, DRISHTI and SMILE. The programmes span secure technologies, artificial intelligence, research and internationalisation, faculty development, technology-enabled higher education and student engagement. The initiatives aimed to strengthen institutional capabilities while supporting innovation and continuous skill development. The launch also featured a call for students to focus on innovation, upgrade their skills and contribute to a fair and transparent education ecosystem.

BCCI to discuss granting associate membership to Andaman & Nicobar

BCCI's AGM will be in Mumbai on September 18. REUTERS

Devendra Pandey
Mumbai, August 25

THE BOARD of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has called its annual general body meeting on September 18 in Mumbai and one of the major topics for discussion will be whether to grant associate membership to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The meeting is going to discuss granting associate membership to Cricket Association Andaman & Nicobar, which is the regional body promoting the game in the union territory, but it's not yet affiliated to the BCCI. This is the first time the board will discuss the possibility of having control over cricket in the archipelago of more than 800 islands located more than 1,000 kilometres from the Indian mainland, at the juncture of the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.

In a notice sent to all its members, the Indian board will seek the opinion of its member associations in this matter. 'Grant of Associate Membership to Cricket Association Andaman & Nicobar Island for the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands,' the agenda for the meeting reads.

If the request for membership is accepted, the BCCI will start hosting cricket matches on the islands and will provide all possible facilities for the development of the sport there. The board will not rush to include a team representing the islands on the domestic circuit but it is learnt that they will be gradually groomed before being included in tournaments. Currently, 38 teams take part in the annual domestic cricket competitions organised by the Indian board.

Another subject on the agenda is the appointment of BCCI's representative(s) at the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The meeting will also witness an election for two representatives of the General Body in the Governing Council of the Indian Premier League. The board will also induct one representative of the Indian Cricketers' Association in the IPL Governing Council.

SRI LANKA VS INDIA, SECOND TEST

Lankans won't go quietly, even as India close in at Colombo

Dinusha's unbeaten 85 & Sooriyabandara's 80 kept visitors toiling on a pitch that didn't break

Shankar Narayan
Mumbai, August 25

DAY 3 of a Test is often viewed as the moving day, when the match starts to go in one team's direction. In Colombo on Tuesday, the game moved in India's favour, but not before they had to toil hard on a surface that showed little sign of deteriorating, making batting look difficult. India took eight wickets, yet Sri Lanka refused to fold, ending the day on 265 for 8, still 238 adrift with two days to go.

India are in a strong position, but the scoreboard does not fully reveal the work that went into getting them there. The bowlers kept returning to their plans, almost accepting that wickets would not come quickly, and building pressure over long spells. It was a combined performance, rather than one bowler carrying the attack.

Prasidh Krishna was the standout. His 3 for 47 from 14 overs provided the pace and aggression India needed. He repeatedly went to the channel outside off stump, made the batsmen play, and kept them unsure which ball to attack. His short-ball plan was effective too. He tested Kamil Mishara with the bounce, and later used the same method against Kamindu Mendis, who pulled a delivery straight to Ravindra Jadeja at mid-wicket. Prasidh's willingness to change his lengths made it hard for Sri Lanka's batsmen to score freely against him.

Manav Suthar carried the bulk of the workload among the spinners. He bowled 21 overs, the most of any Indian bowler, and while his economy rate was higher, his role was to keep attacking on a surface offering only modest assistance. He was prepared to give the ball air, draw the batsmen forward, and look for mistakes. He dismissed captain Dhananjaya de Silva, but his breakthrough in the post-tea session was just as important. Keshara Nuwantha had stayed with Sonal Dinusha for a long period, but Suthar tossed one up and tempted him into a drive. Nuwantha didn't get the elevation he wanted, and picked out Saransh Jain at mid-off.

Jadeja was India's most economical bowler, going at 2.30 on a day when Sri Lanka's batsmen were looking for ways to keep the scoreboard moving. His accuracy meant the batsmen often had to take risks to score. He also held the catch that ended Mendis's innings.

Mohammed Siraj bowled only 11 overs through the day, but gave India the important wicket of Niroshan Dickwella, who had put on 146 with Sonal Dinusha in Galle, strangling him down the leg side. The surface didn't offer enough to create more dents, but he remained economical for large parts of the day.

Saransh Jain, on debut, would have hoped for a more productive day. He was the only bowler without a wicket on Day 3, his 18 overs going for 51 runs. He bowled mainly from around the stumps, varied his pace, and found enough turn and bounce to create uncertainty. Lahiru Kumara was beaten several times, including by one delivery that turned sharply past the outside edge.

Jain also played his part when India needed control. As the light faded, the spinners were used from both ends, and he remained penetrative with the new ball. His spell let India keep attacking without giving away too many runs.

Manav Suthar was India's most effective spinner yet again, picking up three wickets for 83 runs. CREIMAS

Willingness to work

What stood out about India was the willingness to keep working. There were phases when the Sri Lankan batsmen defended well, used their feet against the spinners, and punished the occasional loose ball.

The surface didn't crumble enough to make batting impossible. India had to create sustained pressure through the day, through accuracy, changes of pace, bounce and patience. The bowling figures underlined how collective the effort was. Prasidh and Suthar took three wickets each, while Siraj and Jadeja claimed one apiece. No one dominated throughout, but together they kept Sri Lanka from building a partnership big enough to change the match.

> ***Manav Suthar carried the bulk of the workload among the spinners. He bowled 21 overs, the most of any Indian bowler. His role was to keep attacking on a surface offering only modest assistance.***

The final session summed up the day. Dinusha continued to resist, while Lahiru Kumara looked to survive. India kept changing bowlers and fields, and the second new ball became available with Sri Lanka still fighting.

But fading light became an issue, and then rain arrived, and play was finally stopped with just over 10 minutes left in the day. India left Day 3 with their noses in front. Sri Lanka trail by a big margin and need a few more runs to make India bat again. The hosts made the visitors work, but the moving day has still moved the Test India's way.

Pasindu Sooriyabandara and Sonal Dinusha deserve special credit. The right-hander combined caution with aggression, and looked set to reach his maiden Test hundred, but was bowled by Jadeja on 80. Dinusha was more stubborn, mixing sweeps, paddles and footwork to end Day 3 on 85. Their positive batting made India toil.

Scorecard

SRI LANKA vs INDIA
COLOMBO
TOSS: India won, chose to bat

INDIA (503/9 DECLARED)

SRI LANKA (O/N 8/2)
Kamil Mishara c Jurel b Krishna 19 (25b, 3x4)
Pasindu Sooriyabandara b Jadeja 80 (133b, 9x4)
Kamindu Mendis c Jadeja b Krishna 32 (58b, 3x4, 1x6)
Dhananjaya de Silva c Rahul b Suthar 8 (14b, 2x4)
Sonal Dinusha not out 85 (137b, 6x4, 2x6)
Niroshan Dickwella c Jurel b Siraj 0 (3b)
Keshara Nuwantha c Jain b Suthar 18 (74b, 2x4, 1x6)
Lahiru Kumara not out 8 (50b, 1x4)
- **EXTRAS** 12 (b 0, lb 6, w 1, nb 5, p 0)
- **TOTAL** (83.4 Overs) 265/8
- **FoW:** 3-35 (Kamil Mishara, 9.3 ov), 4-122 (Kamindu Mendis, 29.6 ov), 5-137 (Dhananjaya de Silva, 34.5 ov), 6-171 (Pasindu Sooriyabandara, 44.6 ov), 7-173 (Niroshan Dickwella, 45.3 ov), 8-230 (Keshara Nuwantha, 68.2 ov)
- **BOWLING:** Mohammed Siraj 11-0-33-1; Prasidh Krishna 14-1-47-3; Manav Suthar 21-1-83-3; Saransh Jain 18-5-51-0; Ravindra Jadeja 19.4-45-1

'Prasidh has done the donkey's job for 2-3 years': Morne Morkel

AFTER A strong second-innings spell in Galle, Prasidh Krishna followed it up with another excellent performance in Colombo, returning figures of 3/47 in 14 overs.

Bowling coach Morne Morkel said the biggest change in Prasidh had been mental rather than technical. "As a team and as management, we always knew about the potential. For him, it is about quieting those voices and just playing cricket," he told reporters on Tuesday. Morkel added that Prasidh had learned to ignore the outside noise and trust his own game.

"Prasidh has got that extra pace. He's got that bounce for us. We're going to use him in certain phases where it might be risky, but we might get the reward as well. It is tough on him. It is sometimes a tough job, the donkey job, but I think he's done that very well for us in the last two or three years. With that, his game has grown into the bowler that can hit that fuller length much more consistently, which is great to see," he added.

Morkel said Prasidh's short-ball strategy is often a deliberate tactical call by the team,, and credited the pacer for embracing the difficult job while growing into a more complete bowler. **ENS**

Consistency, pressure and hard lengths: Prasidh's success recipe

Prasidh Krishna scalped the first two wickets of Day 3. CREIMAS

Shankar Narayan
Mumbai, August 25

THERE WAS a temptation, after Prasidh Krishna's spell in the second innings at Galle, to view his success as a product of conditions: steep bounce, movement off the surface and awkward lengths. Colombo offered a sterner test. Could he reproduce that discomfort on a dissimilar pitch? On the third day, Prasidh responded to the doubts emphatically.

His Colombo spell was not a carbon copy of the one at Galle, which is encouraging for his overall development. The methods remained the same — hard lengths, bounce, movement and relentless pressure — but the execution changed based on what was on offer in Colombo.

From his fourth over, the pacer settled into the rhythm that had made him so awkward to face at Galle: attacking the body and the top of off-stump with hard lengths, mixing it with the short ball, before returning to the channel outside off. There was enough pace to hurry batsmen, and enough consistency to trouble them.

Kamil Mishara received an early warning in the eighth over. Prasidh angled a short ball into the left-hander, and it beat his attempted pull to strike the forearm. It wasn't a wicket, but it told Mishara he couldn't just line up and attack the rising delivery.

Prasidh followed it with a good-length ball outside off, which Mishara left alone. He then went short again before returning to the channel. The plan was clear: keep changing the length and don't let the batsman off the hook.

The reward came soon. On the third ball of the 10th over, Prasidh got the ball to climb onto Mishara. The opener had already looked uncomfortable against the shorter delivery, and when he tried to fend, it caught the gloves and lobbed through to Dhruv Jurel.

The consistency was evident against Pasindu Sooriyabandara as well. The first ball of the 12th over climbed onto the right-hander, forcing him into a defensive shot on the on-side. The fourth ball was a bouncer.

A few overs later, Prasidh returned to the channel outside off, getting Sooriyabandara to play and miss. His feet hardly moved as he poked at a delivery that held its line.

No breathing space

That sequence captured what Prasidh had done so effectively in Galle. He was not relying only on movement. He kept the batsmen guessing by deliveries at the body, short of a length and outside off, while maintaining his pace.

With Kamindu Mendis and Sooriyabandara building a steady partnership, Prasidh didn't alter his approach radically, only tightened his lengths. The first ball to Kamindu angled in from round the wicket, followed by deliveries around good or back-of-a-length areas.

Then came the payoff. On the last ball, Prasidh bowled into the wicket. It was there to be pulled, but Kamindu failed to keep it down, and Ravindra Jadeja took the catch at mid-wicket. Once again, the wicket was less about an individual ball than the pressure built before it.

Prasidh's work against Dhananjaya de Silva carried the same underlying quality. Prasidh mixed hard lengths with fuller deliveries, leaving the right-hander uncertain whether to stay back or come forward.

There were reminders, though, that the method carried risk. Sonal Dinusha showed it later by rocking back and hammering a short ball to the deep backward-square boundary. But those moments were exceptions.

The larger picture, though, was of sustained pressure. That made Colombo a continuation of Galle. In the first Test, Prasidh showed he could use bounce and movement to take wickets. In Colombo, he showed that he could create the same pressure through discipline, pace and consistency.

His spell of 3/47 in 14 overs showed that his Galle performance was not just about helpful conditions. He carried the same method to Colombo and kept asking questions.

After returning to T20I & ODI teams, Ishan eyes Test comeback

Venkata Krishna B
Bengaluru, August 25

ISHAN KISHAN doesn't like to wait. At the start of the year, he broke back into India's T20I team and played a big role in the World Cup triumph. Then came the recall to the ODI team. In both instances, he was an outsider before taking someone's spot. While the wicket-keeper slot in India's Test squad appears locked with both Rishabh Pant and Dhruv Jurel in the playing XI, Ishan has his sights set. Perhaps, having done it in two formats, he knows what to do.

After the East Zone side, led by him, wrapped up an innings-&-210-run win over North-East Zone in the Duleep Trophy quarterfinal, Ishan was candid about his goal.

"One hundred percent," he says when asked if he wants to be part of the Test team. "Anyone who has played Test cricket would love this format. We know its importance and how it helps one get better. People don't believe me , but I really do enjoy red-ball cricket. My only job is to score runs and make my team win," he adds.

Ishan Kishan recently returned to India's white-ball plan. CREIMAS

Since playing two Tests in the West Indies in 2023, Ishan hasn't added any caps to his name. For the South Africa series later that year, India preferred KL Rahul with the gloves, following which Ishan flew home and even skipped the Ranji Trophy. But since returning to the domestic grind, he has leapfrogged those in front of him.

"I love this game (red ball). I enjoy it because when you are in the middle, the ball is moving, players are coming at you, there is banter going on with the other team. It's always fun to be part of it because I love that challenge. Yes, it's easier to bat on flat tracks and fun as well, but the competition in Tests is different," the 28-year-old asserts.

But having played plenty of white-ball cricket for most of this year, Ishan knows switching formats doesn't come easily. The Duleep Trophy quarterfinal was Ishan's first red-ball fixture in 10 months.

"It's a challenge, but fun. It's not easy to succeed in all three formats. Here I was looking to play towards third man and got nicked out. I was like, 'what the heck was I trying to do?' I should know this is a long format and I need to leave a few balls. But sometimes when you think about something that you don't want to do, you end up doing it," Ishan says.

The path back isn't smooth. "I need a lot of effort to get back in the Test team. Dhruv and Rishabh are doing so well. They are continuously scoring runs. I'm very happy for both of them. At the same time, my job is to not think about what can go wrong for them, but to keep getting better. If it's meant to happen, it will," he philosophises.

DULEEP TROPHY

Musheer falls for 96 as North Zone bounce back

Venkata Krishna B
Bengaluru, August 25

GOING BY the scorecard, the North Zone vs West Zone Duleep Trophy quarterfinal is evenly poised heading into the final day on Wednesday. Chasing 287 for a win, West are still 67 runs away and have just three wickets in hand.

As Musheer Khan, who top-scored for West with 96, put it, "From my thinking, *ye badi baat nahin hai. Lekin batting abhi chalu hai* (It's not a big deal; we've got batters to come)," referring to Tanush Kotian and Shardul Thakur, still to come, they believe they're in with a chance. But North will feel the same, particularly after the manner in which they hauled the game back after Musheer, in the company of Ruturaj Gaikwad (66), had been in a hurry to chase down the total and book a semi-final clash against South Zone later this week.

This was a day on which both teams traded blows, and both ended up surrendering their advantage at some point. Given how well India's batters have handled spin-friendly conditions recently, a message has already gone out to the curators at the CoE ahead of the Duleep Trophy to roll out turning tracks. Over the three days here, spinners from both sides have enjoyed bowling on this red-soil surface, with turn and bounce causing all sorts of problems.

Starting Day 3 with a 171-run lead and six wickets in hand, North had the chance to bat West out of the game. Ayush Badoni scored 50 again, his footwork the best on show from either side, but, as in the first innings, he threw it away, going for another slash, this time off offspinner Tanush Kotian, who ended with another four-wicket haul in the match, 4 for 46.

Once Badoni departed, North's approach changed. With the pitch slowing a little, they ground their way through, Nishant Sindhu's 44 holding the innings together in the second half.

With a few useful contributions around him, they finished on 222, Shams Mulani, who had started the slide at the top of the order, cleaning up the tail to finish with four wickets. Given how West had crumbled against left-arm spinner Abid Mushtaq in the first innings, a target of 287 looked a long way off. When Arshdeep Singh and Anshul Kamboj reduced West to 28 for 2, North had the perfect start, before Musheer, alongside Shivalik Sharma, steadied things.

Alongside captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, Musheer Khan (in pic) constructed a 111-run partnership for the fourth wicket. PTI

But it was the 111-run stand between Musheer and captain Gaikwad that brought the game to life. Early on, Musheer used unorthodox methods to counter the seamers, jumping down the track, defending, or simply leaving the ball.

Once he read the surface, he began scoring more freely, but it was Gaikwad who injected the real momentum into the chase. From the moment he walked in, he took the attack to the opposition, using his feet and the depth of the crease to make batting look easy on a tough surface. A strike rate of 94.28, 66 off 70, before he was run out, summed up his dominance.

Positive mindset

"We have similar wickets in Mumbai. At Azad Maidan we have wickets which are worse than this. I had a mindset that I should stand on the wicket as much as possible. Since we were chasing, I was playing with a positive mindset. Both of us (he and Gaikwad) were backing our own game. It was not a conscious plan to attack. We just focused on the right shots to play. But I'm not regretting missing a century, I'm just regretting not finishing the game," Musheer said.

Gaikwad's run-out gave North the opening they'd been chasing. From there, wickets came in a rush, Sindhu removed Musheer, and Mushtaq claimed the twin wickets of Sams Mulani and Mukesh Choudhary off the last ball of the day. With Urvil Patel, capable of quickfire runs, and Kotian and Thakur still to come, West have reason to believe they can finish this off on Wednesday. It won't be easy, though.

BRIEF SCORES: North Zone 251 & 222 (Ayush Badoni 50, Nishant Sindhu 44; Tanush Kotian 4/46, Shams Mulani 4/78) need 67 runs to win vs West Zone 187 & 220/7 (Musheer Khan 96, Ruturaj Gaikwad 66).
East Zone 467 beat North East Zone 111 & 146 (Pheirojam Jotin 39; Anukul Roy 5/37) by an innings and 210 runs.

India to face Panama in football friendly next month

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 25

THE ALL India Football Federation on Tuesday announced that the Indian team will play Panama in an international friendly on September 26. The fixture, whose venue is undecided, falls just days ahead of the historic match against Brazil on October 3 in Kolkata.

"The Indian senior men's national team will host Panama in an international friendly match on Saturday, September 26, 2026, during the FIFA Men's International Match Window. The venue for the fixture will be confirmed at a later date," the AIFF said in a statement.

The match was added to AIFF's calendar after India withdrew from the inaugural FIFA ASEAN Cup in order to prioritise their high-profile friendly against Brazil, avoiding a scheduling clash that had made their participation in both competitions untenable.

India were invited to participate in the inaugural edition of the FIFA ASEAN Cup in June. Indonesia were named hosts, with India drawn alongside the hosts, Singapore and Malaysia. On 30 July, however, AIFF announced a friendly against Brazil, which will be played in Kolkata's Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Kirangan on 3 October.

The AIFF had initially insisted that India would compete in both competitions, but it eventually became an unfeasible proposition.

The federation had explored the possibility of sending separate squads to the two competitions, but that option was ultimately ruled out on technical grounds.

This will be the first time that India and Panama will face each other and it's only the ninth different CONCACAF side India have faced in their history. Panama, currently ranked 44th in the FIFA World Ranking, had played in the 2026 World Cup as well but finished bottom of their group and were eliminated from the first round.

This will be the first of four matches India will play against this summer's World Cup nations in 2026, with Brazil to follow on October 3 and New Zealand on November 12 and 15.

Emami pulls out

PTI adds: Emami Group on Tuesday officially ended its role as an investor in East Bengal Football Club, transferring all its shares and associated voting rights back to the club, while continuing its association with the red-and-gold outfit as a sponsor. "While stepping away from its investment and management role, it will continue its association with East Bengal Club as a sponsor, supporting the Club and its ongoing sporting ambitions," Emami said in a statement.

It was already known that Emami and East Bengal were set to part ways as investors. This followed the club's victory last season under the group's ownership structure, which ended a 22-year wait for their maiden Indian Super League title. The triumph was followed by a revamp, with coach Oscar Bruzon stepping down and Antonio Lopez Habas taking over as head coach.

HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Factor hurting India on the turf: Inability to track back quickly

Midfield didn't have the legs, leaving gaps for the opposition to run through

Mihir Vasavda
Mumbai, August 25

India struggled to keep up with the pace of matches, unable to repeatedly produce high-intensity runs. HI

HARMANPREET SINGH had just given India a lifeline. His goal against the Netherlands halved the deficit and briefly changed the mood of India's World Cup campaign. He sprinted back to the dugout and lay down for treatment on his aching back. Within minutes, India lost possession in midfield, the Dutch broke at pace, and Thijs van Dam restored their two-goal lead.

It was one passage in one match. But the sight of the Dutch running into space India had failed to cover became a recurring image of their World Cup.

They call it repeat sprint ability. In hockey, it is the capacity to sprint, recover, and sprint again, repeatedly, over 60 minutes. It allows a midfielder to join an attack, lose the ball, and still get back quickly enough to cover the space before the opposition can run through the middle.

For Siddharth Pandey, technical director of Hyderabad Toofans and coach of Mumbai-based club CTC, India's World Cup campaign offered a fairly straightforward diagnosis. "When your midfielders do not have the ability to come and cover the space in midfield on a defensive transition when they've lost the ball, that is the sure-shot sign that they do not have the repeat sprint ability," Pandey said.

The evidence, he said, was visible repeatedly: open spaces in midfield, opponents running through the centre. "They're not running back because they're not fit." It is a striking assessment, because fitness was once one of Indian hockey's biggest competitive advantages, built over the last 15 years.

Under previous coach Graham Reid and scientific adviser Robin Arkell, India's physical output was measured almost obsessively, and data became a source of competition. The aim was not simply to make India fitter. Arkell, drawing on his rugby background, wanted to turn Indian players into "powerful, strong, fast athletes." By the Tokyo Olympics, fitness had become part of India's identity, and India won bronze after playing eight matches in 13 days in excruciating heat.

Arkell left after Tokyo, and the physical setup changed. By the 2023 World Cup, concerns had already emerged about whether India had maintained the standards reached under him. That does not mean fitness was subsequently ignored. Alan Tan joined as scientific adviser in 2023 and continues to work with the team. Under chief coach Craig Fulton, physical preparation has remained a focus. Hardik Singh has spoken about Tan pushing players through 400m and 1,600m runs and hill work, while Tan has described a data-driven, individualised approach.

So this is not a simplistic Arkell-versus-Tan story. India have continued to use sports science and focus on conditioning. The question is whether that preparation is translating into the kind of repeated high-intensity efforts that international hockey now demands.

Pandey believes it did not, at this World Cup. The open spaces in midfield, he said, were a consequence of players failing to recover after losing possession.

The same problem may also have hurt India's attack. An Indian selector, speaking anonymously, pointed to a recurring pattern. Instead of running at defenders, eliminating a player through a forward pass, or hitting teams before they had reorganised, India often played sideways or backwards after winning possession. That allowed opponents to settle.

By the time India created chances, the selector said, there were often seven defenders inside the circle. "You can't do it every time," the selector said. "But unless you do it five, six times in a half, you're not spreading the defence."

Tough transition

There is a connection between the two criticisms. Counterattacking requires repeated high-intensity runs. Defensive transitions demand the same capacity in reverse. And this is where India's generational transition becomes relevant.

The average age of India's World Cup squad was around 28.4 years. That is not an exceptionally old team. There are players in their early and mid-20s who can become important members of the side. But several of the players who continue to carry major responsibilities are from the generation that formed the core of India's Olympic resurgence, and are in their early and mid-30s, middle age in sporting terms. The physical demands on that group have accumulated over years of international hockey.

> ***Under previous coach Graham Reid and scientific adviser Robin Arkell, India's physical output was measured almost obsessively, and data became a source of competition***

That does not mean the answer is simply to replace older players with younger ones. Younger players need time to reach that level. There is a difference between being physically capable of producing a sprint and knowing, after years of international hockey, when to make that sprint, how to recover from it, and where to position yourself when the ball is lost.

Experience, tactical understanding, and physical maturity develop together. India's challenge, therefore, is not that their younger players cannot match the older generation. It is that they have not yet had enough time at this level to fully take over the responsibilities carried by the established players.

The concern is whether that transition has happened quickly enough. At the Tokyo Olympics, and even at Paris 2024, fitness allowed India to press, recover, and counterattack repeatedly through a gruelling tournament. At this World Cup, those same qualities were harder to see.

Virat Kohli recently hailed the fitness levels of the Indian hockey team. This World Cup, and an ageing squad, raise an uncomfortable question: are they fit enough to keep running with the world's best teams?

Chelsea start Alonso era with 3-2 win over Fulham

Reuters
London, August 25

Cole Palmer (L) scored Chelsea's third goal at Craven Cottage. AP

CHELSEA BEGAN life under new coach Xabi Alonso with a breathless 3-2 victory at West London neighbours Fulham in the Premier League on Monday as their exciting front three of Joao Pedro, Morgan Rogers and Cole Palmer all found the net.

Chelsea got off to a dream start after 31 seconds when Palmer – looking back to his best after struggling with an injury last season – passed to Joao Pedro and the Brazilian flicked the ball over goalkeeper Bernd Leno. Fulham equalised when Josh King beat goalkeeper Robert Sanchez at his near post in the 24th minute, giving the home fans something to cheer against their fiercest rivals. But two of Chelsea's new signings then combined in the 41st as central defender Maxence Lacroix jinked down the right before cutting the ball back to the club's £117 million ($159.47 million) record signing Rogers, who made no mistake.

Four minutes into the second half, Joao Pedro held up the ball in attack and fed Palmer, who angled a shot through Leno's legs, underlining the midfielder's return to form after missing out on a place with England at the World Cup.

"It was a difficult season with injuries and whatnot but through the summer and since I've been back I've worked extra hard," Palmer told Sky Sports. "Obviously with the injuries I've had to try and prevent them and work extra hard day in, day out. I know the talent I've got so I can put in performances like that."

> ***Chelsea got off to a dream start after 31 seconds when Palmer passed to Joao Pedro and the Brazilian flicked the ball over goalkeeper Bernd Leno***

Fulham's Gonzalo Garcia, on his league debut after signing from Real Madrid, gave the hosts some hope by heading in after Sanchez could only parry a Timothy Castagne shot in the 54th.

Fulham then had a great chance to level again through Antonee Robinson in the 78th minute but his chip over a stranded Sanchez went wide and Chelsea held out to claim the points.

Chelsea's Enzo Fernandez – a lynchpin of World Cup runners-up Argentina who has been linked with a move to Manchester City - was greeted with loud boos from the home fans when he came on as a substitute midway through the second half.

Alonso's win in his first competitive match since taking over at Stamford Bridge came at the expense of his former Liverpool and Spain teammate Alvaro Arbeloa - similarly making his Premier League debut as a coach - who also briefly succeeded Alonso as Real Madrid manager last season.

Alonso will hope midfielder Moises Caicedo and new full-back Marco Palestra, who are both injured, will provide more solidity while Sanchez could face an early challenge from Mike Penders, who has returned to Chelsea from sister club Racing Strasbourg.

Facing time trouble, Pragg holds his nerve to outsmart Keymer

R Praggnanandhaa (L) won the semifinal with four games to spare. He plays Fabiano Caruana in the GCT final. LENNART OOTES/ FIDE FLICKR

Mayank Chaudhary
New Delhi, August 25

4, 1 and 1. Those were the exact seconds left on R Praggnanandhaa's clock before he found his response on the 34th, 35th and 36th moves, the sequence that would eventually change the course of the second Classical semifinal against Germany's Vincent Keymer.

His moves may not have been all accurate. In fact, one of them was a mistake, and on another day, he might have paid the price for it. But what Pragg did just one move earlier left even seasoned commentators speechless. At stake was a spot in the final of the 2026 Grand Chess Tour Finals.

For the first time in the match, his clock dipped below a minute. And instead of rushing or panicking, he preferred to finish something else. With the timer dangerously hovering below 10 seconds, Praggnanandhaa calmly reached down and adjusted a tumbling pawn, placing it perfectly back on its square before finally pressing his clock, which had ticked dangerously close to zero.

Praggnanandhaa was doing all of this while navigating an inferior position against the German.

The moment was so audacious that commentator Maurice Ashley stopped his analysis mid-sentence, unable to contain his disbelief. "That's uber cool, I am sorry! Adjusting pawn with nine seconds on the clock. Wow!" he exclaimed.

That one moment captured everything about Praggnanandhaa: his nerve, his calm, and his ability to thrive in the most insane positions. And while both players flinched under pressure, Praggnanandhaa found a way back. The German, however, didn't. Keymer's mistakes in the time scramble proved far more costly, allowing the Indian to seize the moment and book his place in the summit clash of the GCT Finals.

American Grandmaster Wesley So has a keen eye for observation. He had pointed out exactly where Vincent Keymer's game falls apart.

"The problem is that Vincent, with three minutes on the clock, loses a hundred or two hundred rating points! When he gets into time trouble, he starts making big mistakes. That's a problem," So said during Keymer's first Classical semifinal game against Praggnanandhaa.

It may have sounded harsh at the time, but how Keymer's game unfolded across both Classical matches eventually proved So's point.

In the first game, Keymer was cruising. He had played a better opening than Praggnanandhaa and looked in control. But as soon as the clock started to bite, his grip loosened. He fell into time trouble, allowing the Indian to slip out of his grasp. It wasn't until a big mistake from Praggnanandhaa himself that both players settled for a wild draw, sharing three points each.

Praggnanandhaa, however, does not like to repeat his mistakes. When Keymer gave him a second chance in the second Classical game, he grabbed it with both hands.

Coming back to his response with just one second on the clock, the 34th move was a bona fide positional blunder from the Indian. The engines favoured Keymer by +3, and Praggnanandhaa had no time to swindle his way through. Fortunately, he didn't have to do anything extraordinary. Keymer handed him the game on a platter just one move later with the decisive blunder of the match.

From a +3 position, Keymer suddenly found himself in a -2 position after his Knight to d2 check. Playing White, Praggnanandhaa got rid of Black's tricky Knight and most of the minor pieces, leaving himself with a Queen and Knight endgame with an extra pawn. The German eventually folded in 55 moves, facing a mate-in-12.

Clinical in Rapid

After blowing up two favourable positions and conceding a 3-9 deficit in the clash, Keymer never seemed to recover in the shorter time controls. Praggnanandhaa, on the other hand, was clinical and needed no help from the clock to dismantle the German's defences in both Rapid games. The Grandmaster from Chennai extended his lead to 17-3, nailing both Rapid wins to add 8 more points and seal the fate of the clash without the match-up needing to go to the Blitz rounds.

With the final spot already gone, Keymer still turned up for the final leg of the clash. But the first of four Blitz games crushed him further. He messed up another winning position and lost a wild game that swung both ways in the endgame. The scoreboard was screaming 19-3, and the German still had three more games to play.

That's when the Indian took his foot off the pedal. Keymer finally found his way through, ending his humiliating run with three back-to-back consolation Blitz wins.

● PUTTING STING IN THE STRINGS

Little-known craftsman whose hand is behind every badminton champ's racquet

Pritish Raj
New Delhi, August 25

"WHEN LAKSHYA Sen is on a winning run, his racquets need more stringing than anyone. His coach would bring five or six racquets after the game and he is probably our biggest customer when he is winning."

"Lin Dan had a very unique grip. Half of his handle was strapped while the other half, the tail, used to be wooden."

"The Chinese team carries their own stringers, given the large size of their squad. However, despite that, some of their players prefer to come to our stringing station during majors."

These are some of the anecdotes Yonex's head of stringing, Mark Lawrence, has to tell.

In a career spanning over three decades, Mark has strung thousands of racquets for top shuttlers across the world, and has watched stringing evolve from a sidelined activity into an absolute necessity at badminton's majors.

"I started back in 1994 when Yonex wanted to show people what stringing is. I had a shop and used to string racquets for then world No. 1 Morten Frost. Yonex asked me to be part of the stringing team at the 1994 edition of All England, and well, I haven't stopped since then," Mark told *The Indian Express*.

Stringing station

Every major badminton event, the World Championships, Thomas and Uber Cup, Sudirman Cup, Junior Worlds, now has a dedicated stringing station, usually belonging to brands like Yonex, Victor or Li-Ning, where shuttlers get their racquets fixed before and after matches.

There was a time, though, when stringing was an afterthought at these events.

"When the All England moved from Wembley to Birmingham, that is when this concept of stringing the racquets during a tournament started," Mark recalled.

Now, stringers get a full team and a dedicated space to cater to players' needs. "Now, you see all this area which is well lit and we have multiple staff. Earlier we used to do the stringing on the side of the courts while matches were going on. Ten years into my career, I have done stringing on the arena floor."

Somewhere around 2005 or 2006, a dedicated space for stringers started taking shape," Mark said. Asked about the busiest tournament he's been part of, Mark said, "When World Championships and Sudirman Cup were held together, that used to be the busiest time for us."

Mark Lawrence has been stringing for more than 30 years. BWF

At the Delhi World Championships, the first two days were the busiest for Mark and his team. "We had close to 500 stringings. The early days are busy, as there are so many players playing in a day. Once the tournament settles down, our work also gets a little easier, with fewer requests coming in," he said.

> **Now, you see all this area which is well lit and we have multiple staff. Earlier we used to do the stringing on the side of the courts while matches were going on. Ten years into my career, I have done stringing on the arena floor"**
>
> **MARK LAWRENCE,** ON HIS EARLY DAYS IN STRINGING

Stringing stations at major championships also give players from countries outside badminton's traditional powerhouses, Brazil, the UAE, Myanmar, a chance to access the best strings. "Of course they have local stringers in their countries, but players from developing countries do come and take advantage of the fact that they are getting free stringing and good-quality strings," Mark said.

Beyond stringing as a service, string tensions in racquets have risen over the years. Tension is essentially the tightness of the string on the racquet: higher tension makes the string bed firmer and offers more control, while lower tension makes it softer and gives it more power.

"When I started, the average tension for a racquet used to be 28 or 29, but now anything above 30 is the standard. The Danish players used to have higher tensions back in the day," Mark said.

Interestingly, the highest and the lowest tension Mark has ever strung both belong to Japanese players. "Kenichi Tago, one of the All England runners-up, had the highest tension I have ever done. He had string tension over 34 lbs. The lowest I have done is Akane Yamaguchi, who uses a tension of 25 lbs, while the average tension in women's singles hovers around 30," he said.

"Lower tension complements Yamaguchi's game. She is not the most powerful player, so with the lower tension, she gets a slightly bigger sweet spot in the middle of the racquet, which gives her good control. When the tension is lower, the shuttle stays for a fraction longer," Mark explained.

As he headed back to the stringing area, Mark quipped, "Finally, I can watch the matches in peace, as there are no stringing requests. I missed watching PV Sindhu and Ayush Shetty in action."

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